

**The Pew Charitable Trusts’  
Statement to Plenary of the 25th Regular Meeting of ICCAT  
14 November 2017**

Dear Mr. Chair, dear colleagues,

On behalf of the Pew Charitable Trusts, I would first like to thank our host country, the Kingdom of Morocco, for their generous hospitality.

This year’s ICCAT agenda is full of high priority issues that must be addressed at this meeting, including Atlantic bluefin quotas and allocation, tropical tuna quota overages, advancement of harvest strategies, dealing with the alarming state of shortfin mako shark, reports of illegal fishing, and other priorities. I will not expand on all of these, since we will be providing opening statements for several of the relevant ICCAT Panels and Working Groups that will meet during the course of the meeting to address this full agenda.

In addition to these issues that will be taken up by the Panels, Pew urges the Commission to use Plenary sessions to:

- Further integrate the recommendations of the second independent performance review into this year’s decisions;
- Continue ICCAT’s commitment to the implementation of harvest strategies and harvest control rules by updating the roadmap and scheduling sufficient intersessional time for a dialogue in 2018; and
- Finalize the Convention amendment process, in order to update the Convention to be more closely aligned with modern fisheries management, to ensure proper application of precautionary and ecosystem approach for the management of ICCAT species, and to enhance the conservation status of bycatch and non-target species. We urge all members to make the greatest efforts to reach an agreement on this paramount matter during this annual meeting in the days to come.

Here in Marrakech, ICCAT has an opportunity to uphold its responsibility to sustainably manage the highly valuable fisheries under its jurisdiction. Pew encourages ICCAT to embrace this opportunity.