

Original: English/French

**Reports on the implementation of closed fishing seasons  
for Mediterranean swordfish****ALGERIA**

Please see the Algerian Annual Report, Part 1 for information.

**EUROPEAN UNION**

No report received. See EU Fishing Plan (PA4\_802/2023) for planned implementation.

**MOROCCO**

The Kingdom of Morocco has implemented the appropriate measures for compliance with the relevant terms of Recommendation 16-05 which was adopted by the Commission in November 2016, in particular paragraph 11 a) which provides that "Mediterranean swordfish shall not be caught (either as a target species or as by-catch), retained on board, transhipped or landed during the period between 1 October to 30 November and during the additional period of one month between 15 February and 31 March".

The period chosen by Morocco is from 15 February to 15 March and from 1 October to 30 November each year, as indicated in its Mediterranean swordfish fishing plan, communicated to the ICCAT Secretariat on 14 March 2023.

Compliance has also been strengthened by the following legislative instruments:

- Closure of the Mediterranean swordfish fishery is regulated through transposition of the closure periods established by ICCAT into the national regulations through enactment of Ministerial Order N° 1112-22 of 14 April 2022 on the swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*) fishery development and management plan;
- The market size in accordance with ICCAT provisions (100 cm) which was transposed into Ministerial Order No. 1154-88 of 20 safar 1409 (3 October 1988) which establishes the minimum market size of species fished in Moroccan maritime waters, as amended and supplemented;
- The gradual reduction of 3% in TAC, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 4 of Recommendation 16-05, and in addition the quota has decreased from 924.20 MT in 2021 to 896.47 MT in 2022 and 2023.
- All vessels that can catch swordfish in the Mediterranean are included in the ICCAT record "SWO MED VESSELS" (14/01/2023).

**Surveillance and control**

- The Royal Decree enacting Law No. 1-73-255 of 27 chaoual 1393 (23 November 1973) which sets out the maritime fishing regulations (B.O. No. 3187), as amended and supplemented.
- Royal Decree No. 1-14-95 of 12 reheb 1435 (12 May 2014) enacting Law No. 15-12 on the prevention of and fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing which amends and supplements the Royal Decree enacting Law No. 1-73-255 of 27 chaoual 1393 (23 November 1973) which sets out the maritime fishing regulations.

- Decree No. 2-17-455 of 26 April 2018, for compliance with some provisions of Title I of Law No. 15-12 on the prevention of and the fight against IUU fishing.
- Decree No. 2-17-456 of 15 March 2018, for compliance with some provisions of the Royal Decree enacting Law No. 1-73-255 of 23 November 1973 which sets out the maritime fishing regulations.
- Decree No. 2-18-104 of 02 rabbi II 1440 (10 December 2018) amending and supplementing Decree No. 2-09-674 of 30 rabbi I (17 March 2010) which establishes the conditions and the methods for installation and use on board of fishing vessels of a positioning and continuous tracking system that uses satellite communications to transmit data.
- Order No. 574-19 of 29 jomada II 1440 (7 March 2019) related to the positioning and continuous tracking device of fishing vessels.

The Kingdom of Morocco implements a control infrastructure at sea, in ports and on landing. Consequently, fishing for Mediterranean swordfish is covered in particular by the following control methods:

- Controls at landing ports, fishing sites and fish markets;
- Satellite control of vessels ("VMS" positioning and tracking device);
- At-sea vessel controls carried out by control authorities;
- A system for reporting catch on landing and monitoring of trade flow through the catch certification procedure.

To ensure effective monitoring of catch, including swordfish, the Fisheries Department has invested since 2011 in a fully computerised catch certification procedure which ensures full traceability from landing to export. Computerisation of the procedure means that information on catch flows is available and enables better exploitation for more effective and efficient control and verification, for the overall purpose of counteracting illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. Consequently, the ICCAT statistical documents validated for swordfish contribute to the computerised catch certification procedure for verification of traceability.

