

# ICCAT 2013

23<sup>rd</sup> Regular Meeting of  
the Commission

18 - 25 November 2013

Cape Town, South Africa

# 2013 U.S. Priorities

- Albacore
- Swordfish
- Bluefin
- Sharks
- MCS
- Compliance
- ICCAT convention

# The U.S. Delegation

Russell Smith  
Geño Piñeiro

Chris Rogers  
Kim Blankenkoper  
Rachel O'Malley  
Melanie King  
Staci Rijal

Margo Schulze-Haugen  
Sarah McLaughlin  
LeAnn Hogan  
Carrie Soltanoff

Craig Brown  
Guillermo Diaz

Derek Campbell  
Megan Walline

Todd Dubois  
Kim Dawson-Guynn

Deirdre Warner-Kramer  
Patrick Pearsal  
David Gershman

Mike McGowan  
Rich Ruais  
Jack Devnew  
Rick Weber  
Sonja Fordham  
Gerry Leape  
John Graves

# Meeting Dynamics

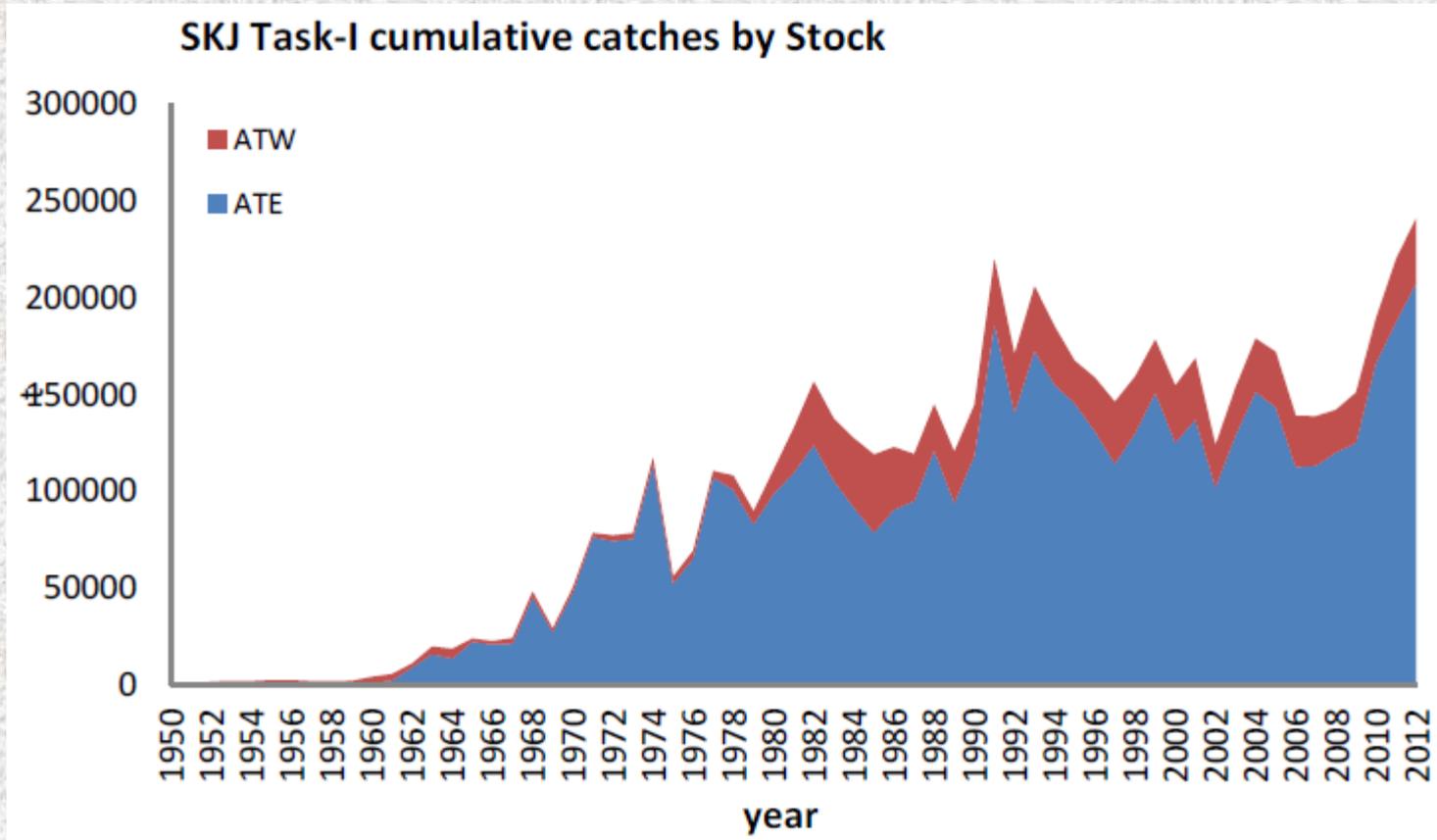
- 43 of 47 parties
- Drama!
  - Panel 2
  - Panel 3
- U.S. w/leadership roles
  - Dr. Chris Rogers, Chair of the Compliance Committee
  - Ms. Deirdre Warner-Kramer, Chair of the Convention Amendment Working Group

