

BAYS Species Working Group

#12e

Convener: Gerry Leape

Rapporteur: Grace Ferrara

Current ICCAT measures:

[Rec 16-01](#): Tropical tunas management measure[Rec 17-01](#): Tropical tunas discard prohibition[Rec 16-06](#): Northern albacore management measure[Rec 17-04](#): Northern albacore harvest control rule measure[Rec 16-07](#): Southern albacore management measure[Rec 17-05](#): Mediterranean albacore management measure

Excerpts from 2017 SCRS Report relevant to BAYS

http://iccat.int/Documents/Meetings/Docs/2017_SCRS_REP_ENG.pdf

Report page	Content
18 to 37	Yellowfin tuna executive summary
38 to 55	Bigeye tuna executive summary
56 to 73	Skipjack tuna executive summary
74 to 97	Albacore tuna executive summary
246	Tropical Tunas Species Group intersessional meeting discussion
246	Albacore Species Group intersessional meeting discussion
252 to 253	Atlantic Ocean Tropical Tuna Tagging Program (AOTTP) discussion
255	Considerations of the implications of the Meeting of the Joint t-RFMO FAD Working Group
255 to 256	Report of the Third meeting of the Ad hoc Working Group on FADs discussion
258	Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) work conducted for albacore
258	MSE work conducted for tropical tunas
276	General recommendations to the Commission that have financial implications (albacore and tropicals)
279-280	Other recommendations (albacore and tropicals)
282	Responses to the Commission's requests
282	● Ghana's capacity management plan
282	● Efficacy of time/area closure
283	● Recommended observer coverage levels
284	● Recommendations of the FAD Working Group and work plan
284	● Performance indicators for tropical tunas
285	● Table quantifying impact of reductions in proportional contributions of major fisheries to total catch
286	● Contribution of bycatches and discards to tropical tuna catch
288	● Possible measures to reduce discards and bycatch in tropical tuna fisheries
294	● Refine testing of albacore candidate reference points
295	● Evaluate albacore HCRs through management strategy evaluation process
357 to 385	AOTTP Report
441 to 443	Species Group work plans: tropical tunas
444 to 447	Species Group work plans: albacore

Other relevant documents:

Cir 773-18: Panel 1 intersessional terms of reference and agenda (attachment)

[PA1-505: 2017 Proposal from South African and others](#) (not adopted)

[PA1-503: 2017 Proposal from the EU](#) (not adopted)

[Report](#) of the 2017 meeting of Standing Working Group of Scientists and Managers (SWGSM)

[Report](#) of Third FAD Working Group (See appendix 5 in particular.)

[Report](#) of Joint Tuna RFMO FAD Working Group

BAYS Species Working Group 2018 Agenda

1. Introductions

2. Status of the stocks and update on relevant SCRS activities

3. Recreational fisheries

- A. What should the scope of ICCAT's engagement on recreational fisheries issues be?
 - i. From a U.S. perspective, what benefits has or could ICCAT provide on recreational issues? What specific outcomes would U.S. stakeholders like to see from ICCAT engagement on recreational issues?
 - ii. What are the potential obstacles/objections and/or risks associated with ICCAT engagement in recreational fisheries issues? How might these be addressed?
 - iii. What method(s)/approach(es) can/should be taken to best achieve any identified outcomes and who may be like-minded partners in other ICCAT members?
 - 1. What role should ICCAT's Working Group on Sport and Recreational Fisheries play, if any? Would the terms of reference for the working group need to be revised?
 - 2. Are there other methods/approaches that should be considered?

4. Management Strategy Evaluation and Harvest Control Rules

- A. Management objectives
- B. Performance indicators
- C. Other issues and next steps
 - i. Ranking exercise

5. Conservation and Management

- A. Actions at the 2017 ICCAT meeting
 - i. Measures adopted
 - ii. Measures proposed but not adopted
- B. Other relevant conservation and management measures already in force
- C. Review of relevant 2017 SWG conservation and management recommendations
 - i. Review relevant FAD Working Group recommendations
- D. Consideration and development of 2018 conservation and management recommendations, including relevant matters from agenda items 3 and 4 above

6. Research and Data Collection

- A. Research needs identified by the SCRS
- B. Recent research (domestic and international)
- C. Review of relevant 2017 SWG research and data collection recommendations
- D. Consideration and development of 2018 research and data collection recommendations, including any relevant matters from agenda items 3 and 4 above.