## TUNISIA

In accordance with Recommendation 16-05 on the choice of closure season for Mediterranean swordfish, the closure period is from 1 January to 31 March, i.e. 3 successive months of closure.

The closure is essentially implemented through:

- Legislative texts within the framework of Law No. 94-13 of 31 January 1994 on fishing activities, in particular, Articles 13 and 14 concerned with species for which it is prohibited to fish and the Order of the Minister of Agriculture of 22 April 2019 on organisation of the swordfish fishery, and circulars sent to the regional fisheries services to prevent and combat fishing for swordfish outside of the fishing season,
- Administrative measures: no authorisations for landing or transportation have been issued outside of the fishing season,
- Control operations have been strengthened through mixed control campaigns between the fisheries services, marine guard and national guard. Control missions are effectively carried out during the closure period in the fishing ports and markets to ensure compliance with the provisions introduced in this respect.

## TÜRKIYE

### General information and legal framework

The following information has been compiled in response to the requirements of Paragraph 13 of *Recommendation by ICCAT Replacing the Recommendation 13-04 and Establishing a Multi-Annual Recovery Plan for Mediterranean Swordfish* (Rec. 16-05).

In 2012, Türkiye has set an additional month of closure for the Mediterranean Swordfish (SWO-MD) from 15 February to 15 March in addition to the closure period from 1 October to 30 November. This measure was announced on 15 December 2011. In 2023, the aforementioned measure for SWO-MD has remained in force.

For ensuring efficiency of the aforementioned measure, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MoAF) introduced the Notification on Regulating Commercial Fishing at Seas and Inland Waters covering the period 2021-2024, in order to ensure more sustainable fishing activities, improved quality for fishing products, and better conservation of fisheries resources.

### Technical regulations

- The catch of swordfish smaller than 125 cm is prohibited.
- It is mandatory for the fishing vessels to catch swordfish obtain "Fishing Permit" from the provincial directorate issuing vessel's license. Applications by the fishermen to acquire a special fishing permit for swordfish is subject to some technical criteria. When an application made is approved by the Ministry, the special permit information is simultaneously recorded in the Fisheries Information System (FIS) operated by the Ministry.
- When longlining for tuna and swordfish only hooks no. 1 and no. 2 with a gape width smaller than 2.8 cm is permitted.

During the closed season, Med-SWO fishermen engaged in other types of coastal fisheries, trawling, tourism and/or aquaculture activities.

### Other measures

In accordance with the relevant provisions of ICCAT Rec. 16-05, a list of designated landing points for Med-SWO has been made available and reported to ICCAT on 12 January 2023. Inspectors from the Turkish Coast Guard have been trained to actively participate to inspections for Med-SWO in the context of IJIS.

Regular catch reports on a quarterly basis have been submitted to ICCAT in line with Türkiye's TAC allocation as set forth by the document PA4-09B/2017.

In 2002 and 2003, EU and ICCAT enforced a recommendation prohibiting the usage of driftnets in the Mediterranean. Afterwards, driftnetting in Türkiye was also banned in 2006.

Subsequently, Türkiye announced its position for elimination of *modified driftnet usage* with the ICCAT Circular # 3225/2010. Accordingly, usage of all modified driftnets has been prohibited as from 1 July 2011.

Accordingly, all fishing vessels with the modified driftnets have gone under obligation to shift their fishing gears in accordance with provisions of Revised Notification No. 2/1 Regulating Commercial Fishing. MoAF continued its efforts to promote the usage of more selective fishing methods and fishing gear by the majority of Turkish swordfish fishermen, with several regional training activities.

## **Inspection and control**

Inspection and controls have been the major components of the activities of MoAF for ensuring the efficiency of the closed season and size regulations set for the Mediterranean swordfish. The inspection activities, which are still ongoing, have been concentrated at most potential fishing grounds, landing points, retail and wholesale markets. Regular controls and on-the-spot inspections performed at various landing locations and market places have resulted in determination and seizure of a quantity of 60.9 kg undersized Mediterranean swordfish during 2022.