

Science, Service, Stewardship



Species Working Group Recommendations:
Conservation & Management
ICCAT Advisory Committee, Spring 2012

October 17, 2012

**NOAA
FISHERIES
SERVICE**



Bluefin Tuna Recommendations

The United States should:

- Ensure the recovery plan continues for Eastern BFT with the goal of achieving Bmsy by 2023 with a 60% probability.
- **Ensure increased timeliness in reporting of landings and discards in all categories and take inseason action as necessary to remain in compliance with U.S. total quota.**
- Advance a requirement that negotiations be consistent with SCRS advice.
- Provide clear and timely identification of current negotiating position, including non-species proposals.
- Participate in 3rd party agreements to transfer quota that positively affect U.S. fishing interests.
- Advance the eBCD program and full implementation by the 2013 fishing season.
- Submit an enhanced list of vessels identified as participating in IUU activities.



Bluefin Tuna Recommendations

Recommendation by IAC Species Working Group:

- The United States should ensure increased timeliness in reporting of landings and discards in all categories and take inseason action as necessary to remain in compliance with the U.S. total quota.

Actions:

- Current landings for 2012 are on track to maintain compliance with ICCAT obligations; several inseason actions taken to date.
- LPS preliminary estimates are provided within 30 days of the end of the month.
- MRIP Massachusetts BFT census pilot study is underway and will be assessed later this year. Report to be prepared early 2013.
- Draft Amendment 7 on BFT management underway



North Atlantic Swordfish Recomm.

The United States should:

- Ensure retention and full utilization of its swordfish quota.
- When TAC is reduced based on SCRS advice, reductions should be applied equally across all CPCs.
- Prioritize maintaining Canadian port access.
- Maintain U.S. share of South Atlantic swordfish quota.
- Continue cooperative research with CPCs.
- **Continue assessment of relatively “clean” fishery technology in areas other than Florida Straits.**
- **Enhance reporting of recreationally caught swordfish, including increased enforcement.**



North Atlantic Swordfish Recomm.

Recommendation by IAC Species Working Group:

- Continue assessment of relatively “clean” fishery technology in areas other than Florida Straits.

Actions:

- Amendment 8 on SWO commercial handgear access underway.
 - Proceed cautiously due to concerns about available quotas (especially if U.S. exceeds 80% of baseline ICCAT quota)
 - Permit should be available to Charter/Headboats
 - General support for regional management (retention limit, tags, in-season adjustment)
 - Use ICCAT statistical areas as regions
 - Issue tags to vessels



North Atlantic Swordfish Recomm.

Recommendation by IAC Species Working Group:

- Enhance reporting of recreationally caught swordfish, including increased enforcement

Actions:

- September 2012 HMS AP comments
 - Continue to work with NOAA Enforcement to address this issue
 - Tag program should be done only in areas of concern
 - Pursue South Florida tagging region
 - Tag program may not improve enforcement
 - People may harvest and land in different areas to avoid tagging requirements
 - There may be marketing benefits to a tag program



BAYS Tunas Recommendations

The United States should:

- Support adoption of an expanded Gulf of Guinea time/area closure to protect juvenile BET and YFT.
- Not support CPC-specific allocations for YFT fishery
- If necessary, pursue allocations based on multi-year average of landings, taking Gulf of Guinea purse seine fishery into consideration
- 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
- Take additional steps to address historical YFT landings concerns



BAYS Tunas Recommendations

Recommendation by IAC Species Working Group:

- Take additional steps to address historical YFT landings concerns

Actions:

- Public conference call – April 27, 2012
- Continued Agency discussion – balancing potential actions with resources
 - More targeted survey effort
 - Online tournament reporting for all tournaments
 - Selection of charter/headboats for logbook reporting
- Continued public discussion
 - HMS Advisory Panel
 - U.S. ICCAT Advisory Committee



Sharks Recommendations

The United States should:

- Propose and get co-sponsors for a fins naturally-attached measure.
- Ensure that the SCRS fulfills mandate to advise Commission on catch levels and management measures for shortfin mako sharks.
- Develop and promote shortfin mako proposal that takes into consideration results of 2012 assessment and reduces mortality.
- Support EU's proposal to prohibit the retention of porbeagle sharks.
- Support or consider co-sponsoring proposals to prohibit retention of other shark species based on the results of the 2012 Ecological Risk Assessment.



Billfish Recommendations

The United States should:

- Roll-over existing Blue/White marlin ICCAT measure.
- Evaluate Blue marlin measures in 2016 & maintain existing ICCAT measures on White marlin until after the next assessment.
- Support SCRS collection of data from artisanal, small-scale fisheries.
- Investigate alternative CPUE indices and assessment techniques.
- Seek support for expanded observer coverage for fleets interacting with billfish.
- Consider new SCRS advice regarding time/area closure to reduce mortality.
- Re-evaluate Sailfish measure after next assessment