

**RESOLUTION BY ICCAT ON DEVELOPMENT OF INITIAL
OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES FOR SOUTHERN ATLANTIC ALBACORE**

RECALLING the intent of the Commission to adopt management procedures (MPs) tested through management strategy evaluation (MSE¹) to manage fisheries more effectively in the face of identified uncertainties;

RECALLING the application of the precautionary approach in accordance with relevant international standards as established in the *Resolution by ICCAT concerning the use of a precautionary approach in implementing ICCAT conservation and management measures* (Res. 15-12);

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the efforts to sustainably manage the southern Atlantic albacore stock, consistent with the objectives of the Convention and the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the principles of decision making for ICCAT conservation and management measures* (Rec. 11-13);

NOTING the conclusions of the 2020 stock assessment conducted by the ICCAT Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS), which indicated that the southern Atlantic albacore stock is most likely located in the green area of the Kobe plot, indicating that the stock is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring;

NOTING that the objective of the Convention is to maintain populations of tuna and tuna-like species at levels that will support maximum sustainable catch (usually referred to as Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY));

UNDERSTANDING that conceptual objectives are high-level aspirational objectives that verbalize a desired generic goal without including specifics on a measurable target or timeframe for achievement, while operational objectives are a key foundational component of any MSE and provide specific and measurable targets, with associated likelihoods of achieving those targets over determined timeframes;

ACKNOWLEDGING the substantial progress made on the MSE work for those priority species identified in the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the development of Harvest Control Rules and of Management Strategy Evaluation* (Rec. 15-07);

CONSIDERING that the Commission desires to adopt an MP for southern Atlantic albacore no later than 2029;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RESOLVES THAT:

1. Management objectives should be established for southern Atlantic albacore tuna consistent with the Convention's objective: to maintain populations at or above levels that will support maximum sustainable catch (usually referred to as MSY).
2. To facilitate development of an MSE for southern Atlantic albacore, the following initial operational management objectives should be considered:
 - a. Stock Status
 - The stock should have a 60% or greater probability of occurring in the green quadrant of the Kobe matrix over a 30-year projection period;

¹ The SCRS should use 40% of the spawning stock biomass at Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) as the interim B_{LIM} for southern Atlantic albacore tuna, or advise on a different value, if appropriate.

- b. Safety
 - There should be no greater than 15% probability of the stock falling below B_{LIM}^1 at any point during the 30-year projection period;
 - c. Yield
 - Maximize overall catch levels; and
 - d. Stability
 - Any changes in total allowable catch (TAC) between management periods should be 20% or less.²
3. The SCRS should use a 3-year management cycle for initial development of the MSE.
 4. The initial operational management objectives (paragraph 2) may be rejected, modified, or supplemented, as appropriate, by Panel 3, and these initial management objectives will be forwarded to the SCRS Albacore Species Group for review and evaluation through the MSE process.
 5. Panel 3 will provide its recommendations for final management objectives for southern Atlantic albacore, considering the SCRS input, to the Commission for consideration as part of the selection of a management procedure no later than at its 2029 Annual Meeting.

² Asymmetric stability limits may be evaluated in the MSE.