



2005 Market Street, Suite 1700  
Philadelphia, PA 19103-7077

901 E St., NW, 10th Floor  
Washington, DC 20004-2008  
[www.pewenvironment.org](http://www.pewenvironment.org)

Square du Bastion 1A boîte 5  
1050 Brussels, Belgium

Studio 10, Tiger House Burton Street  
London WC1H 1BY, United Kingdom

**The Pew Charitable Trusts’  
Position Statement for the 23<sup>rd</sup> Special Meeting of ICCAT  
14-21 November 2022**

The Pew Charitable Trusts welcomes the opportunity to participate in the 23<sup>rd</sup> Special Meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, and we appreciate the work of the Secretariat, Chair, and members to convene this meeting. While the 2021 virtual meeting proved to be a very successful effort by ICCAT CPCs, there is another busy agenda this year. There continue to be substantial opportunities to advance conservation and management of Atlantic tunas, swordfish, and sharks. As such, Pew urges ICCAT to address the following items, each of which is expanded upon in our opening statements to each panel or committee:

- **As its top priority for this meeting, ICCAT should adopt a management procedure (MP) that sets the total allowable catch for both stocks of Atlantic bluefin tuna** – After eight years of development, including one of the most substantial scientific efforts undertaken at ICCAT or for any single fishery, the management strategy evaluation is completed and is ready to be used to select a management procedure for this species. Proposal [PA2 613](#) is the Chair’s proposal for adoption and implementation of a MP, and CPCs should work collaboratively to make the outstanding decisions, remove brackets from the proposal, and adopt it this year.
- **Adopt proposal [PWG 413](#) to strengthen Recommendation 06-14, to prevent CPC nationals from deriving benefits from or supporting IUU fishing** – ICCAT has made substantial progress recently in combating and preventing IUU fishing, with 2021 representing both the culmination of existing work and the launching of new work (via the new working groups on labor standards and catch document systems). To continue this momentum, ICCAT should follow the lead of several other RFMOs and ensure that all nationals of any CPC do not benefit from IUU activity. Proposal [PWG\\_413](#) would accomplish this goal and should be supported this year.
- **Advance the work of the electronic monitoring (EM) working group to progress the development of ICCAT wide EM standards for adoption by 2023** – implementation of an EM program will allow members to meet observer coverage requirements and to better monitor the activity of fishing vessels at sea. Based on the experience of other RFMOs and on the advice of technology providers who have implemented EM programs in the past, the standards should be performance- or output-based and focus on the types of data that need to be collected instead of being prescriptive on precisely how they are collected. This will help ensure there is flexibility built into the measure as EM technologies provide new or more cost-effective ways to collect and analyze data.
- **Develop the severity table as embodied in last year’s Chairs paper [COC 307/2021](#)** - A tool that ranks the severity of non-compliance in the context of existing ICCAT measures would be an important step towards delineating minor versus significant infractions and would assist the



2005 Market Street, Suite 1700  
Philadelphia, PA 19103-7077

901 E St., NW, 10th Floor  
Washington, DC 20004-2008  
[www.pewenvironment.org](http://www.pewenvironment.org)

Square du Bastion 1A boîte 5  
1050 Brussels, Belgium

Studio 10, Tiger House Burton Street  
London WC1H 1BY, United Kingdom

Commission in allocating its limited resources to address the most serious cases of non-compliance. We therefore urge COC to endorse the development of this initiative and we hope to see this work advanced further now so that it will be ready for adoption at the 2023 Commission meeting.

- **Adopt Proposal [PA1 503](#) to establish management objectives for western skipjack** – according to experts, fisheries targeting western skipjack are relatively free of bycatch of even other tropical tunas, so management strategy evaluation and MP adoption can proceed individually for this population. Adopting management objectives this year will help the technical team proceed and help keep the MP development process on track for final adoption in 2023.
- **Ensure that management of fisheries targeting tropical tunas is extended to 2023** – in the event that consensus cannot be met on a new tropical tuna measure, ICCAT must show leadership to ensure that the current, strong measure is rolled over, so there is no risk of a management lapse for these valuable stocks in 2023.
- **Adopt Proposal [PWG 415](#) to establish a high-seas boarding and inspection program across the entire north Atlantic** – given recent reports in popular media of vessels participating in illegal activity in the Atlantic, including shark finning and illegal transshipment, it is vitally important to agree to new enforcement mechanisms. After adoption, Pew hopes that all CPCs with enforcement vessels in the region will participate in the program.
- **Adopt Proposals [PA4 804](#) on south Atlantic shortfin makos, [PA 806](#) on sea turtle conservation, [PA4 808](#) on north Atlantic swordfish, and an edited version of [PA 807](#) on south Atlantic swordfish** – there are several strong proposals on conservation of management of non-tuna species caught in ICCAT fisheries, and these should be supported this year. CPCs should also work to improve data reporting, including by better estimating and reporting of dead and live discards and by increasing observer coverage (by human or electronic means) to ensure that these interactions are properly monitored.
- **Adopt Proposals [PLE 107](#) on climate change to explore the impacts of global changes on ICCAT fisheries and [PWG 412](#) on the use of stereoscopic cameras as a monitoring and control tool within the bluefin tuna ranching industry.**