

Development or fishing/management plans for North Atlantic swordfish*ICCAT Secretariat*

Rec. 17-02 indicates that: "In the event of the modification its fishing/management plan, each CPC shall submit the updated version of its fishing/management plan to the Commission". It was agreed by the Commission that the resubmission of such reports would only be required in the event of changes. Plans received in previous years can be found on the meeting document websites. In 2024, the Secretariat has received updated plans within the deadline from: Canada, Costa Rica, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Mexico, Morocco, the United States, and Chinese Taipei.

These revised Management Plans are attached as **Appendix 1** and the longer full plans submitted by Canada and the United States are available in original language in **Annex 1**.

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Current Fishery</i>	<i>Current quota (t)</i>	<i>No. of vessels</i>	<i>Gear</i>	<i>Current capacity (t)</i>	<i>Planned No. of vessels</i>	<i>Gear</i>	<i>Planned capacity (t)</i>	<i>Current management measures</i>	<i>Future planned measures</i>
Canada	Yes	1348	77 1200	LL HARP		77 1200	LL HARP		<p>Limitations on the Number of Licenses Since 1992, entry to the swordfish fishery, regardless of fleet sector, is limited to current licenses. Licenses have been fixed at this number, but may be reissued, within certain policy restrictions, from one harvester to another.</p> <p>Rigorous Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance of the Fishery Canada takes a comprehensive approach to enforcement that includes sophisticated vessel monitoring systems on all longline vessels, aerial surveillance, dockside monitoring, and at-sea observers.</p> <p>Strong Legislative and Regulatory Framework In addition to the requirements for fleets to annually submit a Conservation Harvesting Plan to specific swordfish and other tuna fleets and the fully Integrated Fisheries Management Plan, the Canadian swordfish fishery is governed by a suite of legislation, policy, and regulations.</p>	<p>Canada continues to seek increased access to this resource. Canada has a demonstrated historical participation in the fishery, dating back to the late 1800s, and has a consistent record of compliance with ICCAT measures. Canada has also, on an ongoing basis, contributed significantly to the collection and provision of accurate data, and scientific research in order to enhance the work of the Commission.</p> <p>Canada played an instrumental role in the development and implementation of the successful ICCAT rebuilding plan and has a need for an increased quota to ensure the viability of the Canadian swordfish fishery for the coastal communities across Atlantic Canada which depend on fishing opportunities for North Atlantic swordfish. While Canada, like other ICCAT members, accepted significantly lower quotas during the rebuilding period of the fishery; Canada has consistently demonstrated its ability to fully utilize its quota.</p>

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									<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna (ICCAT) - Fisheries Act, 1985 - Atlantic Fishery Regulations (AFR), 1985 - Fishery (General) Regulations, 1993 - Oceans Act, 1996 - Species at Risk Act, 2002 - International Plan of Action (IPOA) and Canada's National Plan of Action (NPOA) for Reducing Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries - IPOA for Shark Conservation - Coastal Fisheries Protection Act, 1985 - Department of Fisheries and Oceans Act, 1985 - Atlantic Fisheries Restructuring Act, 1985 - Aboriginal Communal Fishing Licenses Regulations, 1993 - Commercial Fisheries Licensing Policy for Eastern Canada, 1996 - Sustainable Fisheries Framework: Conservation and Sustainable Use Elements - (1) Precautionary Approach Policy, (2) Foraging Species Policy, (3) Sensitive Benthic Areas Policy, and (4) Bycatch Policy. 	<p>From 2020 to 2023, Canada consistently demonstrated its ability to fully utilize its ICCAT quota with average annual landings of 111 per cent of its initial annual allocations (before quota transfers) during that four-year period. In 2023, Canada landed 143 per cent of its annual allocations (before quota transfers). Since 2004, Canada has been allocated 1,348 t of the ICCAT quota allocations (or 10.5 per cent of the catch limits). Nevertheless, Canada has landed approximately 12.8 per cent of the overall catch for North Atlantic swordfish annually over the past ten years (2013 – 2022) due to receiving quota transfers.</p> <p>ICCAT members should recognize the aspirations of coastal and developing nations, while remedying the current situation of over-allocation.</p>

