

The Pew Charitable Trusts'

Opening statement to ICCAT Panel 1 - Tropical tunas

November 2025

The Pew Charitable Trusts would like to commend all members who have worked intersessionally to progress priorities for Panel 1, specifically the advancement of management strategy evaluation (MSE) for western Atlantic Skipjack and tropical tunas. Prior to the Commission meeting, we would like to bring your attention to the following items for consideration.

At the last Panel 1 meeting, on October 8, 2025, members were presented with four candidate management procedures (MPs) for western Atlantic skipjack. The MPs are based on the [MP framework measure adopted in 2024](#) and meet the new management objectives specified. These MPs have been endorsed by the SCRS and Brazil has continued to show great leadership in this effort by [proposing an MP](#) for adoption. We urge members to support PA1-505 for adoption at the Commission meeting.

Adoption of the western Atlantic skipjack MP will help clear the docket for Panel 1 to focus on the tropical tuna multi-stock MSE, which is scheduled for completion in 2026. Members should now develop a clear workplan and schedule for multiple Panel 1 intersessional meetings that will provide guidance on key factors to inform the MSE testing, including how to handle trade-offs among species' yields and assumptions about fishery changes over time.

Noting the [Recommendation 24-01](#) provision to allow changes to the total allowable catch (TAC) for bigeye tuna based on the results of the 2025 stock assessment, Pew advocates for the new TAC to have no less than a 70% probability of being in the green quadrant of the Kobe plot to ensure the stock can maintain healthy biological levels. In addition, any deliberation over FAD management should be precautionary and maintain the FAD closure period to account for the disproportionate impacts on juvenile mortality.

Finally, Pew highlights the letter from the [ICCAT Commission Chair](#) and the [Panel 1 Chair](#), prioritizing the need to implement the yellowfin tuna TAC through a quota allocation key. Recognizing the decade long disregard for the yellowfin tuna TAC, we urge Panel 1 to begin development of a yellowfin allocation plan at this Commission meeting and commit to its finalization intersessionally for adoption in 2026.