**Original: English/French**

**Mediterranean** **swordfish fishing plans submitted in 2025**

**Rec. 16-05**

Paragraph 10 of the [*Recommendation by ICCAT replacing the Recommendation 13-04 and Establishing a Multi-annual Recovery Plan for Mediterranean Swordfish* (Rec. 16-05)](https://www.iccat.int/Documents/Recs/compendiopdf-e/2016-05-e.pdf)states that “Starting in 2018, CPCs shall submit their fishing plan to ICCAT by 15 March each year. Such plan shall include detailed information regarding the quota allocated by gear type, including to sport and recreational fisheries (if applicable) and bycatches”.

Fishing plans were received within the deadline from Algeria, Egypt, European Union, Morocco, Tunisia and Türkiye.

**Mediterranean swordfish tuna fishing, inspection and capacity management plans**

**Algeria**

**Year of Fishing Plan: 2025**

1. **Introduction**

Algeria’s fishing plan for 2025 is based on Recommendation 16-05, which remains in force, in particular, Article 10. These provisions have been implemented into national legislation, in particular, Law 01-11 on Fisheries and Aquaculture, amended and supplemented, and Executive Decree No. 03-481 establishing fishing conditions, amended and supplemented. These provisions include the Decision of 25 February 2018 (Official Gazette No. 17 of 18 March 2018) which defines the swordfish fishery closure period in waters under national jurisdiction.

Algeria is implementing its fishing plan for 2025 to catch a quota of 472.33 t. The authorised national fleet comprises 495 artisanal vessels between 4 m and 14.3 m that target swordfish only, in accordance with the requirements of Recommendation 16-05 and national legislation. A quota of 1%, i.e. 4.7 t is deducted from the overall quota for bycatch and incidental catches.

1. **Details of fishing plan**

The 2025 Mediterranean swordfish fishing plan is designed to ensure compliance with Algeria’s quota limit and legal provisions, in particular, Law 01-11 on Fisheries and Aquaculture, amended and supplemented, as well as Executive Decree No. 03-481 establishing fishing conditions, amended and supplemented. Those include the Decision of 25 February 2018 defining the swordfish fishery closure period in waters under national jurisdiction.

In accordance with the provisions of ICCAT Recommendation 16-05, individual quotas for the vessels authorised to fish for swordfish are fixed each year, based on an equitable method. In 2025, a fleet of 495 artisanal vessels measuring between 4 m and 14.3 m will target swordfish alone, in accordance with the Algerian regulation. An annual fishing authorisation is issued for each vessel by the fisheries administration with a closure period from 1 January to 31 March.

Bycatch, which represents 1% of the overall quota i.e. 4.7 t, is landed, reported and deducted. In the case of overrun, the amounts in excess are deducted from the national quota. At-sea control and inspection is provided by the National Coast Guard Service, in conjunction with the fishery inspectors in the ports. A system ensures that the amounts of swordfish landed comply with the individual quota and the minimum trade size.

|  | *ICCAT requirement**(per* [*Rec. 16-05*](https://www.iccat.int/Documents/Recs/compendiopdf-e/2016-05-e.pdf)*)* | *Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement* | *Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)* | *Note:* |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **1** | **Fleet development plan** **(para 9)** | The swordfish fishery in Algeria is a purely artisanal fishery for subsistence purposes, carried out by vessels mostly with a length less than 14 m, with low engine power and with short trips. For the purposes of better monitoring and organization of this type of fishery, the fishery administration closely monitors this artisanal activity for subsistence purposes through decentralised local directorates.  | Law No. 15-08 of 2 April 2015 which amends and supplements Law No. 01-11 of 3 July 2001 relating to the fisheries and aquaculture.Executive Decree No.°03-481 of 13 December 2003 establishing the fishing methods, amended and supplemented and the Implementing Decisions. |  |
| **2** | **Choice of fishery closure periods (para 11-13)** | In accordance with paragraphs 11-13, the closure period is established from 1 January to 31 March.  | Decree of 25 February 2018 establishing the closure period of the swordfish fishery in waters under national jurisdiction. |  |
| **3** | **Recreational and sports fisheries (para 21-26)** | There are no recreational and sport fisheries targeting swordfish in Algeria. |  |  |
| **4** | **Allocation of by-catch and detail of the limits by vessel/operation (para 30)** | Bycatch will be deducted from the balance of the 4.7 t allocated to bycatch or from the Algerian quota if the amount set aside for bycatch is exceeded. |  |  |
| **5** | **Recording and communication of catches (para 35-37)** | Catches (in number and size/weight) are recorded in a logbook as well as in information collection sheets on fishing operations, and entered into the national statistics system. Nonetheless given that it is an artisanal fishery, the longline fleet targeting swordfish comprises vessels with a length less than 15 m, and the exact coordinates of fishing operations are not reported. In accordance with paragraph 37, of ICCAT Rec. 16-05, Algeria reports the volume of Mediterranean swordfish caught by the vessels flying its national flag within 30 days of the end of the period during which the catches were made. | Law 01-11 on fisheries and aquaculture, amended and supplemented.Executive Decree No. 08-181 of 23 June 2008 on the special status of civil servants belonging to the specific bodies of the fisheries administration.Decree of 16-04-2006 establishing the logbook. |  |
| **6** | **Measures taken to control landings (para 34)** | As regards control, regular and random controls are carried out by National Coast Guard Service at sea and on each entry at port access points to ensure compliance with the regulations in force, in particular, observance of the fishery closure period as well as minimum trade sizes. As regards recording of landings and quota compliance, these tasks are carried out by fishing inspectors deployed in designated landing ports that have been communicated to ICCAT.  | Law 01-11 on fisheries and aquaculture, amended and supplemented.Executive Decree No. 08-181 of 23 June 2008 on the special status of civil servants belonging to the specific bodies of the fisheries administration.Decree of 16-04-2006 establishing the logbook. |  |
| **7** | **CPC Scientific Observer (para 44)** | This requirement is difficult to implement due to constraints related to the boarding of scientist observers. The main difficulty is that the fishing vessels are narrow and do not have decks to enable scientists to board. In light of this constraint, Algeria has adopted an alternative approach.  | No device on board.Executive Decree No. 08-181 of 23 June 2008 on the special status of civil servants belonging to the specific bodies of the fisheries administration. | Alternative measures are used. Control of catches on landing and biological sampling by fishing inspectors, who are mostly trained biologists, and also by scientific staff of the CNRDPA, who are deployed at regional stations and communicate and collaborate with the fisheries inspectors. |
| **8** | **Other requirements** **(please specify)** |  |  |  |

**Inspection Plan**

***a) CPC inspection and control (para 13)***

Algeria has introduced a single closure period for the swordfish fishery, from 1 January to 31 March each year. The control and inspection of this activity is based on several mechanisms:

* At-sea controls: The National Coast Guard Service, as the authority in charge of maritime policing, oversees compliance with the regulation and ensures active surveillance.
* In port controls: The Coast Guards carry out inspections at port entry points to ensure compliance of the vessels.
* Landings surveillance: The fisheries inspectors of the Fisheries Administration verify the quantities landed and ensure compliance with the closure period to avoid any infringement.

These specially trained and experienced inspectors issue weekly reports that are transmitted to the decentralised Fisheries Directorates, then to the Central Directorate, which is responsible for control and monitoring of fisheries activities.

