

## CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) TO THE REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY GENERAL ON OCEANS AND THE LAW OF THE SEA

This report is a brief summaryof the main recent developments of the Commission in relation to the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 75/239

Marked by the pandemic that has suddenly invaded, the year 2020 has dramatically altered the usual course of the work schedule. Therefore, the Commission adjusted to this event by quickly adopting measures that allowed it to pursue its agenda

The Commission convened through correspondence to evaluate the results of the 2020 work plan together with the current status ofapplication of the regulatory measures in force and to establish the conservation and management measures for the future. In 2020, full scientific stock assessments were carried out for four species: bluefin tuna(Thunnus thynnus and Atlantic albacore (Thunnus alalunga), Mediterranean swordfish (Xiphias gladius and porbeagle shark (Lamna nasus). In total, nine new Recommendations and one Reference document were adopted covering relevant issues on Atlantic tuna and tundike species conservation and fisheries management.

A wave of cooperation allowed for the rollover of the multi-annual conservation and management programme for tropical tunas, which implies a TAC for bigeye tuna of 61,500 t for 2021. The annual TAC for yellowfin will remain at the current level of 110,000 In addition, in order to reduce the fishing mortality of juvenile bigeye and yellowfin tuna, the three months prohibition on the use of FADs in 2021was maintained, as was the reduction on the maximum number of fish aggregating devices (FADs) deployed b



to develop and propose additional measures towards achieving consension and management objectives for this stock.

The Compliance Committee noted that the trend toward improved compliance was continuing, although as was to be expected, the pandemic caused some difficulties in meeting deadlines, particularly in the early stages. Letters will be issued to 36 Contracting Parties in which a range of compliance deficiencies were detected.

Finally, a new amendment was agreed to the ICCAT Recommendation on the Establishment of a Meeting Participation Fund for Developing ICCAContracting Parties, together with new Rules of Procedure for the Administration of this special Fund.

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The ratification of the newly adopted Protocolto Amend the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas is ongoing with the FAO.

## Capacity building

Many capacity building activities have been impacted by the Covialnd prevented them from taking placeas planned.

For capacity building relating to Port Inpseciton, unfortunately, due to the restrictions imposed by the pandemic, the needs assessments of the Contracting Parties foreseen could not be completed. Notwithstanding, work on the ICCAT training module continudeduring the year, and it is expected to resume activities in a virtual format in the last quarter of 2021, with a view to continuing activities into 2022 and beyond.

## Science

Although the pandemic precluded inperson meetings since March 2020, the ICCAT Scientific Committee of Research and Statistics (SCRS) rapidly-organized workplan for 2020 and rescheduled a number of online meetings of the different Working Group and Schmmittees, 6.2(d)-1e.7(a).1(ove(pT1 -28(l)713.8(p)-1.8(um)-3.1(7)0.8(n)-16.3(t)-1 0.7(of)-106.7(s)-10.8(um)-3.1(7)21.4(S



that several online scientific workshops have been organised. As a result, useful specific recommendations have been made to coordinate and further standardize the existing search lines, such as electronic tagging, and to develop new ones, such as the <code>Ckinsepproach</code> based on genetic techniques for stock assessment.