

**DEVELOPMENT OR FISHING/MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR NORTH ATLANTIC SWORDFISH**

*Required by paragraph 5 of Rec. 17-02. Deadline: 15 September 2019*

Rec. 17-02 indicates that: *"In the event of the modification its fishing/management plan, each CPC shall submit the updated version of its fishing/management plan to the Commission"*. It was agreed by the Commission that the resubmission of such reports would only be required in the event of changes. Plans received in previous years can be found on the meeting document websites. In 2019, the Secretariat has received updated plans from: Barbados, Belize, Canada, EU (France, Portugal, Spain), Korea, Japan, Morocco, Senegal and Chinese Taipei. Those received in the Secretariat format (CP41\_NSWOPlan) have been aggregated in **Table 1** below. Canada and EU-France provided written reports, available as **Appendix 1**. The full report from Canada, as well as the attachment referred to in the EU-France plan, is contained in **Annex 1**. Late submissions (France St. Pierre et Miquelon) [is/are] contained in **Annex 2**.

**Table 1.** Summary of North Swordfish Management Plans received in 2019.

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Current Fishery</i>	<i>Current quota (t)</i>	<i>No. of vessels</i>	<i>Gear</i>	<i>Current capacity</i>	<i>Planned No. of vessels</i>	<i>Gear</i>	<i>Planned capacity</i>	<i>Current management measures</i>	<i>Future planned measures</i>
BARBADOS	Yes	45	47	LL	47 (t)	47	LL	47 (t)	Fisheries Act (1993 amended 2000) includes <i>inter alia</i> : formulating and reviewing fisheries management and development schemes; local and foreign fishing licensing (no foreign fishing licenses have been granted); compulsory registration and inspection of fishing vessels; fisheries enforcement and the obligation to supply information. The Act gives the Minister responsible for fisheries the authority to create new regulations for the management of fisheries as and when necessary. No legislation dealing with swordfish specifically yet.	The management of the swordfish fishery is included in the draft management plan for longline fishery still under review. However, there are no plans for expanding the fishery in the near future. Feasibility of VMS and electronic reporting for longliners being examined. Barbados is party to the Agreement on Port States Measures and regulations to implement this agreement have been drafted. New fisheries regulations to improve <i>inter alia</i> information gathering, monitoring and control of all local fisheries including for swordfish have been drafted and awaiting final endorsement and enactment.

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<b>BELIZE</b>	Yes	130	19	LL +PS	142 (t)	15	LL	260 (t)	<p>1. Licensing system</p> <p>2. Monitoring, control and surveillance achieved through the use of a Vessel Monitoring System</p> <p>3. Regular catch and effort reporting</p> <p>4. Observation of transshipment at sea through the ICCAT ROP program</p> <p>5. Logbook program</p> <p>6. Allocation System</p> <p>7. Observer Program</p> <p>8. Fleet expansion policy</p>	<p>The following measures:</p> <p>1. Inspection of discharges at port – Belize expects to implement a Port Inspection Program where our vessels will be subject to port inspection of their discharges by our authorized fisheries inspectors.</p> <p>2. Strengthening of and nationalization of our observer program</p> <p>3. Adoption of a National Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity</p> <p>Note: Belize currently has 3 longline fishing vessels targeting Northern Swordfish which share allocations of this species. Belize plans on introducing 3 new vessels over the next 3 years following any quota increase. These vessels are expected to fish an additional 100 m/t of this species. Furthermore, there are several other vessels which catch smaller quantities as by-catch and they will require 30 t to accommodate their fishing operations without impacting the catch limits allocated to vessels with a directed fishery of this species. This Plan will therefore require an increase of 130 t of northern Atlantic swordfish to be effected accordingly.</p>