***b) Joint international inspection (para 39-41; Annex 1[[1]](#footnote-1))***

Algeria has an artisanal fleet which operates in waters under national jurisdiction. Therefore, Algeria will not deploy in 2025 a vessel of international joint inspection for inspection of the swordfish fishery in international waters.

**Capacity management plan (paras 6-10)**

Algeria’s fishing capacity is represented by a fleet of 495 vessels, that must comply with the quota allocated to Algeria, i.e., 472.33 t. The registered list of recorded vessels targeting swordfish with individual quotas was transmitted to ICCAT on 15 January 2025 (cp01-VesseL\_stDZA2025).

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **SWO-MD Vessel Fleet** | **Choose one** | **Total fleet (vessels)** |
| **Type**  | Number of vessels in reference period (average 2013-2016) | Number of vessels in reference period (Year 2016) | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
| Longliner over 40m | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Longliner between 24 and 40m | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Longliner less than 24m | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Handline | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Harpoon | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Sport/Recreational (Rod & reel) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Trap | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other (please specify) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total number of vessels < 7 m  | **0** | **0** | 215 | 209 | 177 | 202 | 310 | 202 |
| Total number of vessels > 7 m  | **0** | **0** | 285 | 291 | 323 | 294 | 205 | 293 |
| Total fleet | **0** | **0** | 500 | 500 | 500 | 496 | 515 | 495 |
| Quota  | 0 | 0 | 501.97 | 486.91 | 472.30 | 472.33 | 472.33 | 472.33 |
| **Adjusted quota (if applicable)** | 0 | 0 | **496.95** | **482.04** | **467.6** | **467.63** | **467.63** | **467.633** |

**Egypt**

**Fishing Plan Year: 2025**

1. **Introduction**

The provisions of Recommendation 16-05, which remain in force, have been implemented into the national Resolution No. 291/2023.

In accordance with the *Recommendation by ICCAT for catch limits for Mediterranean swordfish* (Rec. 24‑11), adopted during the 24th Special Meeting of ICCAT, Egypt is implementing its fishing plan for 2025 to catch 125 t. There are 6 Egyptian fishing vessels catching SWO in the Mediterranean Sea, which are longliners with a length less than 15m.

The total catches of SWO-MD (125 t) are distributed equally among the 6 longline vessels. Egypt deducted 1% of the national quota for SWO-MD as bycatch and incidental catch.

1. **Details of fishing plan**

The 2025 Mediterranean swordfish fishing plan aims to ensure that Egypt adheres to its quota limits while complying with national legislation and regulations. This includes the provisions of Decree No. 291/2023, which outline fishing conditions and closure season of swordfish in national waters. The plan also aligns with the provisions of ICCAT Recommendation 16-05.

In 2025, the swordfish fishing quota will be utilized by a fleet of 6 fishing vessels with a length less than 15m.

These vessels operate under Egypt’s current fishing regulations. Each vessel actively fishing for swordfish in 2025 should obtain an annual fishing authorization from the fisheries administration. Additionally, all vessels are subject to the mandatory closure period from 1 January to 31 March.

Regarding bycatch, all catches must be landed, recorded, and deducted from Egypt’s overall swordfish quota. The bycatch allowance is set at 1% of the national quota (equivalent to 1.25 t). If this limit is exceeded, the excess will be deducted from Egypt’s total allocated quota.

The National Coast Guard Service is responsible for at-sea control and inspection, ensuring compliance with fishing regulations.

At designated fishing ports, the National Coast Guard Service, along with fishery inspectors, oversees monitoring, control, and enforcement of fisheries-related regulations. This includes verifying that swordfish landings comply with individual vessel quotas and meet the minimum trade size requirements.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | *ICCAT Requirement* *(per* [*Rec. 16-05*](https://www.iccat.int/Documents/Recs/compendiopdf-e/2016-05-e.pdf)*)*  | *Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement*  | *Relevant* *domestic laws or regulations* *(as applicable)* | *Note* |
| **1.** | **Fleet development plan (para 9)** | Egypt will start the 2025 fishing season with 6 longline vessels with a length less than 15 m. | Resolution No. 291 /2023 |  |
| **2.** | **Choice of closed fishing seasons (paras 11-13)** | The closure of the fishing season is from 1 January to 31 March. | Resolution No. 291 /2023Article 2, paragraph 2 |  |
| **3.** | **Recreational and sport fisheries (paras 21-26)** | Sport and recreational fishing are not allowed for swordfish. | Resolution No. 291 /2023Article 5. |  |
| **4.** | **Allocation for bycatch and detail of limit per vessel/operation (para 30)** | The bycatch allowance is set at 1% of the national quota (equivalent to 1.25 t). If this limit is exceeded, the excess will be deducted from Egypt’s total allocated quota. |  |  |
| **5.** | **Catch recording and reporting** **(paras 35-37)** | The number and size/weight of catches are recorded in a logbook and documented on information collection sheets detailing fishing operations. These data are then submitted to the national statistics system. The longline fleet targeting swordfish consists of vessels less than 15 meters in length. In compliance with paragraph 37 of ICCAT Recommendation 16-05, Egypt submits reports on the volume of Mediterranean swordfish caught by vessels flying its national flag within 30 days after the fishing period ends. |  |  |
| **6.** | **Measures taken to control landings (para 34)** | In case of landing, all landed catches shall be weighed and inspected based on the allowable quota, fleet size and fishing effort by national inspectors at landing sites. |  |  |
| **7.** | **CPC scientific observer (para 44)** | All fishing vessels over 15 m targeting SWO are obligated to deploy national scientific observers on at least 5% of its longline vessels. |  |  |
| **8.** | **Other requirements (specify)** |  |  |  |

**Inspection Plan**

***a) CPC’s inspection and control (para 13)***

The closure of the fishing season is from 1 January to 31 March. All fishing vessels shall ensure full inspection coverage during the 2025 SWO fishing season by LFRPDA’s inspectors.

***b) Joint international inspection (para 39-41; Annex 1[[2]](#footnote-2))***

Not applicable since Egypt has less than 50 catching vessels engaged in Mediterranean swordfish.

**Capacity Management Plan (paras 6-10)**

See below.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **SWO-MD Vessel Fleet** | **Choose one** | **Total Fleet (vessels)** |
| **Type**  | **Number of vessels in reference period (average** **2013-2016)** | **Number of vessels in reference period** **(year 2016)** | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
| Longliner over 40m |   |   | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Longliner between 24 and 40m |   |   | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |
| Longliner less than 24m |   |   | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 7 |  |
| Handline |   |   | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Harpoon |   |   | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Sport/Recreational (rod & reel) |   |   | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Trap |   |   | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other (please specify) |   |   | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total number of vessels < 7m  |  |  | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total number of vessels > 7m  |  |  | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 7 |  |
| Total fleet |  |  | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 7 |  |
| Quota  |   |   | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 75 | 100 | 125\* |
| **Adjusted quota (if applicable)** |   |   | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |  |  |

\* An amount of 1% of the quota, i.e. 1.25 t, which is deducted from the national quota, is set aside for incidental and bycatch of swordfish.

**European Union (EU)**

**Fishing Plan Year: 2025**

**1. Introduction**

The European Union (EU) hereby provides its fishing plan in the context of the multi-annual recovery plan for Mediterranean swordfish (SWO-MD), ICCAT Recommendation 16-05.

