

ICCAT Press Release

After extended discussions ICCAT agreed on new TACs and quotas for bluefin tuna and new conservation management measures for sharks and skipjack tuna

Closure of the 29th Regular Meeting of the Commission

24 November 2025 – The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) met in Seville to take important decisions on the regulation of ICCAT fisheries, including new Total Allowable Catches (TACs) and quotas for the period 2026-2028 for western and eastern bluefin tuna and western Atlantic skipjack, based on the current management procedures.

Seville (Spain) - the city located on the lower reaches of the River Guadalquivir and the birthplace of *flamenco* - welcomed the 2025 Annual Meeting of ICCAT. It was with a spirit of passion and intensity that characterises *flamenco* dance and music, that 20 years after the adoption of important decisions on bluefin tuna conservation, the Commission met again in this city - a melting pot of civilizations and witness to a particularly rich history - to evaluate the results of the 2025 workplan, together with the current status of compliance with the regulatory measures in force, and to establish the conservation and management measures for the future. In 2025, full scientific stock assessments were carried out for three species: **bigeye tuna** (*Thunnus obesus*); **white marlin** (*Kajikia albida*), a common billfish in artisanal and commercial fisheries; and **Atlantic shortfin mako shark** (*Isurus oxyrinchus*). In total, 12 new Recommendations and 3 Resolutions were adopted covering relevant issues on Atlantic tuna and tuna-like species conservation and fisheries management.

After long and intense discussions, ICCAT has agreed to set new TACs for western and eastern bluefin tuna, based on the current management procedure, and new quota allocations. The TACs have been set for the period 2026-2028 at 3,081.6 t and 48,403 t, for the western and eastern Atlantic stocks, corresponding to TAC increases of 13% and 19.3%, respectively. The Commission also adopted a pilot project to assess the conditions for fishing and farming bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) and yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*) in FAO zone 34.1 (waters of the Canary Islands, Atlantic Ocean), to inform the potential future development of such activities.

ICCAT has agreed to implement a management procedure to set a constant TAC for western Atlantic skipjack at 30,844 t, for the period 2026-2028. This is the first time such measure is adopted for this tropical tuna species.

Following the scientific advice, the Commission adopted a new measure for southern Atlantic shortfin mako shark, setting a maximum mortality objective of 1,000 t. Additional conservation measures were adopted for basking shark (*Cetorhinus maximus*) and great white shark (*Carcharodon carcharias*), prohibiting these species being retained on board, transhipped, or landed, in whole or in part, while taken in the ICCAT Convention area in association with ICCAT fisheries.



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ICCAT also adopted special provisions for Caribbean coastal developing States that do not have allocated specific quotas for blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish, to limit their catches and landings respectively to 20 t and 10 t, in 2025 and 2026.

The Compliance Committee (COC) reviewed the implementation of ICCAT requirements by the Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities in ICCAT (CPCs), and the Commission approved responsive actions to improve compliance. The Commission also agreed to a process to develop reforms on how the COC conducts its work in order to improve its effectiveness.

Furthermore, the Commission continued to strengthen Monitoring, Control and Surveillance, including making strides to reinforce ICCAT conservation and management measures, including by strengthening its Recommendation on port State measures to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and on the ICCAT Record of vessels authorized to operate in the Convention area.

The Commission adopted a new Resolution to enhance preparation for the implementation of Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ).

The Commission also elected a new Chair, Mrs. Zakia Driouich (Morocco) and expressed its profound appreciation for the excellent service that the outgoing Chair, Mr Ernesto Penas Lado (European Union, Spain) had dedicated to the Commission over the past four years. Additionally, the Commission elected Mr Ramon Chong (Curaçao) as First Vice Chair, while requesting Mr Penas Lado to continue to serve ICCAT as Second Vice Chair.

For further information please visit the [ICCAT website](#) and/or contact the [ICCAT Secretariat](#) or the ICCAT Executive Secretary, [Mr Camille Jean Pierre Manel](#).

Seville, 24 November 2025

List of adopted Recommendations and Resolutions

PWG_416B	Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 23-17 on port State measures to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing
PWG_419C	Recommendation by ICCAT concerning the establishment of an ICCAT record of vessels 20 metres in length overall or greater authorized to operate in the Convention area
PWG_424B	Recommendation by ICCAT to amend Recommendation 24-05 and Recommendation 16-05 to include actions taken in response to the findings of inspections carried out under the Joint International Inspection Scheme (JIS) for bluefin tuna and swordfish
PA1_502A/PA2_609A	Recommendation by ICCAT for a pilot project for farming bluefin tuna (<i>Thunnus thynnus</i>) and yellowfin tuna (<i>Thunnus albacares</i>) in waters of the Canary Islands
PA1_505B	Recommendation by ICCAT on a candidate management procedure for western Atlantic skipjack tuna
PA2_636C_REV_1	Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 24-05 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean
PA2_637A	Recommendation by ICCAT to amend Recommendation 22-10 for a conservation and management plan for western Atlantic bluefin tuna
PA4_809C	Recommendation by ICCAT to grant provisional measures to developing coastal ICCAT CPCs for extenuating circumstances resulting from Recommendation 19-05
PA4_812C	Recommendation by ICCAT on basking shark and great white shark caught in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT
PA4_814B	Recommendation by ICCAT to amend Recommendation 22-11 on the conservation of the South Atlantic stock of shortfin mako caught in association with ICCAT fisheries
PA4_815A	Recommendation by ICCAT on the experimental use of traplines
PA4_826	Recommendation by ICCAT on conservation and management measures including a management procedure for North Atlantic swordfish
PLE_119	Resolution to establish a task force to streamline the Commission's requests and responses from the SCRS
PLE_129B	Resolution by ICCAT on the implementation of the United Nations Agreement on the Protection of Marine Biological Diversity in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ)
PA2_604_REV_1	Resolution by ICCAT amending Resolution 22-07 on a pilot project for the short-term live storage of bluefin tuna