

**PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE SCRS REPORT**  
**BET – BIGEYE TUNA (EXECUTIVE SUMMARY)**  
**ITEM BET-6. MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS**  
*(Proposal presented by the European Union)*

***BET-6. Management recommendations***

The Atlantic bigeye tuna stock in 2019 was estimated to be overfished but not undergoing overfishing. According to the Kobe 2 Strategy Matrix (K2SM), a future constant catch of 61,500 t, which is the TAC established in Rec. 19-02, will have a high probability (97%) of maintaining the stock in the green quadrant of the Kobe plot by 2034. This would leave the stock in a state consistent with the Convention objectives and the recovery plan in Rec. 19-02 (BET-Table 4). The K2SM, incorporates some of the known main sources of uncertainty, ~~however, some other sources of relevant uncertainties were not included in the development of the K2SM~~, including the ~~appropriateness of the~~ range of natural mortalities used in the uncertainty grid, ~~whilst and~~ the uncertainty related to the change in methodology used to develop the joint longline index was not included in the K2SM. Therefore, current stock status and the outlook for the stock are more uncertain than portrayed in the Summary Table and the K2SM. Projection probabilities should be interpreted with caution. Until such additional sources of uncertainty can be properly incorporated in the estimation of stock status and the K2SM, the Commission should consider adopting a TAC that would shift the stock status of BET towards the green zone of the Kobe plot with a high probability.

The Commission should be aware that increased harvests on small fishes could have had negative consequences for the productivity of bigeye tuna fisheries (e.g. reduced yield at MSY and increased SSB required to produce MSY) (BET-Figure 9). Rec. 19-02 contains measures adopted by the Commission aimed at increasing long-term sustainable yield by reducing the catch of juveniles of tropical tunas. It is too early to know the extent by which these measures have reduced mortality of juvenile BET.