The seven EU Member States actively fishing Mediterranean swordfish are Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Malta and Spain. These EU Member States fish with a range of fishing gears, with the majority of the quotas being attributed to the longline sector. However, catches are also made by more artisanal sectors such as longliners < 12 m, handline and harpoons. The seven EU Member States also cooperate to implement a Joint Deployment Plan of inspection and surveillance means, in coordination with the European Commission and the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA).

The recovery plan for Mediterranean swordfish, ICCAT Recommendation 16-05, has been transposed into EU law by way of Regulation (EU) 2019/1154[[3]](#footnote-3).

Furthermore, in 2023 the EU adopted the revised control Regulation (EU) 2023/2842[[4]](#footnote-4), the new provisions of which aim to create a more modern and consistent fisheries control system in the EU and protect marine resources.

**2. Details of fishing plan**

Regulation (EU) 2019/1154 implements Rec. 16-05. Among others, it establishes a closure period for vessels targeting Mediterranean swordfish, and together with Regulation (EU) 2025/202 defines the closure period applicable for vessels targeting Mediterranean albacore.

In accordance with the current Total Allowable Catch (TAC) and similar to 2024, the quota for the EU in 2025 is fixed in Council Regulation (EU) 2025/202 at 6,363.63 t.

Regulation (EU) 2019/1154 requires EU Member States to provide the lists of authorised vessels participating in the fishery in 2025 in accordance with the reporting deadlines laid down under paragraph 27 of Recommendation 16-05. This list has been transmitted to the ICCAT Secretariat.

This fishing plan transmits the EU inspection plan, covering all Mediterranean fisheries, including fisheries for highly migratory species, and capable of addressing effectively the control requirements of those fisheries. The plan is largely unchanged from previous years.

The EU undertakes real-time monitoring of the Mediterranean swordfish fishery and is committed to take the necessary measures to ensure full compliance with ICCAT Recommendation 16-05.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | *ICCAT Requirement* *(per* [*Rec. 16-05*](https://www.iccat.int/Documents/Recs/compendiopdf-e/2016-05-e.pdf)*)*  | *Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement*  | *Relevant* *domestic laws or regulations* *(as applicable)* | *Note* |
| **1.** | **Fleet development plan (para 9)** |  |  | Not applicable |
| **2.** | **Choice of closed fishing seasons (paras 11-13)** | Closure period is implemented from 1 January to 31 March 2025.  | The closure period is implemented through Annex ID of Regulation (EU) 2025/202 of 30 January 2025 and in Art. 10(1) of Regulation (EU) 2019/1154. MS specify the closing season in the terms of the license/authorization. | Enforcement of the closed fishing seasons is done through the fisheries monitoring centres (FMC) of the different Member States, which are operational 24/7 and have alarms and functionalities to detect possible fishing outside the season.Within the EU Specific Control and Inspection Programme and the JDP, at-sea inspection and surveillance missions focus on the verification of compliance with the fishing seasons. |
| **3.** | **Recreational and sport fisheries (paras 21-26)** | Only one EU Member State (EU‑Italy) authorises recreational fisheries, in line with ICCAT recommendations. From 2025, EU‑France prohibits retention for recreational fisheries. Only rod and line is authorised for recreational fishing. All catches are counted against the EU quota.The marketing of Mediterranean swordfish caught during sport and recreational fishing is prohibited. | Articles 29 and 30 of Regulation (EU) 2019/1154 establish management and control measures for recreational and sport fisheries.Management of recreational fisheries is under the responsibility of EU Member States and is regulated through their national regulatory framework.  | The way these provisions are implemented varies amongst EU Member States, including in some cases total prohibition of sport and recreational fishing activities by certain EU Member States. |
| **4.** | **Allocation for bycatch and detail of limit per vessel/operation (para 30)** | Bycatches of Mediterranean swordfish shall not exceed at any time following a fishing operation the bycatch limit that Member States establish in their annual fishing plans for the total catch on board by weight or number of specimens.EU-CYP: 5% of the catches. EU-ESP: 1 specimen per trip and per day. EU-FRA: 10 specimens per year and per vessel, and not exceeding one specimen per fishing operation and per day.EU-GRC: 10 t of the catch limit are set aside for bycatch. EU-HRV: Bycatch is permitted only in fishing with purse seine nets and bottom longlines. In case of purse seine fishing, it is limited to one fish per vessel per day and it shall not exceed 20% of the weight of the total catch at the point of landing. In case of bottom longline, when a fishing operation exceeds 24h it is permitted to land maximum two fish per vessel, but the total weight of SWO shall not exceed 20% of weight of the total catch at the point of landing.EU-ITA: 5% of landings and annual limit 250 kg per non-targeting vessel.EU-MLT: All vessels that could incidentally catch SWO are authorized to retain catches.  | Article 13 (1) of Regulation (EU) 2019/1154 |  |
| **5.** | **Catch recording and reporting** **(paras 35-37)** | EU regulatory framework mandates EU vessels to fully implement the obligation to record all catches in the logbook (paper or electronic). All catches of Mediterranean swordfish, including discards (if any) are counted against the EU quota. The data are reported by Member States to the European Commission which reports quarterly for nominal catches to ICCAT. When accumulated catches of Mediterranean swordfish have reached 80% of the national quota, the flag Member States shall send data on catches to the Commission on a weekly basis.  | For the collection and reporting of catches: Art. 21 of Regulation (EU) 2019/1154 and Art. 33 of Regulation (EU) 2009/1224.For the obligation of recording catches in logbook: Art. 14 of Regulation (EU) 2009/1224.  |  |
| **6.** | **Measures taken to control landings (para 34)** | Catches of Mediterranean swordfish shall only be landed or transhipped in designated ports. Vessels must send a prior notification to the competent authority of the Member State or CPC whose ports or landing facility they intend to use. Under EU law, prior notification (PNO) is mandatory for all Union vessels of 12 metres length overall or more, and additionally for Union fishing vessels under 12 metres in length overall included in the list of vessels transmitted to the ICCAT Secretariat (i.e. those vessels authorised to catch Mediterranean swordfish). Monitoring of landings is implemented through the EU regulatory framework. Landing declarations are mandatory for vessels above 10m and complemented by sampling for vessels under 10m. Based on annual risk assessment, the EU inspections services will include in their national control plans benchmarks for inspections at sea, ashore and the commercial chain for SWO-MD fisheries. Inspection benchmarks are fixed by Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2018/1986[[5]](#footnote-5) establishing specific control and inspection programmes. | For prior notification: Art. 17 of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009, and Art. 23 and 24 of Regulation (EU) 2019/1154 establish the obligation of sending a prior notification.  |  |
| **7.** | **CPC scientific observer (para 44)** | Part of the scientific tasks under the data collection regulation[[6]](#footnote-6). | Art. 20 of Regulation (EU) 2019/1154 establishes national scientific observer programmes for pelagic longline vessels fishing for Mediterranean swordfish.National data collection plans include Mediterranean swordfish as one of their priorities for the Mediterranean. |  |
| **8.** | **Other requirements (specify)** | The closure period from 1 October to 30 November applies to longline vessels targeting Mediterranean albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*). A list of vessels has been communicated to the ICCAT Secretariat, under ICCAT Recommendation 21-06. Fishing vessels targeting Mediterranean swordfish may retain on board, tranship, transfer, land, transport, store, sell or display or offer for sale incidental catches of Mediterranean swordfish below the minimum conservation reference size, provided such catches do not exceed 5% by weight or number of specimens of the total Mediterranean swordfish catch of the fishing vessels concerned. | The closure period is implemented through Annex ID of Regulation (EU) 2025/202 of 30 January 2025 and in Art. 10(2) of Regulation (EU) 2019/1154. For MCRS: Art. 12 of Regulation (EU) 2019/1154. |  |

**Inspection Plan**

***a) CPC’s inspection and control (para 13)***

Under the EU Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), the primary responsibility for control and enforcement lays with the Member State Authorities.

