

**RESOLUTION BY ICCAT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE UNITED NATIONS AGREEMENT ON THE PROTECTION OF MARINE BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY IN
AREAS BEYOND NATIONAL JURISDICTION (BBNJ)**

The Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (the BBNJ Agreement) will enter into force on 17 January 2026, and discussions are going on regarding its practical implementation in the near future, including the role to be played by Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) such as ICCAT.

WHEREAS with a view to deciding on the practical implementation of the Agreement, the first Conference of the Parties is expected to be held by the end of March 2026 [or before 16 January 2027];

WHEREAS the Agreement recognizes, in its Article 5.2, that “This Agreement shall be interpreted and applied in a manner that does not undermine legal instruments and frameworks and relevant global, regional, subregional and sectoral bodies and that promotes coherence and coordination with those instruments, frameworks and bodies”;

WHEREAS the Agreement recognizes, in its Article 10.2, that the provisions of Part II (Marine Genetic Resources, including the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits) shall not apply to fishing regulated under relevant international law and fishing-related activities; or fish or other living marine resources known to have been taken in fishing and fishing-related activities from areas beyond national jurisdiction, except where such fish or other living marine resources are regulated as utilization under Part II;

WHEREAS ICCAT has a long tradition of adopting measures to protect marine species that are impacted by fisheries targeting tuna and tuna-like species;

WHEREAS ICCAT, and notably its Standing Committee Research and Statistics (SCRS), has accumulated, over the years, an in-depth knowledge of the oceanic pelagic ecosystem that is extremely valuable for a meaningful implementation of the BBNJ Agreement;

WHEREAS it is therefore very important that ICCAT be prepared to make a substantial contribution, to the implementation of the Agreement in the oceanic ecosystem of the Atlantic Ocean and adjacent seas;

**THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE
CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RESOLVES:**

1. To strongly encourage CPCs to ratify the Protocol to amend the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, which will put ICCAT in a stronger position to contribute to the implementation of the BBNJ Agreement.
2. To ensure that the ongoing discussion on a new SCRS Science Strategic Plan will give due consideration to the need to provide advice on the protection of marine biodiversity in the context of the implementation of the BBNJ Agreement.
3. To ensure that the third performance review of the Commission, to be undertaken in the coming years, will give due consideration to potential improvements in its performance to allow, *inter alia*, cooperation and collaboration between ICCAT and BBNJ, based on best available scientific advice to the implementation of the BBNJ Agreement.
4. To encourage CPCs that are entitled to participate in the upcoming preparatory Commission as well as the upcoming Conference of the Parties to the Agreement, to underline, the social and economic importance of the fishing and the competence of RFMOs, including ICCAT, in the context of the implementation of the Agreement, and in particular with regard to food security, and to ensure that ICCAT is able to support the implementation of the BBNJ objectives in the delivery of its own functions.

5. To task the ICCAT Secretariat to continue to follow up the preparatory meetings as well as future relevant and important meetings of the BBNJ agreements that touch upon the work of RFMOs, with the objective of informing CPCs of the decisions taken and, in particular, of the more specific role that RFMOs will play in the implementation of the BBNJ Agreement.
6. To encourage the ICCAT Secretariat to continue to cooperate with other RFMOs, in particular tuna RFMOs, with a view to coordinate contributions to the BBNJ Agreement implementation process, and to inform CPCs of any development, within the remit and mandate of the Secretariat to represent factual ICCAT positions.
7. To ensure adequate follow up of this matter by incorporating BBNJ into the standing agenda point in plenary meetings of the Commission on issues covered under the remit of the Standing Working Group on Dialogue between Fisheries Scientists and Managers.