

Mediterranean albacore quota request
(proposal submitted by Algeria and Tunisia)

Algeria and Tunisia congratulate the SCRS on completing the stock assessment of Mediterranean albacore in 2021, considering the socio-economic dimension of small-scale Mediterranean fisheries and the need to adopt a progressive approach and show flexibility in the management of ICCAT fisheries.

Given that Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities whose vessels actively fish albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*) in the Mediterranean shall implement a 15-year rebuilding plan, that started in 2022 and continuing up to and including 2036, with the aim of achieving B_{MSY} with a probability of at least 60%.

Further to “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to amend Recommendation 22-05 to establish a rebuilding plan for Mediterranean albacore” proposed to Panel 2 with document PA2-614/2024.

Given Algeria and Tunisia's willingness to actively participate in the Mediterranean albacore rebuilding plan, and to ensure effective implementation of measures to improve management, the allocation of individual quotas to a specifically designated fleet is needed, and even paramount.

In view of the above, Algeria and Tunisia each request a quota of 150 tonnes of Mediterranean albacore.

It should be noted that Mediterranean albacore is caught incidentally by Algerian and Tunisian vessels and a history of catches is currently being finalized.

Considering that the best way to implement an effective management and monitoring plan for this species is to have well-defined national quotas whose exploitation will be monitored in a highly effective way, Algeria and Tunisia call on the other CPCs to support this request.