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<b>CANADA</b>									See Appendix 1 and Annex 1	
<b>EU-France</b>	Yes								See Appendix 1 and Annex 1	-
<b>EU-Portugal</b>	Yes	1010,39	36	LL	7123,6 (t)	37	LL	7445,94 (t)	Portugal allocated a swordfish quota to vessels registered in the ports of the Mainland, Autonomous Region of Madeira and Autonomous Region of Azores. This allocation is based on the traditional activity (Ordinance n° 898/2004, of 7 July). Vessels registered in the Mainland have 66.1% of the Portuguese quota, those registered in the Azores had 31% and those registered in Madeira had 2.9%. Vessels without swordfish quota may only catch swordfish as by-catch which may not exceed 5% of the total catch retained on board at any time (Ordinance n°90/2013, of 28 February, amended by Ordinances n° 119/2014, of 3 June, n° 247/2016, of 14 September and n° 330-B/2016, of 21 December).	As Portugal has a small quota for swordfish, a specific plan for the concerned fleet as well as a regulation to finance scrapping of longliners were adopted by national legislation (Ordinance n° 362-A/2013, 19 December). Due to this reduced level of quota, Portuguese longliners, in order maintain the fishery economic and socially viable, began to balance the fishery between swordfish and blue shark ( <i>Prionace glauca</i> ). These species are the core resources for the PRT longline fishery in the Atlantic basin.
<b>EU-Spain</b>	Yes	6598,43	103	LL	6598,43 (t)	103	LL	6212,95 (t)	Unified census of surface longline (only fleet authorised to catch SWO); Individual quota by vessel and conditions for the transfer of quota by vessel; annual fishing plans. Issuance of temporary fishing licences by area and vessel; Technical measures of surface longline (limitation of number and size of hooks); control measures: ERS, prior notice of departure and arrival at port.	The current measures in force which have proved to be very efficient will try to be maintained.

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JAPAN*	Yes	842	51	LL	22654	183*	LL	74448*	Japanese Fisheries Law prohibits Japanese fishing vessels from fishing tuna on the high seas. Only fishing vessels with a fishing license issued by the Japanese Government can operate in high seas. The law also requires the Government to decide the maximum number of licenses to be issued and other fishing conditions. The Japanese Government ensures that fishing capacities have to be commensurate with its fishing opportunities as determined by tuna RFMOs such as ICCAT.	Japan will continue to restrict the number of longliners
									Japanese swordfish catch is by-catch, which has been fluctuating year by year mainly due to the shift of the fishing ground for bigeye tuna. Japan, having no intention to increase north Atlantic swordfish catch as target species, needs flexibility to address this nature. For this purpose, special arrangements for Japan including a multi-year block quota, as provided in paragraph 4 of Recommendation 17-02, should be continued.	Will be continued according to paragraph 4 of Recommendation 17-02
									Japan has been properly reporting data on swordfish, which has been utilized in the stock assessment of north Atlantic swordfish.	Japan will continue to instruct its fishermen to submit such data in a timely fashion
									Japan has been monitoring, controlling and enforcing all its tuna vessels operating on the high seas with VMS, port inspection and so on.	Japan will continue [these activities] to comply with ICCAT measures

\*Since it could be possible that all of those vessels would operate in ICCAT area and catch swordfish as by-catch within TAC limit, the number of 183 and their total capacity were entered as the possible maximum figures.

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KOREA	No	75	14	LL		14	LL		<p>Fourteen Korean longline fishing vessels are authorized to target bigeye tuna, and these longliners occasionally take northern swordfish as by-catch. In accordance with paragraph 1, Article 13 of the Distant Water Fisheries Development Act of Korea, Korean distant water fishing vessels and operators shall comply with any relevant obligations arising from conservation and management measures of Regional Fisheries Management Organizations. If any provision of the conservation and management measure is breached, it is deemed as “a serious violation” and subject to imprisonment not exceeding 5 years or a fine of at least KRW 500 million.</p> <p>In accordance with Recommendation 16-03, Korea takes measures to ensure its 50tons of allocated catch limit is fully respected. If overharvest of the annual catch limit occurs, the amount of the overharvest shall be deducted from the catch limit in the following year. According to paragraph 5 of the Reco. 01-22, catch data from Korean flagged vessels are reported to the Secretariat twice a year (April 1 and October 1). In order to protect small swordfish, Korea endeavours not to land swordfish weighting less than 25kg live weight or 125cm LJF and to provide scientific data related to north Atlantic swordfish to</p>	Korea does not have any plan for N-SWO fishery development.

