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**GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION
FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN
COMMISSION GÉNÉRALE DES PÊCHES
POUR LA MÉDITERRANÉE**



GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

Thirty-fourth Session

Athens, Greece, 14-17 April 2010

**ICCAT RECOMMENDATIONS OF RELEVANCE
TO THE MEDITERRANEAN**

- I. Recommendation [09-04] by ICCAT for a Management Framework for the Sustainable Exploitation of Mediterranean Swordfish and replacing ICCAT recommendation 08-03
- II. Recommendation [09-06] by ICCAT amending recommendation 08-05 to establish a Multirecovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean
- III. Recommendation [09-07] by ICCAT on the Conservation of Thresher Sharks caught in association with Fisheries in the ICCAT Convention Area

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09-04

SWO

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT FOR A MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK FOR THE
SUSTAINABLE EXPLOITATION OF MEDITERRANEAN SWORDFISH
AND REPLACING ICCAT RECOMMENDATION 08-03**

RECOGNISING that the Commission's Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) indicated in its 2007 stock assessment that the fishing mortality needs to be reduced to move the stock toward the Convention objective of biomass levels which could support Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY), and that seasonal closures are considered to be beneficial in moving the stock condition closer to the Convention objective,

NOTING that the SCRS in its assessment in 2007, as reaffirmed in its 2009 advice, estimated that fish less than three years old usually represent 50-70% of the total yearly catches in terms of numbers and 20-35% in terms of weight and indicates that a reduction in the volume of juvenile catches would improve yield per recruit and spawning biomass per recruit levels,

RECALLING the *Recommendation by ICCAT Relating to Mediterranean Swordfish* [Rec. 03-04], which encourages Contracting Parties, and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (hereafter referred to as CPCs) to take measures to reduce juvenile Mediterranean swordfish catches,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the SCRS advice given in 2008 and 2009, advocating seasonal closures pending the adoption of a more comprehensive management plan for Mediterranean swordfish,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that the SCRS advise that swordfish and in particular juvenile swordfish is also caught as a by-catch in other fisheries and that all catches of swordfish should stop during the closed period,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that *Recommendation by ICCAT on Mediterranean Swordfish* [Rec. 08-03] needs to be replaced to set the basis for such a more comprehensive management plan for Mediterranean swordfish,

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

1. Catching of swordfish, both as a targeted fishery and as by-catch, shall be prohibited in the Mediterranean during the period from 1 October to 30 November each year, until a long-term management plan is decided by ICCAT. Mediterranean swordfish shall not be retained on board, transhipped or landed during the period of closure.
2. CPCs shall monitor the effectiveness of this closure and submit relevant information on appropriate controls and inspections to ensure compliance with the measure by 15 October each year.

3. CPCs shall ensure the maintenance or development of adequate scientific information in the formats requested by ICCAT and in the smallest time-area possible on the swordfish catches, on the size and age distributions of all swordfish catches and on the fishing effort (fishing days per vessel, number of hooks per vessel, longline units per vessel, overall length of longline per vessel) by each pelagic longline fishery for highly migratory pelagic stocks in the Mediterranean. They shall provide these data annually by 30 June to the SCRS.
4. The Commission shall establish and maintain an ICCAT list of all fishing vessels authorised to catch swordfish in the Mediterranean Sea and make it available at the latest by 31 August each year. For the purposes of this recommendation, vessels not entered into the ICCAT list of all vessels authorised to swordfish in the Mediterranean Sea are deemed not to be authorised to catch, retain on board, tranship, transport, process or land swordfish.
5. CPCs shall communicate electronically to the ICCAT Secretariat not later than 30 June each year, the list of its fishing vessels that were authorized to carry out pelagic longline fisheries for highly migratory pelagic species in the Mediterranean during the preceding year in the format set out in the Guidelines for Submitting Data and Information Required by ICCAT. The list of vessels shall contain the following information for each vessel:
 - name of vessel;
 - register number;
 - external marking;
 - previous name (if any);
 - previous flag (if any);
 - type of vessel, length and gross tonnage (GT) and/or gross registered tonnage (GRT);
 - period(s) fished and total annual number of fishing days by fishery (i.e. by target species and area);
 - geographical areas, by ICCAT statistical rectangles, where fishing by fishery (i.e. by target species and area) was carried out;
 - number of hooks used by fishery (i.e. by target species and area);
 - number of longline units used by fishery (i.e. by target species and area);
 - overall length of all longline units by fishery (i.e. by target species and area).
6. Procedures referred in the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Establishment of an ICCAT Record of Vessels over 20 Meters in Length Overall or Greater Authorized to Operate in the Convention Area [09-08]* shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.
7. CPCs shall grant special fishing permits to vessels authorised to participate in pelagic longline fisheries for highly-migratory pelagic stocks in the Mediterranean for each fishery (i.e. by target species and area).
8. The SCRS shall provide in 2010 an updated assessment of the state of the stock on the basis of updated data from 2009. It shall assess the effects of the seasonal closure and provide advice on possible spatial temporal closures, as well as other possible technical measures, pertaining notably to rigging techniques, hook sizes and shapes, with a view to reducing by-catches of juvenile swordfish by pelagic longline fisheries. On the basis of the information provided under paragraph 5, the SCRS shall also provide an assessment of fishing capacity and possibly on a minimum catching size to achieve high yields and compatible with the selectivity of the fishing gear.
9. Based on such scientific advice, the ICCAT shall decide, by end of 2010, a more comprehensive long-term management plan for swordfish including, in particular, the identification of closure periods for specific areas, the establishment of fishing effort reference level and technical measures for all pelagic longline fisheries catching swordfish either as targeted or as by-catch.

