

#7b



**NOAA
FISHERIES**

SEFSC

2026 SCRS Activities and U.S. participation

ICCAT Advisory Committee meeting

April 27-28, 2026

SEFSC scientific staff and roles

Craig Brown : SCRS Chair

John Walter : W-BFT Chair

Matthew Lauretta : YFT Chair

Guillermo Diaz: Stock assessment

Dean Courtney: Lead assessment, sharks

John Carlson: Special Advisor on Shark Depredation to DUSOA (Laura Grimm)

Eric Orbesen: Oceanic and Coastal Pelagics Branch

Derke Snodgrass: Oceanic and Coastal Pelagics Branch

SCRS Meeting Participation: Hybrid meetings have expanded access, but ICCAT SCRS meetings are not open to the public. U.S. scientists who want to participate in an SCRS meeting as a member of the U.S. delegation must submit a request to the U.S. head scientist for the SCRS (Guillermo.diaz@noaa.gov) or acting Sustainable Fisheries Division Director John Walter (john.f.walter@noaa.gov) well in advance. Alternatively, you may request ICCAT to receive observer status through a recognized organization at least 50 days in advance.

2026 SCRS ('formal') meetings

- 1) Feb 3. Meeting of the ad-hoc working group on coordination of tagging information (online).
- 2) Feb 24-25. Intersessional meeting of the Subcommittee on Statistics (online).
- 3) Mar 9-12. First intersessional meeting of the bluefin tuna species group (online).
- 4) Mar 23-27. SA and Med Swordfish data preparatory meeting (hybrid).
- 5) Apr 13-17. Albacore data preparatory meeting (hybrid).
- 6) Apr 20-22. Intersessional meeting of the Tropical tunas species group (including MSE) (hybrid).
- 7) Apr 27. Meeting of the standing group on dialogue between fishery scientists and managers (online).
- 8) May 18-22. Meeting of the Subcommittee on Ecosystems and Bycatch (hybrid).
- 9) May 25-28. Meeting of the Working Group on stock assessment methods. (hybrid).
- 10) Jun 8-12. North Atlantic shortfin mako stock assessment meeting (hybrid).
- 11) Jun 22-25. Albacore stock assessment meeting (hybrid).
- 12) Jul 1-4. Second intersessional meeting of the bluefin tuna species group (hybrid).
- 13) Jul 13-17. Swordfish stock assessment meeting (hybrid).
- 14) Sep 14-19. Species groups and Subcommittee on Statistics meetings (hybrid).
- 15) Sep 21-25. SCRS Plenary meeting (hybrid).

Tropical Tunas (YFT/BET/SKJ)

1) Intersessional meeting of the Tropical Tunas species Group (including MSE)
Madrid, April 20-22 (Hybrid)

January-March: Refine CMPs based on new management objectives, improve realism and responsiveness to changes in all three stocks. Document updates in TSD.

April-July: Present progress on MSE and CMPs evaluations to the tropical tuna Species Group and S CRS.

September: CMP refinement based on feedback from in-person meeting.

September: Present the draft final multispecies MSE results to the SCRS during Species Group Meeting for adoption by Species Group and Plenary.

September - November: Prepare communication materials for ICCAT Commission meeting.

November: Present the multispecies MSE final results to Panel 1 for consideration for MP adoption.

Prioritize Ambassador/Commission team meetings.

Virtual technical team meetings to be scheduled as needed.

Tropical Tunas (YFT/BET/SKJ)

1) Interseasonal meeting of the Tropical Tunas species Group (including MSE)
Madrid, April 20-22 (Hybrid)

Jan **Delayed to recondition models with**
Apr **BET assessment results**

1d S

Sep

September: Present the draft final multispecies MSE results to the SCRS during Species Group Meeting for adoption by Species Group and Plenary.

September - November: Prepare communication materials for ICCAT Commission meeting.

November: Present the multispecies MSE final results to Panel 1 for consideration for MP adoption.

Prioritize Ambassador/Commission team meetings.

Virtual technical team meetings to be scheduled as needed.

Tropical Tunas Western SKJ

- Development of W-SKJ MSE

January – September: Development of scientific aspects of exceptional circumstance protocols.

October – November: Provision of final inputs on ECP to Commission.

