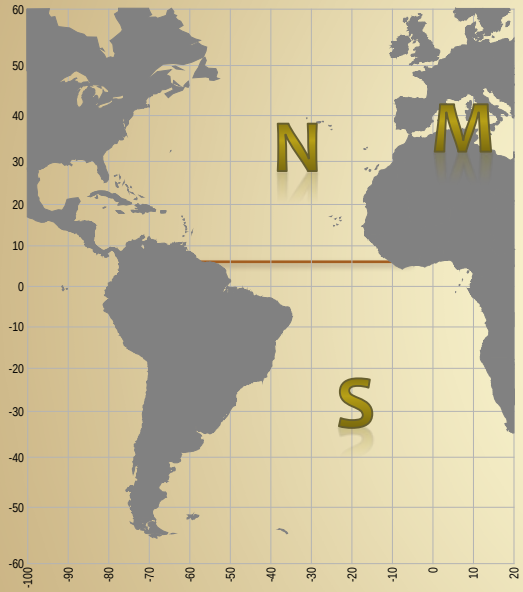
Panel 3

ALB South Atlantic

Panel 3: Items to be discussed

- Albacore (ALB)
  - **South Atlantic** (assessed in 2011)

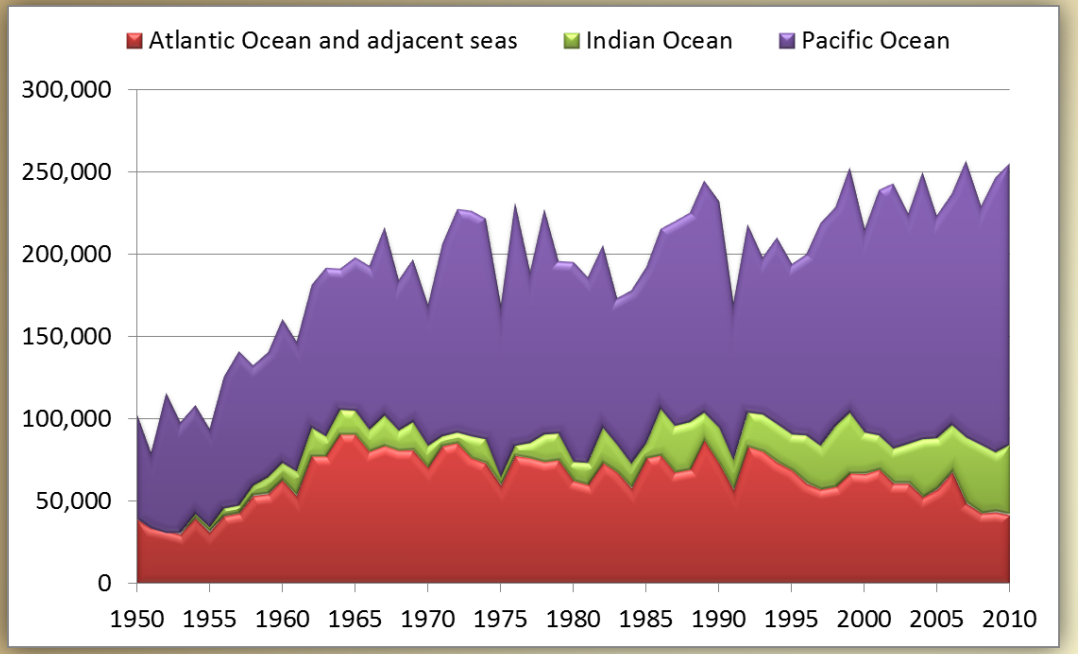
Albacore

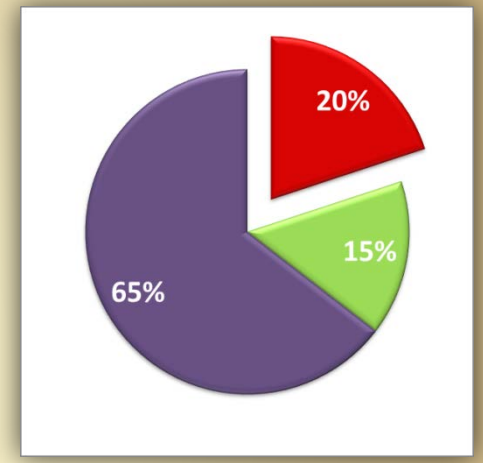


3 management units

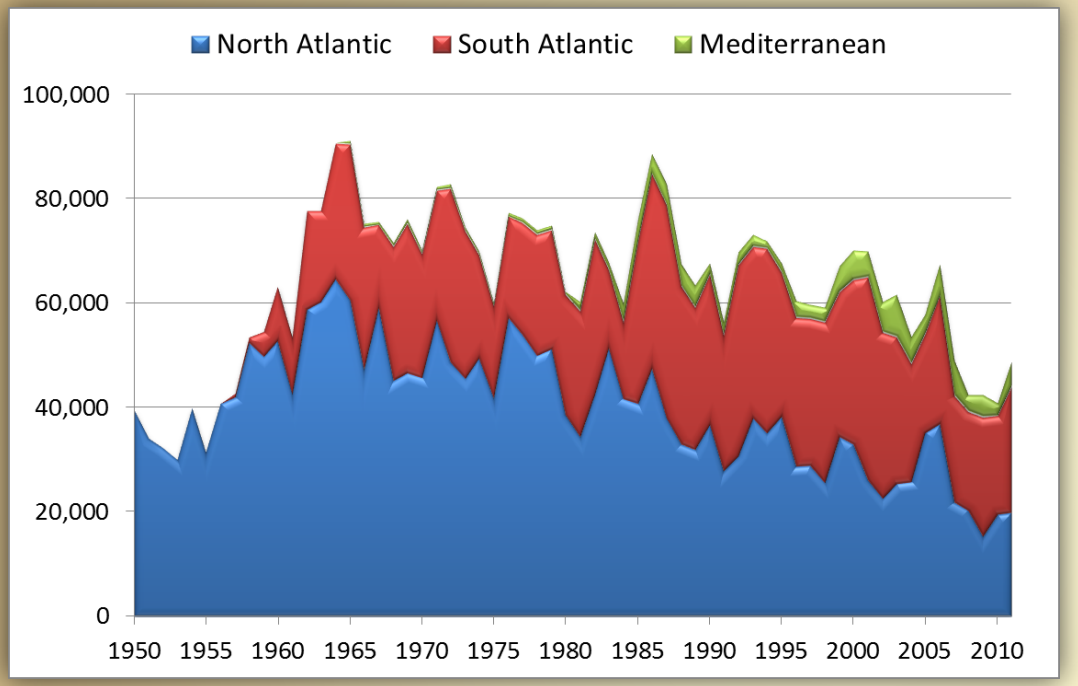
Albacore, Atún blanco, Germon	
Scientific name	*Thunnus alalunga*
Distribution	Widely distributed in temperate and tropical waters; from 45-50 °N to 30-40 °S (less abundant in surface waters between 10°N and 10°S)
Spawning grounds	In subtropical western areas of both hemispheres and throughout the Mediterranean Sea (spring and summer)
Maturity	Atlantic: 90 cm (age 5) / Mediterranean: 62 cm (age 3)
Life span	Atlantic: 15 years / Mediterranean: 9 years
Maximum size	Atlantic: 130 cm (40 kg) / Mediterranean: 95 cm (15 kg)
Natural mortality	Assumed M=0.3