The European Commission and the EFCA coordinate with the Member States to ensure that the provisions laid down by ICCAT are reflected in the EU and Member States law and fully enforced. The tools in place are explained under point b) below. In addition, the following verification activities are carried out by the European Commission:

1. *European Commission inspections*

Whilst different in its powers and mandate, the European Commission also has its dedicated unit whose main role is to monitor and evaluate Member States fulfilment of the legal obligations set out in the EU framework, including those stemming from ICCAT rules. The main tools used by the Commission for that are verifications, autonomous inspections and audits.

A specific unit in the Directorate of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE) carries out these checks on a regular basis. This supervision by the European Commission of the control activity exercised by the Member States, which is provided for in the Title X, Regulation 1224/2009, “Evaluation and Control by the Commission”, is an additional layer that helps to ensure effective control. In this regard, if the European Commission considers that irregularities have occurred in the implementation of the rules, it follows up on the shortcomings found using different tools such as administrative inquiries, EU pilots or actions plans. If the deficiencies are not corrected by the Member State authorities, the European Commission may open infringement proceedings against the Member State.

Although the inspection plan is still subject to change in response to the specificities of the 2025 fishing season, European Commission inspectors will once again be active in 2025.

1. *Vessel monitoring system and Operations team*

All vessels will be continually monitored by VMS and any interruption in the transmission of VMS data will be immediately followed up with the Member State concerned.

Member States continuously monitor the activity of their fleets, through their Fisheries Monitoring Centres (FMC), that are operational 24/7.

The team responsible within the European Commission for catch reporting and Satellite Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) will monitor in real time the VMS submissions and undertake extensive cross-checks to avoid any potential quota overshoot.

***b) Joint international inspection (para 39-41; Annex 1[[7]](#footnote-7))***

The ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection as laid down by paras 39-41 and Annex 1 of Rec. 16-05 has been fully implemented by the EU in Art. 27 of Regulation (EU) 2019/1154, and its annual operational implementation is coordinated by EFCA. EFCA will also coordinate any agreed voluntary exchange of inspection personnel with other CPCs in accordance with the provisions of Resolution 19-17.

* + - 1. *Specific Control and Inspection Programme*

Working under the framework of the ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection and building on experiences from recent years, the EU has currently in place a Specific Control and Inspection Programme (SCIP) to monitor and enforce the implementation of the bluefin tuna management and swordfish recovery plans. This programme is a joint initiative bringing together the resources of the European Commission, EFCA and the Member States involved in the fisheries.

* + - 1. *Joint Deployment Plan (JDP) for the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean*

In cooperation with the European Commission and Member States, EFCA adopts annually Joint Deployment Plans (JDP). The EU has established a specific control and inspection programme for fisheries exploiting ICCAT species in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean Sea and for certain demersal and pelagic fisheries in the Mediterranean Sea (Commission Implementing Decision 2018/1986, Annex I). Under this programme, the Decision 2024/40 of EFCA, amending Decision n°2018/030, establishes a Joint Deployment Plan in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea for 2025. This Joint Deployment Plan coordinates the control and inspection activities of the Member States and EFCA and it implements the ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection in the EU. One specific campaign targets highly migratory species fisheries, including the fishery for swordfish in the Mediterranean.

This Joint Deployment Plan brings the Specific Control and Inspection Programme into effect and covers all fishing and fishing related activities by controls at sea and on land, as well as in stages of the market chain. Under the JDP, EFCA will coordinate in 2025 joint inspection and surveillance activities in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean involving a number of fishery patrol vessels and aircrafts from EU Member States. EFCA also has its own chartered offshore fisheries patrol vessel and aerial surveillance capacity. Whilst the operational strategies and precise areas of operation remain confidential, the areas covered by the 2025 JDP will be the eastern Atlantic (ICES Areas VII, VIII, IX, X and FAO division (CECAF) 34.1.2) and the Mediterranean; (FAO subareas 37.1, 37.2 and 37.3). The control operations will particularly focus on, but are not restricted to, longline fisheries and landings for the Mediterranean stock of swordfish.

In 2025, the EU will conduct a minimum of 532 days of control and inspection activities at sea and around 24 days of air surveillance, which reflects the number of days committed for specific campaigns under the JDP by EFCA and the EU Member States actively fishing for Mediterranean swordfish.

A JDP Steering Group, composed by representatives of EFCA, the European Commission and the EU Member States, guides the overall strategy of inspection activities and supervises the JDP implementation. The strategy and control priorities are based on an annual risk assessment carried out by the EU Member States under the coordination of EFCA.

All cases of potential non-compliance will be forwarded to the flag State of the vessel/operator concerned and to the ICCAT Secretariat, where required, in accordance with the procedures laid down in the respective dedicated ICCAT recommendations.

The EFCA is also cooperating with EMSA (European Maritime Safety Agency) and FRONTEX (European Border and Coast Guard Agency), each within its mandate, to support the national authorities carrying out coast guard functions, by providing services, information, equipment and training as well as by coordinating multipurpose operations. Among the tools used to support these multipurpose operations is the EFCA IMS (Integrated Maritime Service), an application that provides an integrated maritime picture based on the real-time fusion of VMS, Automatic Identification System (AIS) and other maritime related data.

* + - 1. *Member States annual Inspection plans*

Following Article 26 of Regulation (EU) N° 2019/1154 and in line with paragraph 6 of Rec. 16-05, each EU Member State concerned has developed and submitted a 2025 ICCAT inspection plan as part of its National Control Programme for Mediterranean swordfish. These are extensive programmes containing a description of the resources and inspection strategies that Member States commit to implement within their jurisdiction.

These programmes, as required under the Specific Control and Inspection Programme (see above) include a series of inspection 'benchmarks' consistent with:

a) the monitoring of inspections at sea in the EU and international waters on the basis of a minimum percentage of sea inspections on vessels depending on the risk identified for the sector;

b) the monitoring of the technical measures and, in particular of the closure periods (for Mediterranean swordfish and Mediterranean albacore); and

c) the monitoring of inspections at landing, including inspections at landing and at first sale, on the basis of a minimum percentage of inspections at landing.

These National Programmes are in full accordance with the conservation and management measures adopted in Recommendation 16-05.

