

EXPLANATORY NOTE TO DRAFT RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT TO AMEND RECOMMENDATION 19-07 AMENDING THE RECOMMENDATION 16-12 ON MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR THE CONSERVATION OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC BLUE SHARK CAUGHT IN ASSOCIATION WITH ICCAT FISHERIES

Presented 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 19-07 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 North Atlantic blue shark.

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, the EU and UK jointly proposes to amend ICCAT Recommendation 19-07.

The proposal authorises the European Union to transfer 32.58 t from its catch limit in 2022 to the United Kingdom. This equates to 0.10% of the EU’s initial catch limit for that year, prior to any adjustments for overharvesting or underharvesting (for example under paragraph 3b of Rec. 19-07).

We emphasize that the proposed changes will not impact other CPCs and will not lead to the catch limits of the EU and UK combined exceeding the EU’s previous catch limit. In other words, the share of quota the UK has agreed with the EU comes solely from the EU, and as such the proposal should be considered merely as an update to relevant ICCAT measures to reflect a bilateral agreement between two sovereign parties.

Any change to the Total Allowable Catch for northern blue shark 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. 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.

**DRAFT RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT TO AMEND RECOMMENDATION 19-07 AMENDING
THE RECOMMENDATION 16-12 ON MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR THE CONSERVATION OF THE
NORTH ATLANTIC BLUE SHARK CAUGHT IN ASSOCIATION WITH ICCAT FISHERIES**

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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 catch limits of these two CPCs combined remain unchanged;

DESIROUS of correctly reflecting the catch limits 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. 19-07:

1. Paragraph 3 shall be replaced with:

“3. The following CPCs shall be subject to the following catch limits:

CPC	t
EU*	32,578
Japan	4,010
Morocco	1,644

**The European Union is authorised to transfer 32.58 t from its catch limit in 2022 to the United Kingdom.*

- a) All other CPCs shall endeavor to maintain their catches at recent levels.
- b) If in any year the total catches of the North Atlantic blue shark exceed the TAC, the Commission shall review the implementation of these measures. Based on the review and the results of the next stock assessment scheduled for 2021 or at an earlier stage if enough information is provided to the SCRS, the Commission shall consider introduction of additional measures.”