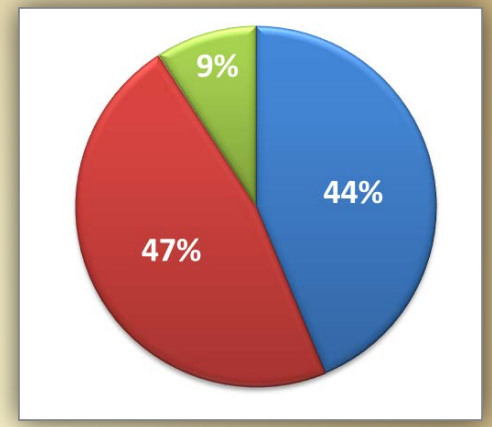
- Environmental variability: potential impact on ALB stocks





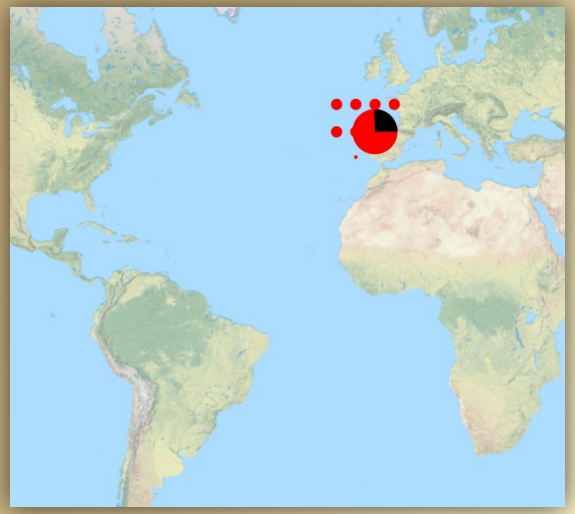
- Atlantic & Mediterranean ALB represents **20% of the world production** of ALB (average years 2006-2010).



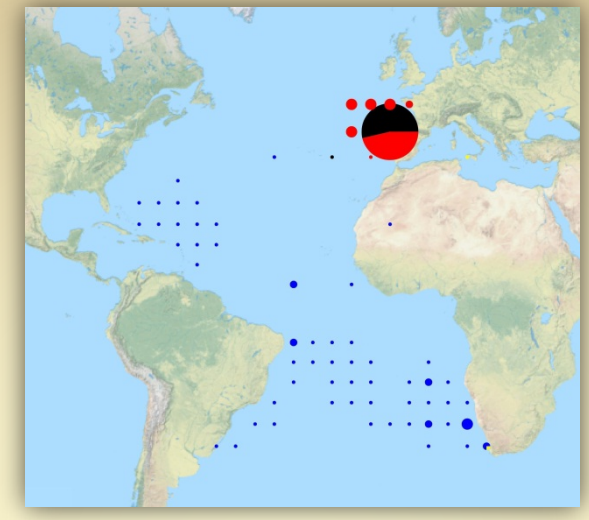


(average years 2007-2011)

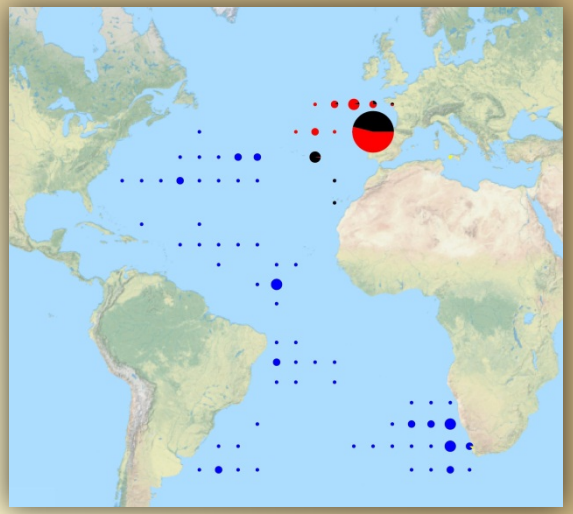
- North and South Atlantic ALB production is almost equivalent in recent years (average years 2007-2011).



