

**EXPLANATORY NOTE FOR A DRAFT RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT
REPLACING SUPPLEMENTAL RECOMMENDATION 21-02 EXTENDING AND AMENDING
RECOMMENDATION 17-02 FOR THE CONSERVATION OF NORTH ATLANTIC SWORDFISH**

(Proposal submitted by the United States)

The results of the 2022 North Atlantic swordfish stock assessment show that this stock continues to be in the green quadrant of the Kobe plot (not overfished and not subject to overfishing). The assessment results also show that a constant catch at the current total allowable catch (TAC) level of 13,200 t will result in a 60% probability of the stock being in the green quadrant of the Kobe plot in 2033. In 2023, the SCRS and Commission plan to continue development of management strategy evaluation (MSE) for North Atlantic swordfish, anticipating that the SCRS will complete the MSE, including providing candidate management procedures to the Commission for consideration, in 2023, with a view towards adopting a management procedure to set TACs starting in 2024. Taking this into account, the United States is proposing a simple one-year rollover of the North Atlantic swordfish measure adopted in 2021 (Rec. 21-02) to extend the current TAC, catch limits, and associated measures into 2023.

**DRAFT RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT REPLACING
SUPPLEMENTAL RECOMMENDATION 21-02 EXTENDING AND AMENDING
RECOMMENDATION 17-02 FOR THE CONSERVATION OF NORTH ATLANTIC SWORDFISH**

(Proposal submitted by the United States)

RECALLING the Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation for the Conservation of North Atlantic Swordfish, Rec. 16-03 (Rec. 17-02) as previously amended by the Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation 17-02 for the Conservation of North Atlantic Swordfish (Rec. 19-03), the Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation 19-03 for the Conservation of North Atlantic Swordfish (Rec. 20-02), and the Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT Extending and Amending Recommendation 17-02 Amending the Recommendation 16-03 for the Conservation of North Atlantic Swordfish (Rec. 21-02);

NOTING the need to continue with sound measures for the conservation and management of the North Atlantic swordfish stock;

CONSIDERING the results of the 2022 North Atlantic swordfish stock assessment, which show that a constant catch at the current TAC level of 13,200 t will result in a 60% probability of the stock being in the green quadrant of the Kobe plot in 2033;

SUPPORTING the Commission's work toward the development of management strategy evaluation (MSE) for North Atlantic swordfish to manage fisheries more effectively in the face of identified uncertainties, including efforts to develop operational management objectives, in particular, *Resolution by ICCAT on Development of Initial Management Objectives for North Atlantic Swordfish* (Res. 19-14), and efforts to finalize these management objectives consistent with the Convention and *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Principles of Decision Making for ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures* (Rec. 11-13) and *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Development of Harvest Control Rules and Management Strategy Evaluation* (Rec. 15-07);

WELCOMING the 2023 SCRS Swordfish Workplan, including two manager-scientist dialogue meetings with Panel 4, to ensure the MSE process can be completed on schedule and anticipating that the SCRS will complete the MSE, including providing candidate management procedures to the Commission for consideration, in 2023, with a view to the adoption of a management procedure to set TACs for 2024 and onward;

CONFIRMING that the extension of current measures in no way prejudices any future measures or discussions;

DESIRING to give effect, for 2022 and 2023, to the provisions of The Trade and Cooperation Agreement between the UK and the EU that established those two Parties' respective shares of certain ICCAT species, including North Atlantic swordfish;

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

1. The provisions of the *Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation for the conservation of North Atlantic swordfish, Rec. 16-03* (Rec. 17-02), as extended and amended by the *Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT Extending and Amending Recommendation 17-02 Amending the Recommendation 16-03 for the Conservation of North Atlantic Swordfish* (Rec. 21-02), shall be further extended through 2023 with the following amendments:

A. Sub-paragraphs 2(a) and (b) shall be replaced with:

“2. TAC and catch limits

- a) The total allowable catch (TAC) shall be 13,200 t for North Atlantic swordfish for the years 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023:
- b) The annual catch limits as shown in the table below shall be applied for the years 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023:

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Catch limit**</i> <i>13,200 (t)</i>
European Union ***	6,718*
United States***	3,907*
Canada	1,348*
Japan***	842*
Morocco	850
Mexico	200
Brazil	50
Barbados	45
Venezuela	85
Trinidad & Tobago	125
United Kingdom (OTs)	35
France (St. Pierre et Miquelon)	40
China	100
Senegal	250
Korea***	50
Belize***	130
Côte d'Ivoire	50
St. Vincent & the Grenadines	75
Vanuatu	25
Chinese Taipei	270

* Catch limits of these four CPCs are based upon quota allocation shown in 3.c) of the 2006 *Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT to Amend the Rebuilding Program for North Atlantic Swordfish* (Rec. 06-02).

