

Original: English

**Explanatory Note for a Draft supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT amending
Recommendation 22-12 on the bycatch of sea turtles caught in association with ICCAT
fisheries**

(Proposal submitted by Canada and the United States)

Paragraph 6 of the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Bycatch of Sea Turtles Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries (Combine, Streamline, and Amend Recommendations 10-09 and 13-11)* (Rec. 22-12) called on the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) to review the appropriateness of the southern boundary of the sea turtle range specified in paragraph 6 a) and advise the Commission in 2023. Pursuant to that review, SCRS has recommended modifications to the southern boundary. This measure proposes to amend paragraph 6 a) of Rec. 22-12 in line with this new scientific advice. Further, a minor modification is proposed to paragraph 1 b) to correct a typographical error. Currently, paragraph 1 b) references paragraph 6, which provides for several derogations to paragraph 1 of the recommendation. The reference should be to paragraph 5, which specifies bycatch data collection and reporting requirements.

Draft supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 22-12 on the bycatch of sea turtles caught in association with ICCAT fisheries

(Proposal submitted by Canada and the United States)

RECALLING the Recommendation by ICCAT on the bycatch of sea turtles caught in association with ICCAT fisheries (Combine, Streamline, and Amend Recommendations 10-09 and 13-11) (Rec. 22-12);

RECOGNIZING the new scientific advice provided by the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) on the southern boundary of the range of sea turtles, as called for by paragraph 6 of Rec. 22-12;

NOTING the need to correct a cross-reference in Rec. 22-12.

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

1. The provisions of the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the bycatch of sea turtles caught in association with ICCAT fisheries (Combine, Streamline, and Amend Recommendations 10-09 and 13-11)* (Rec. 22-12) shall be amended as follows:

A. *Sub-paragraph 1 b) shall be replaced with the following:*

“Any CPC that achieves and maintains 10% scientific observer coverage and complies with the data reporting requirements of Recs. 11-10, 16-14, and paragraph 5 below, may request from Paragraph 1 a) an exemption for one or more of its ICCAT fisheries above by submitting relevant scientific information to the SCRS. The SCRS will evaluate that information and advise the Commission on sea turtle interactions and mortality. The Commission shall make decisions on any requested exemption in light of the SCRS advice.”

B. *Sub-paragraph 6 a) shall be replaced with the following:*

“Paragraphs 1-3 shall not apply to vessels operating only north of 55°N or south of 35°S latitude in the eastern South Atlantic and south of 40°S latitude in the western South Atlantic (i.e., primarily outside the geographic range of Atlantic Sea turtles). The limit for the division between the eastern South Atlantic and the western South Atlantic is 20°W”.