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Costa Rica	Yes	0	12	LL	302.5	12	LL	302.5	<p>Species: Large pelagic and demersal species are allowed to be caught.</p> <p>Navigation: Fishing activities are permitted within three nautical miles of the coast for small-scale commercial vessels, up to 40 for medium-scale and over 40 for large-scale.</p> <p>Fishing is not allowed in park areas and closed areas, the management plans of the marine areas for responsible fishing must be respected.</p>	<p>Collection of catch data on all fishing trips.</p> <p>Collection of fishing effort.</p> <p>Port monitoring programme for verification of logbooks.</p> <p>Inspection by INCOPESCA officials of 100% of landings of the medium- and large-scale commercial fleet and recording of the information in the Hydrobiological Resources Landing Inspection Form (FID).</p> <p>Vessel Satellite Monitoring System (VMS).</p> <p>Monitoring of fishing activity: aerial surveillance, at-sea and in port inspections (inspections are carried out at fishery product processing and purchase sites).</p> <p>Minimum catch size for North Atlantic swordfish: live weight of 25 kg or alternatively 125 cm lower jaw fork length.</p> <p>Tolerance for vessels that have taken small individuals as bycatch, provided that these bycatches do not exceed 15% of the number of swordfish per landing of the total swordfish catch of those vessels.</p> <p>Recording of fisheries biological information on landing.</p>

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Japan	Yes	842	49	LL	22665	160*	LL	67159	<p>Domestic Management Measures currently in place.</p> <p>ID1. The Fishery Act prohibits Japanese fishing vessels from fishing for tuna on the high seas without a fishing license issued by Japanese government. The Act also requires the Government to decide the maximum number of licenses to be issued and other fishing conditions. The Japanese government ensures that fishing capacities are commensurate with its fishing opportunities as determined by tuna RFMOs such as ICCAT.</p> <p>ID2. Japanese swordfish catch is by-catch, which has been fluctuating year by year mainly due to the shift of the fishing ground for bigeye tuna. Japan, having no intention to increase north Atlantic swordfish catch as target species, needs flexibility to address this nature. For this purpose, special arrangements for Japan including a multi-year block quota will be continued in 2024, as provided in paragraph 1.C of Recommendation 23-04.</p>	<p>Plans for fishery development and domestic management measures contemplated.</p> <p>ID1. According to ID1 of item2, Japan will continue to restrict the number of longliners.</p> <p>ID2. The measure of ID2 of item 2 will be continued according to paragraph 1.C of Recommendation 23-04.</p> <p>ID3. Japan will continue to instruct its fishermen to submit such data as ID3 of item2 in a timely fashion.</p> <p>ID4. Japan will continue to conduct the measures in ID 4 of item2 to comply with ICCAT measures.</p>

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									<p>ID3. Japan has been properly reporting data on swordfish, which has been utilized in the stock assessment of North Atlantic swordfish.</p> <p>ID1. Japan has been monitoring, controlling and enforcing its all tuna vessels operating on the high seas with VMS, port inspection and so on.</p>	

* As of August 21, 2024, a total of 160 Japanese vessels are registered in ICCAT. Since it could be possible that all of those vessels would operate in ICCAT area and catch swordfish as by-catch within TAC limit, the number of 160 and their total capacity were entered as the possible maximum figures.

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Korea (Rep.)	No	70	11	LL	70	11	LL	70	Eleven Korean longline fishing vessels are authorized to target bigeye tuna, and these longliners occasionally take northern swordfish as bycatch. In accordance with paragraph 1, Article 13 of the Distant Water Fisheries Development Act of Korea, Korean distant water fishing vessels and operators shall comply with any relevant obligations arising from conservation and management measures of Regional Fisheries Management Organizations. If any provision of the conservation and management measure is breached, it is deemed as “a serious violation”	Korea does not have any plan for SWO-N fishery development at the moment.

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									<p>and subject to imprisonment not exceeding 5 years or a fine of at least KRW 500 million.</p> <p>In accordance with Recommendation 23-04, Korea takes measures to ensure its 50 tons of allocated catch limit or adjusted annual catch limit, as appropriate, is fully respected. If overharvest of the annual catch limit occurs, the amount of the overharvest shall be deducted from the catch limit in the following year. According to paragraph 5 of the Recommendation 01-22, catch data from Korean flagged vessels are reported to the Secretariat twice a year (April 1 and September 15). In order to protect small swordfish, Korean vessels are required to release any swordfish weighing less than 25kg live weight or 125 cm LJF and Korea provides scientific data related to north Atlantic swordfish to the SCRS in accordance with paragraphs 8 and 9 of the Recommendation 17-02, respectively.</p>	

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Mexico	Yes	200	4	LL	26	0		0	<p>AGREEMENT establishing the minimum commercial catch size for swordfish (<i>Xiphias gladius</i>) in marine waters under federal jurisdiction in the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea. Published in the Official Journal of the Federation (DOF) on 23 May 2019.</p> <p>Mexican Official Regulation NOM-023-SAG/PESC-2014 regulating the harvest of tuna species by longline vessels in the federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea, published in the Official Journal of the Federation (DOF) on 16 April 2014.</p> <p>Official Mexican Regulation NOM-017-PESC-1994 to regulate the activities of the recreational sport fishery in waters of federal jurisdiction of the Mexican United States.</p>	No development is being considered

