

November, 2025

Sciaena's Opening Statement to Panel 1
29th Regular Meeting of the International Commission
for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)

Sciaena welcomes the opportunity to contribute to ICCAT's Panel 1 proceedings and wishes to thank all those who worked during the year with the aim of reaching positive agreements during the upcoming meeting. We ask all CPCs to consider the following considerations:

Bigeye tuna

- Regarding Bigeye tuna and the likely setting of an updated TAC, Sciaena supports the adoption of a limit which would give the stock the best probabilities of staying in the green quadrant of the Kobe matrix (no less than 70%) and provide a solid basis for the upcoming years. This is crucial for managing this population responsibly and for supporting its long-term resilience to human and non-human pressures.

Yellowfin tuna

- With the aim to ensure that Yellowfin tuna catches don't continue to exceed the agreed upon TAC, the Commission must start developing an allocation table with the objective of adopting it no later than 2026.

Western Atlantic skipjack

- We urge CPCs to adopt a management procedure for Western Atlantic skipjack at this year's meeting, by supporting PA1-505. This will be yet another key step in the work carried out by ICCAT within the overall MSE framework and it will allow Panel 1 to fully focus on the tropical tuna MSE afterwards, a process which will benefit from the development of a comprehensive schedule and workplan for intersessional Panel 1 meetings and consequent adoption in 2026.



Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs)

- Regarding FADs, their management must ensure that impacts on both target and non-target species, as well as on the ecosystems they inhabit, are minimized. Therefore, concerning potential discussions on the duration of the FAD closure, Sciaena asks the Commission to await for SCRS's full evaluation of its effects, as these impacts may take time to manifest due to delays in the response of the spawning stock biomass. Additionally, Sciaena urges the Commission to strengthen FAD management by:
 - Adopting a requirement for near real-time FAD position and biomass data;
 - Developing and adopting a comprehensive FAD marking scheme (covering both the structure and the buoy) along with clear rules for ownership, activation, and deactivation;
 - Establishing a timeline for developing a FAD register.