What  
happened?

# Panel 1

- FAD management measure (13-01)
- Implementation of observer coverage
  - Problems with timing of ICCAT observer program (contract approval vs. boat departures)
  - Exception for EC vessels underway to use national observers generalized to all parties for 2014
  - Will revisit at the 2014 IMM intersessional

# Skipjack



Big increase in eastern stock landings - 2014 assessment

## Panel 2

- **Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna (13-09)**
  - TAC remains at 1750 mt for 2014 (Japan wanted 245 mt increase for research)
  - Allows transfers for cooperative research
  - Parties to develop research plans to improve stock abundance & recruitment indices by April
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Working Group of Fishery Managers and Scientists in Support of the Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Stock Assessment (July 10 - 12)

- SCRS to update assessment 2014 (W & E)
- Full assessment in 2015, every 3 years

- **Eastern Atlantic Bluefin Tuna (13-07, 13-08)**
  - TAC & allocations of 12-03 not changed
  - Norway's recommendation/call for vote
  - March Panel 2/Compliance intersessional (approve fishing plans)
  - Increased specification for use stereoscopic cameras in caging operations
  - Turkey objects but will comply
  - Libya and Syria requested permission to carryforward unused quota (no action)
  - Novel funding for GBYP discussed, no action

- **North Atlantic Albacore (13-05)**
  - 2013 assessment
    - $SSB/SSB_{MSY} = 0.94$
    - $F/F_{MSY} = 0.72$
  - TAC remains at 28K mt 2014 - 2016
  - U.S. quota remains 527 mt
  - 25% carryover (use w/in 2 years)
  - Efforts to impose a quota on Japan not successful ("endeavor to limit" N-ALB to 4% of longline BET in Atlantic)

## Panel 3

- **South Atlantic Albacore (13-06)**
  - 2013 assessment
    - $B/B_{MSY} = 0.92$
    - $F/F_{MSY} = 1.04$
    - 2012 yield = 24,726 mt (TAC = 24,000 mt)
    - Japan no longer a bycatch fishery
  - High drama with possible allocation schemes
  - TAC not reduced (despite SCRS advice)
  - If TAC exceeded, future TAC reduced
  - "Aspirational quotas" gone

- Country-specific quotas
- Japan w/ 2012 catches of 2,863 mt limited to 1,355 mt
- Chinese Taipei takes big hit (13,000 mt to 9,400 mt)
- Next assessment in 2016

# Panel 4

- **North Atlantic Swordfish (13-02)**
  - 2013 assessment
    - $B/B_{MSY} = 1.14$
    - $F/F_{MSY} = 0.82$
    - 2012 yield = 13,972 mt (TAC = 13,700 mt)
  - TAC of 13,700 mt for 2014 - 2016
  - If TAC exceeded, future TAC reduced
  - Maintain base allocations
  - Carryover reduced from 25% - 15% (>500 mt) but will remain 25% for 2013 underages

