

Science, Service, Stewardship



ICCAT 2012

Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Domestic Implementation

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2012 ICCAT Recommendations

Domestic Rulemaking Required

- 12-01 – Recommendation by ICCAT on South Atlantic Swordfish Catch Limits
- 12-02 – Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Rebuilding Program



12-02 Rebuilding Program for Western Bluefin Tuna (WBFT)

- One-year rollover of 1,750-mt TAC (inclusive of dead discards)
 - Expected to allow for continued stock growth under both the low and high stock recruitment scenarios
 - U.S. baseline quota continues to be 923.7 mt
 - Total U.S. quota, including 25 mt to account for bycatch related to pelagic longline fisheries in the Northeast Distant gear restricted area, continues to be 948.7 mt
- Maintains school BFT tolerance of no more than 10% by weight
 - (U.S. 2011-2012 total was ~ 121 mt out of 189.7-mt limit)
- Maintains 10% cap on underharvest carried forward (94.9 mt)



12-02 Rebuilding Program for Western Bluefin Tuna (WBFT)

- Establishes an absolute minimum size consistent with U.S. regulations (67 cm straight fork length, the equivalent of 27” curved fork length)
- Revises quota transfer provisions
 - Transfers only to be used to support cooperative research that will contribute to the objectives of the Atlantic-wide Bluefin Tuna Research Program and help inform the 2015 stock assessment
 - MEX to CAN: up to 86.5 mt
 - UK to US: up to 8 mt
 - FRA to CAN: up to 8 mt



12-02 Rebuilding Program for Western Bluefin Tuna (WBFT)

- Adds several scientific research and data and reporting requirements
 - Convene a working group of fisheries managers and scientists in mid-2013 to guide the work of the SCRS in advance of 2015 stock assessment
 - Requests to SCRS to:
 - Prepare a strategy matrix reflecting stock recovery scenarios
 - Review the evidence initially used to support low and high recruitment scenario and additional information available to inform ICCAT on which recruitment scenario is more likely to reflect the current stock recruitment potential
 - Review and report to ICCAT on new available information on the potential existence of additional BFT spawning grounds.



2013 BFT Quota Specifications

- Proposed specifications being prepared to adjust the baseline quota and subquotas to:
 - Account for dead discards (145.2 mt, using 2011 estimate as proxy)
 - Carry forward the amount of 2012 underharvest allowed by ICCAT (94.9 mt)
- Underharvest of the 2012 U.S. adjusted quota was ~ 185 mt



Draft Amendment 7 to the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP

- We are developing Draft Amendment 7 to the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP, which is intended to address several BFT fishery issues consistent with the need to end overfishing and rebuild the stock
- Measures in Amendment 7 would address several of the long-standing challenges facing the fishery and will examine, among other things:
 - revisiting quota allocations
 - reducing and accounting for dead discards
 - adding or modifying time/area closures or gear-restricted areas; and
 - improving the reporting and monitoring of dead discards and landings in all categories
- We anticipate that Draft Amendment 7 will publish in mid-2013



12-01 South Atlantic Swordfish

- Extended 09-03 “Recommendation by ICCAT on South Atlantic Swordfish Catch Limits” through 2013
- TAC is 15,000 t
- U.S. SSWO quota unchanged (100 mt ww)
- U.S. can carry over underharvests up to 100 t
- Allocation from United States to other CPCs as follows:
 - 50 t to Namibia
 - 25 t to Cote d’Ivoire
 - 25 t to Belize

Proposed rule to adjust NSW0 & SSWO pub 2/25; CPE 3/27



2012 ICCAT Recommendations Operations

- 12-08 – Recommendation by ICCAT Supplementing the Recommendation on an Electronic Bluefin Tuna Catch Document Program (eBCD)
 - Full implementation of the electronic system required by March 2014
 - Domestic rulemaking will be needed
 - Partial implementation for EBFT fisheries starts May 16; some importers of EBFT may be required to use ICCAT eBCD program



2012 ICCAT Recommendations

No Domestic Rulemaking Needed

- 12-04 – Recommendation by ICCAT to Further Strengthen the Plan to Rebuild Blue Marlin and White Marlin Stocks
 - Measures specific to United States are unchanged
- 12-05 – Recommendation by ICCAT on Compliance with Existing Measures on Shark Conservation and Management
 - Report due in advance of the 2013 annual ICCAT meeting



Other 2012 ICCAT Recommendations

- 12-06 – Recommendation by ICCAT on a Program for Transshipment
 - Transshipment is prohibited under 50 CFR 635 regulations; therefore no domestic action required
- 12-07 – Recommendation by ICCAT for an ICCAT Scheme for Minimum Standards for Inspection in Port
 - NMFS and GC working to identify if changes are necessary to current 50 CFR 635 international port inspection regulations
 - Considering consolidating regulations to implement port inspections schemes of multiple RFMOs



Draft Amendment 8 to the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP

- Proposed rule published 2/22/13, 78 FR 12273; comment period closes May 8; HMS Advisory Panel conference call 4/18, public conference call 4/30
- Proposes to create a new open-access commercial SWO handgear permit with low regionally based retention limits
- Responsive to requests for greater access to commercial SWO fishery while minimizing bycatch
- Responsive to IAC requests to increase SWO landings; 5th action taken by NMFS to address issue
- 80% of NSW0 base quota landed in 2012 (preliminary data); final likely higher (late reports, dead discards)