

SUMMARY REPORT BY THE PA2 CHAIR

(All the documents referred to in this report are available on the [2020 Commission documents webpage](#))

1. Review of Panel membership

In accordance with ICCAT Circulars 7727/20 and 7729/20, Panel 2 welcomed Cabo Verde and the United Kingdom as members of Panel 2. A full list of Panel 2 members is contained in document GEN_004A/2020.

2. Review of Compliance Tables

No specific issues were referred to the Panel; any interpretations made by Panel 2 in previous years regarding carryover measures still stand and have been taken into account in the drafting of the tables.

3. Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of the ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities

Five proposals were tabled for Panel 2 consideration.

Northern albacore

A "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 16-06 Establishing a Multi-Annual Conservation and Management Programme for North Atlantic Albacore" [PA2_606] was drafted by the Panel 2 Chair. This was supported by Chinese Taipei, European Union and Japan. The United States indicated that they could agree to the proposal with some minor modifications, which resulted in PA2_606B.

The Panel 2 Chair also proposed a "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 17-04 on a Harvest Control Rule for North Atlantic Albacore Supplementing the Multiannual Conservation and Management Programme of Rec. 16-06" [PA2_607]. Belize requested Panel 2 to approve a quota transfer of 200 t from Chinese Taipei to Belize for 2021, which was not opposed by other Panel 2 members. With some additional minor edits, this was adopted by the Panel as PA2_607C.

These two documents are put forward to the Commission for adoption.

Western Atlantic bluefin tuna

A "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 17-06 for an Interim Conservation and Management Plan for Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna" [PA2_608] was submitted by the Chair of Panel 2, while a "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT extending and amending Recommendation 17-06 for an Interim Conservation and Management Plan for Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna" was submitted by the United States [PA2_610].

The Chair of Panel 2 produced PA2_608A, taking into account the U.S. proposal and comments from other Panel 2 members. This was further amended to PA2_608C which is being submitted to the Commission for adoption.

Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna

A "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 19-04 Establishing A Multi-Annual Management Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean" [PA2_608] was put forward by the Panel 2 Chair. This was amended to PA2_609A and further to PA2_609B based on input from Panel 2 members, and is now being submitted to the Commission for adoption.

Statements on the above proposals were made by Canada [PA2_614, PA2_624 and PA2_640], France (St. Pierre and Miquelon)[PA2_642], European Union [PA2_612 and PA2_625], Japan [PA2_621], Morocco [PA2_613], Norway [PA2_622 and PA2_635], United Kingdom [PA2_641], United States [PA2_626 and PA2_643], Chinese Taipei [PA2_619 and PA2_631], PEW Charitable Trusts [PA2_611, PA2_620 and PA2_634] and WWF [PA2_615].

4. Identification of outdated measures in light of 3 above

There are no outdated measures to be removed from the Active Compendium at this time. This issue will be revisited at the 2021 Commission meeting.

5. A request for clarification from the SCRS BFT sub-group on Growth in farms

It was agreed that this issue would be discussed at the Panel 2 virtual Intersessional meeting in March 2021.

6. Recommendations to the Commission based on findings of the above

On the basis of the above, Panel 2 recommends that the Commission adopt the following measures:

- *"Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 16-06 Establishing a Multi-Annual Conservation and Management Programme for North Atlantic Albacore"* [PA2_606B]
- *"Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 17-04 on a Harvest Control Rule for North Atlantic Albacore Supplementing the Multiannual Conservation and Management Programme, Rec. 16-06"* [PA2_607C]

In adopting these two draft Recommendations, the Panel confirmed that these should be consolidated at the 2021 Commission meeting.

- *"Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 17-06 for an Interim Conservation and Management Plan for Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna"* [PA2_608C]

In adopting PA2_608C, the Panel agreed to recommend to the Commission that a stock assessment for the western Atlantic bluefin tuna be conducted in 2021, one year earlier than the original SCRS plan. In relation to this agreement, Panel 2 understood that: (i) the proposed meeting for the stock assessment in September 2021 as well as the preparatory work required to conduct the assessment will not negatively affect the ongoing MSE process for bluefin tuna and if the SCRS considers a negative impact to be unavoidable, MSE will be given priority and the 2021 SCRS advice to the Commission on western Atlantic bluefin tuna will be based on the 2020 stock assessment; (ii) if the preparatory work does not proceed as planned, the SCRS will postpone the western Atlantic bluefin tuna assessment to 2022; and (iii) an external expert will be contracted to perform the required work specified in paragraph 6 in accordance with standard SCRS and Secretariat practices and procedures and will be supported by the Commission budget with a voluntary fund from Canada. Finally, the United States noted for the record during the correspondence process that it could go along with paragraph 5 of the measure, which will replace paragraph 16 of Rec. 17-06, with the clear understanding that it did not represent or imply a change to the SCRS schedule of work concerning the bluefin tuna MSE and, in that regard, the expectation remains that the SCRS will present fully elaborated candidate management procedures for selection by the Commission no later than 2022.

- *"Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 19-04 Establishing A Multi-Annual Management Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean"* [PA2_609B]

Regarding PA2_609B, there was no consensus on the allocation request from Russia and the Panel recommends that the request be discussed at the 2021 Commission meeting. The Panel also recommends that the interpretation of paragraph 10 (regarding the transfer of quota between CPCs) in Rec. 19-04 be discussed at the 2021 Commission meeting, if necessary.

In addition, the Panel recommends the following:

Bluefin tuna farming

Regarding the question from the SCRS on the timing from which growth should be estimated, the Panel recommends that the discussion be deferred to the Panel 2 intersessional meeting in March 2021.

Bluefin tuna catches by Gibraltar

The Panel recommends that the issue of the unilateral quota set by Gibraltar be discussed at the 2021 Commission meeting. Meanwhile, the Panel requests the Secretariat to contact Gibraltar to clarify the two points raised by Japan, i.e., (i) whether or not Brexit will affect their setting of autonomous quota; and (ii) whether or not Gibraltar exports its catch. The Secretariat will coordinate with Panel 2 and Compliance Committee Chairs regarding the letter to be sent to Gibraltar.

Dissemination of SCRS results

The Panel recommends that the 2021 Commission meeting discuss how to handle the results of SCRS meetings before the reports are uploaded on the Commission website, in order to avoid undesirable revelation of findings before the reports are approved.

Panel 2 Intersessional

The Panel recommends that the next Panel 2 Intersessional meeting be held in a virtual manner in March 2021 taking into account the agreed schedule and workplan for preparing for and holding this meeting, as set out in PA2_618_APP_1A and PA2_618_APP_2A.