**Capacity Management Plan (paras 6-10)**

See below.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **MED SWO Vessel Fleet** |  | **Total Fleet (vessels)** |
| **Type**  | **Number of vessels in reference period (average 2013-2016)** | **Number of vessels in reference period** **(year 2016)** | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
| Longliner over 40m | 3 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Longliner between 24 and 40m | 121 | 18 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 11 | 13 | 13 |
| Longliner less than 24m | 5559 | 1836 | 1652 | 1625 | 1618 | 1606 | 1401 | 1466 | 1392 |
| Handline | 50 | 58 | 51 | 51 | 52 | 62 | 71 | 15 | 48 |
| Harpoon | 86 | 13 | 13 | 14 | 14 | 14 | 11 | 15 | 16 |
| Sport/Recreational (rod & reel) | 5822 | 5463 | 5464 | 5464 | 5464 | 5023 | 5464 | 5464 | 1096 |
| Trap | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other (please specify) | 1875 | 1566 | 269 | 279 | 262 | 282 | 282 | 287 | 312 |
| Total number of vessels < 7m  | 6574 | 4557 | 3847 | 3834 | 3819 | 3482 | 3623 | 3793 | **1327** |
| Total number of vessels > 7m  | 6945 | 4401 | 3618 | 3615 | 3606 | 3521 | 3595 | 3130 | **1550** |
| Total fleet | 13518 | 8958 | 7465 | 7449 | 7426 | 7003 | 7218 | 7255 | **2877** |
| Quota  |  |  | 6972.52 | 6763.35 | 6560.44 | 6363.64 | 6363.64 | 6363.64 | 6363.64 |
| **Adjusted quota (if applicable)** |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |

**Morocco**

**Year of Fishing Plan: 2025**

**1. Introduction**

In accordance with the provisions of Recommendation 16-05, Morocco presents its 2025 Mediterranean fishing plan.

In accordance with the fishing allocations adopted by ICCAT during the intersessional meeting of Panel 4 held in Madrid, in February 2017 and Recommendation 24-11, the 2025 national quota in the Mediterranean area amounts to 896.47 t, i.e. the same quota as for 2024. This quota will be distributed among the different operational sectors targeting swordfish: the artisanal and coastal segment.

In Morocco, Mediterranean swordfish fishing activity is regulated by the provisions of Recommendation 16‑05 establishing a multi-annual recovery plan for Mediterranean swordfish and Decree No. 1112-22 of 14 April 2022 on the swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*) fishery development and management plan.

**2. Details of fishing plan**

In accordance with the provisions of the national fishing capacity management plan, established in Articles 6 to 10 of ICCAT Recommendation 16-05, the maximum fishing capacity authorized to fish Mediterranean swordfish is distributed as follows:

The catches of artisanal fishing boats and coastal fishing vessels are authorised by the Moroccan administration to fish Mediterranean swordfish and are accounted within the quota limit allocated to Morocco by ICCAT.

Artisanal boats fishing swordfish amount to 2,972 boats with no more than 3 GRT and an average engine power of 30 CV. The coastal fleet fishing swordfish amounts to around 219 longliners. These vessels generally measure around 19 m and have an average engine power of 210 CV with less than 150 TJB.

Coastal boats and vessels authorized to actively fish swordfish use handline and surface longline in accordance with the requirements of Rec. 16-05.

In the 2025 fishing season, the Mediterranean swordfish fishing quota is an olympic quota. Fishing vessels catch swordfish until the depletion of the quota allocated to Morocco by ICCAT.

Morocco undertakes to comply with all the provisions of Recommendation 16-05 during the 2025 fishing campaign.

|  | *ICCAT requirement (per* [*Rec. 16-05*](https://www.iccat.int/Documents/Recs/compendiopdf-e/2016-05-e.pdf)*)* | *Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement* | *Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)* | *Note:* |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **1** | **Fleet development plan (para 9)** | The list of coastal vessels and artisanal boats catching Mediterranean swordfish are registered in the ICCAT SWO-MD Record.  | These vessels are recorded in the national registry of the fleet and hold a fishing license in accordance with the Decree No. 02-92-1026 of 29 December 1992, amended and supplemented and establishing the terms and conditions of issuance and renewal of fishing licenses in the EEZ. |  |
| **2** | **Choice of fishery closure periods** **(para 11-13)** | The closure of the fishing season applies to the period from 1 October to 30 November and during the additional period of one month from 15 February to 15 March. | Decree No. 1112-22 of 14 April 2022 on the swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*) fishery development and management plan. |  |
| **3** | **Recreational and sport fisheries** **(para. 21-26)** | Currently, Morocco does not operate any recreational and sport fisheries but they could be developed in the coming years. | Dahir No. 1-14-95 of 12 May 2014 enacting Law No. 15-12 to prevent and combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and amending and supplementing Dahir No. 1-73-255 of 23 November 1973 on the maritime fishing regulation. |  |
| **4** | **Allocation of by-catch and detail of the limits by vessel/operation (para 30)** | Mediterranean swordfish by-catch taken by other vessels which are not authorised to actively fish Mediterranean swordfish amounts to 0.3% (2.47 t) of the quota allocated to Morocco. This catch shall be accounted and deducted from the quota allocated to Morocco by ICCAT for the 2025 fishing season.  | Decree No. 1112-22 of 14 April 2022 on the swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*) fishery development and management plan. |  |
| **5** | **Recording and communication of catches (para 35-37)** | Transmission to the ICCAT Secretariat of quarterly swordfish catches.Communication to the ICCAT Secretariat of the swordfish fishery closure dates (if the quota is reached). |  |  |
| **6** | **Measures taken to control landings** **(para 34)** | Control at landing ports, fishing sites and fish markets with the obligation of effective weighing of landings of the artisanal and coastal fishing fleet prior to the first sale.Mandatory system of reporting of catches at landing and monitoring of trade flow through a catch certification scheme.Use of the ICCAT swordfish statistical document programme. |  |  |
| **7** | **CPC Scientific Observer (para 44)** | Vessels over 15 m do not actively fish Mediterranean swordfish. Therefore, national observers will not be deployed. |  |  |
| **8** | **Other requirements: Minimum size** **(para. 14-17)** | Catching, retaining, transhipping, transferring, landing, storage, selling, displaying or offering to sell Mediterranean swordfish weighing less than 12.6 kg or measuring less than 100 cm Lower Jaw Fork Length (LJFL) is prohibited. Authorised bycatch of maximum 5% in number of Mediterranean swordfish caught below the minimum size. All swordfish less than the minimum size would be recorded and deducted from Morocco’s allocated quota. | Decree of the Ministry of Fisheries and Merchant Marine No. 1154-88 of 20 safar 1409 (3 October 1988) establishing a minimum trade size for species caught in Moroccan sea waters as amended and supplemented by Ministerial Decree No. 3935-21 of 24 December 2021. |  |
| **9** | **Other requirements:** **List of authorised ports for SWO-MD (para 31)** | Transmission to the ICCAT Secretariat of CP24 on designated ports for landing Mediterranean swordfish for the 2025 season:* List of designated ports for landing and transhipment of swordfish for the 2025 season: Tanger Ville.
* List of ports designated only for landing swordfish for the 2025 season: Al Hoceima, Asilah, Jebba Ksar Sghir, Mdiq, Nador and Ras kebdana.
 |  |  |

**Inspection Plan**

***a) CPC inspection and control (para 13)***

Fishery monitoring, control and surveillance practices will be implemented in accordance with national regulation and the provisions of ICCAT recommendations on control and inspection, in particular those stated in Recommendation 16-05. These practices which fall under the framework of the national control plan of maritime fishery activities will focus on measures concerning the following actions:

* Monitoring and control of landings of coastal and artisanal fleets with the obligation of effective weighing before the first sale and compliance with the catch documentation system implemented at national level. This national documentation system allows the control by direct systematic cross-checks between catch reporting at landing and the data of the first sale and allows a supplementary cross-checking tool for the validation of ICCAT statistical documents.
* VMS monitoring of fishing vessels is conducted by the FMC of the Fisheries Department with an online availability of real time position data for the Regional Administration of Maritime fisheries (Maritime Fishery Delegations).
* Implementation of a procedure for communication and recording of fishery information, in particular, through the implementation of an ICCAT statistical document programme.
* Compliance with the provisions regarding port inspection measures of foreign vessels and, compliance with the international commitments of Morocco with respect to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT).

