

Cover sheet to accompany new proposals

(submitted by the European Union)

Title of the Proposed Draft Recommendation/Resolution: *Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to amend the Recommendation 22-08 which amends the Recommendation 21-08 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean*

Title of currently in force recommendation(s) or resolution(s) addressing the same or related issues: *Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 21-08 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean (Rec. 22-08)*

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):

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.:

Entry into force 2025.

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

Explanatory note on the Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to amend the Recommendation 22-08 which amends the Recommendation 21-08 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean

(submitted by the European Union)

For several years, the baitboat fleet in the Cantabrian Sea has been unable to operate due to market constraints, leading to quota transfers between the Atlantic and Mediterranean Seas, from the baitboat fleet operating in the Cantabrian Sea to purse seiners in the Mediterranean Sea.

At the same time, the increased quota availability and unprecedented biomass of bluefin tuna in well-established fishing grounds necessitate some fleet adjustments for optimal fleet management.

Nonetheless, considering past events where significant increases in fishing efforts may have contributed to overfishing, the EU proposes the inclusion of a provision to derogate from the current 20% increase of the vessel number compared to the 2018 record of vessel, under the condition that the increase is based on the conversion of vessels from other fleets, using the 2009 SCRS catch rates as the basis, and that overall capacity is maintained.

Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to amend the Recommendation 22-08 which amends the Recommendation 21-08 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean

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The proposed amendment is to add the following provisions to ICCAT Rec. 22-08 as paragraphs 16. (bis) and 16. (tris):

- 16.(bis) By derogation to paragraph 16, CPCs may increase the number of their purse seine vessels, provided that this increase results from a conversion from other bluefin tuna fleets, that the fishing capacity remains commensurate with available fishing opportunities, and that, overall, the final CPC fishing capacity, between purse seiners and the fleet from which the conversion is made, does not represent a capacity increase with respect to the precedent year.
16. (tris) The ratio for converting fleets as per the derogation set out in paragraph 16.(bis), should be based on the 2009 catch rates provided by the SCRS. CPCs wishing to use this derogation must include the relevant details in their annual fishing capacity plans.