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									the SCRS in accordance with paragraphs 8 and 9 of the Recommendation16-03, respectively.	
<b>Morocco</b>	Yes	850	850 (t)	LL	750	500 450	LL HL	850 (t)	<p>1. Enactment of Ministerial Order No.2406-18 of 27 July 2018 which amends and supplements Ministerial Order No. 1176-13 of 8 April 2013 governing the North Atlantic and Moroccan Mediterranean swordfish fishery.</p> <p>2. Enactment of Ministerial Order No. 3315-17 of 18 December 2017 which amends and supplements Ministerial Order No. 1176-13 of 8 April 2013 governing the North Atlantic and Moroccan Mediterranean swordfish fishery.</p> <p>3. Monitoring and management of the consumption of the quota allocated to Morocco by ICCAT are carried out centrally by the Maritime Fisheries Delegations which are responsible for control and issue of IUU certificates and the National Fisheries Office which is in charge of marketing.</p> <p>4. Monitoring of compliance with ICCAT provisions transposed into Ministerial Orders No. 2406-18 of 27 July 2018 and No. 1176-13 of 8 April 2013 governing the North Atlantic and Moroccan Mediterranean swordfish fishery.</p>	[Information not submitted]

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									<p>5. Entry into the ICCAT Record of vessels greater than 20m likely to catch North Atlantic swordfish.</p> <p>6. Decree No. 2-09-674 of 17 March 2010 regarding the obligation to carry onboard a positioning and location system for all fishing vessels flying the Moroccan flag and operating within the framework of a fishery subject to conservation and management measures adopted by RFMOs.</p> <p>7. Dahir No. 1-14-95 of 12 rejev 1435 (12 May 2014) enacting Law No. 15-12 on the prevention and fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and amending and supplementing Dahir No 1-73-255 of 27 chaoual 1393 (23 November 1973) regulating the marine fishery.</p> <p>8. Decree No. 455.17.2 of 26 April 2018 issued for compliance with some provisions of the title of Law No. 15-12 on the prevention and fight against IUU fishing published in the Official Gazette of 17 May 2018.</p> <p>9. Decree No. 2-17-456 of 15 March 2018 issued for compliance with some provisions of dahir No. 1-73-255 of 23 November 1973 regulating the maritime fishery.</p>	

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SENEGAL	Yes	250	2	LL	No info	3	LL	No info	Prohibition on large pelagic nets.	Minimum size 115 cm or minimum weight of 25 kg. By-catch rate.
			6	Baitboat	No info	6	Baitboat	No info	Selective fishing	
			7	Purse seine	No info	7	Purse seine	No info	Organisation of artisanal fishery	
									Special authorisation	
CHINESE TAIPEI	Yes	270	63	LL	270 (t)	63	LL	270 (t)	<p>Prior authorization by fleets and fishing areas.</p> <p>In accordance with the catch species, we categorize our fishing fleet operating in the Atlantic Ocean into three groups. Each group is designated specific fishing zones and managed by the Fisheries Agency. All fishing vessels in each group are required and only allowed to fish within their permitted fishing zones. Also, there is a domestic regulation on the prohibition against any fishing activities in the Mediterranean Sea.</p>	[No information submitted]
									<p>Catch limitation and individual quota</p> <p>Depending on the quota/catch limit allocated to Chinese Taipei, internally the Fisheries Agency allocates species-based quota to individual fishing vessel under our flag, including by-catch species like northern swordfish. Once the accumulated catch of a vessel reaches its individual quota, it is required to discard any subsequent catch and record the discard amount on the catch logbook or E-logbook system.</p>	



