

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT TO GRANT PROVISIONAL MEASURES TO DEVELOPING COASTAL
ICCAT CPCs FOR EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES RESULTING FROM RECOMMENDATION 19-05**

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

As it relates to the application of *Recommendation by ICCAT to establish rebuilding programs for blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish* (Rec. 19-05),

1. Caribbean coastal developing CPCs not included in the allocation table shall limit their landings of Atlantic blue marlin to 20 t and white marlin/roundscale spearfish to 10 t for 2025 and 2026.
2. Caribbean coastal developing CPCs shall be exempt from the 125% payback provision in paragraph 3b for landings in the biennial period of 2024 and 2025.
3. Recommendation 19-05 shall be modified as follows:
 - a) Paragraph 8bis shall be added as follows:

Once a CPC reaches its landing limit, all catches of blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish shall be discarded.
 - b) Paragraph 9 shall be modified as follows:

In derogation to paragraph 8bis, for CPCs with national legislation that prohibits dead discards, blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish that are dead when brought alongside the vessel may be retained, and landings of such fish shall not count against the limits established in paragraph 2, provided that:
 - the CPC prohibits such fish from being sold or otherwise entering into commerce, and
 - the CPC notifies the ICCAT Secretariat of its intent to exercise this exception and provides information to the Commission in the questionnaire portion of its Annual Report information on its retention requirement and measures in place to prohibit sale and entry into commerce.
4. In 2026, an intersessional meeting of Panel 4 shall take place to review ICCAT Rec. 19-05 to address implementation issues and improve the management of blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish. At least the following elements shall be considered:
 - a) The specific situation of Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and other affected coastal developing CPCs.
 - b) Evaluation and potential rectification of the historical compliance with previous measures.
 - c) Identifying data gaps and improving data collection, particularly in the affected coastal developing States.
 - d) The difference of marlins as target or bycatch species for the different ICCAT fleets.

5. During the intersessional meeting of Panel 4, the Caribbean SIDS and other affected coastal developing CPCs are encouraged to present their specific situation, including at least the following elements:
 - a) the interaction of their fisheries with marlins,
 - b) the importance of marlins for their coastal communities,
 - c) the destination market of marlin products,
 - d) their difficulties in implementing the current framework, and
 - e) their commitments to improve compliance and data collection.