7. Other Business

8. Adoption of the report and adjournment

2017 BAYS SWG Recommendations

Management Recommendations

FAD Management:

1. At the joint tuna RFMO working group on fish aggregating devices meeting in April and the ICCAT Ad-hoc working group on fish aggregating devices meeting in September, the United States should support recommendations to pursue management options that immediately and directly support the recovery of the Atlantic bigeye and yellowfin tuna stocks, including but not limited to:
 - a. Catch limits for juvenile bigeye and yellowfin landed by purse seiners;
 - b. Limits on the number of FAD-associated purse seine sets;
 - c. More effective time-area closures.
2. Furthermore, if there is a renegotiation of Rec. 16-01 at the ICCAT Annual Meeting in November, the United States should promote the inclusion of effective, science-based FAD management options

Bigeye Tuna:

1. Should the 2016 catch of Atlantic bigeye tuna exceed the TAC the United States should support measures to ensure that the total catch is below the level recommended by SCRS scientists to support recovery of the stock. Regarding the minor harvester provisions, the Group emphasized the need to ensure flexibility for the U.S. fishery.

Research and Scientific Recommendations

Analysis related to juvenile catch:

1. In accordance with Annex 8 of Rec. 16-01, which directs the SCRS to answer FAD-related scientific questions, during SCRS's tropical tuna species group intersessional and annual meetings (both in September, this year), national scientists should continue to develop clear scientific advice on:
 - a. How gear types that harvest Atlantic bigeye of all sizes contribute to Atlantic bigeye fishing mortality and stock status and, how changes to effort in respective gear types would impact the timelines and likelihoods of success for bigeye stock recovery as laid out in the Kobe matrices for this stock;
 - b. Advice should include management options to reduce catch of juvenile Atlantic bigeye through measures including but not limited to FAD set limits, the Gulf of Guinea time-area closure, and FAD deployment reductions would impact the timelines and likelihoods of success for bigeye stock recovery as laid out in the Kobe matrices for this stock.

Atlantic Ocean Tropical Tuna Tagging Program (AOTTP):

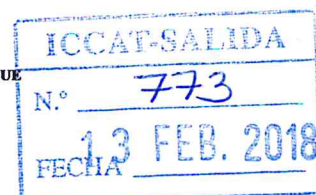
1. The Working Group continues to recommend that the United States support the AOTTP, in particular by ensuring that tagging is conducted throughout the Convention area, including adequate coverage of the Western Atlantic and Caribbean.

HCR/MSE and northern albacore:

1. NMFS scientists should continue to actively engage with scientists from other CPCs and the ICCAT Secretariat as they review candidate harvest control rules and finalize the operating models for the northern albacore systemized management strategy evaluation.

Observer coverage and full retention:

1. Emphasizing the disproportionate impact to the status of the bigeye and yellowfin stocks of FAD fishing, the United States should support 100% observer coverage and full retention of tunas in the tropical tuna large-scale purse seine fleet.



Madrid, 13 February 2018

ICCAT CIRCULAR # 0773 / 2018

SUBJECT: INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF PANEL 1 (*Bilbao, 23-25 July 2018*)

I have the honour to inform you that, in accordance with the decision of the Commission at its 25th Regular Meeting held in Marrakesh, Morocco, 14-21 November 2017, an intersessional meeting of Panel 1 will be held in Bilbao, 23-25 July 2018.

The tentative agenda for the meeting is attached and the registration form has been published on the ICCAT website. We kindly request participants to make their reservations directly with the hotel. For hotel information, please click [here](#).

Participants wishing to request financial assistance from the Meeting Participation Fund should make their requests in accordance with the protocols and rules of procedure ([here](#)) before **24 May 2018**.

