

Original: French

**REQUEST FOR EASTERN ATLANTIC BLUEFIN TUNA QUOTA
BY THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF MAURITANIA
(SUBMITTED TO THE CHAIR OF PANEL 2)**

The Islamic Republic of Mauritania has been a member of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) for over 15 years and comply faithfully with all the recommendations and resolutions adopted. Mauritania has always complied with the conservation and management measures taken by ICCAT. Mauritania participates assiduously in all the meetings, both annual and scientific. Mauritania does its utmost to pay regularly its financial contributions.

At the time when the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna stock was experiencing difficulties, Mauritania abstained from claiming a quota and did not dare venture into this fishery. In recent years, the scientific committee (SCRS) has shown that the bluefin tuna stock in the area referred to above has recovered and that a TAC increase would not undermine this. In light of this observation, Mauritania has decided to promote bluefin tuna activity and to develop a fleet targeting bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic during the 2023 campaign. On this basis, Mauritania intends to deploy a purse seiner in 2023 and another purse seiner in 2024.

To support the efforts to promote employment and develop the tuna fishery sector, the Head Delegate of Mauritania requests a quota of 200 t for the 2023 campaign and 200 t for the 2024 campaign.