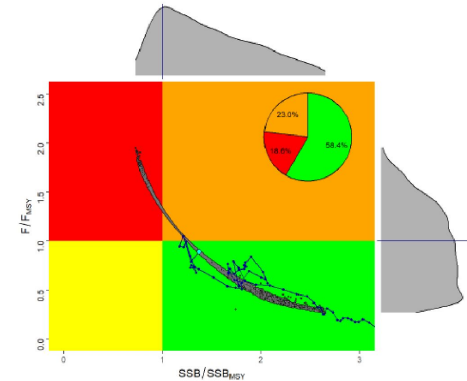
January – November: Preparation of communication materials related to ECP.

- Improvement of Biological parameters

- a) Continue to support activities related to the AOTTP
- b) Emphasis on age and growth



YFT Stock Status



Indicator		Stock Status
Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) ¹	121,661 t (107,485 t - 188,456 t) ³	2022
TAC (2024)	110,000 t	
Current (2024) Yield ²	140,302 t	
Relative Spawning Biomass (SSB ₂₀₂₂ /SSB _{MSY})	1.37 (0.91-2.15)	
Relative Fishing Mortality (F ₂₀₂₀₋₂₀₂₂ /F _{MSY}) ¹	0.89 (0.40-1.46)	
Stock Status	Overfished: NO (19% probability of being overfished) ⁴ Overfishing: NO (42% probability of overfishing) ⁴	
Management measures in effect	Rec. 24-01 ⁵ TAC (2025) 110,000 t	

¹ Median of 4,000 Monte Carlo iterations of the Stock Synthesis base case.

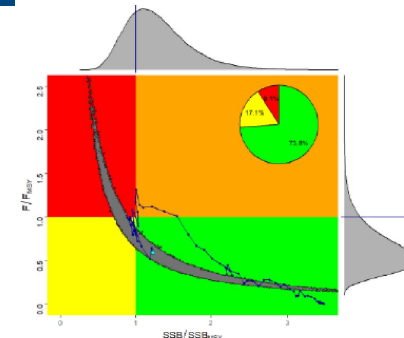
² Provisional and subject to revision as of 23 September 2025.

³ Median and 80% confidence intervals are shown.

⁴ As estimated from the Kobe plot probability in each quadrant.

⁵ Rec. 24-01 only entered in force in June 2025, but other previous Recommendations (Rec. 22-01 and Rec. 17-01) also applied to YFT stock.

BET Stock Status



<i>Indicator</i>		<i>Stock Status</i>
Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) ¹	86,030 t (79,702 t - 114,311 t) ³	2023
TAC (2024)	62,000 t	
Current (2024) Yield ²	54,984 t	
Relative Spawning Biomass (SSB ₂₀₂₃ /SSB _{MSY})	1.23 (0.81-1.85) ³	
Relative Fishing Mortality (F ₂₀₂₃ /F _{MSY})	0.59 (0.36-0.98) ³	
Stock Status	Overfished: NO (26.2% probability of being overfished) ⁴	2023
	Overfishing: NO (9.1% probability of overfishing) ⁴	
Management measure in effect	Rec. 24-01 ⁵ TAC (2025) 73,011 t	

¹ Combined result of 18 stock synthesis model runs using data from 1950-2023.

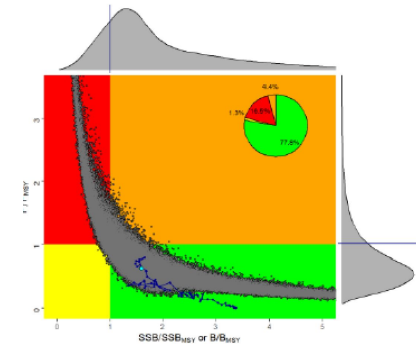
² Provisional and subject to revision as of 23 September 2025.

³ Point estimate, 80% bias corrected confidence intervals are shown.

⁴ As estimated from the Kobe plot probability in each quadrant.

⁵ Rec. 24-01 only entered in force in June 2025, but other previous Recommendations (Rec. 21-01, Rec. 22-01 and Rec. 23-01) also applied to the BET stock.