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Morocco	Yes	850 (1263,81 adjusted*)	862 530	LL HL	773 490	880 600	LL HL	1000 700	<p>1. Ministerial Decree No. 1112-22 of 14 April 2022 on the swordfish (<i>Xiphias gladius</i>) fishery development and management plan.</p> <p>2. Monitoring and management of consumption of the quota allocated to Morocco by the ICCAT centrally via the Maritime Fisheries Delegations responsible for monitoring and certifying catches and the National Fisheries Office responsible for marketing.</p> <p>3. Monitoring of compliance with the ICCAT provisions transposed in Ministerial Decree No. 1112-22 of 14 April 2022 which regulates the North Atlantic and Mediterranean Moroccan swordfish fishery.</p> <p>4. Inclusion in the ICCAT Record vessels greater than 20 m likely to catch North Atlantic swordfish.</p> <p>5. Royal Decree enacting Law No. 1-73-255 of 27 chaoual 1393 (23 November 1973) which establishes the maritime fishery regulations, as amended and supplemented.</p>	<p>The measures envisaged by Morocco for management of North Atlantic swordfish will be the same as those currently adopted, in accordance with the provisions of the Recommendation by ICCAT replacing Recommendation 22-03 extending and amending Recommendation 17-02 for the conservation of North Atlantic swordfish (Rec. 23-04), and the national regulations in force.</p>

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									<p>6. Royal Decree No. 1-14-95 of 12 May 2014 which enacts Law No. 15-12 on the prevention and fight against illicit, unreported and unregulated fishing and amends and supplements Royal Decree No. 1-73-255 of 23 November 1973 which establishes the maritime fishery regulations.</p> <p>7. Decree No. 2.18.104 of 10 December 2018 amending and supplementing Decree No. 2-09-674 of 17 March 2010 which establishes the conditions and methods onboard fishing vessels for installation and use of a positioning system and continuous tracking via satellite communications for data transmission.</p> <p>8. Decree No. 2-17-455 of 26 April 2018 which implements some provisions of Title I of Law No. 15-12 on the prevention and fight against illicit, unreported and unregulated fishing and amends and supplements the Royal Decree enacting Law No. 1-73-255 of 23 November 1973 which establishes the maritime fisheries regulations.</p>	

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									<p>9. Decree No. 2-17-456 of 15 March 2018 which implements some provisions of Royal Decree No. 1-73-255 of 23 November 1973 which establishes the maritime fishery regulations.</p> <p>10. Decision No. 574-19 of 29 jomada II 1440 (7 March 2019) on the positioning device and continuous tracking of fishing vessels.</p>	

* A 200 t quota (transfer from the United States for 2024) depends on U.S.-Morocco bilateral development of the transfer details and notification to ICCAT through the fishing plan).

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USA	Yes	3907	223 68 1142	LL TO OT		223 68 1142	LL TO OT		Please see our full fishing/management plan in the annex for more detailed information. Atlantic swordfish management actions in the United States are developed, coordinated, and implemented through a single Fishery Management Plan (FMP), the 2006 Consolidated Atlantic Highly Migratory Species FMP, which is issued under the jurisdiction of the NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service. Recommendations adopted by ICCAT, including annual quota allocations to the United States, are implemented in the United States by regulation under the authority of the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act. The annual U.S. swordfish quota allocation is divided into equal semi-annual directed fishery quotas (all commercial landings), an annual incidental catch quota for fishermen targeting other species or taking swordfish recreationally, and a reserve category. Domestic legislation, including the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the Marine Mammal	The United States has also demonstrated cooperation with other CPCs for the sustainable use of the stock. In 2024, in accordance with Rec. 23-04, the United States made a one-time transfer of 200 t of its North Atlantic swordfish quota to Morocco, which serves to facilitate cooperative management efforts between ICCAT Contracting Parties. Please see our full fishing/management plan in the Annex for more detailed information on fishery development and changes to domestic management measures. In recent years, the United States has proposed or implemented management measures intended to provide benefits to the U.S. pelagic longline vessels and commercial handgear vessels that target swordfish. Some of the most substantial changes were implemented in 2023 or have not yet been finalized, so their benefits to the fishery may not yet be reflected in catch trends. In 2023, the United States updated its Individual Bluefin Quota (IBQ) catch share eligibility and distribution

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									Protection Act, also result in requirements for conservation and management measures for both recreational and commercial sectors. Management measures as detailed in our full plan include: permitting and effort controls, minimum size and landing requirements, gear authorization, retention limits, time & area closures and gear restricted areas, reporting requirements, monitoring and reporting, bycatch reduction, and enforcement of swordfish regulations.	regulations, which is expected to provide increased and dynamic access to swordfish for pelagic longline vessels active in this fishery, as well as potential access for new entrants into the fishery. In addition, the United States has proposed implementing changes in the spatial and temporal extent of some time/area closures in conjunction with data collection programs, which could provide increased access for pelagic longline effort and associated economic benefits in portions of the area for data collection.

