



UAPF and ORTHONGEL STATEMENT

ICCAT Resolution on the Implementation of the United Nations Agreement on the Protection of Marine Biodiversity in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ)

November 23rd, 2025

UAPF and ORTHONGEL express their support for the draft resolution presented by the Chair (document PLE-129) concerning the implementation of the BBNJ Agreement.

This Agreement represents a major step forward for international ocean governance. In this context, it is essential that Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) — and in particular ICCAT — have a clear, recognized, and fully considered role.

We therefore welcome that the draft resolution highlights:

- The central role and relevance of RFMO mandates and the necessary coherence between the new BBNJ tools and existing management frameworks;
- ICCAT's unique contribution, based on decades of scientific expertise and effective management of pelagic ecosystems;
- The importance of coordination and active representation of fisheries experts in upcoming preparatory meetings and at the first Conference of the Parties.

EU fishers fully share the objective of preserving marine biodiversity. They are equally committed to respecting the balance established by the BBNJ Treaty, whose purpose is to reconcile conservation and the sustainable use of biodiversity in the high seas.

In this regard, UAPF and Orthongel wish to recall that any maritime planning measures or the establishment of area-based management tools (ABMT) that neglect the mandates and successes of RFMOs could jeopardize the sustainability of fisheries, undermine decades of management efforts, and call into question the essential contribution of fisheries to global food security — a contribution explicitly recognized by the United Nations among the objectives of the Agreement.

For all these reasons, UAPF and Orthongel consider this draft resolution to be a timely and necessary initiative. It will enable ICCAT to play a proactive, responsible, and constructive role in the implementation of the BBNJ Agreement, while ensuring coherence across management frameworks and the long-term sustainability of fisheries.