This Recommendation replaces the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Mediterranean Sw*

09-06

BFT

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT AMENDING RECOMMENDATION 08-05
TO ESTABLISH A MULTIANNUAL RECOVERY PLAN FOR BLUEFIN TUNA
IN THE EASTERN ATLANTIC AND MEDITERRANEAN**

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

Total Allowable Catch (TAC) and associated conditions

1. The total allowable catches for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna shall be set at 13,500 t in 2010. The allocation scheme established by Recommendation 08-05 shall remain unchanged.
2. The SCRS shall present a Kobe II strategy matrix reflecting recovery scenarios of eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna in accordance with the multiannual recovery plan of the present Recommendation.
3. The Commission shall establish at its 2010 meeting a three-year recovery plan for 2011-2013 with the goal of achieving B_{MSY} through 2022 with at least 60% of probability, on a basis of the SCRS advice described in paragraph 2 above.
4. If the SCRS stock assessment detects a serious threat of fishery collapse, the Commission shall suspend all the fisheries for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna in 2011. Contracting Party, and Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity (hereafter referred to as CPCs) shall immediately intensify research activities so that SCRS can conduct further analysis and present recommendations on conservation and management measures necessary to resume the fisheries.

Closed fishing season

5. Purse seine fishing for bluefin tuna shall be prohibited in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean during the period from 15 June to 15 May.
6. The bad weather clause allowing for a possible extension of up to 5 days until 20 June (paragraph 21 of Rec. 08-05) shall be cancelled.

Further reduction of fishing capacity

7. Without prejudice to paragraph 45 of Rec. 08-05, each CPC shall reduce its fishing capacity referred to in paragraphs 42, 43 and 44 of Rec. 08-05 so as to ensure that the discrepancy between its fishing capacity and its fishing capacity commensurate with its allocated quota in 2011, 2012 and 2013, in accordance with the methodology approved at the 2009 annual meeting, shall be reduced by:
 - a) at least 50% in 2011

- b) 20% in 2012
- c) 5% in 2013

8. Management plans on fishing capacity for the remaining period shall be submitted annually for discussion and approval by the Commission.

Joint fishing operations

9. For each CPC, the number of joint fishing operations between CPCs from 2010 shall be limited to the level of 2007, 2008 or 2009. Before the start of the fishing season, each concerned CPC shall notify the number of its joint fishing operations with other CPCs to the ICCAT Secretariat.

Inter-sessional meeting on compliance

10. The Commission shall review and determine each CPC's compliance, in particular that with paragraph 1 above and paragraph 46 of Recommendation 08-05, at its special session before the 2010 fishing season starts.
11. The Commission shall decide on the interim suspension or reduction of quota for the declared non compliant CPC, depending on the extent of the established non-compliance.

09-07

BYC

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON THE CONSERVATION
OF THRESHER SHARKS CAUGHT IN ASSOCIATION
WITH FISHERIES IN THE ICCAT CONVENTION AREA**

RECALLING that the Commission adopted the *Resolution by ICCAT on Atlantic Sharks* [Res. 01-11], the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Conservation of Sharks Caught in Association with Fisheries Managed by ICCAT* [Rec. 04-10], the *Recommendation by ICCAT to Amend the Recommendation 04-10 on the Conservation of Sharks Caught in Association with the Fisheries Managed by ICCAT* [Rec. 05-05], the *Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Sharks* [Rec. 07-06] and the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Conservation of Bigeye Thresher Sharks (*Alopias superciliosus*) Caught in Association with Fisheries Managed by ICCAT* [Rec. 08-07],

CONSIDERING that thresher sharks of the family *Alopiidae* are caught as by-catch in the ICCAT Convention area,

NOTING that at its 2009 Meeting the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) recommended that the Commission prohibit retention and landings of bigeye thresher shark (*Alopias superciliosus*),

RECALLING the need to annually report Task I and Task II for catches of sharks in conformity with the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Conservation of Sharks Caught in Association with Fisheries Managed by ICCAT* [Rec. 04-10],

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

1. Contracting Parties, and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (hereafter referred to as CPCs) shall prohibit, retaining onboard, transshipping, landing, storing, selling, or offering for sale any part or whole carcass of bigeye thresher sharks (*Alopias superciliosus*) in any fishery with exception of a Mexican small-scale coastal fishery with a catch of less than 110 fish.
2. CPCs shall require vessels flying their flag to promptly release unharmed, to the extent practicable, bigeye thresher sharks when brought along side for taking on board the vessel.
3. CPCs should strongly endeavour to ensure that vessels flying their flag do not undertake a directed fishery for species of thresher sharks of the genus *Alopias spp.*

4. CPCs shall require the collection and submission of Task I and Task II data for *Alopias spp* other than *A. superciliosus* in accordance with ICCAT data reporting requirements. The number of discards and releases of *A. superciliosus* must be recorded with indication of status (dead or alive) and reported to ICCAT in accordance with ICCAT data reporting requirements.
5. CPCs shall, where possible, implement research on thresher sharks of the species *Alopias spp* in the Convention area in order to identify potential nursery areas. Based on this research, CPCs shall consider time and area closures and other measures, as appropriate.
6. *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Conservation of Bigeye Thresher Sharks (Alopias superciliosus) Caught in Association with Fisheries Managed by ICCAT [Rec. 08-07]* is superseded by this Recommendation.