

Cover Sheet to accompany New Proposals

(proposal submitted by the European Union and by the United States)

Title of the Proposed Draft Recommendation/Resolution: *Draft Resolution by ICCAT on interim operational management objectives for Atlantic bigeye tuna, yellowfin tuna, and the eastern stock of skipjack tuna*

Title of currently in force recommendation(s) or resolution(s) addressing the same or related issues:

1. Does it create new **reporting obligation(s)** for CPCs? Yes No

Brief description of new reporting obligation(s):

2. Does it require additional input or **work by the SCRS**? Yes No

Is this work already included in the current SCRS workplan Yes No

Brief description of new scientific work required (i.e. stock assessment, analysis, external consultant):

The adoption of management objectives for tropical tunas will provide guidance to the SCRS in its current work regards the development of the Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) for tropical tunas. Defining objectives are essential for a successful multi-stock MSE process as they need to be linked to specific performance indicators used in selecting a management procedure (MP).

3. Does it involve the creation of a **new working group or intersessional process**?

Yes No

4. Does it require a new **programme or additional activities to be managed by the Secretariat**?

Yes No

Brief description of new Secretariat work required:

5. What is the proposed timeframe for implementation, and are there different specific timeframes for certain CPCs, fisheries, regions, etc.:

No implementation required by CPCs. The interim operational management objectives will be forwarded to the SCRS for review and evaluation through the MSE process as soon as adopted. The resolution would be binding as of 2025.

6. Is there any other relevant information regarding the resource and workload implications of the proposal:

The adoption of management objectives for tropical tunas will speed up the MSE process for tropical tunas and reduce workload as it would allow the SCRS to discard management procedures which does not reach the objectives.

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ANTICIPATING the transition to using management procedures (MPs), which the Commission has recommended for tropical tunas and other priority stocks to manage fisheries more effectively in the face of identified uncertainties, consistent with the Convention and the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Principles of Decision Making for ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures* (Rec. 11-13);

CONSIDERING that the Commission intends to complete a multi-stock *Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE)* for Atlantic bigeye, yellowfin, and the eastern stock of skipjack tunas by 2026 at the latest;

RECOGNIZING that operational objectives are the key foundational component of any MSE;

SEEKING to advance the development of MPs, as agreed by the Commission pursuant to the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the development of harvest control rules and of management strategy evaluation* (Rec. 15-07);

ACKNOWLEDGING that, given the mixed-stock nature of these fisheries, the Commission will need to review the initial management objectives and consider trade-offs with respect to the yield and stability of three tropical tuna stocks, taking into account SCRS advice;

NOTING the added value of adopting interim operational management objectives for tropical tunas for the purpose of developing, testing, and refining candidate MPs for Atlantic bigeye tuna, yellowfin tuna, and the eastern stock of skipjack tuna;

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

1. Management objectives should be established for Atlantic bigeye tuna, yellowfin tuna, and the eastern stock of skipjack tuna consistent with the objective of the Convention of maintaining populations at or above levels that will support maximum sustainable catch (usually referred to as MSY).
2. When assessing stock status and providing management recommendations to the Commission, the SCRS shall consider the interim limit reference point (LRP) of $0.4 \cdot B_{MSY}$ for Atlantic bigeye tuna, yellowfin tuna, and the eastern stock of skipjack tuna. The SCRS will advise on final LRP for Atlantic bigeye tuna, yellowfin tuna, and the eastern stock of skipjack tunas.
3. The following interim operational management objectives should be considered for the purpose of developing, testing and refining candidate management procedures:
 - a. Stock Status: bigeye tuna, yellowfin tuna, and the eastern stock of skipjack tuna should each have a 50% or greater probability of occurring in the green quadrant of the Kobe phase plot (no overfishing occurring and not overfished) and at least two out of those three stocks should have a 60% or greater probability of occurring in the green quadrant of the Kobe phase plot during the XX-year projection period (as determined by the SCRS);
 - b. Safety: Bigeye tuna, yellowfin tuna, and the eastern stock of skipjack tuna should each have a 15% or less probability of falling below the interim limit reference point at any point during the XX-year projection period;
 - c. Yield: Overall catch levels should be maximized to the extent possible with respect to each stock of bigeye tuna, yellowfin tuna, and the eastern skipjack tuna.¹;

¹ The SCRS shall use the short (e.g., 1-3 years), medium (e.g., 4-10 years), and long (e.g., 11-20 years) terms as primary performance indicators to evaluate this management objective.

- d. Stability: Any change in total allowable catch (TAC) between consecutive management periods for each stock of bigeye tuna, yellowfin tuna, and eastern skipjack tuna should be no more than a 25% increase or a 25% decrease.
4. In the development of the operating models for the multi-stock tropical tunas MSE, the Commission calls on the SCRS, consistent with paragraph 62 of *Recommendation by ICCAT replacing Recommendation 21-01 on a multi-annual conservation and management programme for tropical tunas* (Rec. 22-01), to evaluate the differential impacts of fishing operations (e.g., purse seine, longline, and baitboat) on juvenile mortality and yield at MSY.
5. These interim operational management objectives will be forwarded to the SCRS for review and evaluation through the MSE process.
6. Panel 1 will provide its recommendations to confirm or amend the management objectives for Atlantic bigeye tuna, yellowfin tuna, and the eastern stock of skipjack tuna, considering SCRS input, to the Commission for consideration as part of the selection of a management procedure at its 2026 Annual Meeting or as soon as possible thereafter. Panel 1 should consider whether the management objectives should be the same for the three stocks or if an asymmetric approach for each stock be more appropriate.
7. This resolution will be repealed upon adoption of management procedures for Atlantic bigeye tuna, yellowfin tuna, and the eastern stock of skipjack tuna by the Commission.