E-SKJ Stock Status



<i>Indicator</i>		<i>Stock Status</i>
Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY)	216,617 t (172,735 – 284,658 t) ¹	2020
TAC (2024)	None	
Current (2024) Yield	181,999 t ²	
Relative Biomass (B_{2020}/B_{MSY})	1.60 (0.50 – 5.79) ³	
Relative Fishing Mortality (F_{2020}/F_{MSY})	0.63 (0.18 – 2.35) ³	
Stock Status	Overfished: NO (18% probability of being overfished) Overfishing: NO (21% probability of overfishing)	
Management measure in effect	Rec. 24-01 ⁴	

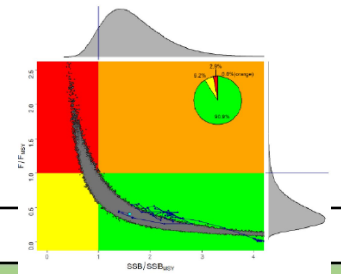
¹ Median and 95% confidence interval estimated from the joint uncertainty grid.

² Provisional and subject to revision.

³ Median and 95% confidence interval based on 90,000 iterations of the multivariate lognormal (MVLN) approximation for Stock Synthesis and 90,000 Markov chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) iterations for JABBA.

⁴ Rec. 24-01 only entered in force in June 2025, but other previous Recommendation (Rec. 23-01, Rec. 22-01 and Rec. 21-01) included several measures that impacted fishing for the eastern stock (e.g. temporal closure on fishing for schools associated with FADs, limits to the number of FADs, changes in FAD design, etc.).

W-SKJ Stock Status



<i>Indicator</i>		
Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY)	35,277 t (28,444 – 46,340 t) ¹	2020
TAC (2024)	None	
Current (2024) Yield	23,207 t ²	
Relative Biomass (SSB ₂₀₂₀ /B _{MSY})	1.60 (0.90 – 2.87) ³	
Relative Fishing Mortality (F ₂₀₂₀ /F _{MSY})	0.41 (0.19 – 0.89) ³	
Stock Status	Overfished: NO (9% probability of being overfished) Overfishing: NO (3% probability of overfishing)	
Management measure in effect	Rec. 24-01 ⁴	

¹ Median and 95% confidence interval estimated from the joint uncertainty grid.

² Provisional and subject to revision.

³ Median and 95% confidence interval based on 90,000 iterations of the multivariate lognormal (MVLN) approximation for Stock Synthesis.

⁴ Rec. 24-01 only entered in force in June 2025, but other previous Recommendations (Rec. 23-01, Rec. 22-01 and Rec. 21-01) also applied to the western stock. No fleets were targeting western skipjack using FADs, so the impact of those Recommendations on the western stock and fisheries was likely to be minimal.

Rec 25-02 TAC of 30,844 t derived from MP for 2026, 2027, and 2028.

ALBACORE

- 1) ALB data preparatory meeting. April 13-17 (hybrid), San Sebastian
- 2) S-ALB stock assessment meeting. June 22-25 (hybrid), Madrid.

N-ALB workplan:

- Update CPUEs for MSE.
- Test alternative MPs (model based or empirical) to provide advice to the Commission on alternative new MPs.
- Determine if EC occur.
- Continue electronic tagging.

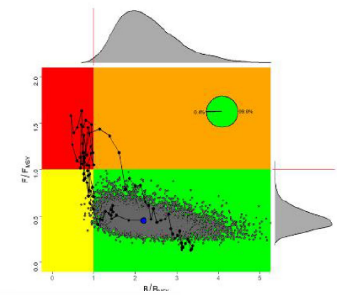
S-ALB workplan

- Conduct a full stock assessment using an age structure model (e.g., stock synthesis)
- Review and update the OM conditioning based on assessment model outputs.
- Specify and agree additional robustness Oms.
- Define and agree performance indicators consistent with [Res. 24-09].

M-ALB workplan

- Continue the recovery of Task 1 and 2 data.
- Develop a growth model that integrates the results of different studies.

