

STATEMENT FROM CANADA TO PANEL 1 - ROUND 2

Canada supports the proposal from the Chair of Panel 1 to extend by one year the measures of Recommendation 19-02 which were due to expire this year and as amended in PA1-503A. Canada concurs with the many comments provided by CPCs that there is an need to adopt this pragmatic approach and endorse the proposal from the Chair of Panel 1, considering the limitations of the correspondence format for decisions this year.

Canada strongly supports working to resolve the outstanding matters of allocation, juvenile mortality, and overall conservation of the tropical tunas. As such, Canada endorses the Chair's road map to work via virtual intersessional meetings and potentially at a face to face intersessional meeting in 2021.

With regards to document PA1-502A, *"2020 Bigeye tuna catch limits (including suggested limits)"* Canada has the following observations:

- This table was originally developed to support a scheduled 2020 Panel 1 intersessional, which was cancelled due to the pandemic. As such, this table should not be used for compliance or any other purposes as these limits are not coupled to Rec 19-02.
- Canada supports the position of the United States that Panel 1 should simply take note of the document and its potential utility in supporting future allocation discussions.
- This table is for 2020 and is not directly linked to the pending draft recommendation which focuses on conservation and management measures for the tropical tuna stocks in 2021.
- In some cases, the Bigeye catch averages appear to contain errors due to the method used to calculate averages. For example, if a CPC bigeye catches were recorded as 0, 0, 1000, 0 over 4 years, their average was recorded 1000, when it ought to be 250. Omitting zero catch years from averages impacts future allocation discussions, therefore this table should be amended to ensure its accuracy prior to use as a reference document. Canada recommends that the table shall not be used until comprehensively reviewed.
- Should the table be retained after addressing errors, Canada requests that our previous catch limit of 1575t, as provided in Recommendation 16-01, be added in the notes field as a reference, as previous catch limits are a basis for calculating the new limits moving forward.

Canada notes that resources are earmarked in STF-209A to embark on a tropical tuna MSE in 2021. While developing such an MSE is an important long-term goal, we believe that the focus of the SCRS's TRO time, effort, and monies should be on conducting a stock assessment for skipjack and the Commission should focus on the implementation of science advice for Bigeye and Yellowfin. Thus, this MSE does not seem to be the best possible place to allocate these resources at this time. If, despite the above concerns, the TRO MSE is funded in 2021, then the Commission should provide guidance on the scope of how the three species are to be managed.