



From Science to Compliance

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ICCAT SECRETARIAT

Meeting: AOTPP Symposium

ICCAT CICTA CICAA



ORIGINS OF ICCAT

- **Symposium of the Commission for Technical Cooperation in Africa on Tuna in Dakar, 12-17 December 1960**
- **introduction of commercial long liners and purse seines - year-round fisheries - catches of tuna of all sizes.**
- **The first species-specific recommendation in 1972 - Recommendation by ICCAT on a Yellowfin Size Limit.**
- **Since the creation of ICCAT, a total of 38 measures specific to Tropical Tuna species have been adopted.**



THE ICCAT COMMISSION AND THE AOTTP

- Commission adopts binding Recommendations under Article VIII of the current Convention.
- Four Panels to deal with different species; Panel 1 for Tropical Tuna
- Science is the main basis for all ICCAT conservation and management measures, and is enshrined in the convention:
- Article VIII, para 1 of the Convention:

*The Commission may, **on the basis of scientific evidence**, make recommendations designed to maintain the populations of tuna and tuna-like fishes that may be taken in the Convention area at levels which will permit the maximum sustainable catch.*

- Reflected in Resolution 11-17, the *Resolution by ICCAT on Best Available Science*.



PREVIOUS TROPICAL TUNA RESEARCH

First large-scale ICCAT-wide research programmes on Tropical Tuna Species:

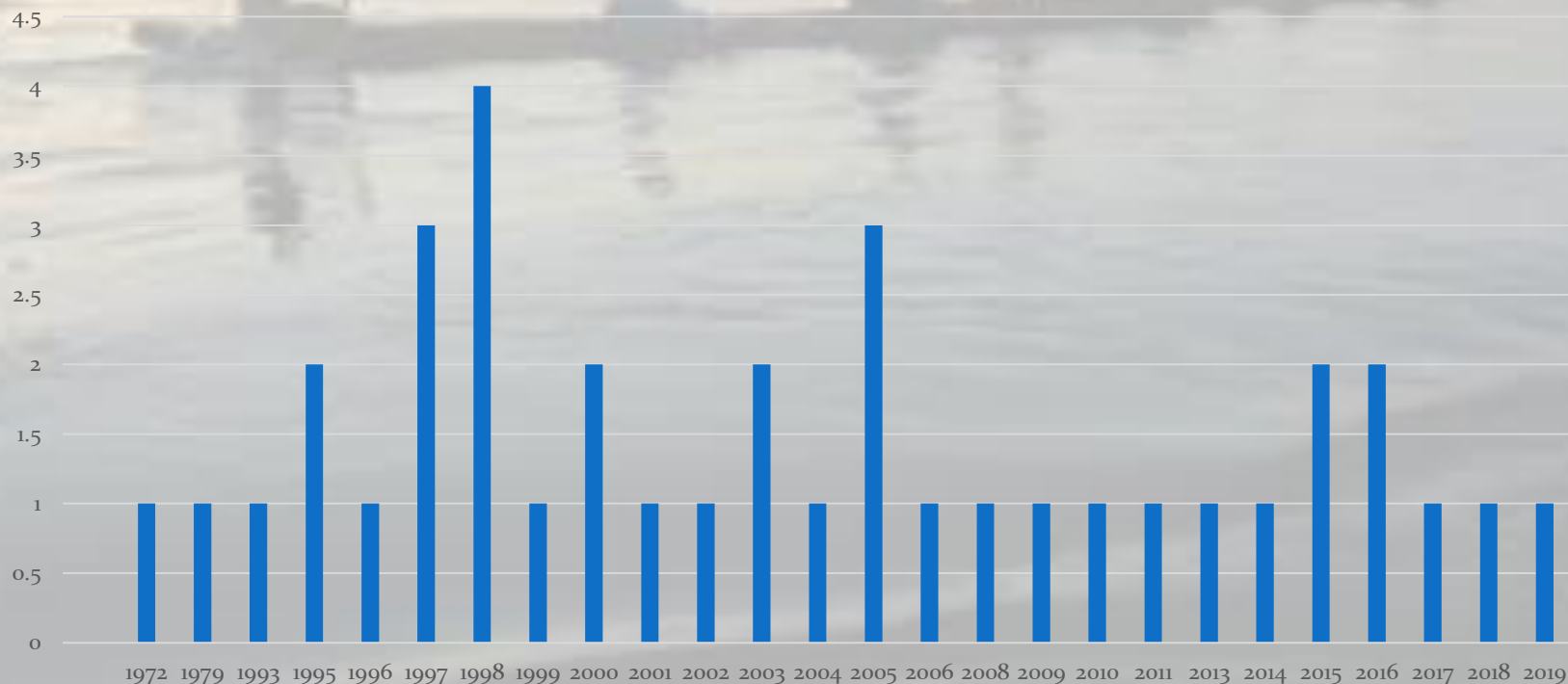
- **Skipjack year programme – 1979-1982:** Did not result in management measure for the target stock: the only measure on tropical tunas adopted was the 1979 – Recommendation by ICCAT on a bigeye tuna size limit.
- **Yellowfin year programme 1986-87:** Supplemental Regulatory Measures for the Management of Atlantic Yellowfin Tuna being adopted in 1993 and the Recommendation by ICCAT on Bigeye and Yellowfin Tunas in 1996.
- **Bigeye Tuna Year Programme 1999-2004 :** Led to the adoption in 2004 of the Recommendation by ICCAT on a multi-year conservation and management program for bigeye tuna [Rec. 04-01] which was the first multi-annual management plan for tropical tuna species to be adopted by ICCAT.



