

Statement

East Atlantic Ocean Tuna Pole & Line FIP

This document is an executive summary of the position of the participants in the East Atlantic Tuna P&L FIP, in relation to ICCAT's management of Atlantic tropical tuna stocks over the next few years:

- It is essential that management does not take a step backwards because of covid; the interim measures in Rec. 19-02 must not be allowed to lapse without being replaced with something as strong or stronger.
- The FIP participants strongly support the objectives of Rec. 15-07 and ask ICCAT to continue to prioritise this work.
- The FIP participants support the timetable which put forward by ICCAT for developing and implementing a formal management procedure for the tropical tuna stocks. We ask ICCAT to ensure that there is no further slippage of this timetable.
- The FIP participants stress the vital role of capacity-building in this process, such that the CPCs and Commission can take informed decisions about MSE inputs. In this context, the FIP asks ICCAT to ensure that the work of SWGSM continues.
- The FIP participants propose that the MSC standard could be used to inform decisions about MSE inputs. On this basis, the FIP would like to put forward the following as a contribution to the debate on the design of the MSE:
 - Stock management targets should be defined as Bmsy or Fmsy; or proxies if evaluated to be consistent with the MSY level.
 - A limit reference point should be agreed not lower than 50% of the MSY level, or 20% of the unfished level. The maximum level of risk associated with the stock falling below the limit reference point should not be greater than 20%.
 - Performance metrics for candidate management procedures should prioritise maintaining stock status at target levels and reducing risk of stock collapse.
 - The timeframe to achieve rebuilding of the bigeye stock under the management procedure should be no longer than two generation times; i.e. 10 years; rather than the 15 years (to 2034) proposed in Rec. 19-02.
- Once a management procedure is established, it is vital that there are measures in place which will be able to implement this procedure. Currently the TACs for bigeye and yellowfin are not being implemented in full, and alternative management options should perhaps be considered. As a minimum, there needs to be a robust debate on options for management measures in relation to implementation, as a priority.
- The FIP participants call for a serious effort to rebuild the Atlantic bigeye stock within a maximum of 10 years, and for this to be a key performance metric of the management procedure under the MSE.
- It is essential for the protection of non-target species that ICCAT require all FADs to be non-entangling, as well as asking vessels to remove any entangling FADs they find. The regulations on providing FAD data need to be fully implemented across all relevant gear types.