europêche
ASSOCIATION OF NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS
OF FISHING ENTERPRISES IN THE EU

EUROPECHE DECLARATION
Priorities for the 25th extraordinary meeting of ICCAT

(16th – 23rd November 2026, Vilamoura, Portugal)

Panel 2 on Albacore tuna

Brussels, 28 September 2026

Europêche recommends:

- **Increasing the target fishing mortality from 0.8 FMSY to 0.9 FMSY**, while maintaining the stock within sustainable limits.
- **Reducing the TAC variation constraint from -20%/+25% to +/-10%,** in order to provide greater stability and predictability for the sector.
- **Maintaining the 50,000-tonne TAC** for the time being.
- **Continuing scientific work on a constant-TAC management procedure** as a possible medium- to long-term alternative, subject to further simulations and evaluation of its long-term performance.
- **Avoiding the reopening of discussions on the allocation key** among CPCs and on the distribution between CPCs with allocated shares and those subject to catch limits.

The current management of the North Atlantic albacore stock is based on the ICCAT management procedure adopted in 2021. Under this framework, the TAC can increase by no more than 25% or decrease by no more than 20% between successive three-year management periods. The rule was applied in 2023, resulting in a 25% increase in the TAC for the 2024–2026 period. A maximum TAC of 50,000 tonnes also applies.

The stock is showing a favourable dynamic, as indicated by the 2023 assessment and confirmed by the 2026 assessment. The preliminary 2026 results place the stock in the green quadrant of the Kobe plot, with a probability well above 60%.

This positive stock status has led scientists to explore alternative management procedures that could provide greater stability in fishing opportunities while maintaining the stock in a healthy condition.

For the next management period, the proposed approach is therefore to make a limited adjustment to the current management procedure by increasing the target fishing mortality from 0.8 FMSY to 0.9 FMSY and reducing TAC variability from -20%/+25% to +/-10%.

In the medium to long term, further work should continue on a management procedure based on a constant TAC. This option is considered promising, but additional simulations are needed before implementation.