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									Vessel tracking and monitoring All fishing vessels under our flag are required to install satellite-based automatic location communicator (ALC). The ALC on board shall be maintained functional at all times, and transmit at least one vessel position to our Fisheries Monitoring Center (FMC) every 4 hours, and every hour since 30 Jan 2018.	
									Management on catch reports We require the captain of any fishing vessel to daily report catch data through the E-logbook system and fill in the catch logbook. The data reported and filled in should be accurate and complete. In particular, the carbon-copied sheet of the complete catch logbook is required to be maintained on board any vessel for at least one year.	
									Management on transshipments Any vessel which intends to conduct transshipment is required to submit its application to the Fisheries Agency for prior approval. The application shall be made at least 3 working days before the estimated date for at-sea transshipment, while at least 3 days before the estimated date for in-port transshipment. No transshipment are allowed without receiving written approval from the Fisheries Agency. We also require fisheries operators or captains of our fishing vessels to submit	

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									the ICCAT Transshipment Declaration to the Fisheries Agency within 7 days after the completion of transshipment. The carrier vessel concerned is also required to submit the Transshipment Declaration to the ICCAT Secretariat within 24 hours, with a copy to the Fisheries Agency.	
									Management on statistical documents Any fisheries operator intending to sell north Atlantic swordfish abroad his/her fishing vessels is required to apply the statistical document from the Fisheries Agency. The information specified in the statistical document will be further verified by the Fisheries Agency through cross-checking the catch logbook or E-logbook. Besides, using a statistical document issued to other vessel or providing its statistical document for other vessel is strictly prohibited. Falsifying or altering statistical document, or intentionally using falsified or altered statistical document is strictly prohibited as well.	
									National Observer Program The Fisheries Agency may require any Chinese Taipei-flagged tuna longline fishing vessel to carry a domestic scientific observer on board. The observer on board will record catch-related data observed in the observatory report, and submit it to the Fisheries Agency within the required	

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									timeframe when the observer is onshore.	
									Protection of small swordfish In compliance with paragraph 10 of Recommendation 17-02, which sets the minimum size limits for north Atlantic swordfish, we require our fishermen to discard any swordfish less than 15 kilograms or less than 119 center meters lower jaw fork length (LJFL) caught in the Atlantic Ocean, and record the discard amount on the catch logbook or E-logbook system.	

**TEXT REPORTS**

**CANADA**

**Executive Summary**

ICCAT Recommendation 17-02 requires each Contracting Party, and Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity to submit modifications to its swordfish development or fishing/management plan to the Secretariat by September 15. This document describes the history, management, socio-economic and future aspirations of the Canadian North Atlantic Swordfish fishery.

Canada's history of fishing North Atlantic swordfish dates back to the 1880s. Today, this exclusively commercial fishery continues to be socially and economically important to many coastal and First Nations communities throughout Atlantic Canada. The annual landings generate over \$15 million of revenue over several Atlantic ports.

Canada's 2018 initial allocation of North Atlantic swordfish was 1,348 metric tonnes; from which 5t was allocated to Canada's offshore tuna fleet for swordfish bycatch. The remaining allocation was shared between 2 fleets targeting North Atlantic swordfish. 90% is allocated to the longline fleet and 10% to the harpoon fleet. There is no recreational or sportfish component to this fishery.

From 2011 to 2016, Canada consistently demonstrated its ability to fully utilize its ICCAT quota with average annual landings of 115% of its annual allocations during that 6-year period. Since 2004, Canada has been allocated 1,348t of the ICCAT quota allocations (or 10.5% of the catch limits). Nevertheless, Canada has landed approximately 12% of the overall catch for North Atlantic swordfish annually over the past 8 years due to receiving quota transfers.

As the foundation for reliable research and stock assessments, Canada collects, among other things, catch and effort data for all fishing trips. Beginning in 1996, an industry-funded Dockside Monitoring Program (DMP) was instituted in Atlantic Canada to provide independent third party verification of logbook submissions. Canada's DMP is conducted by certified agents who oversee all 100% offloads of swordfish in Atlantic Canada as well as enter logbook data into a central database. The DMP ensures that precise and reliable information is collected on the number of fish caught, their weight, effort, environmental conditions, and other vital statistics. This data is available in real-time to fisheries managers, scientists, and enforcement officers.

