

Science, Service, Stewardship



ICCAT Advisory
Committee/Technical Advisor
Species Working Group
Recommendations to NMFS

Spring 2014

**NOAA
FISHERIES
SERVICE**

NOAA



2013 Bluefin Tuna Recommendations

The United States should:

- Pursue accountability by eastern BFT harvesters through Compliance Committee & encourage eastern BFT CPCs to apply precautionary approach.
- Send a properly staffed delegation to the western BFT Science/Managers Working Group meeting with priority given to NMFS scientists.
- Advocate for strong directive to follow precautionary approach during convention amendment process and adopt target and limit reference points for all species.
- Communicate clearer and timelier negotiating positions to the IAC on the convention amendment process.
- Participate in 3rd party agreements to transfer quota that positively affect U.S. fishing interests.
- Advance the eBCD program and full implementation by March 2014.
- Research – consistent funding & integration of HMS research



North Atlantic Swordfish Recommendations

The United States should:

- Ensure retention and full utilization of its swordfish quota., including revitalization of domestic fishery
- If TAC reduction is needed, reductions should be applied to CPCs that don't submit a management plan and have reported zero landings.
- CPCs should ensure no increase in fishing effort or capacity pending the results of the 2013 stock assessment.
- Prioritize maintaining Canadian port access.
- Maintain U.S. share of South Atlantic swordfish quota.
- Continue cooperative research with CPCs.
- **Enhance reporting of recreationally caught swordfish, including increased enforcement.**



North Atlantic Swordfish Recommendations

Recommendation by IAC Species Working Group:

- Enhance reporting of recreationally caught swordfish, including increased enforcement

Actions:

- Continue to work with NOAA Office of Law Enforcement to address this issue
- Reviewing suggestions for changes to website and mobile app development to facilitate reporting
- Pursuing education/outreach via offshore sportfishing magazines/newspapers and fishing organization newsletters about reporting requirements



BAYS Tunas Recommendations

The United States should:

- Support the elimination of the albacore vessel list and replace with the current 20 meter authorized vessel list.
- Maintain flexibility for the protection of minor albacore harvesters including continuation of existing rollover limits.
- Support implementation of effective measures for BAYS including compliance with at-sea transshipment restrictions.
- Support increased VMS polling rate from six to two hours
- Support development of Unique Vessel Identifiers (UVI) to monitor increased effort into the tropical tuna fisheries
- Support new traceability programs only if they are efficient, effective, and do not unduly affect trade



Sharks Recommendations

The United States should:

- Engage in 2013 Compliance Committee review of reports submitted by CPCs under Recommendation 12-05.
- Propose and get co-sponsors for a fins naturally-attached measure.
- Support EU's proposal to prohibit the retention of porbeagle sharks as long as there are no exceptions for other nations' fisheries.
- Work with the EU to promote shortfin mako proposal that is consistent with scientific advice while maintaining flexibility for small harvester nations.



Billfish Recommendations

The United States should:

- Support SCRS collection of data from artisanal, small-scale and recreational fisheries.
- Review and consider new SCRS advice regarding time/area closure to reduce mortality.
- Sponsor sailfish measure at the 2013 ICCAT annual meeting
- Investigate alternative CPUE indices and assessment techniques.
- Seek support for expanded observer coverage for fleets interacting with billfish.