

**Mediterranean swordfish catch limit
(to be discussed under agenda item 9)**

(document prepared by the Chair of Panel 4)

At the last annual meeting of the Commission (Panel 4 and Plenary), there was no agreement on the document "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT for the establishment of catch limit for Mediterranean swordfish for Egypt" (PA4_827/2023) concerning the allocation of a Mediterranean swordfish quota to Egypt, at the last plenary session. It was therefore decided to maintain Egypt's request for further discussions.

In accordance with the provisions of the *Recommendation by ICCAT replacing the Recommendation 13-04 and establishing a Multi-annual Recovery Plan for Mediterranean Swordfish (Rec. 16-05)*, Egypt may take a small amount of Mediterranean swordfish under the "Others" quota. As for the past few years (2018 to 2022), Egypt has submitted its 2023 Mediterranean swordfish fishing plan and reported catches of Mediterranean swordfish.

Given that Libya has also caught amounts of Mediterranean swordfish under the "Others" quota, other CPCs could also operate under the "Others" quota.

Findings

The review of the data submitted by Egypt and Libya in their ICCAT compliance reporting tables shows that these two CPCs do not have quotas for Mediterranean swordfish, and that they have reported catches in excess of the reserves defined for CPCs without quotas.

Mediterranean swordfish

Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Reserve	45.83	43.12	41.82	40.57	39.35	39.35
Egypt	/	5	4	12	26	75
Libya	70	26	112	200	300	250

Conclusion

In order not to compromise the effectiveness of the conservation measures that have been implemented, this situation will be discussed at the 24th Special Meeting of ICCAT under item 9 of the Panel 4 agenda.