N-ALB Stock Status



<i>Indicator</i>		<i>Stock Status</i>
Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY)	41,995 t (38,860-45,130) ¹	2021
TAC (2024)	47,251 t	
Current (2024) Yield	24,420 t ²	
Relative Spawning Biomass (SSB ₂₀₂₁ /SSB _{MSY})	2.19 (1.21 - 4.01) ¹	
Relative Fishing Mortality (F ₂₀₂₁ /F _{MSY})	0.45 (0.29 - 0.71) ¹	
Stock Status	Overfished: NO (0.4% probability of being overfished) ³ Overfishing: NO (<1% probability of overfishing) ³	
Management measures in effect	Rec. 98-08, Rec. 21-04 and Rec. 23-05	
Recommended TAC for the period 2024-2026, as estimated following the MP adopted in Rec. 21-04 ⁴	47,251 t	

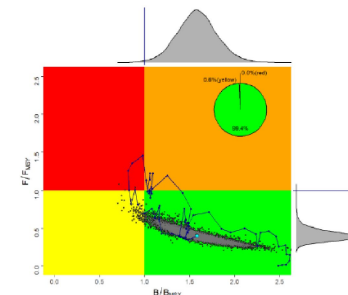
¹ Reference case model results (mean and 95% confidence intervals) based on catch data from 1930-2021.

² Provisional and subject to revision as of 26 September 2025.

³ As estimated from the Kobe plot probability in each quadrant.

⁴ The recommended TAC is capped by the maximum allowed increase of 25%, since the TAC obtained when applying the MP equation resulted in a higher value ($F_{TAR} \cdot B_{CUR} = 47,673.9$ t).

S-ALB Stock Status



<i>Indicator</i>		<i>Stock Status</i>
Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY)	27,264 t (23,734 - 31,567) ¹	2018
TAC (2024)	28,000 t	
Current (2024) Yield	20,694 t ²	
Relative Biomass (B_{2018}/B_{MSY})	1.58 (1.14 - 2.05) ¹	
Relative Fishing Mortality (F_{2018}/F_{MSY})	0.40 (0.28 - 0.59) ¹	
Stock Status	Overfished: NO (0.06% probability of being overfished) ³ Overfishing: NO (<1% probability of overfishing) ³	
Management measure in effect	Rec. 22-06	
TAC (2025)	28,000 t	

¹ Median and 95% credible interval (CRI) of the reference/base case model.

² Provisional and subject to revision as of 26 September 2025.

³ As estimated from the Kobe plot probability in each quadrant.

BLUEFIN TUNA

- 1) First Intersessional meeting of the bluefin tuna species group, March 9-12 (Online)**
- 2) Second Intersessional meeting of the bluefin tuna species group. Nara, Japan, July 1-4 (Hybrid)**
 - The primary focus of the Committee on bluefin tuna for 2026 and beyond is the status check and MSE review
 - Continue to support activities of the Atlantic-Wide bluefin tuna Research program
 - Exceptional Circumstances determination.
 - Work on responses to the Commission. Support Japan proposal to measure fish at first transfer with AI

BLUEFIN TUNA Stock Status

Table 1a. Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea bluefin tuna summary table.

Indicator		Stock Status
Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY)	Unknown	2020
TAC (2024)	40,570 t	
Current (2024) Yield	39,426 t ¹	
Relative Fishing Mortality ($F_{\text{CURRENT}}/F_{0.1}^2$)	0.81 (0.48-1.62) ³	
Stock Status ³	Overfishing: NO	
Management measures in effect	Rec. 24-05 and Rec. 23-07	
Managed according to a Management Procedure: Recommended TAC for the period 2023-2025 of 40,570 t		

¹ As of 26 September 2025.

² F_{CURRENT} refers to the geometric mean of the estimates (a proxy for recent F levels) for 2017-2020 for VPA, and for 2018-2020 for ASAP and SS. For the VPA and ASAP, F is measured as apical F , for SS F is exploitation rate in biomass.

³ Mean and approximate 95% CI from integrating across the uncertainty for each model.

ETAC: 48,403 t
rec 25-04

WTAC: 2,568t
rec 25-05

Table 1b. Western Atlantic bluefin tuna summary table.

Indicator		Stock Status
Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY)	Unknown	2020
TAC (2024)	2,726 t	
Current (2024) Yield	2,961 t ¹	
Relative Fishing Mortality ($F_{2018-2020}/F_{0.1}$)	0.53 (0.49-0.58) ²	
Stock Status	Overfishing: NO (=<1% probability of overfishing) ³	
Management measures in effect	Rec. 22-10 and Rec. 23-07	
Managed according to a Management Procedure: Recommended TAC for the period 2023-2025 of 2,726 t.		

