

EXPLANATORY NOTE TO DRAFT RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT TO AMEND RECOMMENDATION 19-04 AMENDING THE RECOMMENDATION 18-02 ESTABLISHING A MULTI-ANNUAL MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR BLUEFIN TUNA IN THE EASTERN ATLANTIC AND THE MEDITERRANEAN, AS AMENDED BY RECOMMENDATION 20-07

Submitted by the European Union and the United Kingdom

The purpose of this note is to provide a brief explanation of a joint proposal by the EU and the UK to amend ICCAT Recommendation 19-04 (as amended by Rec. 20-07) to reflect the provisions of The Trade and Cooperation Agreement between the UK and the EU (hereafter “the TCA”) that established those two parties’ respective shares of eastern bluefin tuna.

The relevant provisions of the TCA were first notified to ICCAT CPCs via Circulars #1357/21 and #1400/21. To give effect to those provisions for 2022 (until such time as changes to the formal allocation key are possible), the EU and UK jointly propose to amend ICCAT Recommendation 19-04.

The proposal authorises the European Union to transfer [48.40 t¹] from its quota in 2022 to the United Kingdom. This equates to 0.25% of the EU’s initial quota, prior to any adjustments for overharvesting or underharvesting (for example under paragraphs 7 and 12 of Rec. 19-04), and after deducting the additional 100t allocated to the EU in consideration of the needs of its small-scale fisheries.

We emphasise that the proposed changes will not impact other CPCs’ shares and will not lead to the total allocation of the EU and UK combined exceeding the EU’s previous allocation. In other words, the share of quota the UK has agreed with the EU comes solely from the EU.

This is not a re-opening of the allocation process; it is merely updating ICCAT measures to reflect a bilateral agreement between two sovereign parties.

Any change to the Total Allowable Catch for eastern bluefin tuna for 2022 will be reflected in proportionate adjustments to the figures in the table in the proposal, prior to submission to the Commission for adoption. As such all figures remain in square brackets at this point Any changes to TACs and quotas for subsequent years would also lead to similar adjustments via further amendments to the relevant ICCAT Recommendations, but these would not change the UK – EU sharing agreement.

Following previous submission to the Intersessional meeting of Panel 2 held 13-15 September 2021, this proposal has been updated to reflect a request for further clarity.

¹ Subject to change pending TAC decision for 2022.

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CONSIDERING the Trade and Cooperation Agreement between the United Kingdom and the European Union which transfers a portion of the allocation of certain ICCAT species from the European Union to the United Kingdom following withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union;

NOTING that the total allocation of these two CPCs combined remains unchanged;

DESIROUS of correctly reflecting the allocations in the ICCAT Conservation and Management measures;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT

The following amendments shall be made to Rec. 19-04 (as amended by 20-07):

1. Paragraph 5 shall be replaced with:

“5. The total allowable catch (TAC), inclusive of dead discards, for 2022 shall be set at [36,000] t, in accordance with the SCRS advice.

[36,000] t shall be allocated in 2022 in accordance with the following scheme:

CPC	Quota 2022 (t)
Albania	[170]
Algeria	[1,655]
China	[102]
Egypt	[330]
European Union*	[19,460]
Iceland**	[180]
Japan	[2,819]
Korea	[200]
Libya	[2,255]
Morocco	[3,284]
Norway	[300]
Syria	[80]
Tunisia	[2,655]
Turkey	[2,305]
Chinese Taipei	[90]

Subtotal	[35,855]
Unallocated reserves	[115]
Total	[36,000]

* The European Union is authorised to transfer [48.40 t] from its quota in 2022 to the United Kingdom.

** Notwithstanding the provision of this Part, Iceland may catch beyond 180 t in 2021 by 25% while its total catch for 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 combined shall not exceed 591 t (84 t + 147 t + 180 t + 180 t).

This table shall not be interpreted to have changed the allocation keys shown in Recommendation 14-04. The new keys shall be established in the future for consideration by the Commission.

Mauritania may catch up to 5 t for research in each year, if they respect the rules of reporting of catches defined in this Recommendation. The catch shall be deducted from the unallocated reserve.

Senegal may catch up to 5 t for research in each year, if they respect the rules of reporting of catches defined in this Recommendation. The catch shall be deducted from the unallocated reserve.

Depending on availability, Chinese Taipei may transfer up to 50 t of its quota to Korea in 2021."