TROPICAL TUNA MEASURES SINCE 1972

- Early recommendations concentrated on minimum size, later measures have focused more on methods of reducing juvenile catches and hence avoid the need to discard dead or dying juveniles below such minimum size.

Tropical tuna measures 1972 to 2019





CURRENT MEASURES

- The SCRS reiterated the importance of the AOTTP
- Results of the programme help to reduce some of the uncertainties
- Contributes to improved scientific advice
- (see SCRS Report https://www.iccat.int/Documents/BienRep/REP_EN_18-19_II-2.pdf).
- It is on the basis of SCRS advice that the current *Recommendation by ICCAT to replace Recommendation 16-01 by ICCAT on a multi-annual conservation and management programme for tropical tunas* [Rec. 19-02] was negotiated.



Levels of Non-compliance

- Tropical tuna species are taken by over 60% of the ICCAT Contracting Parties throughout the entire Atlantic Ocean.
- Taken by many developing countries; have difficulties in implementing, complex measures which may require significant resources.
- The submission of information on FADs continues to be incomplete.



Implementation

- Problems created by COVID-19 led to further reporting difficulties in 2020
- Of 32 CPC which submitted Task 1 data for 2019, seven reported difficulties in implementing ICCAT measures in general, and three Tropical tuna related measures in particular;
- A total of 32% of those catching tropical tunas are having difficulties implementing ICCAT conservation and management measures for tropical tunas.

If measures cannot be implemented by all CPCs, this will undermine their effectiveness



Dangers of IUU fishing

- Non compliance can lead to lack of credibility
- Loose control regime can lead to IUU fishing
- Trade measures permitted under Rec. 06-13
- No need to have recourse to these since 2011

Science and managers need to work together to ensure that measures are effective



MANAGEMENT, COMPLIANCE AND STOCK RECOVERY – AN EXAMPLE

- An example of success: E-BFT – :
- 2006 - on the brink of collapse. First multi-annual management plan adopted.
- Stock continued to decline. More stringent measures and increased controls were adopted in 2008 and 2010 respectively.
- In 2010 the GBYP was initiated. Comprises many activities including tagging
- Helped to refine SCRS advice and hence the recovery plan and later management plan.
- Good controls, full compliance and improved science has brought this flagship species back from what many believed to be almost on the brink of extinction to a stock which can once again be fished at commercially viable levels without serious depletion



CONCLUSIONS

- Continued monitoring and advice of the SCRS and hence the results of the work of the AOTTP will be crucial to developing measures aimed at maintaining these stocks in 2021 and beyond.
- If compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures is not achieved, the resources provided by the CPCs and the hard work of the scientists will be to no avail.
- The future of these stocks is now in the hands of the managers and the industry.
- The case of bluefin tuna has shown that science and management together can work.



THANK YOU

