

Opening Statement

21<sup>st</sup> Special Meeting of ICCAT  
Dubrovnik, Croatia  
12-19 November 2018

Japanese Delegation

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, Observers, Ladies and Gentleman,

On behalf of the Japanese Delegation, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the Government of Croatia for hosting this important meeting in this beautiful city, Dubrovnik. We also thank the ICCAT Secretariat staff for the excellent preparation and arrangement of the 21<sup>st</sup> special meeting of the Commission.

This year's Commission meeting will be probably one of the busiest ones in recent years. We must develop management measures for tropical tunas, eastern bluefin tuna, and blue marlin. Discussion of the Convention amendment and MSE process are also important issues. Japan would like to cooperate with the Chairman and other CPCs to produce good outcomes for these important issues.

Among other things, Japan would like to touch upon a few issues. First, regarding Bigeye tuna, we have to recognize the fact that the ICCAT failed to stop the overfishing and recover the stock in past several years. Needless to say, reducing the TAC as well as making the total catch below the TAC are essential for the Bigeye tuna population to get back to the sound level, while considering the right of developing coastal states to develop their own fishery. Moreover, there are wide variety of fisheries in this region catching Bigeye tuna. The ICCAT must solve this long-standing and complicated issue. It may not be possible to find a solution that makes everybody happy, but possible to find a solution that makes everybody equally unhappy, which we believe is the best solution.

Also, Atlantic Bluefin tuna poses some challenges for us. Firstly, as the chair of Panel 2, Japan would like to adopt the revised table of allocation quotas for the eastern stock, which was agreed at the PA2 intersessional meeting in March after long debate. We believe that this is well balanced between needs of CPCs and

level of preparation for unexpected situation of the stock. Secondly, the ICCAT needs to revise the management plan of the E-BFT, taking into account the current stock status as well as recent alleged IUU cases. We would like to express our appreciation to the EU for the hard work to develop the draft proposal and look forward to fruitful discussion on the issue. Finally, this special meeting will address the SCRS-recommended roadmap of MSE process. Japan would like to show its view that the ICCAT should intensively prioritize its MSE-related works on Bluefin tuna at this stage, rather than tackling three species simultaneously.

Mr. Chairman, the Japanese Delegation is ready to work closely and cooperatively with other delegations to find good solutions and sincerely hopes that this regular meeting will be successfully and fruitfully concluded.

Thank you.