

RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT AMENDING THE RECOMMENDATION 17-04 ON A HARVEST CONTROL RULE FOR NORTH ATLANTIC ALBACORE SUPPLEMENTING THE MULTI-ANNUAL CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME IN REC. 16-06

RECOGNIZING that *Recommendation by ICCAT on a Multi-annual Conservation and Management Programme for North Atlantic Albacore (Rec. 16-06)* and *Recommendation by ICCAT on a Harvest Control Rule for North Atlantic Albacore Supplementing the Multi-annual Conservation and Management Programme (Rec. 17-04)* apply in 2020 and subsequent years, but that certain provisions will expire at the end of 2020,

UNDERSTANDING that due to the pandemic caused by COVID-19 it is difficult to have substantive discussion on conservation and management measures,

NOTING, however, that the SCRS recommends a new TAC based on the current interim harvest control rule (HCR),

MINDFUL that under such circumstances, extension of the application of the interim HCR to establish the new TAC together with implementation of a pro-rata increase of the catch and other limits for one year only, while not establishing a precedent, would provide a straightforward and science-based approach to management in this extraordinary year;

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

1. Paragraph 3 of Rec. 17-04 shall be replaced with:

“3. The North Atlantic albacore stock assessment shall be conducted every three (3) years, with the next stock assessment to occur in 2023.”

2. Paragraph 8 of Rec. 17-04 shall be replaced with:

“8. Taking into account paragraphs 4, 5 and 7, a TAC of 37,801 t is established for 2021. This TAC is allocated among the CPCs as follows:

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Quota (t) for 2021</i>
European Union	29,095.1
Chinese Taipei	4,416.9
United States	711.5
Venezuela	337.5

The allocation scheme above shall be reviewed and amended, as appropriate, at the 2021 Commission meeting.

Chinese Taipei is authorized to transfer 200 t of North Atlantic albacore to Belize for 2021.”

3. Paragraph 17 of Rec. 17-04 shall be replaced with:

“17. The Commission shall review the interim HCR in 2021 with a view to adopting a long-term management procedure.”

4. Paragraph 18 of Rec. 17-04 shall be replaced with the following:

“18. This Recommendation amends paragraphs 3 and 4 of Rec. 16-06¹ and does not set a precedent for future implementation of HCRs. Taking into account relevant scientific advice, the Commission shall review and revise Rec. 17-04 as amended by this Recommendation and Rec. 16-06 as amended by Rec. 20-03, including consolidation of relevant provisions into a single recommendation at its 2021 Commission meeting.”

¹ Rec. 16-06 has been separately amended by Rec. 20-03. All instances of “Rec. 16-06” found in Rec. 17-04 (as amended by this Recommendation (Rec. 20-04)) shall be considered as Rec. 16-06 amended by Rec. 20-03.