

Original: English

**DRAFT RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON MANAGEMENT MEASURES  
FOR THE CONSERVATION OF THE EAST ATLANTIC SAILFISH**

***Proposal submitted by the European Union***

*CONSIDERING* that following the stock assessment of sailfish (*Istiophorus albicans*) undertaken in 2016, the SCRS report states that all the scenarios considered for advice using the surplus production models indicate that the stock is overfished and that overfishing status is uncertain;

*NOTING* that, the SCRS expresses concern over the outlook for the eastern stock and recommends that catches should not exceed current levels;

*CONSIDERING* therefore that in order to protect and manage the East Atlantic sailfish in a precautionary manner, an annual catch limit should be established to ensure that recent catch levels are not exceeded;

*RECOGNISING* that further efforts are necessary to achieve the objectives of the ICCAT Enhanced Research Programme for Billfish (EPBR);

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION  
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (CPCs) whose vessels fish East Atlantic Sailfish (*Istiophorus albicans*) in the Convention Area shall implement management measures to ensure the conservation of this stock in line with ICCAT's Convention objective.

***Catch limits for East Atlantic Sailfish***

2. CPCs shall take appropriate measures to ensure that their catches of East Atlantic sailfish caught in the ICCAT Convention Area for 2017 and subsequent years do not exceed current levels.
3. To the extent possible, as the CPCs catches of East Atlantic sailfish approach their current catch levels, they shall take appropriate measures to ensure that all sailfish that are alive at the time of boarding are released in a manner that maximises their survival.
4. If the total catch of the East Atlantic sailfish exceeds in any year the current observed level (i.e. 1,271 t), the Commission shall review the implementation and effectiveness of these measures.

***Scientific Research***

5. CPCs are encouraged to undertake scientific research that would provide information on adult sailfish habitat use, study sailfish spawning patterns and sailfish population genetics, as these are essential aspects to improve sailfish assessments. Such information shall be made available to the SCRS.