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# Domestic Implementation of the 2014 ICCAT Recommendations

ICCAT Advisory Committee

March 2015

# 2014 ICCAT Recommendations

- Domestic Rulemaking Required
  - 14-05 – Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna
  - 13-17 – Electronic Bluefin Tuna Catch Document (pending)
- Operational Issues
  - 14-06 – Shortfin Mako Sharks
  - 14-10 – Harmonization of ICCAT Vessel List Requirements

# 14-05 Rebuilding Program for Western Bluefin Tuna (WBFT)

- Increased overall TAC from 1,750 mt to 2,000 mt (inclusive of dead discards) for 2015 and 2016
  - Expected to allow for continued stock growth under both the low and high recruitment scenarios
  - U.S. baseline quota increased from 923.7 mt to 1,058.8 mt
  - Total U.S. quota, including 25 mt to account for bycatch related to pelagic longline fisheries in the Northeast Distant gear restricted area, increased to be 1,083.8 mt
- Maintains school BFT limit of no more than 10% by weight (US: 108.4 mt)
  - (U.S. 2011-2012 average: 6.3%; 2013: 3.3%; 2014:3.0%)
- Maintains 10% cap on underharvest carried forward (94.9 mt; 108.4 mt in 2016)

# 14-05 Rebuilding Program for Western Bluefin Tuna (WBFT)

- Maintains quota transfer provisions (for cooperative research only) of up to:
  - 109 mt MEX to CAN; 8.5 mt UK to US; 8.5 mt mt FRA to CAN
- Maintains other provisions of prior recommendation (13-09)
- Calls on SCRS to provide guidance on fish size management measures and impact on yield/recruit and spawner/recruit, as well as effect of fish size management measures on ability to monitor stock status.
- Calls for collaboration in the improvement of existing indices of abundance and the development of new combined indices.

Note: 3<sup>rd</sup> Mtg WG of Scientists and Managers along with SWGSM in late June 2015

# Bluefin Tuna 2015 (to date)

Codified baseline quota and subquotas (per Amendment 7) in effect until final rule to implement Rec. 14-05 is effective.

- Proposed rule expected later this month

## 2015 Inseason Actions:

- General category transfer of December 2015 subquota (21 mt) to “January” subperiod, and daily retention limit of 3 large medium/giant BFT for “January” subperiod (79 FR 77943, Dec. 29, 2014)
- Amendment 7-related adjustment of the Purse Seine and Reserve category subquotas (80 FR 7547, Feb. 11, 2015)
- Coming this spring:
  - Angling category daily retention limit adjustment
  - General category daily retention limit adjustment for June-August
  - Purse Seine fishery start date



# 2014 ICCAT Recommendations

## -- Operations

- Recommendation 14-06 on shortfin mako sharks
  - Will include information in Annual Report on catch monitoring and management measures for shortfin mako sharks
- Recommendation 14-10 on Harmonization of Vessel Lists
  - Period of authorization modified from 30 to 45 days: Continuing with monthly submissions: BFT landings, 20m & BET/YFT vessel lists



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# 2014 ICCAT Advisory Committee Species Working Group Recommendations to NMFS

ICCAT Advisory Committee

March 2015

# 2014 Bluefin Tuna Recommendations

## The United States should:

- Pursue accountability by eastern BFT harvesters through Compliance Committee & encourage eastern BFT CPCs to adopt TAC in line with scientific advice.
- Carefully review all WBFT research plans to ensure scientific validity.
- Hold Contracting Parties accountable to provide information on WBFT cooperative research activities.
- Advance the eBCD program and ensure full implementation by March 2015.
- Ensure adequate funding in IAC budget to support IAC member participation at ICCAT Intersessional meetings.

# 2014 North Atlantic Swordfish Recommendations

## The United States should:

- Ensure retention and full utilization of the U.S. swordfish quota.
- Maintain Canadian port access for U.S. fishing vessels.
- Require SWO plans from CPCs intending to develop domestic swordfish fisheries before temporary quota transfers.
- **Enhance reporting of recreationally caught swordfish, including increased enforcement.**
- Encourage reporting of bycatch and bycatch mortality in all CPC swordfish fisheries.



# 2014 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.
  - Reviewing suggestions for changes to website and mobile app development to facilitate reporting.
    - Mobile app. development in HMS Electronic Technologies Plan.
  - Pursuing education/outreach via sportfishing publications and fishing organization newsletters about reporting requirements.
    - Discussed at IGFA HMS Tournament Operators meeting.

# 2014 BAYS Tunas Recommendations

## The United States should:

- Continue the present Gulf of Guinea time/area closure to evaluate efficacy of the closure but also consider an expansion of the closure.
- Support a more robust observer program so the SCRS can better evaluate the efficacy of the time/area closure.
- In light of recent increases of skipjack catches, continue to support efforts to keep the issue of fishing capacity control in the forefront.

# 2014 Shark Recommendations

## The United States should:

- Engage in 2014 COC review of reports submitted by CPCs under Rec 12-05.
- Continue to 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 (prevents an increase in catch) while maintaining flexibility for small harvester nations.
- Pursue amendments to the Convention that expand the scope to explicitly allow for the management of sharks\* (whether taken in targeted fisheries or indirectly).



# 2014 Billfish Recommendations

## The United States should:

- Support SCRS collection of data from artisanal, small-scale and recreational fisheries.
- Review and consider new SCRS advice from the 2014 billfish species group meeting regarding efficacy of time/area closures to reduce mortality.
- Ensure that CPCs are reporting their methodology for reporting live and dead discards of billfish per Recommendation 12-04 and refer failure to report to the COC.
- Seek support for expanded observer coverage for fleets interacting with billfish, including the use of alternative monitoring techniques such as video monitoring.