Sea surveillance is also ensured by other authorities empowered within the framework of assignments conferred by national regulations.

***b) Joint international inspection (para 39-41; Annex 1[[8]](#footnote-8))***

Morocco does not account for catching vessels that participate in fishing activities directed at Mediterranean swordfish outside the EEZ (international waters).

Therefore, Morocco will not deploy an inspection vessel.

**Capacity Management Plan (paras 6-10)**

See below.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SWO-MD Vessel Fleet** | **Choose one** | **Total fleet (vessels)** |  |
| **Type**  | **Number of vessels in reference period (average 2013-2016)** | **Number of vessels in reference period (year 2016)** | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
| Longliner over 40 m |   | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Longliner between 24 and 40 m |   | 30 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Longliner less than 24 m |   | 389 | 279 | 279 | 212 | 212 | 212 | 218 | 218 |
| Handline |   | 2936 | 3244 | 2838 | 3016 | 2977 | 2975 | 2972 |  |
| Harpoon |   | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Sport/recreational (rod and reel) |   | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Trap |   | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other (please specify) |   | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total number of vessels < 7 m  |  | 2912 | 3220 | 2814 | 2882 | 2905 | 2903 | 2871 | 2871 |
| Total number of vessels > 7 m  |  | 443 | 303 | 303 | 347 | 285 | 285 | 320 | 320 |
| Total fleet |  | 3355 | 3523 | 3117 | 3229 | 3190 | 3188 | 3191 | 3191 |
| Quota  |   |  | 982.26 | 952.79 | 924.2 | 896.47 | 896.47 | 896.47 | 896.47 |
| **Adjusted quota (if applicable)** |   |  | **933.15** | **930.79** | **912.9** | **894.00\*** | **894.00\*** | **894.00\*** | **894.00\*** |

 \* 0.3% of the quota, i.e. 2.47 t, deducted from the national quota, is set aside for potential quota overruns and potential dead discards of swordfish.

**Tunisia**

**Year of Fishing Plan: 2025**

1. **Introduction**

Tunisia has an artisanal fishery specialised in swordfish catches, which operates with coastal vessels that measure between 3.7 and 19 m, including a small part (10%) measuring over 15m. The total number of these vessels amount to 709 vessels.

In Tunisia, swordfish fishing is regulated by a set of legislative and regulatory provisions, including:

* The provisions of the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) and in particular Rec. 16-05, establishing a multi-annual recovery programme for swordfish in the Mediterranean.
* Law No. 94-13 of 31 January 1994 on fishing activities.
* Decision of the Minister of Agriculture of 28 September 1995 regarding the organization of fishing activities.
* Decision of the Minister of Agriculture, Hydraulic Resources and Fisheries of 27 December 2024, repealing the Decision of 22 April 2019, which stipulates methods of the swordfish fishery, the closure period as well as the bait used.

The exploitation of this fishery resource is subject to the granting of a fishing licence. subject to a coastal fishing authorisation issued by the competent authority. This authorisation covers a variety of species, caught by selective gear, including particularly, longline. Fishermen undertake to strictly comply with fishery closure periods, avoiding targeting swordfish during these temporary windows. The majority of the swordfish caught is destined to the local market.

In addition, specific regulations have been adopted, prohibiting fishing for swordfish during three consecutive months from 1 January to 31 March each year. Fishing vessels using longline and targeting swordfish must comply with the following technical specifications:

- Maximum number of hooks used must not exceed 2500 units for each fishing vessel.

- The height of the hook must not be less than 7 cm.

- Use whole bait composed only of fin fish.

The minimum catch size was established at 100 cm, measured from the end of the lower jaw to the posterior tip of the shortest caudal ray, as established by Ministerial Decree of 27 December 2024. For 2025, the swordfish fishing quota allocated to Tunisia is 865.37 t.

1. **Details of fishing plan**

Fishing for swordfish is conducted by pelagic longline and management of this activity is regulated in accordance with the provisions of ICCAT Rec. 16-05 and the domestic legislation in force. Tunisia’s allocated quota, established at 865.37 t, will not be distributed individually by each vessel, and will be applied to the coastal fishing fleet registered on the ICCAT vessel record.

The fishing season will be closed when the national quota is exhausted. A circular will be distributed to all the competent services, informing on the prohibition of fishing, landing, transporting and processing of swordfish.

|  | *ICCAT requirement**(per* [*Rec. 16-05*](https://www.iccat.int/Documents/Recs/compendiopdf-e/2016-05-e.pdf)*)* | *Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement* | *Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)* | *Note* |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **1** | **Fleet development plan (para 9)** | * The swordfish fishing programme is established to ensure strict compliance with Tunisia’s allocated quota with the relevant provisions contained in national legislation and regulation and the guidelines issued by ICCAT, in particular Recommendation 16-05.
* Since the start of this programme, Tunisia has strengthened its efforts regarding the regional authorities to update the record of fishing vessels authorised to target swordfish leading to a revision of the potential fleet size. The number of this potential fleet has been revised from 403 to 872.
* In addition, the number of these vessels has been adjusted to 709 in 2024.
 | * Law No. 94-13 of 31 January 1994 on fishing activities.
* Decree No. 99-2130 of 27 September 1999 establishing the composition and functioning modalities of the advisory board for the organization of fishing activity, as amended by Law No. 2004-2138 and its amendments.
* Decree No. 99-2129 of 27 September 1999 establishing the composition and functioning modalities of the advisory board issuing authorisations for construction and import of fishing vessels and its amendments.
 |  |
| **2** | **Choice of fishery closure periods (para 11-13)** | Fishing for swordfish is prohibited from 1 January to 31 March each year.  | * Law No. 94-13 of 31 January 1994 regarding fishing activities and its amendments.
* Decision of the Minister of Agriculture of 27 December 2024 regarding the organization of the swordfish fishery.
 |  |
| **3** | **Recreational and sports fisheries (para 21-26)** | No sport or recreational fisheries will be permitted. | * Law No. 94-13 of 31 January 1994 regarding fishing activities and its amendments.
* Decision of the Minister of Agriculture of 28 September 1995 related to the organisation of fishing activities.
 |  |
| **4** | **Allocation of bycatch and detail of the limits by vessel/operation** **(para 30)** | Tunisia has an artisanal swordfish fishery which operates with coastal vessels using different gear types, including longline.The right to access this resource is subject to a coastal fishing authorisation which is issued by the competent authority. This authorisation is not specific to swordfish since this segment of the fleet targets several species stocks using different types of selective gear, including longline, and no individual quotas are distributed. However, the competent authority ensures compliance by fishers with the fishery closure periods, reglementary size and number of hooks per fishing vessel. | * Law No. 94-13 of 31 January 1994 regarding fishing activities and its amendments.
* Decision of the Minister of Agriculture of 27 December 2024 regarding the organization of the swordfish fishery.
 |  |
| **5** | **Recording and communication of catches (para 35-37)** | Number of days at sea of the vessels (small boats) actively fishing swordfish does not exceed one week. The master of the fishing vessel records the information on fishing operations in the logbook. A copy of this logbook is transmitted to the competent authority on landing.  | * Law No. 94-13 of 31 January 1994 regarding fishing activities.
 |  |
| **6** | **Measures taken to control landings** **(para 34)** | In-port inspections are carried out by the fishery services that are responsible for controlling swordfish landings, fishing gear and onboard documents. | * Law No. 94-13 of 31 January 1994 regarding fishing activities and its amendments.
* Decision of the Minister of Agriculture, Hydraulic Resources and Fisheries of 26 June 2015, establishing the type of instruments to enable collection in real time of information on the positions of the fishing vessels at sea and the vessels that must be equipped with them.
 |  |
| **7** | **CPC Scientific Observer (para 44)** | Swordfish fishing vessels over 15 m, like all the other coastal fishing vessels, do not only target swordfish. As such, deployment of a scientific observer onboard these vessels is not envisaged. | * Law No. 94-13 of 31 January 1994 regarding fishing activities and its amendments.
* Decision of the Minister of Agriculture, Hydraulic Resources and Fisheries of 26 June 2015, establishing the type of instruments to enable collection in real time of information on the positions of the fishing vessels at sea and the vessels that must be equipped with them.
 | A scientific monitoring programme of the swordfish fishery has been launched. It is based on the collection of scientific data on landing in the main production ports of production. |
| **8** | **Other requirements (specify)** |  |  |  |

