

Draft Recommendation by ICCAT replacing Recommendation 22-03 extending and amending Recommendation 17-02 for the conservation of North Atlantic Swordfish

(proposal submitted by Canada, the European Union, Japan, and the United States)

RECALLING the Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation for the Conservation of North Atlantic Swordfish, Rec. 16-03 (Rec. 17-02) as previously amended by the Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation 17-02 for the Conservation of North Atlantic Swordfish (Rec. 19-03), the Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation 19-03 for the Conservation of North Atlantic Swordfish (Rec. 20-02), the Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT Extending and Amending Recommendation 17-02 Amending the Recommendation 16-03 for the Conservation of North Atlantic Swordfish (Rec. 21-02), and the Recommendation by ICCAT replacing supplemental Recommendation 21-02 extending and amending Recommendation 17-02 for the conservation of North Atlantic swordfish (Rec. 22-03);

NOTING the need to continue with sound measures for the conservation and management of the North Atlantic swordfish stock;

CONSIDERING the results of the 2022 North Atlantic swordfish stock assessment, which show that a constant catch at the current TAC level of 13,200 t will result in a 60% probability of the stock being in the green quadrant of the Kobe plot in 2033;

SUPPORTING the Commission's work toward the development of Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) for North Atlantic swordfish to manage fisheries more effectively in the face of identified uncertainties, including efforts to develop operational management objectives, in particular, *Resolution by ICCAT on development of initial management objectives for North Atlantic swordfish* (Res. 19-14), and efforts to finalize these management objectives consistent with the Convention and *Recommendation by ICCAT on the principles of decision making for ICCAT conservation and management measures* (Rec. 11-13) and *Recommendation by ICCAT on the development of Harvest Control Rules and Management Strategy Evaluation* (Rec. 15-07);

RECALLING the significant work of the SCRS in 2023 toward completing the North Atlantic swordfish MSE, including three manager-scientist dialogue meetings with Panel 4, and providing candidate management procedures (CMPs) to the Commission for consideration;

DESIRING that the MSE results updated after the close of the 2023 SCRS Meeting be reviewed by the SCRS in 2024, in keeping with the established scientific process, prior to final consideration of CMPs by the Commission in 2024, with a view to the adoption of a management procedure to set total allowable catches for 2025-2027 and onward;

CONFIRMING that the extension of current measures in no way prejudices any future measures or discussions;

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

1. The provisions of the *Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation for the conservation of North Atlantic swordfish, Rec. 16-03* (Rec. 17-02), as extended and amended by the *Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT Extending and Amending Recommendation 17-02 Amending the Recommendation 16-03 for the Conservation of North Atlantic Swordfish* (Rec. 21-02) and the *Recommendation by ICCAT replacing supplemental Recommendation 21-02 extending and amending Recommendation 17-02 for the conservation of North Atlantic swordfish* (Rec. 22-03), shall be further extended through 2024 with the following amendments:

A. Sub-paragraphs 2 a) and b) shall be replaced with:

“2. TAC and catch limits

- a) The Total Allowable Catch (TAC) shall be 13,200 t for North Atlantic swordfish for the years 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024:
- b) The annual catch limits as shown in the table below shall be applied for the years 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024:

<i>CPCs</i>	<i>Catch limit** 13,200 (t)</i>
European Union ***	6,717.33*
United States***	3,907*
Canada	1,348*
Japan***	842*
Morocco	850
Mexico	200
Brazil	50
Barbados	45
Venezuela	85
Trinidad & Tobago	125
United Kingdom	35.67
France (St. Pierre et Miquelon)	40
China	100
Senegal	250
Korea***	50
Belize***	130
Côte d'Ivoire	50
St. Vincent & the Grenadines	75
[...]	[...]
Chinese Taipei	270

* Notwithstanding the adjustment of the EU quota by 0.67 t in light of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement between the UK and the EU, which established their respective shares of North Atlantic swordfish and other stocks, catch limits of these four CPCs are based upon quota allocation shown in 3 c) of the 2006 *Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT to Amend the Rebuilding Program for North Atlantic Swordfish* (Rec. 06-02).

** The following transfers of annual catch limits shall be authorized:

From Japan to Morocco: 100 t for each of 2018 and 2019; and 150 t for each of 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024

From Japan to Canada: 35 t

From EU to France (St. Pierre et Miquelon): 40 t

[...]

From Senegal to Canada: 125 t

From Trinidad & Tobago to Belize: 75 t

From Chinese Taipei to Canada: 35 t

From Brazil, Japan, and Senegal to Mauritania: 25 t each for a total of 75 t for 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024 on the condition that Mauritania submit its development plan per paragraph 5 of this Recommendation. If a development plan is not submitted, these transfers are considered null. Future decisions regarding access to the North Atlantic swordfish fishery by Mauritania shall be contingent upon submission of its development plan.

