



## The Pew Charitable Trusts'

### Opening statement to ICCAT Panel 1 - Tropical tunas

November 2024

The Pew Charitable Trusts would like to commend all members who have worked intersessionally on the draft recommendation for a multi-annual conservation and management program for tropical tunas. We urge members to include measures for improved FAD management, relaunch the regional observer program, and increase observer coverage for vessels fishing for tropical tunas in the Atlantic.

While we understand that the tropical tunas measure is a key priority for most CPCs, we encourage members to also consider other work that has progressed in Panel 1. One such effort is proposed in [PA1-506](#) for the adoption of conceptual management objectives for the multi-stock management strategy evaluation (MSE). This proposal helps address the 2024 SCRS Report's request to the Commission for feedback on management objectives at this annual meeting, which states that *"Such objectives are essential for a successful multi-stock MSE process."* As this is the second year that the proposal has been brought to Panel 1 at the Commission meeting, we urge members to endorse it for adoption, including the provision on evaluating the impact of juvenile mortality on potential yields.

Another key item due for Panel 1 deliberation is the management procedure (MP) for western Atlantic skipjack. Members have an opportunity to adopt an MP this year for implementation in 2026, contingent on SCRS feedback and Panel 1 input on TAC application, per proposal [PA1 511](#). No CPCs have expressed opposition to moving forward this year and as such, we urge the main fishing nations to lead work within Panel 1 to adopt an MP for western skipjack this year in accordance with the MSE workplan. Significantly, this would be the first tropical tuna MP in the Atlantic Ocean and will lay the foundation for more progress in the management of other Atlantic tropical tunas.

Finally, we acknowledge the results of the yellowfin tuna stock assessment and remind CPCs of the decade long disregard for the yellowfin tuna TAC. We urge Panel 1 to maintain a TAC with no less than a 60% probability of being in the green quadrant of the Kobe plot and develop a yellowfin tuna allocation key as an urgent priority, to ensure that the catch no longer exceeds the TAC.