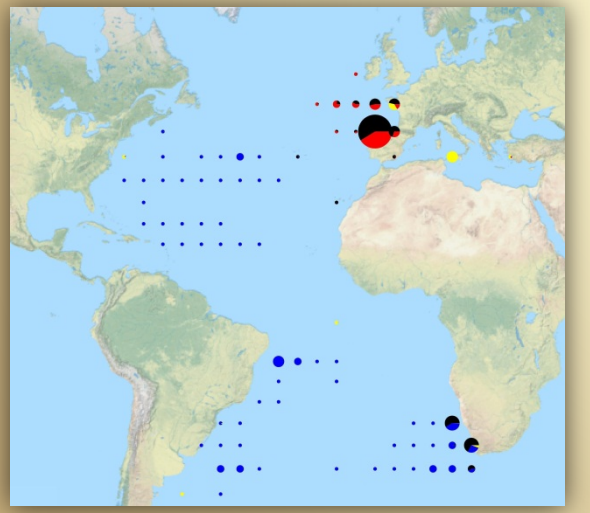
1950



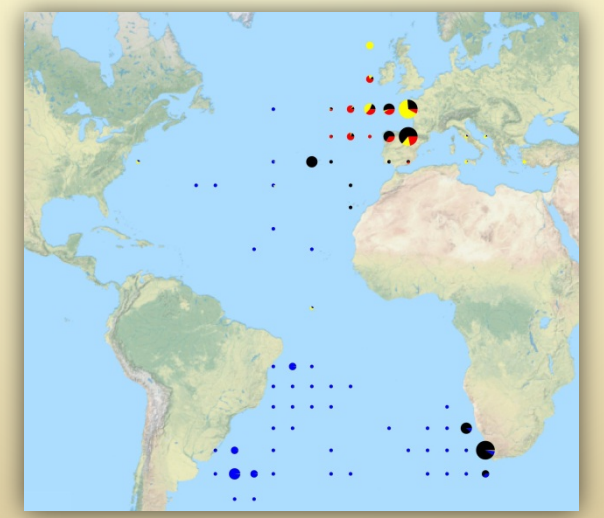
1960



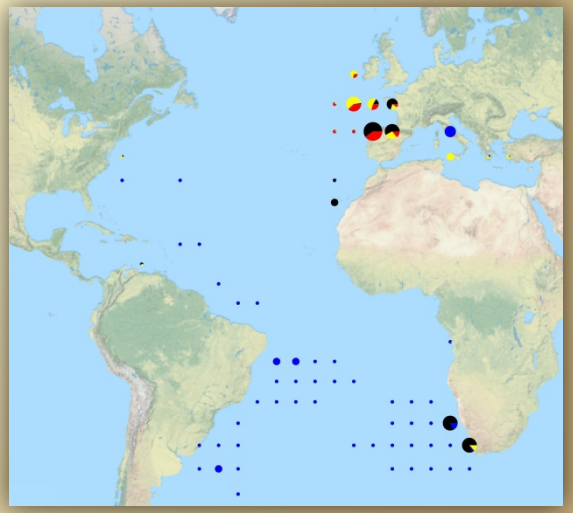
1970



1980



1990



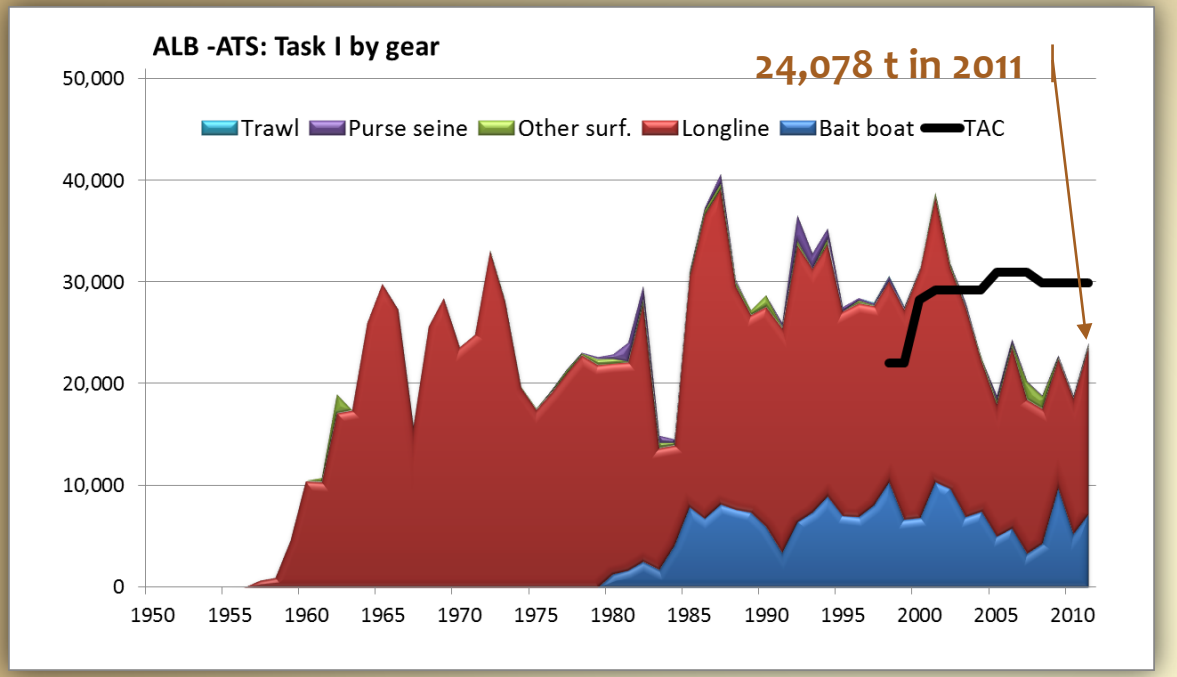
2000

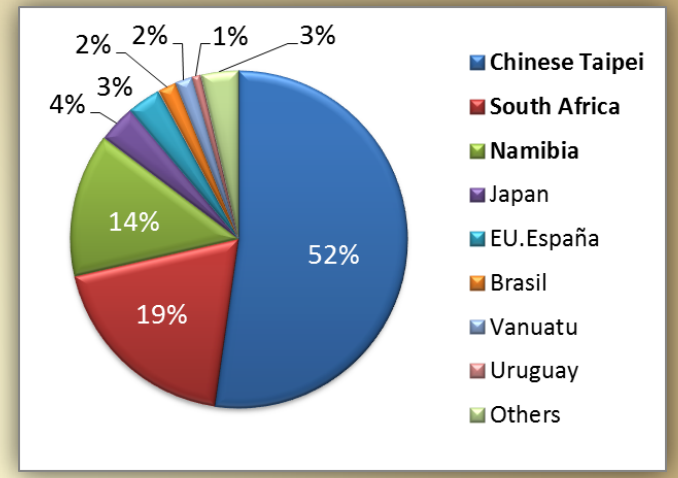
Troll Longline Baitboat Others

South Atlantic albacore

Last assessment: 2011

Task-I



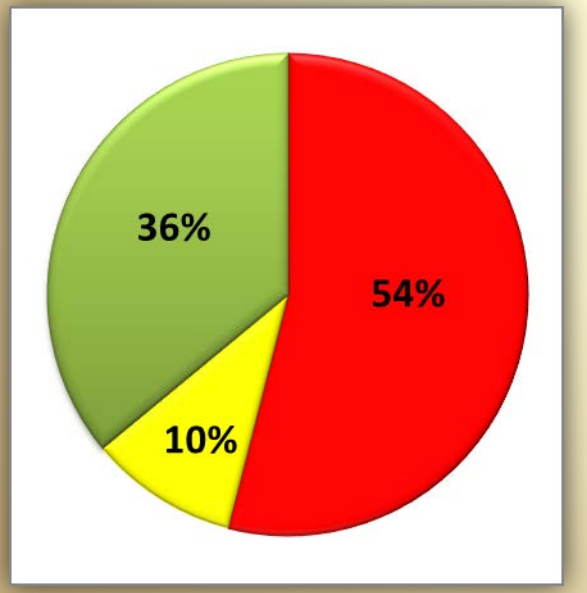


% average catch in the last 5 years

- BB mainly catch juvenile and subadult fish (70 cm to 90 cm FL).
- LL mainly catch catch larger albacore (60 cm to 120 cm FL).
- **85** % of the catch came from **LL (Chinese Taipei)** and **BB (South Africa & Namibia)**.
