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**EXPLANATORY NOTE ON DRAFT RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT AMENDING REC. 17-06 FOR AN INTERIM CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR WESTERN ATLANTIC BLUEFIN TUNA**

*(Submitted by Japan)*

In the 2021 stock assessment, the SCRS advises “a moderate increase to the current W-BFT TAC of 2,350t” (p.45, 2021 SCRS Report). More specifically, the SCRS indicates a 4% increase (94 t, TAC of 2,444 t), a 16% increase (376 t, TAC of 2,726 t) and a 28% increase (658 t, 3,008 t), depending on the approach.

Considering that the Commission will adopt TAC for 2023 and afterwards based on the MSE, Japan proposes that the Commission choose one of these figures for the TAC in 2022 only.

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

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

1. The provisions in the *Recommendation by ICCAT for an Interim Conservation and Management Plan for Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna* (Rec. 17-06) shall be extended through 2022 with the following amendments:

(1) Paragraph 1 shall be replaced with:

“1. Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities (CPCs) whose vessels have been actively fishing for bluefin tuna in the western Atlantic shall implement the following interim conservation and management plan for the 2022 period.”

(2) Paragraph 3 shall be replaced with:

“3. The annual total allowable catch (TAC), inclusive of dead discards, of [2,444], [2,726], [3,008] t is established for 2022.”

(3) Paragraph 4 shall be replaced with:

“4. The annual TAC in Paragraph 3 shall be reviewed in 2022 by the Commission on the advice of the SCRS.”

(4) Paragraph 6 shall be replaced with:

“6. The allocation of the annual TAC, inclusive of dead discards, will be indicated as follows:

(a) The annual TAC shall include the following allocations:

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Allocation</i>
USA (by-catch related to longline fisheries in vicinity of management area boundary)	25 t
Canada (by-catch related to longline fisheries in vicinity of management area boundary)	15 t

b) After subtracting the amounts under paragraph 6(a), the remainder of the annual TAC will be allocated as follows:

CPC	If the remainder of the annual TAC is:			
	<2,413 t (A)	2,413 t (B)	>2,413-2,660 t (C)	>2,660 t (D)
United States	54.02%	1,303 t	1,303 t	49.00%
Canada	22.32%	539 t	539 t	20.24%
Japan	17.64%	426 t	426 t + all increase between 2,413 t and 2,660 t	24.74%
United Kingdom (in respect of Bermuda)	0.23%	5.5 t	5.5 t	0.23%
France (in respect of St. Pierre & Miquelon)	0.23%	5.5 t	5.5 t	0.23%
Mexico	5.56%	134 t	134 t	5.56%

- (c) Consistent with paragraphs 1, 3, and 6(b), the TAC for 2022 results in the following CPC-specific quota allocations (not including by-catch allowances listed in 6(a)):

*TAC for 2022: [2,444], [2,726], [3,008] t*

United States	[1,299], [1,316], [1,454] t
Canada	[536], [544], [601] t
Japan	[424], [665], [734] t
United Kingdom (in respect of Bermuda)	[5.5], [6.2], [6.8] t
France (in respect of St. Pierre & Miquelon)	[5.5], [6.2], [6.8] t
Mexico	[134], [149], [165] t

In no case shall the allocation to France (in respect of St. Pierre & Miquelon) and to the United Kingdom (in respect of Bermuda) be less than 4 t each in any single year unless the fishery is closed.

- (d) Depending on availability, Mexico can transfer up to [134], [149], [165] t of its adjusted quota in 2022 to Canada to support cooperative research as specified in paragraph 20.
- (e) Depending on availability, the United Kingdom (in respect of Bermuda) can transfer up to the amount of its adjusted quota in 2022 to the United States to support cooperative research as specified in paragraph 20.
- (f) Depending on availability, France (in respect of St. Pierre & Miquelon) can transfer up to the amount of its adjusted quota in 2022 to Canada to support cooperative research as specified in paragraph 20.
- (g) CPCs planning to engage in the cooperative research activities specified in paragraphs 6(d), 6(e), and 6(f) above shall: notify the Commission and the SCRS of the details of their research programs to be undertaken before they commence, and present the results of the research to the SCRS.”
- (5) Paragraph 15 shall be deleted.

(6) Paragraph 16 shall be replaced with:

“16. The SCRS shall refine the MSE and continue testing the initial candidate management procedures. On this basis, in 2022, the Commission shall review these candidate management procedures and select a management procedure for adoption and implementation, including pre-agreed management actions to be taken under various stock conditions.”

(7) Paragraph 17 shall be deleted.

(8) Paragraph 18 shall be replaced with:

18. By 2022, the SCRS shall provide the Commission with advice on any potential impacts due to uncertainties (including regarding the spawner-recruit relationship) of implementing an F0.1 strategy, and, for any identified risks, advise how they could be addressed in future management decisions.

(9) Paragraph 20 shall be replaced with:

“20. CPCs that harvest Atlantic bluefin tuna should contribute to the research, including that being undertaken through ICCAT’s GBYP. CPCs should make or continue special efforts to enhance the collection and analysis of biological samples from Atlantic bluefin tuna fisheries, such as through sample contributions to the coordinated sampling plan recommended by the SCRS. The SCRS will report to the Commission in 2022 on these efforts. In addition, it is important to continue to explore sampling and/or other approaches for enhancing, and where needed developing, accurate abundance indices for juvenile bluefin tuna. CPCs should also make special efforts to ensure complete and timely submission of any collected data to the SCRS.”

2. In 2022 the Commission shall review and amend, as appropriate, the Recommendation 17-06 amended by this recommendation.