

**JAPAN'S STATEMENT ON PANEL 2, ROUND #2**

**Northern Albacore**

Japan supports the adoption of PA2\_606A and PA2\_607A.

**Eastern BFT**

Japan supports PA2\_609A. The only remaining issue is the request from Russia for allocation. In the first round, Japan supported deferring such discussion to the 2021 Commission meeting. Japan maintains its position given the complex nature of the discussion and the requested allocation being not trivial.

**Western BFT**

Japan could support the proposal of Panel 2 Chair, namely, scenario 3 of the SCRS advises on TACs in 2021-2023 (2,350 t, 1,685 t, and 1,632 t respectively) on the assumption that a new stock assessment will be conducted in 2021. At this point, however, we are not clear whether the assessment will be conducted since it requires a decision of the Commission. Besides, informal discussion is still going on among CPCs concerned. We reserve the right to come back to the TACs later when things become clearer.

With regard to other matters in **PA2-608A**, Japan submits comments as follows. The specific proposed text is attached (**Annex**).

*1) consideration of stock mixing in the new stock assessment in 2021*

Canada suggests that the new stock assessment in 2021 should consider not only stock indices but also stock mixing. However, the BFT MSE will examine the issue of stock mixing and requesting the SCRS to resolve the stock mixing issue in the next stock assessment is too demanding and would not be indispensable. Therefore, Japan suggests removing this issue from the request to the SCRS (para 17).

*2) carryforward of underharvest in 2020 to 2021*

Japan does not necessarily oppose this proposal, but the suggested text from Canada gives an impression that this special treatment continues in future as well. Because of the reason explained by Canada, this measure should be temporary. From this perspective, we suggest that this measure be applied to only from 2020 to 2021. Whether the measure should be further extended should be discussed at the 2021 Commission meeting.

**DRAFT RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT AMENDING REC. 17-06 FOR AN INTERIM  
CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR WESTERN ATLANTIC BLUEFIN TUNA  
(PA2-608A)**

*(Proposed changes presented by Japan)*

(5)

\* As an exception to this rule, for a temporary basis, the underharvest that is carried forward from 2020 ~~onward~~ to 2021 may not exceed 25% of the CPC's initial quota allocation in paragraph 6.

(7)

"17. In 2021, the SCRS will conduct a full stock assessment for the western Atlantic bluefin tuna stock, including the review of the most recent available data such as abundance indices ~~and stock mixing~~ and provide advice to the Commission on the appropriate management measures, approaches, and strategies, including, *inter alia*, regarding TAC levels for that stock for future years." Such assessment shall be conducted in a way that does not negatively affect the other work of the SCRS, particularly the ongoing MSE work for BFT. In order to assist this work, an external expert shall be hired with a voluntary fund from Canada to review, prepare a report and present the findings to the BFT Species Group. No stock assessment shall be conducted in 2022."