

Original: French

STATEMENT BY SENEGAL TO PLENARY ON PANEL 1

Senegal thanks the Commission Chair for the efforts made to advance the decision-making process in 2020 and takes good note of the considerable advances achieved despite the relatively difficult conditions.

As to Panels 3, 4 and the PWG, Senegal takes good note of the conclusion of the correspondence period and approves the reports of the Chairs of these subsidiary bodies.

As regards the reports of Panels 1 and 2, Senegal supports the proposals of the Chairs of these two panels but wishes to provide the following comments in relation to Panel 1.

Senegal supports the document 503A proposed by the Chair of Panel 1 but, nevertheless, would like to remind that the bigeye tuna TAC must be fixed for 2021 at the level provided for in Rec. 19-02 (61,500 t).

Our country does not consider document PA1_502B to be the catch limits established for the CPCs for 2022 but views it rather as a working document.

The two panel meetings – virtual and in-person – scheduled in the 2021 SCRS and Commission meetings calendar will not be sufficient to address the important pending Panel 1 issues.

However, clear identification of the agenda and its prioritization will allow for greater efficiency. For this, the specific issue of allocation should not be discussed during the virtual meeting but must be addressed at the intersessional meeting of Panel 1 which is currently intended to be held in-person in September 2021, when the results of the bigeye tuna assessment will be available.

Senegal brings to the attention of the Commission that, through seeking compromise and by remaining heavily committed to sustainable management of tropical tunas, over these past years, it has agreed to significant sacrifices, accepting and complying with the reduction of the bigeye tuna limit that has been allocated to it (1,322 t). Our country's fleet (tuna purse seiners, baitboats and longliners) suffers, with the reduced limit, the consequences of a situation that it has not created.

Our country reaffirms that a fair and equitable allocation of the bigeye tuna and the yellowfin tuna TACs in favour of developing coastal countries remains one of the priorities of Panel 1 and of the Commission which, unfortunately, struggles to achieve it.

The peoples and economy of our country like those of most ICCAT coastal members are highly dependent on fish and must capitalize fully on the resources found along their coastlines in accordance with international law.

Senegal accepts the limit established for it for 2021 but requests that bigeye tuna be reallocated in favour of developing coastal countries for 2022 for the sake of equity and compliance with international law.