- Many catch limit transfers
  - Canada get 195 mt from Japan, Senegal & Chi-Tai
  - Mauritania gets 100 mt (U.S., Brazil, Japan & Senegal)
- No U.S. research transfer to Morocco

- **South Atlantic Swordfish (13-03)**
  - 2013 assessment
    - Not overfished
    - Overfishing not occurring
    - Current yield = 10,180 mt (TAC = 15,000 mt)
  - Extend current TAC through 2016
  - U.S. quota 100 mt
    - Can carryforward 100%
    - U.S. transfers
      - 50 mt Namibia
      - 25 mt Cote d'Ivoire
      - 25 mt Belize

- **Sharks**

- **Adopted**

- Biological sampling of prohibited shark species (13-10)

- **Not adopted**

- Fins attached (10 parties sponsored)
    - Cap shortfin mako landings (EU)
    - Prohibition on porbeagle landings (EU)

- **Sea Turtles**

- Sea turtle bycatch (13-11)

- Sponsored by EU, Brazil, Canada, UKOT & US
    - Safe handling practices & required equipment

# PWG

- List of large scale fishing vessels to include IMO/LR number (13-13)
- Improved information for chartering arrangements and observer coverage of at least 10% of fishing effort (13-14)
- eBCD implementation delayed until March 2015, either electronic or paper BCDs OK for 2014 (13-17)

# PWG -- No Consensus/Deferred

- VMS polling rate (2 vs. 6 hr)
- Improved reporting requirements for access agreements
- Expanded bigeye statistical document to include canned product

# Compliance Committee

- No data no fish
  - Authorization to fish for ICCAT species suspended for 2014, unless data provided:  
Albania, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Republic of Guinea, Honduras, Sao Tome e Principe
- Letters of identification - 3
  - Albania, Angola, Honduras
- Letters of Concern - 18
- No action -26 parties (including U.S.)

# STACFAD

- Working fund capital to fund
  - Peer review of tropical tuna assessments
  - Efforts to improve statistical (catch, effort) and biological data for small tunas
  - Inventory of ongoing initiatives to improve data collection in artisanal fisheries
- Increased support for
  - Meeting Participation Fund
  - Scientific Capacity Building Fund (13-19)

# Other Matters

- Standardize presentation of scientific information, including identification of sources of uncertainty (13-15)
- Established a standing working group dedicated to the dialogue between fisheries scientists and managers (SWGSM; 13 - 18)
- Canada's proposed recommendations on the ecosystem approach and precautionary approach discussed, referred to Convention Working Group

# Commission Elections

- Commission Chair: Stefaan Depypere (EU)
- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair: Andrei Krainiy (Russia)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair: Raúl Delgado (Panama)
- Panel 1 Chair: Côte D'Ivoire
- Panel 2 Chair: Japan
- Panel 3 Chair: South Africa
- Panel 4 Chair: Brazil
- PWG Chair: Taoufik El Ktiri (Morocco)
- COC: Derek Campbell (USA)
- STACFAD: Sylvie Lapointe (Canada)
- SWGSM: Martin Tsamenyi (Ghana)

# 2014 Commission Intersessionals

- eBCD Technical Working Group: 21 - 24 January, Madrid, Spain
- Compliance Committee/Panel 2: 3 - 7 March, Madrid, Spain
- Convention Amendment Working Group: 19 - 21 May, Barcelona, Spain
- 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the IMM Working Group: 22 - 24 May, Barcelona Spain
- Dialogue between Scientists and Managers Working Group, 26 - 28 May
- Western Bluefin Working Group, 10 - 12 July, PEI, Canada

# 2014 SCRS assessments

- Skipjack: June 23 - July 1, Senegal
- Mediterranean Swordfish: July 21 - 25, Crete, Greece