

Cover Sheet to Accompany New Proposals

(proposal submitted by the United States)

Title of the Proposed Draft Recommendation/Resolution: *Draft Resolution by ICCAT on development of initial conceptual management objectives for Atlantic bigeye tuna, yellowfin tuna, and the eastern stock of skipjack tuna*

Title of currently in force recommendation(s) or resolution(s) addressing the same or related issues:
None.

1. Does it create new **reporting obligation(s)** for CPCs?

Yes No

Brief description of new reporting obligation(s):

None

2. Does it require additional input or **work by the SCRS**?

Yes No

Is this work already included in the current SCRS workplan?

Yes No

Brief description of new scientific work required (i.e. stock assessment, analysis, external consultant):

The proposal would establish conceptual management objectives for the tropical tuna MSE to guide the SCRS's work.

3. Does it involve the creation of a **new working group or intersessional process**?

Yes No

4. Does it require a new **programme or additional activities to be managed by the Secretariat**?

Yes No

Brief description of new Secretariat work required:

5. What is the proposed timeframe for implementation, and are there different specific timeframes for certain CPCs, fisheries, regions, etc.:

The work would be completed in 2026 or as soon as possible thereafter, consistent with the MSE roadmap.

6. Is there any other relevant information regarding the resource and workload implications of the proposal:

This proposal would provide Commission input into the multi-species MSE process, as requested by the SCRS.

Draft Resolution by ICCAT on development of initial conceptual management objectives for Atlantic bigeye tuna, yellowfin tuna, and the eastern stock of skipjack tuna

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ANTICIPATING the transition to using management procedures, which the Commission has recommended for tropical tunas and other priority stocks to manage fisheries more effectively in the face of identified uncertainties, consistent with the Convention and the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Principles of Decision Making for ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures* (Rec. 11-13);

CONSIDERING that the Commission intends to complete a multi-stock MSE for Atlantic bigeye, yellowfin, and the eastern stock of skipjack tunas by 2026 or as soon as possible thereafter;

UNDERSTANDING that conceptual objectives are high-level aspirational objectives that verbalize a desired generic goal without including any specifics on a measurable target or timeframe for achievement, while operational objectives are more refined and more specific about measurable targets and the associated likelihood of achieving those targets over determined timeframes;

RECOGNIZING that operational objectives are the key foundational component of any MSE;

SEEKING to advance the development of management procedures, as agreed by the Commission pursuant to the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Development of Harvest Control Rules and of Management Strategy Evaluation* (Rec. 15-07);

ACKNOWLEDGING that, given that some fisheries for tropical tunas capture them together as a mixed-stock, the Commission will need to review the initial management objectives and consider trade-offs with respect to the yield and stocks of three tropical tuna stocks, taking into account SCRS advice;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING the need to assess the current selectivity of the tropical tuna fishery, its relationship to maximum sustainable yield (MSY) levels for bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack tunas, as well as bycatches on associated species and the socio-economic impacts of those changes;

NOTING ICCAT's need to commit to developing operational management objectives for Atlantic bigeye tuna, yellowfin tuna, and the eastern stock of skipjack tuna starting in 2025;

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

1. Management objectives should be established for Atlantic bigeye tuna, yellowfin tuna, and the eastern stock of skipjack tuna consistent with the objective of the Convention of maintaining populations at or above levels that will support maximum sustainable catch (usually referred to as MSY).
2. Panel 1 should undertake, starting in the 2025 intersessional period, to develop initial operational management objectives for bigeye tuna, yellowfin tuna, and the eastern stock of skipjack tuna. To facilitate this development, the following conceptual management objectives should be considered:
 - a. Stock Status: The three tropical tuna stocks should have a probability of [XX% or greater] for bigeye tuna, [XX% or greater] for yellowfin tuna, and [XX% or greater] for the eastern stock of skipjack tuna of occurring in the green quadrant of the Kobe phase plot (no overfishing occurring and not overfished) during an [X]-year projection period (as determined by the SCRS, which may differ for each stock);

- b. **Safety:** The three tropical tuna stocks should have a probability of [XX% or less] for bigeye tuna, [XX% or less] for yellowfin tuna, and [XX% or less] for the eastern stock of skipjack tuna of falling below B_{LIM}^1 at any point during an [X]-year projection period (as determined by the SCRS, which may differ for each stock);
 - c. **Yield:** Overall catch levels should be maximized to the extent possible with respect to each stock of bigeye tuna, yellowfin tuna, and the eastern stock of skipjack tuna in the short (e.g., [X-X] years, medium (e.g., [X-X] years), and long (e.g., [X-X] years) terms (as determined by the SCRS, which may differ for each stock);
 - d. **Stability:** Any change in TAC between consecutive management periods for the three tropical tuna stocks should be [XX%] or less for bigeye tuna, [XX%] or less for yellowfin tuna, and [XX%] or less for eastern skipjack tuna; and
3. In the development of the operating models for the multi-stock tropical tunas MSE, the Commission calls on the SCRS, consistent with paragraph 62 of Rec. 22-01, to evaluate the differential impacts of fishing operations (e.g., purse seine, longline, and baitboat) on juvenile mortality and yield at MSY as strategies to achieve management objectives.
4. In further developing initial operational management objectives, the conceptual management objectives in paragraph 2 may be rejected, modified, or supplemented, as appropriate, by Panel 1, and these initial management objectives will be forwarded to the SCRS for review and evaluation through the MSE process.
5. Panel 1 will provide its recommendations for final operational management objectives for Atlantic bigeye tuna, yellowfin tuna, and the eastern stock of skipjack tuna, considering SCRS input, to the Commission for consideration as part of the selection of a management procedure at its 2026 Annual Meeting or as soon as possible thereafter.
6. This resolution will be repealed upon adoption of final operational management objectives for Atlantic bigeye tuna, yellowfin tuna, and the eastern stock of skipjack tuna by the Commission.

¹ The SCRS will advise on appropriate B_{LIMs} for Atlantic bigeye tuna, yellowfin tuna, and the eastern stock of skipjack tuna.