

Cover sheet to accompany new proposals
(proposal submitted by South Africa)

Title of the Proposed Draft Recommendation/Resolution: *Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on development of initial conceptual management objectives for southern Atlantic Albacore*

Title of currently in force recommendation(s) or resolution(s) addressing the same or related issues:

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

Yes No

Brief description of new reporting obligation(s):

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):

Stock Assessment

The Committee supported the initiative of starting development of a stock synthesis model for South albacore stock, that could be the basis of a future MSE. The Committee requested the ICCAT Secretariat to provide necessary input files for Stock Synthesis (SS) up to 2022 based on the fleet structure used in the Surplus-Production Models Incorporating Covariates (ASPIC) for South Atlantic albacore.

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:

The Committee supported the initiative of starting development of a stock synthesis model for South albacore stock, that could be the basis of a future MSE. The Committee requested the Secretariat to provide necessary input files for Stock Synthesis (SS) up to 2022 based on the fleet structure used in the Surplus-Production Models Incorporating Covariates (ASPIC) for South Atlantic albacore.

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

Deadline: end of April 2025 responsibility: Secretariat.

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

No.

**Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on development of
initial conceptual management objectives for southern Atlantic albacore**

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RECALLING the intent of the Commission to adopt Management Procedures (MPs) tested through Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE¹) to manage fisheries more effectively in the face of identified uncertainties;

RECALLING the application of the precautionary approach in accordance with relevant international standards as established in the *Resolution by ICCAT Concerning the Use of a Precautionary Approach in Implementing ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures* (Res. 15-12);

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the efforts to sustainably manage the southern Atlantic albacore stock, consistent with the objectives of the Convention and the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Principles of Decision Making for ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures* (Rec. 11-13);

NOTING the conclusions of the 2020 Stock Assessment conducted by ICCAT's Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS), which indicated that the southern Atlantic albacore stock is most likely located in the green area of the Kobe plot, indicating that the stock is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring;

UNDERSTANDING that conceptual objectives are high-level aspirational objectives that verbalize a desired generic goal without including specifics on a measurable target or timeframe for achievement, while operational objectives are a key foundational component of any MSE and provide specific and measurable targets, with associated likelihoods of achieving those targets over determined timeframes;

CONSIDERING that the Commission desires to adopt an MP for southern Atlantic albacore in 2025;

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

1. Management objectives should be established for southern Atlantic albacore tuna consistent with the Convention's objective: to maintain populations at or above levels that will support maximum sustainable catch (usually referred to as MSY).
2. To facilitate development of an MSE for southern Atlantic albacore, the following conceptual management objectives should be considered:
 - a. Stock Status
 - The stock should have a [XX%] or greater probability of occurring in the green quadrant of the Kobe matrix using a [X]-year projection period as determined by the SCRS;
 - b. Safety
 - There should be no greater than [XX%] probability of the stock falling below B_{LIM}^1 at any point during the X-year projection period;
 - c. Yield
 - Maximize overall catch levels in the short (1-10 years), medium (11-20 years) and long (21-30 years) terms; and

¹ The SCRS will advise on an appropriated B_{LIM} for southern Atlantic albacore tuna.

d. Stability

- Any changes in TAC between management periods should be [XX]% or less.
3. In further developing initial operational management objectives, the candidate management objectives in paragraph 2 may be rejected, modified, or supplemented, as appropriate, by Panel 3, and these initial management objectives will be forwarded to the SCRS Albacore Species Group for review and evaluation through the MSE process.
 4. Panel 3 will provide its recommendations for final management objectives for southern Atlantic albacore, considering the SCRS input, to the Commission for consideration as part of the selection of a management procedure at its 2025 Annual Meeting or as soon as possible thereafter.