** The following transfers of annual catch limits shall be authorized:

From Japan to Morocco: 100 t for each of 2018 and 2019; and 150 t for each of 2020, 2021, 2022, [and 2023]

From Japan to Canada: 35 t

From EU to France (St. Pierre et Miquelon): 40 t

From Venezuela to France (St. Pierre et Miquelon): 12.75 t

From Senegal to Canada: 125 t

From Trinidad & Tobago to Belize: 75 t

From Chinese Taipei to Canada: 35 t

From Brazil, Japan, and Senegal to Mauritania: 25 t each for a total of 75 t for 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, [and 2023], on the condition that Mauritania submit its development plan per paragraph 5 of this Recommendation. If a development plan is not submitted, these transfers are considered null. Future decisions regarding access to the North Atlantic swordfish fishery by Mauritania shall be contingent upon submission of its development plan.

From Trinidad and Tobago to Morocco: 25 t for each of 2020, 2021, 2022, [and 2023]

From Chinese Taipei to Morocco: 20 t for each of 2020, 2021, 2022, [and 2023]

From EU to UK: 0.67 t for 2022 and 2023

These transfers do not change the relative shares of CPCs as reflected in the above catch limits.

*** Japan shall be allowed to count up to 400 t of its swordfish catch taken from the South Atlantic management area against its uncaught North Atlantic swordfish catch limits.

The European Union shall be allowed to count up to 200 t of its swordfish catch taken from the South Atlantic management area against its uncaught North Atlantic swordfish catch limits.

The US shall be allowed to count up to 200 t of its swordfish catch taken from the area between 5°N and 5°S, against its uncaught North Atlantic swordfish catch limit.

Belize shall be allowed to count up to 75 t of its swordfish catch taken from the area between 5°N and 5°S, against its uncaught North Atlantic swordfish catch limit.

Korea shall be allowed to count up to 25 t of swordfish catch taken from the South Atlantic management area in 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, [and 2023] against its uncaught North Atlantic catch limit.”

B. Paragraph 3 shall be replaced with:

“3. Any unused portion or excess of the annual adjusted quota may be added to/shall be deducted from, according to the case, the respective quota/catch limit during or before the adjustment year, as follows:

<i>Catch year</i>	<i>Adjustment year</i>
2016	2018
2017	2019
2018	2020
2019	2021
2020	2022
2021	2023
2022	2024
2023	2025

However, the maximum underage that a Party may carryover in any given year shall not exceed 15% of its initial catch limit (as specified in paragraph 2(b) above and excluding quota transfers) for those CPCs holding catch limits more than 500 t, and 40% for other CPCs.”

C. Paragraph 4 shall be replaced with:

- “4. If Japan’s landings exceed its catch limits in any year, the overage shall be deducted in subsequent years so that total landings for Japan shall not exceed its total catch limits for the six-year period commencing in 2018. When annual landings by Japan are less than its catch limits, the underage may be added to the subsequent years’ catch limits, so that total landings by Japan do not exceed its total for the same six-year period. Any underages or overages from the 2018-2023 management period shall be applied to the subsequent management period to be decided by the Commission in 2023.”

D. The first sentence of Paragraph 5 shall be replaced with:

- “5. The SCRS shall continue to refine the MSE and test candidate management procedures in 2023. In support of this effort, the SCRS and Panel 4 shall hold two MSE dialogue meetings in 2023. At the 2023 ICCAT Annual Meeting, the Commission shall review the final candidate management procedures and select one for adoption and application to establish the TAC for 2024 and future years, including pre-agreed management actions to be taken under various stock conditions.”
2. This Recommendation replaces and repeals the *Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT Extending and Amending Recommendation 17-02 Amending the Recommendation 16-03 for the Conservation of North Atlantic Swordfish* (Rec. 21-02).