Cover sheet to accompany new proposals
(proposal submitted by South Africa)

Title of the Proposed Draft Recommendation/Resolution: *Draft Resolution by ICCAT on development of initial operational management objectives for southern Atlantic Albacore*

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):

Stock Assessment

The Committee supported the initiative of starting development of a stock synthesis model for South albacore stock, that could be the basis of a future MSE. The Committee requested the ICCAT Secretariat to provide necessary input files for Stock Synthesis (SS3) up to 2022 based on the fleet structure used in the Surplus-Production Models Incorporating Covariates (ASPIC) for South Atlantic albacore.

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:

The Committee supported the initiative of starting development of a stock synthesis model for South albacore stock, that could be the basis of a future MSE. The Committee requested the Secretariat to provide necessary input files for Stock Synthesis (SS3) up to 2022 based on the fleet structure used in the Surplus-Production Models Incorporating Covariates (ASPIC) for South Atlantic albacore.

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

Deadline: end of April 2025 responsibility: Secretariat.

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

No.

**Draft <u>Resolution</u> by ICCAT on development of
initial <u>operational</u> management objectives for southern Atlantic albacore**

(proposal submitted by South Africa)

RECALLING the intent of the Commission to adopt Management Procedures (MPs) tested through Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE[1]) to manage fisheries more effectively in the face of identified uncertainties*;*

RECALLING the application of the precautionary approach in accordance with relevant international standards as established in the *Resolution by ICCAT Concerning the Use of a Precautionary Approach in Implementing ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures* (Res. 15-12);

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the efforts to sustainably manage the southern Atlantic albacore stock, consistent with the objectives of the Convention and the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Principles of Decision Making for ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures* (Rec. 11-13);

NOTING the conclusions of the 2020 Stock Assessment conducted by ICCAT's Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS), which indicated that the southern Atlantic albacore stock is most likely located in the green area of the Kobe plot, indicating that the stock is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring;

<u>*NOTING*</u> <u>that the objective of the Convention is to maintain populations of tuna and tuna-like species at levels that will support maximum sustainable catch (usually referred to as Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY))</u>;

UNDERSTANDING that conceptual objectives are high-level aspirational objectives that verbalize a desired generic goal without including specifics on a measurable target or timeframe for achievement, while operational objectives are a key foundational component of any MSE and provide specific and measurable targets, with associated likelihoods of achieving those targets over determined timeframes;

<u>*ACKNOWLEDGING*</u> <u>the substantial progress made on the MSE work for those priority species identified in the</u> <u>*Recommendation by ICCAT on the Development of Harvest Control Rules and of Management Strategy Evaluation*</u> <u>(Rec. 15-07)</u>;

CONSIDERING that the Commission desires to adopt an MP for southern Atlantic albacore <u>no later than 2028</u>;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) <u>RESOLVES</u> THAT:

1. Management objectives should be established for southern Atlantic albacore tuna consistent with the Convention's objective: to maintain populations at or above levels that will support maximum sustainable catch (usually referred to as MSY).

2. To facilitate development of an MSE for southern Atlantic albacore, the following <u>initial operational</u> management objectives should be considered:

    a. Stock Status

        -   The stock should have a [<u>60</u>%] or greater probability of occurring in the green quadrant of the Kobe matrix <u>over</u> a [<u>30</u>]-year projection per<u>iod</u>;

    b. Safety

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[1] The SCRS <u>should use 40% of the spawning stock biomass at Maximum Sustainable Yield as the interim</u> B_{LIM} for southern Atlantic albacore tuna, <u>or advise on a different value, if appropriate</u>.

- There should be no greater than [15%] probability of the stock falling below B$_{\text{LIM}}$[1] at any point during the 30-year projection period;

    c. Yield

- Maximize overall catch levels; and

    d. Stability

- Any changes in TAC between management periods should be [20]% or less.[2]

3.   The initial operational management objectives (paragraph 2) may be rejected, modified, or supplemented, as appropriate, by Panel 3, and these initial management objectives will be forwarded to the SCRS Albacore Species Group for review and evaluation through the MSE process.

4.   Panel 3 will provide its recommendations for final management objectives for southern Atlantic albacore, considering the SCRS input, to the Commission for consideration as part of the selection of a management procedure no later than at its 2028 Annual Meeting.

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[2] Asymmetric stability limits may be evaluated in the MSE.