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Chinese Taipei	Yes	270	59	LL	270	64	LL	270	<p>1. Prior authorization by fleets and fishing areas In accordance with the catch species, we categorize our fishing fleet operating in the Atlantic Ocean into three groups. Each group is designated with specific fishing zones and managed by the Fisheries Agency. All fishing vessels in each group are required to fish only within their permitted fishing zones. Also, there is a domestic regulation on the prohibition against any fishing activities in the Mediterranean Sea.</p> <p>2. Catch limitation and individual vessel quota Depending on the quota/catch limit allocated to Chinese Taipei, internally the Fisheries Agency allocates species-based quota to individual fishing vessel under our flag, including bycatch species like northern swordfish. Once the accumulated catch for a species reaches the individual quota of a fishing vessel, it is required to discard any subsequent catch of that species concerned and record the discard amount on the catch logbook and E-logbook system.</p>	No

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									<p>3. Vessel tracking and monitoring All fishing vessels under our flag are required to install satellite-based automatic location communicator (ALC). The ALC on board shall be maintained functional at all times, and transmit at least one vessel position to our Fisheries Monitoring Center (FMC) every hour.</p> <p>4. Management on catch reports We require the captain of any fishing vessel to daily report catch data through the E-logbook system and fill in the catch logbook. The data reported and filled in shall be accurate and complete. In particular, the carbon-copied sheet of the complete catch logbook is required to be maintained on board any vessel for at least one year.</p>	

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									<p>5. Management on transshipments</p> <p>Any vessel which intends to conduct transshipment is required to submit its application to the Fisheries Agency for prior approval. The application shall be made at least 3 working days before the estimated date for at-sea transshipment, while at least 3 days before the estimated date for in-port transshipment. No transshipment is allowed without receiving approval from the Fisheries Agency. We also require fisheries operators or captains of our fishing vessels to submit the ICCAT Transshipment Declaration to the Fisheries Agency within 5 working days after the completion of transshipment. The carrier vessel concerned is also required to submit the Transshipment Declaration to the ICCAT Secretariat within 24 hours, with a copy to the Fisheries Agency.</p>	

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									<p>6. Management on statistical documents Any fisheries operator intending to sell North Atlantic swordfish abroad is required to apply for the statistical document from the Fisheries Agency. The information specified in the statistical document will be further verified by the Fisheries Agency through cross-checking the catch logbook or E-logbook. Besides, a fishing vessel using a statistical document issued to other vessels or providing its statistical document for other vessel is strictly prohibited. Falsifying or altering statistical document, or intentionally using falsified or altered statistical document is strictly prohibited as well.</p> <p>7. National Observer Program The Fisheries Agency may require any Chinese Taipei-flagged tuna longline fishing vessel to carry a domestic scientific observer on board. The observer on board will record catch-related data observed in the observatory report, and submit it to the Fisheries Agency within the required timeframe when the observer is onshore.</p>	

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									<p>8. Protection of small swordfish</p> <p>In compliance with paragraph 10 of Recommendation 17-02, which sets the minimum size limits for North Atlantic swordfish, we require our fishermen to discard any swordfish less than 15 kilograms or less than 119 centimetres lower jaw fork length (LJFL) caught in the Atlantic Ocean and record the discard amount on the catch logbook and E-logbook system.</p>	

CANADA

Executive Summary

ICCAT Recommendation 17-02 requires each Contracting Party, and Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity to submit modifications to its swordfish development or fishing/management plan to the Secretariat by September 15. This document describes the history, management, socio-economic and future aspirations of the Canadian North Atlantic Swordfish fishery.

Canada's history of fishing North Atlantic swordfish dates back to the 1880s. Today, this exclusively commercial fishery continues to be socially and economically important to many coastal and Indigenous communities throughout Atlantic Canada. The annual landings generated over \$17 million of revenue in 2016 over several Atlantic ports.