- Chinese Taipei : **decrease in LL fishing effort targeting ALB;** longliners (including boats flagged in Belize and St. Vincent and the Grenadines) stopped fishing for Brazil in 2003, which resulted in ALB only being caught as by-catch in tropical tuna-directed longline fisheries

Assessment Summary

- There is considerable **uncertainty** about the current stock status.
- Results indicate that, **most probably,** the south Atlantic ALB stock is both **overfished and experiencing overfishing.**



	Atlántico sur
Rendimiento actual (2010)	18.900 t
Rendimiento máximo sostenible	27.964 (23.296-98.371) t[1]
Rendimiento de sustitución (2009)	No estimado
SSB_{2007}/SSB_{RMS}[2]	
SSB_{2009}/SSB_{RMS}[1]	0,88 (0,55-1,59)[1]
Mortalidad por pesca relativa	
F_{2007}/F_{RMS}[2]	
F_{2009}/F_{RMS}[1]	1,07 (0,44-1,95)[1]
Medidas de ordenación en vigor:	[Rec. 07-03]: Limitar capturas a 29.900 t hasta 2011

Outlook: K2SM

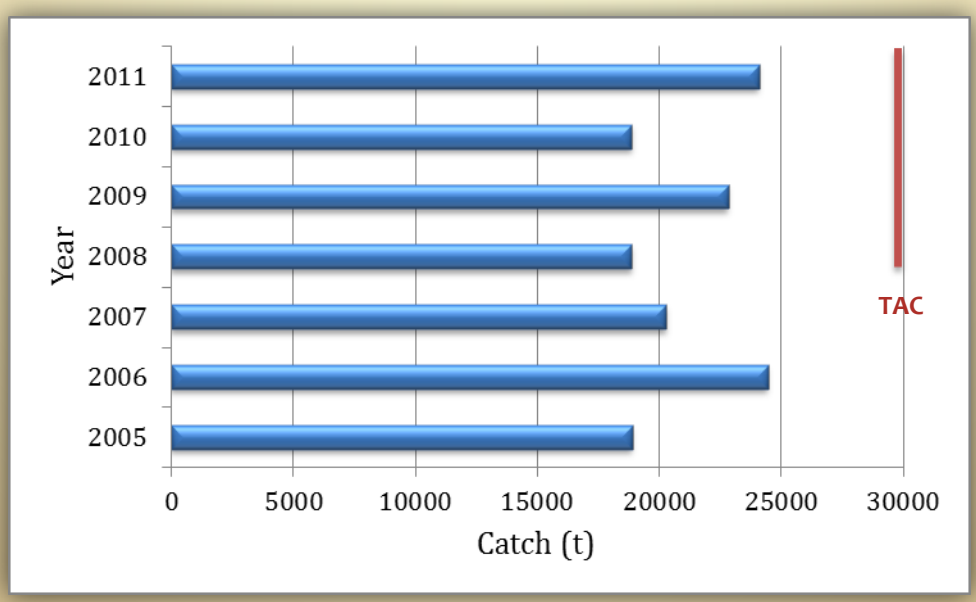
TAC\year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
15000	37%	38%	42%	49%	55%	60%	64%	68%	70%	72%	74%	76%	77%	78%
20000	38%	38%	41%	45%	48%	51%	54%	56%	58%	60%	62%	63%	64%	65%
25000	37%	38%	38%	39%	40%	41%	41%	42%	42%	42%	43%	43%	43%	43%
30000	37%	38%	27%	25%	24%	23%	22%	21%	20%	19%	19%	18%	18%	17%
35000	37%	38%	17%	16%	15%	14%	14%	13%	13%	12%	12%	12%	12%	11%

- Projections showed that harvesting at the **current TAC level** (29,900 t) would further **decline** the stock.

