SCIAENA

PA3_705/2026

November 12, 2026

Sciaena's Opening Statement to Panel 3

25th Special Meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)

Sciaena appreciates the opportunity to participate in ICCAT's Panel 3 proceedings and recognizes the dedicated efforts of the Secretariat, the SCRS, and the CPCs over the past year to advance science-based management for southern temperate tunas. As discussions get underway, we call on Contracting Parties to focus on the following priorities:

Reduce the 2027 South Atlantic albacore TAC in line with scientific advice

Following the 2026 SCRS stock assessment confirming that South Atlantic albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*) is overfished, Panel 3 must take decisive action to rebuild the stock. According to SCRS projections, achieving a 60% probability of recovery into the green quadrant of the Kobe plot within ten years requires lowering the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) to 22,500 t for 2027.

Sciaena strongly urges CPCs to follow the best available science and adopt a slightly revised version of South Africa's Proposal PA3-702. Postponing necessary catch reductions now will only compromise recovery and force even steeper, more disruptive cuts in 2028 once the Management Procedure (MP) enters into force.

Adopt a framework to deliver the South Atlantic albacore MP in 2027

This year, the South Atlantic Albacore MSE Technical Team and the SCRS Albacore Working Group reviewed updated operating models and preliminary candidate MPs based on the 2026 assessment, keeping final MP adoption on track for 2027. To maintain this momentum, Sciaena calls on Panel 3 to adopt PA3-703, establishing the general framework for MP adoption next year. Following Panel 1's precedent for western Atlantic skipjack (Katsuwonus pelamis), agreeing on core provisions in advance enables Commission input during final MSE refinement and ensures a smooth transition to full implementation in 2027.

Sciaena urges Panel 3 members to turn scientific advice into concrete decisions this week and looks forward to meaningful outcomes throughout the meeting.