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**DRAFT RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT TO SUPPLEMENT RECOMMENDATION 16-01 BY
ICCAT ON A MULTI-ANNUAL CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME FOR
TROPICAL TUNAS**

Submitted by South Africa, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Japan, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, Uruguay

RECALLING the current multi-annual conservation and management programme for tropical tunas;

NOTING that the stocks of bigeye and yellowfin tuna are currently overfished, and that bigeye tuna is also subject to overfishing;

RECOGNISING that the TAC for bigeye tuna for 2016 was exceeded by eleven percent and that, as highlighted by the SCRS in 2017, this reduces the probability to reach the Convention objectives by 2028 to only 38%;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the TAC for yellowfin tuna was also exceeded in 2016 by sixteen percent;

CONSIDERING that the SCRS continues to recommend that effective measures be found to reduce FAD-related and other fishing mortality of small yellowfin and bigeye tuna.

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the recommendations made by the Panel on the Second ICCAT Performance Review regarding the carryover of underage of catches from one year to another;

FURTHER TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the recommendations made by the first meeting of the Joint Tuna RFMO FAD Working Group and the third meeting of ICCAT's *Ad Hoc* Working Group on FADs, on FAD management objectives and the availability of FAD management measures to reduce juvenile tuna mortality;

NOTING that the SCRS has advised that increased harvests on FADs could have had negative consequences for the productivity of bigeye and yellowfin tuna fisheries (e.g. reduced yield at MSY);

FURTHER NOTING that supply vessels contribute to the increase in efficiency and capacity of purse seiner vessels using FADs and that the number of supply vessels has increased significantly over the years;

RECALLING the urgency for the Commission to review in 2018 the current provisional limits on FADs and the need for the SCRS to advise the Commission on FAD limits and on the efficacy of the area/time closure;

FURTHER RECALLING the *Resolution by ICCAT on Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities* (Res. 15-13);

NOTING that there will be a stock assessment of bigeye tuna in 2018 and that the TAC will be revised based on the recommendations of the SCRS;

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

Catch Limits

1. [The overages of Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for bigeye tuna caught in 2016 shall be addressed per paragraph 2(a) of Rec. 16-01.]

2. The annual TAC for yellowfin tuna shall be 92,400 t for 2018, which will be achieved, on an interim emergency basis, by limitations on FAD fishing and supply vessels.
3. For bigeye tuna, the possible maximum underage that a CPC may carry over in any given year shall not exceed 10% of its annual initial catch limit.

Interim measures to reduce catches of juvenile bigeye and yellowfin tuna

4. The general objectives for management of FADs and supply vessels in the Convention area are defined as follows:
 - a. To maximize fishing efficiency of purse seine fisheries targeting tropical tunas, while avoiding adverse impacts to the fishing opportunities of fleets that use other gear or other fishing strategies while also targeting tropical tunas;
 - b. To minimize the impact of FAD fishing on the productivity of bigeye and yellowfin stocks that result from the capture of high numbers of juveniles that aggregate with skipjack on FADs;
 - c. To minimize the impact of FAD fishing on non-target species, where appropriate, particularly those of conservation concern;
 - d. To minimize the impact of FADs and FAD fishing on pelagic and coastal ecosystems, including by preventing the beaching or grounding of FADs in sensitive habitats or the alteration of pelagic habitat.
5. As an emergency measure, CPCs shall not authorize additional large scale purse seine vessels to fish for tropical tunas in the ICCAT Convention area above the number authorized in 2017. The SCRS will evaluate current purse seine capacity relative to the objectives of the Commission for the management of tropical tunas.
6. CPCs shall ensure that the total number of floating object-associated purse seine sets in the Convention area, conducted annually by vessels flying their flag, is limited to 2015 levels.
7. CPCs may authorize their purse seine vessels to set on floating objects provided that the fishing vessel has either an observer or a functioning electronic monitoring system on board which is capable of verifying set type, species composition, and providing information on fishing activities to the SCRS.
8. CPCs shall freeze the number of supply vessels currently on the ICCAT Record of Vessels. Further analysis shall be conducted by the SCRS on the impact of supply vessels on the catches of juvenile yellowfin and bigeye tuna to be considered in 2018.
9. The SCRS shall advise the Commission in 2018, or as soon as possible, on a possible range of total number of floating object-associated purse seine sets across the Convention area that would end overfishing of bigeye tuna in 2019 with 70% probability.

Intersessional Meeting

10. Panel 1 shall convene an intersessional meeting in 2018, preferably after the 2018 bigeye tuna stock assessment session, in order to advise the Commission in 2018 on the following:
 - a. Develop effective measures to reduce FAD-related and other fishing mortality of small yellowfin and bigeye tuna, and propose mechanisms to ensure effective implementation;
 - b. Begin discussions on CPC allocations for the bigeye and yellowfin stocks;
 - c. Begin development of management objectives for the tropical tuna fisheries taking into consideration *inter alia* biological, social, and economic aspects of the fisheries.