From Trinidad and Tobago to Morocco: 25 t for each of 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024

From Chinese Taipei to Morocco: 20 t for each of 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024

From the United States to Morocco: 200 t for 2024, contingent on the details of this transfer to be worked out bilaterally between the two CPCs and subject to notification to ICCAT through the fishing plans specified in paragraph 5 below.

These transfers do not change the relative shares of CPCs as reflected in the above catch limits.

*** Japan shall be allowed to count up to 400 t of its swordfish catch taken from the South Atlantic management area against its uncaught North Atlantic swordfish catch limits.

The European Union shall be allowed to count up to 200 t of its swordfish catch taken from the South Atlantic management area against its uncaught North Atlantic swordfish catch limits.

The US shall be allowed to count up to 200 t of its swordfish catch taken from the area between 5°N and 5°S, against its uncaught North Atlantic swordfish catch limit.

Belize shall be allowed to count up to 75 t of its swordfish catch taken from the area between 5°N and 5°S, against its uncaught North Atlantic swordfish catch limit.

Korea shall be allowed to count up to 25 t of swordfish catch taken from the South Atlantic management area in 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024 against its uncaught North Atlantic catch limit.”

B. Paragraph 3 shall be replaced with:

“3. Any unused portion or excess of the annual adjusted quota may be added to/shall be deducted from, according to the case, the respective quota/catch limit during or before the adjustment year, as follows:

<i>Catch year</i>	<i>Adjustment year</i>
2016	2018
2017	2019
2018	2020
2019	2021
2020	2022
2021	2023
2022	2024
2023	2025
2024	2026

However, the maximum underage that a Party may carryover in any given year shall not exceed 15% of its initial catch limit (as specified in paragraph 2 b) above and excluding quota transfers) for those CPCs holding catch limits more than 500 t, and 40% for other CPCs.”

C. Paragraph 4 shall be replaced with:

“4. If Japan’s landings exceed its catch limits in any year, the overage shall be deducted in subsequent years so that total landings for Japan shall not exceed its total catch limits for the seven-year period commencing in 2018. When annual landings by Japan are less than its catch limits, the underage may be added to the subsequent years’ catch limits, so that total landings by Japan do not exceed its total for the same seven-year period. Any underages or overages from the 2018-2024 management period shall be applied to the subsequent management period to be decided by the Commission in 2024.”

D. Paragraph 5 shall be replaced with:

“5. The Commission shall establish at its 2024 meeting conservation and management measures for North Atlantic swordfish on the basis of the SCRS advice resulting from the latest stock assessment as well as the *Resolution by ICCAT on Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities* (Res. 15-13). In support of this effort, the Commission shall consider development/management plans of coastal developing CPCs and fishing/management plans of other CPCs so that adjustments can be made to the existing catch limits and other conservation measures, as appropriate. In the event of the modification of its fishing/management plan, each CPC shall submit the updated version of its fishing/management plan to the Commission by September 15”.

E. The first sentence of Paragraph 7 shall be replaced with:

“7. During 2024, the SCRS shall, taking into account the progress made to date, to identify final operational management objectives:

- a. Review and approve the North Atlantic swordfish combined index to be used for testing the CMPs in the management strategy evaluation (MSE), and pursuant to 7f below, recalculate the performance metrics for the current suite of CMPs;
- b. Review the MCC CMP variants in light of the changes to the combined index and increase the number of TAC steps, if appropriate;
- c. Update the combined index with 2023 catch data, if possible;
- d. Develop the scientific components of the Exceptional Circumstances Protocol (ECP) for North Atlantic swordfish and review Panel 4’s draft ECP;
- e. Conduct robustness testing envisioned in the 2024 SCRS Swordfish Workplan, including related to Climate Change and the effectiveness of minimum size limits, and add robustness tests of the impact on CMP performance of various data gaps within the combined index;
- f. Assess the effect of and develop results for a two-year data lag in advance of the 2024 SCRS plenary meeting. If the combined index and updated evaluations of the CMPs are not finalized by the conclusion of the 2024 SCRS plenary meeting, the SCRS should provide final results using fishing year 2022 as the terminal year for the combined index, thereby incorporating a 2-year data lag.

In support of the above efforts, the SCRS and Panel 4 shall hold one or more MSE dialogue meetings, as necessary, in 2024. At the 2024 ICCAT Annual Meeting, the Commission shall review the final CMPs and select one for adoption and application to establish the TAC for 2025-2027 and future years.”

2. This Recommendation replaces and repeals the *Recommendation by ICCAT Replacing Supplemental Recommendation 21-02 Extending and amending Recommendation 17-02 for the Conservation of North Atlantic swordfish* (Rec. 22-03).