

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 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. For 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025 and 2026 the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) and the catch limits shall be as follows:

	Catch Limit (Unit: t)
TAC <sup>(1)(4)</sup>	14,000
Brazil <sup>(2)</sup>	3,940
European Union	4,824
South Africa	1,001
Namibia	1,168
Uruguay	1,252
United States <sup>(3)</sup>	100
Côte d'Ivoire	125
China	313
Chinese Taipei <sup>(3)</sup>	459
United Kingdom	25
Japan <sup>(3)</sup>	901
Angola	100
Ghana	100
St. Tomé & Príncipe	100
Senegal	417
Korea	50
Belize	125

- (1) The total catch for the five-year management period of 2018-2022 shall not exceed 70,000 t (14,000 t x 5). If the yearly total catch of any of the five years exceeds 14,000 t; the TAC(s) for the following year(s) shall be adjusted to ensure that the five-year total will not exceed 70,000 t. In general, these adjustments shall be carried out through prorated reduction of the quota for each Contracting Party and Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity and Fishing Entity (CPC).
- (2) 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.
- (3) Japan's, U.S.A's and Chinese Taipei's underage in 2016 may be carried over to 2018 up to 600 t, 100 t and 300 t, respectively, in addition to their quotas specified in this table. Those CPCs may also carry over unused portions during 2017-2021 but such carried over amounts each year shall not exceed the amounts specified here.
- (4) The total catch for the management period 2023-2026 shall not exceed 40,000 t (10,000 t x 4). Should catches in any of the 4 years exceed 10,000 t, additional measures would be adopted to further restrain catches for the following years so as to ensure that the total catch management period does not exceed 40,000 t.

Transfers shall be authorized in accordance with paragraph 5.

Contracting Parties indicated in the Table commit without prejudice to existing allocation not to increase their current fishing effort for South Atlantic swordfish."

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
2017	2019
2018	2020
2019	2021
2020	2022
2021	2023
2022	2024
<u>2023</u>	<u>2025</u>
<u>2024</u>	<u>2026</u>
<u>2025</u>	<u>2027</u>
<u>2026</u>	<u>2028</u>

However, the maximum underage that a party may carryover in any given year shall not exceed 20% 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).