



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
 DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

International Ocean Governance and Sustainable Fisheries
Regional Fisheries Management Organisations

Brussels
 Mare B2/SH/Ares(2023)

Mr Camille Jean Pierre MANEL
 Executive Secretary to ICCAT
 Corazón de María, 8
 E - 28002 MADRID

Subject: Exports of swordfish and albacore tuna from Senegal - Additional information submitted by the European Union pursuant to ICCAT Recommendation 08-09

Dear Mr Manel,

In accordance with ICCAT Recommendation 08-09 and with a view to facilitating the discussion of these issues during the next meeting of the Compliance Committee, the European Union (EU) would like to follow up on its letter dated 14 July (*ref. Ares(2023)4918914*) and share with the Commission the outcome of its additional investigations on swordfish and albacore tuna imports from Senegal.

The tables below, based on the import data compiled by the European Market Observatory for fisheries and aquaculture (EUMOFA), provide an overview of the imports from Senegal to the EU and compare these with the Senegalese quota in ICCAT for the respective stocks. Quantities are in tons, and for swordfish the level of overshooting is calculated after implementation of a 1.3-conversion factor (fish imported already dressed).

Table 1 – Albacore tuna imported from Senegal into the EU

Year	2011	2012	2013	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Imported (t)	3316	835	423	1173	1739	956	929	935	587	112
Quota in ICCAT	300	300	300	225	225	225	225	240	240	267
Overshoot %	1005	178	41	421	672	324	312	289	144	

Table 2 – Swordfish imported from Senegal into the EU

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Imported (t)	2564	1476	2287	2872	2805	439	2183	2107	1926	1181	128
Quota in ICCAT	801	667	667	667	667	667	667	667	667	667	667
Overshoot %	316	187	345	459	446		325	310	275	130	

Verifications made with EU Member States and in specific EU databases confirm the general accuracy of these figures for the years 2017-2021. They also confirm that these imports were done with catch certificates validated by the competent authorities of Senegal, as well as sanitary certificates and certificates of origin also validated by the competent authorities of Senegal.

The EU is consequently not in a position to accept the statement made by Senegal in its compliance letter response (COC_309/2023) that *“there is no evidence of albacore catches by Senegalese vessels. These are claims made by the European Union based on exports of albacore tuna to its market. These exports are fraudulent because they are carried out outside the official certification channels. As a result, no trace of them can be found in the export files. Senegal has no information on the alleged captures”*.

The EU also draws the attention of the Commission and of the Senegalese authorities to the alert that the EU circulated in 2013 regarding Senegalese exports of albacore tuna exceeding the annual quota allocated to Senegal (*ref. Ares(2013)182780*). The EU invites Senegal to clarify the control measures that it adopted for its exports of albacore tuna following this alert, and requests that this information is also taken into account in the decisions made in the upcoming meeting of the Compliance Committee.

The **EU asks Senegal to provide clarifications in relation to this data** ahead of the next Compliance Committee. Please note that the EU has transmitted this information bilaterally to Senegal.

Yours sincerely,

Stijn Billiet
Head of the EU Delegation to
ICCAT