¹ As of 26 September 2025.

² Mean and approximate 80% confidence interval from the multivariate lognormal approximation approach from the assessment.

³ Biomass reference points to determine stock status were not estimated in the 2021 BFT-W Stock Assessment due to uncertainty in recruitment potential.

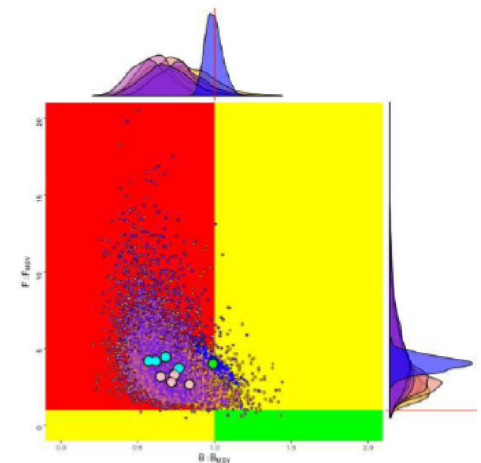
Sharks

- 1) North Atlantic shortfin mako stock assessment meeting (including BSH MSE). June 8-12 (Hybrid). Lisbon, Portugal.
- In 2026 finalize the SMA stock assessment initiated in 2025 incorporating the LL combined CPUE index and consider using new biological information.
 - In advance to the SMA assessment meeting, hold multiple 'informal' meetings online to discuss the combined index, model specification, assessment platforms, data inputs and assumptions.
 - Continue the activities of the Shark Research and Data Collection Program (SDCRP)
 - Continue to participate in the SCRS Technical Gear Changes and Electronic monitoring system sub-groups.

Shortfin Mako Stock Status

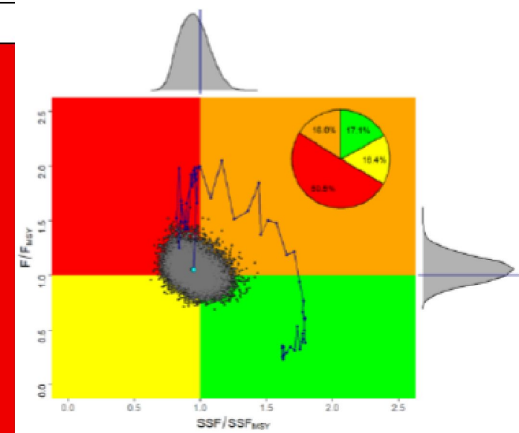
North

Indicator		Stock Status
Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY)	undetermined	2015
TAC (2024) ⁴	250 t	
Current (2024) Yield ¹	944 t	
Relative Biomass (B_{2015}/B_{MSY}) ²	0.57 - 0.95	
Relative Fishing Mortality (F_{2015}/F_{MSY}) ³	1.93 - 4.38	
Stock Status	Overfished: YES (probability not estimated) Overfishing: YES (probability not estimated)	
Management measures in effect	Rec. 21-09, Rec. 04-10 and Rec. 07-06	



South

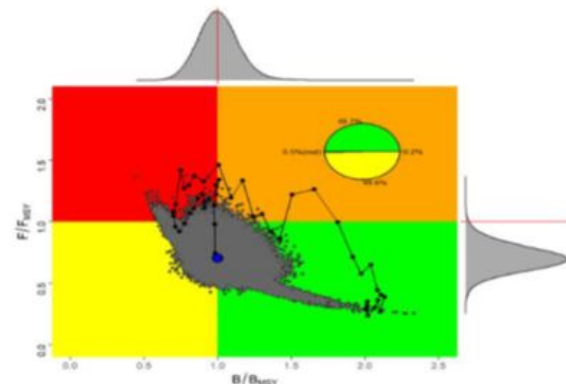
Indicator		Stock Status
Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY)	1,648 t (1,519-1,795 t)	2023
TAC (2024) ³	1,295 t	
Current (2024) Yield ¹	736 t	
Relative spawning stock fecundity (SSF_{2015}/SSF_{MSY}) ²	0.949 (0.763-1.179)	
Relative Fishing Mortality (F_{2023}/F_{MSY}) ²	1.052 (0.837-1.287)	
Stock Status	Overfished: YES (66.9% probability) Overfishing: YES (66.5% probability)	
Management measures in effect	Rec. 22-11, Rec. 04-10, Rec. 07-06	



