



**The Pew Charitable Trusts’  
Opening Statement to Panel 3**

November 2024

The Pew Charitable Trusts welcomes this opportunity to comment on important work being considered by Panel 3 at the 24<sup>th</sup> Special meeting of the ICCAT Commission. This year, there is only one proposal for Panel 3 to progress – the adoption of conceptual management objectives for south Atlantic albacore.

Pew urges Panel 3 to adopt [PA3\\_701](#) proposed by South Africa. The proposal reflects the discussions we have heard from scientists and stakeholders who are interested in pursuing MSE given recent issues with the stock assessment and requirements of ecolabels. These management objectives can help guide the future development of an MSE that would ensure long-term sustainable fisheries of south Atlantic albacore. Note that there is external funding and technical expertise available to support a south Atlantic albacore MSE, if desired, so as to minimize ICCAT resources needed for this effort.

With all this in mind, we urge members to also add south Atlantic albacore to the MSE roadmap in Plenary as part of ICCAT’s continued commitment to modernizing its fisheries management approach.