**Inspection Plan**

1. ***CPC’s inspection and control (para. 13)***

During the swordfish fishery closure period, at-sea inspections will be conducted by certified national officers, i.e. fisheries officers, agents of the national maritime guards, officers of the national navy and the representatives of customs officials.

To guarantee increased monitoring, joint control campaigns between the fishery authorities and other bodies (national maritime guard, national navy, ministry of trade, municipalities, and customs) will be strengthened. These control missions, specifically planned during the closure period, will be conducted in landing areas and fishing ports, as well as in fishery products distribution circuits to ensure strict compliance with the regulations established.

1. ***Joint international inspection (paras. 39-41; Annex 1[[9]](#footnote-9))***

Catching vessels do not carry out swordfish directed fishing activities but operate in a versatile way. In fact, Tunisia does not envisage deployment of an inspection vessel exclusively dedicated to this fishery in the Convention area.

**Capacity management plan (paras 6-10)**

See below.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Vessels fleet** **SWO-MD** | **Choose one** | **Total Fleet (vessels)** |
| **Type**  | **Number of vessels in reference period (average 2013-2016)** | **Number of vessels in reference period** **(year 2016)** | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
| Longliner over 40 m | 0 |   | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Longliner between 24 and 40 m | 0 |   | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Longliner less than 24 m | 0 |   | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Handline | 0 |   | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Harpoon | 0 |   | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Sport/recreational (rod and reel) | 0 |   | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Trap | 0 |   | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other (please specify) | 402 |   | 801 | 859 | 818 | 713 | 710 | 709 | 709 |
| Total number of vessels < 7 m  | 4 |  | 28 | 28 | 21 | 21 | 16 | 17 | 17 |
| Total number of vessels > 7 m  | 398 |  | 773 | 831 | 797 | 692 | 694 | 692 | 692 |
| Total fleet | 402 |  | 801 | 859 | 818 | 713 | 710 | 709 | 709 |
| Quota  |   |   | 948.14 | 914.71 | 892.13 | 865.37 | 865.37 | 865.37 | 865.37 |
| **Adjusted quota (if applicable)** |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |

**Türkiye**

**Fishing Plan Year: 2025**

**1. Introduction**

Mediterranean swordfish quota of 378.69 t pertinent to Türkiye will be assigned for utilization by 123 SWO‑MD fishing vessels with special fishing permits for the year 2025. 10% of the quota will be assigned for coastal artisanal fisheries. There will be no activities envisaged for sports and recreational fisheries targeting SWO-MD. Distribution of the authorized number of fishing vessels by gear type in 2025 is provided in this plan.

The Mediterranean swordfish fishery will be regulated through the updated Ministerial Notification No. 6/1 Regulating Commercial Fisheries. Ministerial Notification is based on the Fisheries Law No. 1380[[10]](#footnote-10) and Regulation No. 4988 has been issued to be applied for the period of 01/09/2024 - 31/08/2028.

**2. Details of fishing plan**

Details of all fishing gear groups that catch Mediterranean swordfish, including the total number of vessels in each group, is provided in this plan.

The individual quotas shall be allocated in accordance with criteria developed domestically in consideration of past performances of fishing vessels as well as regional and socio-economic aspects of coastal artisanal fisheries in Türkiye.

A reporting system that would require fishermen to record and report to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MoAF) following each landing within 48 hours, will be mandatory. The reporting system shall involve regular landing controls and checks will be implemented to monitor and control catches and to ensure vessel and gear group quotas are respected.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | *ICCAT Requirement* *(per* [*Rec. 16-05*](https://www.iccat.int/Documents/Recs/compendiopdf-e/2016-05-e.pdf)*)*  | *Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement*  | *Relevant* *domestic laws or regulations* *(as applicable)* | *Note* |
| **1.** | **Fleet development plan (para 9)** | N/A | N/A |  |
| **2.** | **Choice of closed fishing seasons (paras 11-13)** | Closed Season:15 Feb – 15 March1 October – 30 NovemberIn accordance with the paragraph 8 of the ICCAT Rec. 22-05, closure periods for Mediterranean albacore will be implemented as “from 1 October to 30 November” and “from 15 February to 15 March”. | Ministerial Notification No. 6/1 Regulating Commercial Fisheries (Article 25) |  |
| **3.** | **Recreational and sport fisheries (paras 21-26)** | No specific quota is assigned for recreational and sports fisheries. | N/A |  |
| **4.** | **Allocation for bycatch and detail of limit per vessel/operation (para 30)** | Maximum bycatch limit per vessel and per fishing operation shall not be more than 5%. The bycatch in question shall be deducted from Türkiye’s TAC. | Article 18 of Ministerial Notification No. 6/1 Regulating Commercial Fisheries |  |
| **5.** | **Catch recording and reporting** **(paras 35-37)** | Authorized SWO-MD catching vessels above 15 m LoA shall record, report and communicate to the Ministry (either by electronic or bound logbooks or in other means) weekly catch reports on relevant details of SWO-MD catches (spatial, temporal and biological details) following any given fishing operation without delay. The Ministry shall submit a compilation of weekly catch reports to the ICCAT Secretariat on a quarterly basis in line with the required format.  | Article 49, paragraph 9 of Ministerial Notification No. 6/1 Regulating Commercial Fisheries |  |
| **6.** | **Measures taken to control landings (para 34)** | Ministerial inspectors shall perform regular inspections and checks at landing spots to ensure the validity of catches and level of compliance to individual quotas, bycatch limitations and other rules.  | The Law on Fisheries No. 1380  |  |
| **7.** | **CPC scientific observer (para 44)** | Scientific observers shall be deployed on at least 5% pelagic longliners over 15 meters LoA. Additionally, Ministerial inspectors accompanied by scientific observers shall perform regular checks at the most busy and operational landing spots to account for 10% of the total landings points, in a way to improve data collection and sampling. | Article 49, paragraph 25 of Ministerial Notification No. 6/1 Regulating Commercial Fisheries  |  |
| **8.** | **Other requirements (specify)** | Technical Regulations: * The catch of swordfish smaller than 110 cm is prohibited.
* It is mandatory for the fishing vessels to catch swordfish to obtain a “Fishing Permit” from the provincial directorate issuing vessel licenses. Applications by fishermen to acquire a special fishing permit for swordfish is subject to some technical criteria. When an application made is approved by the Ministry, the special permit information is simultaneously recorded in the Fisheries Information System (FIS) operated by the Ministry.
* When longlining for tuna and swordfish only hooks with a gape width 2.8 cm and bigger circle hooks are permitted. The use of circle hooks with an offset of no more than 10 degrees has also been adopted (in line with ICCAT Rec. 22-12).