Blue Shark Stock Status

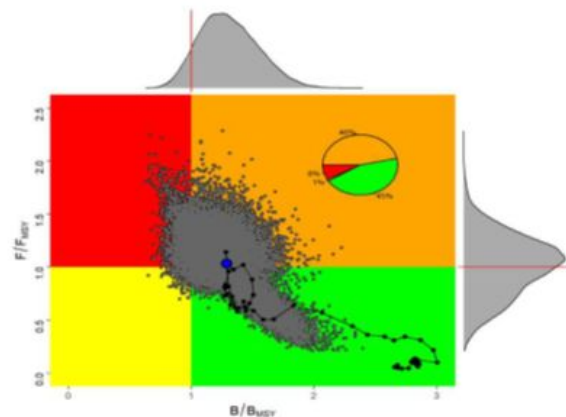
North

Indicator		Stock Status
Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) ¹	32,689 t (30,403 t - 36,465 t)	2021
TAC (2024)	30,000 t	
Current (2024) Yield ²	24,564 t	
Relative Biomass (B_{2021}/B_{MSY}) ³	1.00 (0.75 - 1.31)	
Relative Fishing Mortality (F_{2021}/F_{MSY}) ³	0.70 (0.50 - 0.93)	
Stock Status	Overfished: NO (50.1% probability of being overfished) ^{4,5}	
Management measures in effect	Overfishing: NO (0.7% probability of overfishing) ⁴ Rec. 23-10 , Rec. 04-10 , Rec. 07-06	



South

Indicator		Stock Status
Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) ¹	27,711 t (23,128 t - 47,758 t)	2021
TAC (2024)	27,711 t	
Current (2024) Yield ²	25,003 t	
Relative Biomass (B_{2021}/B_{MSY}) ³	1.29 (0.89 - 1.81)	
Relative Fishing Mortality (F_{2021}/F_{MSY}) ³	1.03 (0.45 - 1.55)	
Stock Status	Overfished: NO (8.78% probability of being overfished) ⁴	
Management measures in effect	Overfishing: YES (54.52% probability of overfishing) ⁴ Rec. 23-11 , Rec. 04-10 , Rec. 07-06	



Porbeagle (NW) Stock Status

TABLE 1a. Northwest Atlantic porbeagle summary table.

Indicator		Stock Status
Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY)	Not available	2018
TAC (2024)	N/A	
Current (2024) Yield ¹	4 t	
Relative Biomass (B_{2018}/B_{MSY})	0.57 ²	
Relative Fishing Mortality ($F_{2010-2018}/F_{MSY}$)	0.413 ³	
Stock Status	Overfished: YES (98% probability of being overfished)	
Management measures in effect	Overfishing: Unknown probability of overfishing Rec. 04-10, Rec. 07-06, Rec. 15-06	

¹ Task 1 catch as of 26 September 2025.

² Value obtained with the ICM model. The reference point used (SPR_{MER}) is a proxy for B_{MSY} .

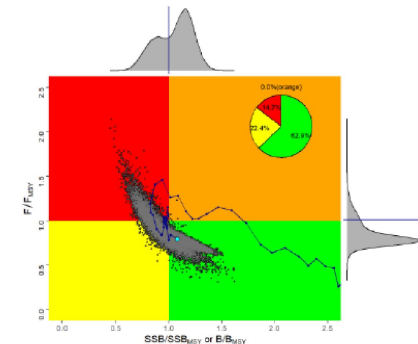
³ Value obtained with the SAFE approach for the Northwest Atlantic.