CPCs are requested to provide their preliminary positions on the matters to be covered during the meeting in writing to the ICCAT Secretariat by **29 June 2018** at the latest. CPCs wishing to submit other documents for this meeting are requested to do so as early as possible in order to be able to make the documents available in three languages by the start of the meeting. The Secretariat will post all documents on a dedicated sharepoint at least 2 weeks before the Panel 1 intersessional meeting or as soon as possible after receipt.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

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Driss Meski
Executive Secretary



- **Commission Officers:**

Commission Chairman:	R. Delgado	COC Chairman:	D. Campbell
First Vice Chair:	S. Depypere	PWG Chair:	N. Ansell
Second Vice Chair:	Z. Driouich	STACFAD Chair:	H.A Elekon
SCRS Chairman:	D. Die		
- **Head Delegates**
- **Cooperating Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities**

Attachment: Terms of Reference and Tentative Agenda.

INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF PANEL 1

Terms of reference

1. An intersessional meeting of Panel 1 will be convened in Bilbao (Spain) between 23 and 25 July 2018, in order to:

a) Briefly review fishery and scientific information for tropical tunas, including the status of the stocks.

b) Discuss conservation and management considerations for tropical tuna stocks and/or fisheries, including the requirements of Rec. 11-13.

c) Consider possible conservation and management measures for tropical tuna stocks and/or fisheries, that could include, inter alia:

1. Capacity limits
2. Catch limits
3. Time and/or area closures
4. Limits on/reduction of FAD fishing effort
5. Limits on/reduction of the number of support vessels
6. Other measures to reduce mortality of juvenile BET and YFT
7. Other measures

d) Identify mechanisms to ensure effective implementation of these conservation and management measures

Specific consideration should be given to practices with the potential to undermine compliance with management measures if not well controlled or implemented, *inter-alia*: transshipments at sea, incomplete or irregular reporting, etc.

e) Begin consideration of the development of management procedures for tropical tunas:

1. In the context of the development of management procedures, discuss the pros and cons of managing tropical tunas by stock, fishery, or some combination and consider how management objectives should be articulated for tropical tunas.
2. In light of the discussion under item 1 above: consider the implications with respect to the MSE process, and identify additional/alternate performance metrics for the tropical tuna MSE taking into account those identified in Annex 9 of Rec. 16-01 as well as conservation and socio-economic aspects of the stocks and fisheries.
2. In discussing possible measures pursuant to paragraphs 1c and 1d above, Panel 1 should evaluate their scientific basis, conservation and management benefits, and compliance elements. In light of this evaluation, Panel 1 should seek to prioritize those measures (or combination of measures) that appear to have the greatest likelihood of supporting the relevant conservation and management considerations identified pursuant to paragraph b above. Specific consideration should be given to the likely effectiveness and efficiency of these measures, and how CPCs verify compliance.
3. CPCs are requested to provide their preliminary positions on these matters *in writing to the ICCAT Secretariat at least 3 weeks before the meeting*. The Secretariat will post these submissions on a dedicated sharepoint at least 2 weeks before the Panel 1 intersessional meeting or as soon as possible after receipt.

INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF PANEL 1

Tentative Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Nomination of Rapporteur
3. Meeting objectives¹
4. Adoption of the agenda and meeting arrangements
5. Briefly review on tropical tuna fisheries and stock status (including preliminary results from the 2018 Bigeye tuna stock assessment and main challenges faced in the tropical tuna stocks assessments).
6. Current conservation and management measures (including challenges in their implementation and evaluation of their effectiveness).
7. Considerations for modifications of current conservation and management measures² or adoption of new measures that could include, inter alia:
 - Capacity limits
 - Catch limits
 - Time and/or area closures
 - Limits on/reduction of FAD fishing effort
 - Limits on/reduction of the number of support vessels
 - Other measures to reduce mortality of juvenile BET and YFT
 - Other measures
8. Draft plan for development of Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) and Harvest Control Rules (HCR) for tropical tunas
 - Potential management objectives
 - Identification of performance indicators
 - Possible management procedures, including HCRs
9. Recommendations to the Commission and request to the SCRS
10. Other matters
11. Adoption of report and adjournment

¹ The meeting seeks to provide a forum for discussion on current and possible future management measures related to tropical tunas, including the possible future adoption of Harvest Control Rules.

² In discussing possible measures, Panel 1 should evaluate the scientific basis, conservation and management benefits, and compliance elements. In light of this evaluation, Panel 1 should seek to prioritize those measures (or combination of measures) that appear to have the greatest likelihood of supporting the relevant conservation and management objectives identified in item 8. Specific consideration should be given to the likely effectiveness and efficiency of these measures, and how CPCs verify compliance.