During the closed season, SWO-MD fishermen engaged in other types of coastal fisheries, trawling, tourism and/or aquaculture activities.In accordance with para 12 of Rec. 16-05 Türkiye will implement the closure periods for the longline vessels targeting Mediterranean albacore as from 1 October to 30 November and from 15 February to 15 March. | Ministerial Notification No. 6/1 Regulating Commercial Fisheries (Articles 15, 17 and 25)Ministerial Notification No. 6/2 (Article 15)  |  |

**Inspection Plan**

***a) CPC’s inspection and control (para 13)***

Inspection and controls have been the major components of the activities of MoAF for ensuring the efficiency of the closed season and size regulations set for Mediterranean swordfish. The inspection activities, which are still ongoing, have been concentrated at most potential fishing grounds, landing points, retail and wholesale markets. Ministerial inspectors shall perform regular inspections and checks at landing spots to ensure the validity of catches and level of compliance to individual quotas, bycatch limitations and other rules. Each CPC will provide information on its plan for inspection and control of closed season.

In this context, 717.724 kg of SWO-MD were seized in 2024 in consequence of the inspections conducted by MoAF inspectors at several coastal provinces. A total of 301.87 kg of SWO-MD were seized by Ministerial inspectors previously in 2023.

In accordance with the relevant provisions of ICCAT Rec. 16-05, a list of designated landing points for SWO‑MD has been made available and was reported to ICCAT on 19 March 2025.

In 2002 and 2003, the EU and ICCAT enforced a recommendation prohibiting the usage of driftnets in the Mediterranean. Afterwards, driftnetting in Türkiye was also banned in 2006. Subsequently, Türkiye announced its position for elimination of modified driftnet usage with the ICCAT Circular # 3225/2010. Accordingly, usage of all modified driftnets was prohibited as from 1 July 2011. Accordingly, all fishing vessels with the modified driftnets have been placed under the obligation to shift their fishing gears in accordance with provisions of Revised Notification No. 2/1 Regulating Commercial Fishing. MoAF continued its efforts to promote the usage of more selective fishing methods and fishing gear by the majority of Turkish swordfish fishermen, with several regional training activities.

***b) Joint international inspection (paras 39-41; Annex 1[[11]](#footnote-11))***

Inspectors from Turkish Coast Guard have been trained to actively participate to inspections for SWO-MD in the context of ICCAT Joint Scheme of International Inspection.

Türkiye plans to continue its longstanding voluntary contribution to the ICCAT Joint Scheme of International Inspection in 2025. In this respect, the Turkish Coast Guard Command (TCGC) intends to designate 79 inspection boats, 17 air control assets (helicopters / planes) and 432 inspectors on the field during the 2025 BFT-E fishing campaign. Additionally, the Turkish Naval Forces Command is expected to join the inspection scheme of 2025 through assigning 48 inspection vessels and 115 inspectors.

Furthermore, an additional inspection vessel - namely *AKDENİZ ARAŞTIRMA 1 -* that has been assigned by MoAF will also contribute to the activities under the ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspections in the region.

Based on a risk analysis approach, the locations where the fishing vessels were mostly concentrated during previous seasons are planned to be focused on for 2025.

The means of at-sea inspections shall be deployed SWO-MD fishing grounds which are determined based on 2024’s risk assessment data.

**Capacity Management Plan (paras 6-10)**

See below.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **MED SWO Vessel Fleet** |  | **Total Fleet (vessels)** |
| **Type**  | **Number of vessels in reference period (average 2013-2016)** | **Number of vessels in reference period** **(year 2016)** | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
| Longliner over 40m | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Longliner between 24 and 40m | 9 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Longliner less than 24m | 235 | 230 | 217 | 204 | 204 | 193 | 111 | 103 | 94 |
| Handline | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Harpoon | 30 | 26 | 20 | 18 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 20 | 29 |
| Sport/Recreational (rod & reel) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Trap | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other (please specify) | 7,015 | 6,704 | 6,252 | 6,133 | 6,063 | 6,063 | 6,063 | 6,063 | 6,063 |
| Total number of vessels < 7m  | 7,015 | 6,704 | 6,252 | 6,133 | 6,063 | 6,063 | 6,063 | 6,063 | 6,063 |
| Total number of vessels > 7m  | 277 | 267 | 237 | 222 | 219 | 219 | 219 | 113 | 107 |
| Total fleet | 7,292 | 6,971 | 6,489 | 6,355 | 6,282 | 6,129 | 6,129 | 6,176 | 6,170 |
| Quota  |  |  | 415 | 402 | 390.4 | 378.69 | 378.69 | 378.69 | 378.69 |
| **Adjusted quota (if applicable)** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

1. As amended by [Rec. 22-20](https://www.iccat.int/Documents/Recs/compendiopdf-e/2022-20-e.pdf). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. As amended by [Rec. 22-20](https://www.iccat.int/Documents/Recs/compendiopdf-e/2022-20-e.pdf). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Regulation (EU) 2019/1154 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 on a multiannual recovery plan for Mediterranean swordfish. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Regulation (EU) 2023/2842 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 November 2023 amending Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009, and amending Council Regulations (EC) No 1967/2006 and (EC) No 1005/2008 and Regulations (EU) 2016/1139, (EU) 2017/2403 and (EU) 2019/473 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards fisheries control. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2018/1986 of 13 December 2018 establishing specific control and inspection programmes for certain fisheries. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Regulation (EU) 2017/1004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2017 on the establishment of a Union framework for the collection, management and use of data in the fisheries sector and support for scientific advice regarding the common fisheries policy. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. As amended by [Rec. 22-20](https://www.iccat.int/Documents/Recs/compendiopdf-e/2022-20-e.pdf). [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. As amended by [Rec. 22-20](https://www.iccat.int/Documents/Recs/compendiopdf-e/2022-20-e.pdf). [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. As amended by [Rec. 22-20](https://www.iccat.int/Documents/Recs/compendiopdf-e/2022-20-e.pdf). [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. The Law on Fisheries (No. 1380) is the main legislation that covers matters related to the protection, production and control of fisheries and fishery products. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. As modified by [Rec. 22-20](https://www.iccat.int/Documents/Recs/compendiopdf-e/2022-20-e.pdf). [↑](#footnote-ref-11)