SWORDFISH (South Atlantic and Med)

- 1) Swordfish data preparatory meeting. Madrid, Spain, Mar 23-27 (hybrid).**
- 2) Swordfish stock assessment meeting. Madrid, Spain, Jul 13-17 (hybrid).**

- Conduct a South Atlantic and Mediterranean stocks assessments.
- Continue enhancing the understanding of the species biology.
- Continue advancing the work of the N-SWO MSE.
- Continue the work on environmental effects.
- Advance the application of methods to estimate dead/live discards.
- Explore a combined LL index for S-SWO.
- Assess use of trap-line gear in Med.

N-Swordfish Stock Status



<i>Indicator</i>		<i>Stock Status</i>
Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY)	12,819 t (10,864 t - 15,289 t) ¹	2020
TAC (2024)	13,200 t	
Current (2024) Yield	11,001 t ²	
Relative Biomass (B_{2020}/B_{MSY})	1.08 (0.71-1.33) ³	
Relative Fishing Mortality (F_{2020}/F_{MSY})	0.80 (0.64-1.24) ³	
Stock Status	Overfished: NO (37.1% probability of being overfished) ⁴ Overfishing: NO (14.7% probability of overfishing) ⁴	
Management measure in effect	Rec. 24-10 TAC (2025): 14,769 t	
Managed according to a Management Procedure: Recommended TAC for the period 2025-2027 of 14,769 t		

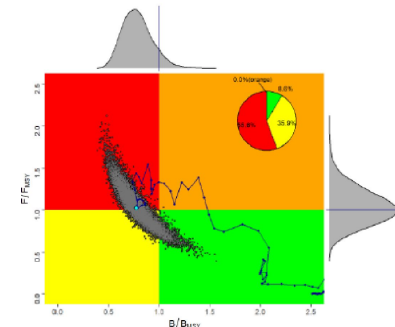
¹ Median from base case JABBA and Stock Synthesis models; range corresponding to the lowest and highest 95% CIs from the two models.

² Provisional as of 27 September 2025 and subject to revision.

³ Median and 95% quantiles from base case Stock Synthesis and JABBA models.

⁴ As estimated from the Kobe plot probability in each quadrant.

S-Swordfish Stock Status



<i>Indicator</i>		<i>Stock Status</i>
Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY)	11,481 t (9,793 t-13,265 t) ¹	2020
TAC (2024)	10,000 t	
Current (2024) Yield	9,264 t ²	
Relative Biomass (B_{2020}/B_{MSY})	0.77 (0.53-1.11) ³	
Relative Fishing Mortality (F_{2020}/F_{MSY})	1.03 (0.67-1.51)	
Stock Status	Overfished: YES (91.5% probability of being overfished)⁴ Overfishing: YES (55.6% probability of overfishing)⁴	
Management measures in effect	Country-specific TACs, Rec. 22-04	

¹ Median and 95% CIs from base case JABBA model.

² Provisional as of 27 September 2025 and subject to revision.

³ Median and 95% quantiles from base case JABBA model.

⁴ As estimated from the Kobe plot probability in each quadrant.

Billfish

- **No intersessional meeting of the billfish species group will be conducted in 2026**
- Continue to improve the task 1 and 2 statistics including the estimation and reporting of dead/live discards.
- Continue to support the activities of the Enhanced Program for Billfish Research.
- Continue the electronic tagging of white and blue marlin in the recreational fishery off southern Portugal and electronic/conventional tagging in the Eastern Atlantic.
- Explore the possibility of developing a combined LL CPUE for billfish.

Working Group on Stock Assessment Methods

- **Working Group on Stock Assessment Methods meeting. Madrid, Spain. May 25-28 (hybrid).**
- Review the methodologies used to estimate dead/live discards.
- Focus on recruitment assumptions of projections and ways to characterize stock status under non-stationarity conditions.
- Review aspects of stock assessment brought to its attention by SCRS Species Groups in advance of the next meeting.