- However, **if catches continue at the level of those experienced in the last few years**, there is **more than 50% probability to recover the stock in 5 years,** and more than a 60% probability to do so in 10 years.

Effects of current regulations

- In 2007 the Commission established a **TAC for 2008-2011** of **29,900 t** [Rec. 07-03].
- In 2011 the Commission established a new **TAC of 24,000 t** for **2012-2013** [Rec. 11-05].
- The Committee noted that, since 2004, reported catches remained below this new recommended TAC, except in 2006 and 2011 were reported catches were slightly above this value



Management recommendations

- There is considerable **uncertainty** about the current stock status, as well as on the effect of alternative catch limits on the rebuilding probabilities of the southern stock.

- Results indicate that, most probably, the south Atlantic ALB stock is **both overfished and experiencing overfishing**.

- Projections showed that harvesting **at the current TAC level (29,900 t) would further decline the stock.** However, if catches continue at the level of those experienced in the last few years (**around 20,000 t**), there is more **than 50% probability to recover the stock in 5 years**, and more than a 60% probability to do so in 10 years.

- Further reductions in catches would increase the probability of recovery in those timeframes. And likewise, increases would reduce rebuilding probabilities and extend the timeframes.

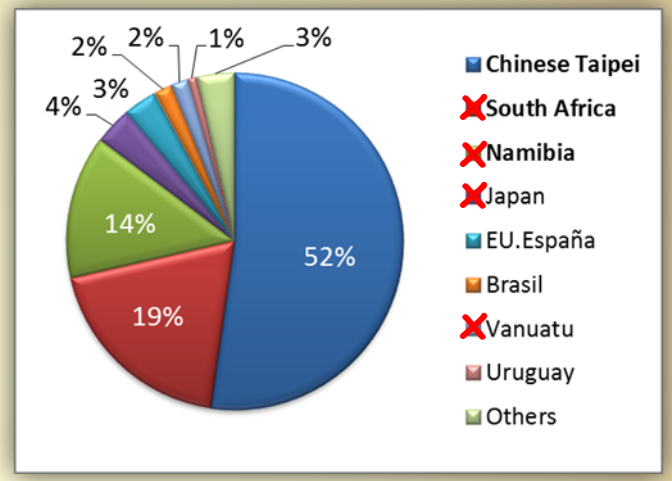
- **Catches over 24,000 t will not permit the rebuilding** of the stock with at least 50% probability over the projection timeframe.

SCRS 2010

"The success of this assessment, scheduled for Sep 2011, will depend on participation of national scientists familiar with the fisheries harvesting SALB"

SCRS 2011

ICCAT SOUTH ATLANTIC AND MEDITERRANEAN ALBACORE STOCK ASSESSMENT SESSIONS (Madrid, Spain - July 25 to 29, 2011)



Several countries with important ALB fisheries were not represented in the stock assessment meeting. This limits the ability of the group to properly revise the data, to replicate earlier assessments and to ensure continuity on the formulation of the management advice, and/or to apply alternative modeling approaches. To overcome this, the group recommends that **CPCs make additional efforts to contribute and participate in the WG meetings**.

P3 Research and Statistics

General recommendations to the Commission that have financial implications

- The Committee acknowledged the ongoing need for research on life history, movements and basic ecology of albacore.
- It was determined that the need to **improve basic statistics** as well as the **participation of experts** in the **2013 stock assessment** process was the highest priority for the upcoming year.
- The Committee recommends that CPCs make additional efforts to **contribute and participate in the working group meetings**.