

Original: English

**DRAFT RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ESTABLISHING MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR THE  
STOCK OF MEDITERRANEAN ALBACORE**

*(Submitted by the European Union)*

*ACKNOWLEDGING* that following the stock assessment for Mediterranean albacore in 2017, the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) noted in its advice that there is high uncertainty regarding the recent abundance trends;

*HIGHLIGHTING* that, according to the latest scientific advice, and consistent with the precautionary approach, the SCRS recommends to prevent an increase of the fishing effort and to maintain catches below MSY at least until abundance trends can be verified;

*CONSIDERING* that to prevent an increase of fishing effort and of the catches it is important to ensure that the fishing capacity does not increase;

*ACKNOWLEDGING* the provisions of ICCAT Recommendation 16-05 introducing a closure period for the longline fishery targeting Mediterranean albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*), with the aim of protecting juveniles of Mediterranean swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*);

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

1. The Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (hereinafter referred to as CPCs), whose vessels are actively fishing for albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*) in the Mediterranean shall implement management measures for Mediterranean albacore starting in 2018 with the objective of preventing an increase of the fishing effort and of the catch level until the SCRS can deliver more accurate advice.
2. Each CPC shall limit the number of their fishing vessels authorised to fish for Mediterranean albacore to the number of vessels that were authorized in 2017 under article 28 of Recommendation 16-05. CPCs may apply a tolerance of 10% to this capacity limit.
3. Each year, fishing for Mediterranean albacore shall not be permitted from 1 October to 30 November inclusive, as long as the closure period defined in paragraph 12 of ICCAT Recommendation 16-05 remains in force.