



Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
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MEMORANDUM

Date: January 27, 2023
To: Council
From: Hannah Hart, Staff
Subject: Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Update

The Council will receive a presentation from the Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Management Division of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries on Wednesday, February 8, 2023. This presentation will include information related to recent and ongoing domestic HMS management initiatives and outcomes of the November 2022 International Commission for Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) meeting. A summary of recommendations from the ICCAT meeting is enclosed behind this memo.

Background

The Atlantic HMS Management Division of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries oversees the management of tunas, sharks, swordfish, and billfish in U.S. waters of the Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, and Caribbean Sea. This includes the development and implementation of fishery management plans in cooperation with the HMS Advisory Panel. The HMS Advisory Panel is made up of a variety of stakeholder groups including commercial and recreational fisherman, academia, non-governmental organizations, and state, Commission, and Council representatives. A single Council member from the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council sits on the HMS Advisory Panel to act as a liaison between the Council and HMS. The HMS Advisory Panel generally meets twice a year (spring and fall) and the most recent meeting was held on September 7-8, 2022. Details about the meeting including the agenda and meeting materials can be found at this [link](#).

HMS is also responsible for:

- Monitoring commercial and recreational catches to ensure compliance with domestic and international quotas and/or catch limits;
- Issuing permits for commercial and recreational HMS fishing and scientific research; and
- Implementing domestic requirements of ICCAT, as well as supporting international negotiations for ICCAT, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wildlife and Flora (CITES), and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). In November 2022, an annual ICCAT meeting was held in-person in Portugal (agenda available [here](#)).



LIST OF RECOMMENDATIONS, RESOLUTIONS AND DOCUMENTS OF REFERENCE ADOPTED IN 2022

Number	Group	Doc. #	Rec/Res/Ref Title
Rec. 22-01	TRO	PA1_505D	<i>Recommendation by ICCAT replacing Recommendation 21-01 on a multi-annual conservation and management programme for tropical tunas</i>
Res. 22-02	TRO	PA1_503B	<i>Resolution by ICCAT on development of initial conceptual management objectives for western Atlantic skipjack</i>
Rec. 22-03	SWO	PA4_808A_REV	<i>Recommendation by ICCAT replacing supplemental Recommendation 21-02 extending and amending Recommendation 17-02 for the conservation of North Atlantic swordfish</i>
Rec. 22-04	SWO	PA4_807B	<i>Recommendation by ICCAT replacing supplemental Recommendation 21-03 extending and amending Recommendation 17-03 for the conservation of South Atlantic swordfish</i>
Rec. 22-05	ALB	PA2_608A	<i>Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 21-06 to establish a rebuilding plan for Mediterranean albacore</i>
Rec. 22-06	ALB	PA3_701C	<i>Recommendation by ICCAT on the southern Atlantic albacore catch limits for the period 2023 to 2026</i>
Res. 22-07	BFT	PA2_609A	<i>Resolution by ICCAT on a pilot project for the short-term live storage of bluefin tuna</i>
Rec. 22-08	BFT	PA2_611D	<i>Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 21-08 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean</i>
Rec. 22-09	BFT	PA2_613D	<i>Recommendation by ICCAT establishing a management procedure for Atlantic bluefin tuna to be used for both the western Atlantic and eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean management areas</i>
Rec. 22-10	BFT	PA2_615B	<i>Recommendation by ICCAT for a conservation and management plan for western Atlantic bluefin tuna</i>
Rec. 22-11	BYC	PA4_804B	<i>Recommendation by ICCAT on the conservation of the South Atlantic stock of shortfin mako caught in association with ICCAT fisheries</i>
Rec. 22-12	BYC	PA4_806B_REV	<i>Recommendation by ICCAT on the bycatch of sea turtles caught in association with ICCAT fisheries (combine, streamline, and amend Recommendations 10-09 and 13-11)</i>
Res. 22-13	GEN	PLE_107B_SPONS_1	<i>Resolution by ICCAT on climate change</i>
Rec. 22-14	GEN	PWG_413A	<i>Recommendation by ICCAT to replace Recommendation 06-14 to promote compliance by nationals of Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities with ICCAT conservation and management measures</i>
Res. 22-15	SDP	PWG_412B	<i>Resolution by ICCAT establishing a pilot project to test the use of stereoscopic cameras during first transfer and the automation of video footage analysis</i>
Rec. 22-16	SDP	PWG_416A	<i>Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 21-18 on the application of the eBCD System</i>
Res. 22-17	TOR	COC_319_REV_2	<i>Recommendation by ICCAT on the application of the integrated online management system</i>
Ref. 22-18	GEN	COC_307A_REV	<i>Schedule of compliance issues and corresponding actions</i>
Ref. 22-19	GEN	PWG_420	<i>Document number on transshipment declaration</i>