Subcommittee on Ecosystems and Bycatch

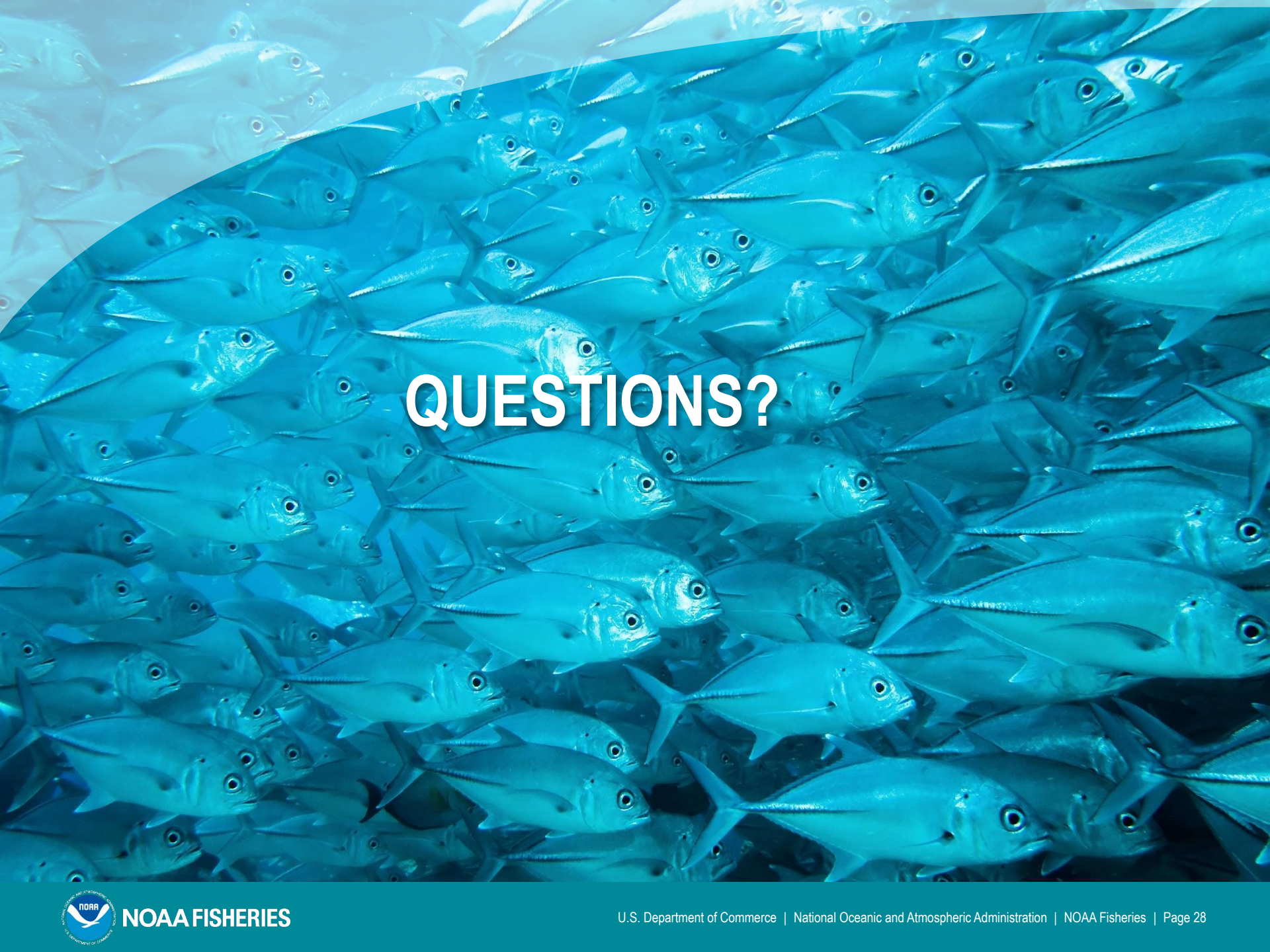
- Meeting of the Subcommittee on Ecosystems and Bycatch (hybrid). Madrid, Spain. May 18-22 (hybrid).
- Continue the development of the Ecosystem Report Card.
- Develop a bycatch research program.
- Continue to review and refine the ICCAT list of bycatch species.
- Continue to participate in the Technical Gear Changes sub-group.
- Coordinate with other tRFMOs on approaches to assess and mitigate bycatch

Major Themes

Target species- nearly all green (except Med + SAtl SWO)

Bycatch species- nearly all red

“The Committee noted that estimated fishing mortality for [white marlin] declined and remained low over the last ten years. However, the stock showed limited recovery. The prevailing hypothesis was that not all mortality sources, including bycatch, were accounted for. “



QUESTIONS?

