

Original: English

**DRAFT RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT REPLACING SUPPLEMENTAL RECOMMENDATION 21-03
EXTENDING AND AMENDING RECOMMENDATION 17-03 FOR THE CONSERVATION OF SOUTH
ATLANTIC SWORDFISH**

(Proposal submitted by the European Union)

NOTING the need to continue with sound management for the sustainable exploitation of the South Atlantic swordfish stock;

CONSIDERING that in 2022 the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) provided an assessment of the status whereby it noted that the stock is overfished and subject to overfishing and reported that the current TAC of 14,000 tonnes is unlikely (3% probability) to achieve the objective of bringing the stock to a green quadrant of a Kobe plot by 2033 and that catches at levels below 10,000 tonnes would accelerate rebuilding of the stock;

RECOGNISING that the SCRS recommended that the current levels of exploitation not be exceeded under the current exploitation patterns;

CONFIRMING the commitment of CPCs to not increase their fishing efforts so as to ensure that catches will not exceed 10,000 tonnes while acknowledging that the extension of current measures in no way prejudices any future measures or discussions, including the existing allocation;

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

TAC and catch limits

1. The terms of the *Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation for the conservation of South Atlantic swordfish, Rec. 16-04 (Rec. 17-03)* shall be extended through 2023, 2024, 2025 and 2026 with the following amendments:

A. Paragraph 1 shall be replaced with:

“1. **TAC and catch limits**

(a) The total allowable catch (TAC) shall be 10,000 t for South Atlantic swordfish for the years 2023, 2024, 2025 and 2026.

(b) The annual catch limits as shown in the table below shall be applied for the years 2023, 2024, 2025 and 2026:

	Catch Limit (Unit: t)
TAC	<u>10,000</u>
Brazil ⁽¹⁾	3,940
European Union	4,824
South Africa	1,001
Namibia	1,168
Uruguay	1,252
United States ⁽²⁾	100
Côte d'Ivoire	125
China	313
Chinese Taipei ⁽²⁾	459
United Kingdom	25
Japan ⁽²⁾	901
Angola	100

Ghana	100
St. Tomé & Príncipe	100
Senegal	417
Korea	50
Belize	125

[...]

- (1) Brazil may harvest up to 200 t of its annual catch limit within the area between 5 degrees North latitude and 15 degrees North latitude.
- (2) Japan, United States, and Chinese Taipei may carryover unused portions during 2023-2026 but such carried over amounts each year shall not exceed 600 t, 100 t and 300 t respectively.

[...]

Transfers shall be authorized in accordance with paragraph 5.

[...]

- (c) If the annual catch exceeds the TAC of 10,000 t, CPCs that have exceeded their individual catch limits shall pay back their overharvest in accordance with paragraph 2 of this Recommendation. Any amount of the overharvest remaining after such adjustment shall be deducted from the annual catch limit of each CPC in the year following the excess, on a prorata basis of the catch limits in Table 1 (b) above.

B. Paragraph 2 shall be replaced with:

- “2. Any unused portion or excess of the annual quota/catch limit may be added to/shall be deducted from, according to the case, the respective quota/catch limit during or before the adjustment year, in the following way for South Atlantic swordfish:

Catch Year	Adjustment Year
[...]	[...]
[...]	[...]
[...]	[...]
[...]	[...]
2021	2023
2022	2024
2023	2025
2024	2026
2025	2027
2026	2028

However, the maximum underage that a party may carryover in any given year shall not exceed 10% of the quota of the previous year.”

2. The SCRS will monitor the catch levels in 2023, 2024, 2025 and 2026 and report to the Commission annually.
3. This *Recommendation* repeals and replaces the *Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT on Recommendation 17-03 amending the Recommendation 16-04 for the conservation of South Atlantic Swordfish* (Rec. 21-03).