Canada's comprehensive approach to enforcement also includes the requirement for Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) on all longline vessels, despite only 2 of Canada's 77 pelagic longline vessels being over 20 meters in length and thus subject to ICCAT's VMS measure. The Conservation and Protection Program of DFO fly aerial surveillance flights annually in areas where swordfish fishing activities occur. In 2018, 70.93 air surveillance hours were directly accrued for swordfish fishery. In 2018, at sea patrols, using large patrol vessels, accumulated 290 surveillance hours directly to the swordfish fishery. Also, Fishery Officers conduct patrols, inspect vessels and swordfish buying/processing facilities and conducted audits of the Dockside Monitoring Program in this fishery. In total, 513.25 fishery officer enforcement hours were expended on the swordfish fishery in 2018. At-sea observers are targeted for deployment on 10% of swordfish fishing trips despite no ICCAT requirements for observer's onboard swordfish vessels smaller than 20 meters.

Since 2012, in recognition of the strong management regime which is in place for these fisheries in Canada, both the longline and harpoon fleets targeting North Atlantic swordfish have been awarded Marine Stewardship Council certification. Canada is the first ICCAT member to obtain this certification for its entire swordfish fleet.

Canada has been a leader in supporting ICCAT's scientific investigations of the swordfish resources in the Atlantic for the past several decades. As a result of Canada's well-recognized ability to collect and maintain fisheries statistics of importance to the stock assessment, Canada contributes the longest series of catch rate information to the North Atlantic stock assessment, commencing in 1963. Additionally, to determine post-release mortality of the shortfin mako shark and contribute to total fishing mortality for inclusion in future national and international stock assessments; Canada has been deploying short term Pop-up Satellite Archival Tags on live released shortfin mako sharks caught in the longline fishery. Beginning in 2018, Canada led the creation of an ICCAT/European Commission funded international research program for Swordfish in the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea. This program aims to improve knowledge of the stock distribution, age and sex of the catch, growth rate, age at maturation, maturation rate, spawning season and location and diet for each of the three ICCAT swordfish stocks.

Industry is fully engaged in the conservation and management efforts for this species to ensure its sustainability, including participation in scientific research, funding of independent at-sea observers to monitor the fishery and funding independent third-party monitors who observe and record all landings at dockside. The harpoon fleet provides funds or in-kind vessel support for scientific research in lieu of at-sea observer coverage.

While Canada, like other ICCAT members, accepted significantly lower quotas during the rebuilding period of the fishery; Canada has demonstrated its ability to utilize its quota plus some of the quota received through transfers in most years. Canada will be seeking increased access to this fishery moving forward to ensure viability for its' coastal communities.

#### EU-France

ICCAT recommendation 17-02 allocates a total allowable catches (TAC) for North Atlantic swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*) at 13,200 tonnes for 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021. The European Union (EU) catch limit is fixed, by paragraph 2 of ICCAT recommendation 17-02, at 6 718 tonnes for 2019.

France has prohibited active fishing for the Atlantic swordfish from the North of the 5° N (see Annex IV of National order of 25 February 2013, NOR: TRAM1300060A).

In accordance with paragraphs 13 and 14 of ICCAT Recommendation 16-03 and with article 19 of regulation (EU) 2017/2107 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 November 2017, France has adopted a maximum bycatch limit for vessels not authorized to fish for North Atlantic swordfish (see Annex IV of National order of 25 February 2013, NOR : TRAM1300060A). Bycatches of North Atlantic swordfish are authorized within a limit of 49% of the total catch on board expressed by weight and / or number of specimens.

Catches and landings of North Atlantic swordfish with a live weight of less than 25 kg or a lower jaw fork length of less than 125 cm are strictly prohibited, except for incidental catches, which must not exceed 15% of the number of North Atlantic swordfish landed daily and by vessels.

34 vessels equal to or more than 20 meters in length overall (LOA) caught North Atlantic swordfish in 2018.

YEAR OF REFERENCE	GEARS	NUMBER OF AUTHORIZED VESSELS ≥ 20 METERS LOA
2018	Longliners	3
2018	Trawlers	31

By contrast with Spain and Portugal, France does not have its own North Atlantic swordfish quota inside the EU. French vessels are fishing on a specific quota, not allocated among the Member States of the European Union (about 75,88 tonnes of catches in 2018, based on an unallocated EU quota of 162,36 tonnes).