Canada's 2023 initial allocation of North Atlantic swordfish was 1,348 metric tonnes (t); from which 5 t was allocated to Canada's offshore tuna fleet for swordfish bycatch. The remaining allocation was shared between two fleets targeting North Atlantic swordfish. 90 per cent is allocated to the longline fleet and ten per cent to the harpoon fleet. Since 2020, Canada has been testing the viability of rod and reel and tended buoy gear in the commercial swordfish fishery. The new gears will be evaluated by Canadian scientists for bycatch rates.

From 2020 to 2023, Canada consistently demonstrated its ability to fully utilize its ICCAT quota with average annual landings of 111 per cent of its initial annual allocations (before quota transfers) during that four-year period. In 2023, Canada landed 143 per cent of its annual allocations (before quota transfers). Since 2004, Canada has been allocated 1,348 t of the ICCAT quota allocations (or 10.5 per cent of the catch limits). Nevertheless, Canada has landed approximately 12.8 per cent of the overall catch for North Atlantic swordfish annually over the past ten years (2013 – 2022) due to receiving quota transfers.

As the foundation for reliable research and stock assessments, Canada collects, among other things, catch and effort data for all fishing trips. Beginning in 1996, an industry-funded dockside monitoring program (DMP) was instituted in Atlantic Canada to provide independent third-party verification of logbook submissions. Canada's DMP is conducted by certified agents who oversee all (100 per cent) offloads of swordfish in Atlantic Canada as well as enter logbook data into a central database. The DMP ensures that precise and reliable information is collected on the number of fish caught, their weight, effort, environmental conditions, and other vital statistics. This data is available in real-time to fisheries managers, scientists, and enforcement officers.

Canada's comprehensive approach to enforcement also includes the requirement for vessel monitoring systems (VMS) on all longline vessels, despite only two of Canada's 77 pelagic longline vessels being over 20 metres in length and thus subject to ICCAT's VMS measure.

Monitoring and enforcement of Canada's swordfish management measures are key parts of ensuring the sustainability of the swordfish species. Fisheries and Oceans Canada fishery officers utilize a variety of methods to monitor swordfish fishing activity to promote compliance with swordfish fisheries management measures, including aerial surveillance, at-sea and port inspections, at-sea observers, and vessel monitoring systems. In addition to at-sea and in port inspections, fishery officers inspect swordfish buying/ processing facilities and conduct audits of the dock-side monitoring program in this fishery. In 2023, a total of 238.5 fishery officer enforcement hours were expended on the swordfish fishery. At-sea observers are targeted for deployment on 10 per cent of swordfish fishing trips, despite no ICCAT requirements for at-sea observers onboard swordfish vessels less than 20 metres in length.

Since 2012, in recognition of the strong management regime which is in place for these fisheries in Canada, both the longline and harpoon fleets targeting North Atlantic swordfish have been awarded Marine Stewardship Council certification. Canada is the first ICCAT member to obtain this certification for its entire swordfish fleet.

Canada has been a leader in supporting ICCAT's scientific investigations of the swordfish resources in the Atlantic for the past several decades. As a result of Canada's well-recognized ability to collect and maintain fisheries statistics of importance to the stock assessment, Canada contributes the longest series of catch rate information to the North Atlantic stock assessment, commencing in 1963.

Additionally, to determine post-release mortality of the Shortfin Mako shark and porbeagle shark, and contribute to total fishing mortality for inclusion in future national and international stock assessments, Canada undertook a three-year research project deploying short term Pop-up Satellite Archival Tags (PSAT) on live released Shortfin Mako sharks and Porbeagle sharks caught in the longline fishery. The results of this project and the analysis from Canada's fixed station Porbeagle survey were presented to the shark working group in 2020. Swordfish PSAT tagging work is ongoing and will be used in the development of ICCAT Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) inputs.

Beginning in 2018, Canada led the creation of an ICCAT/European Commission funded international research program for Swordfish in the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea. This program aims to improve knowledge of the stock distribution, age and sex of the catch, growth rate, age at maturation, maturation rate, spawning season and location, and diet for each of the three ICCAT swordfish stocks. These data and resulting analyses contribute to ICCAT assessment and MSE work.

The Canadian fishing industry is fully engaged in the conservation and management efforts for this species to ensure its sustainability, including participation in scientific research, funding of independent at-sea observers to monitor the fishery and funding independent third-party monitors who observe and record all landings at dockside. The harpoon fleet provides funds or in-kind vessel support for scientific research in lieu of at-sea observer coverage.

While Canada, like other ICCAT members, accepted significantly lower quotas during the rebuilding period of the fishery, Canada has demonstrated its ability to utilize its entire initial quota plus nearly all the quota transfers received in previous years. Canada continues to seek increased access to this fishery to ensure viability for its coastal communities.