

ICCAT 2011

22nd Regular Meeting of the Commission
9 - 19 November 2011 Istanbul, Turkey



The U.S. ICCAT Advisory Committee Process

- Spring IAC species working group meeting (management and research recommendations)
- Briefing of AA
- Fall IAC meeting (position recommendations)
- U.S. position setting meeting
- U.S. delegation to the ICCAT Commission meeting

2011 U.S. Priorities

- Yellowfin and Bigeye
- Swordfish
- Marlins
- Albacore
- Sharks
- Compliance
- Bluefin (not a bluefin year)

The U.S. Delegation

Russell Smith
Randi Thomas
Ellen Peel

Eric Schwaab

Rebecca Lent
Chris Rogers
Kim Blankenbeker
Rachel O'Malley
Erika Carlsen
Melanie King
Henri DeBey

Margo Schulze-Haugen
Michael Clark
Brad McHale

Craig Brown
Guillermo Diaz

Derek Campbell
Megan Walline

Todd Dubois
Pam Toschik

Deirdre Warner-Kramer
Randall Robinson

Mike McGowan
Rich Ruais
Jack Devnew
Chester Brewer
Russell Nelson
Bobbi Walker
Sonja Fordham
Gerry Leape
David Cupka
John Graves

Ilya Fischhoff

Meeting Dynamics

- Very productive meeting
- Less polarization, more compromise
- Many multi-year recommendations
- U.S. w/leadership roles
 - Dr. Chris Rogers, Chair of the Compliance Committee
 - Dr. Rebecca Lent, Chair of the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of Statistics and Conservation (PWG)
 - Ms. Deirdre Warner-Kramer, Chair of the Future of ICCAT Working Group



What happened?



Panel 1: Tropical Tunas

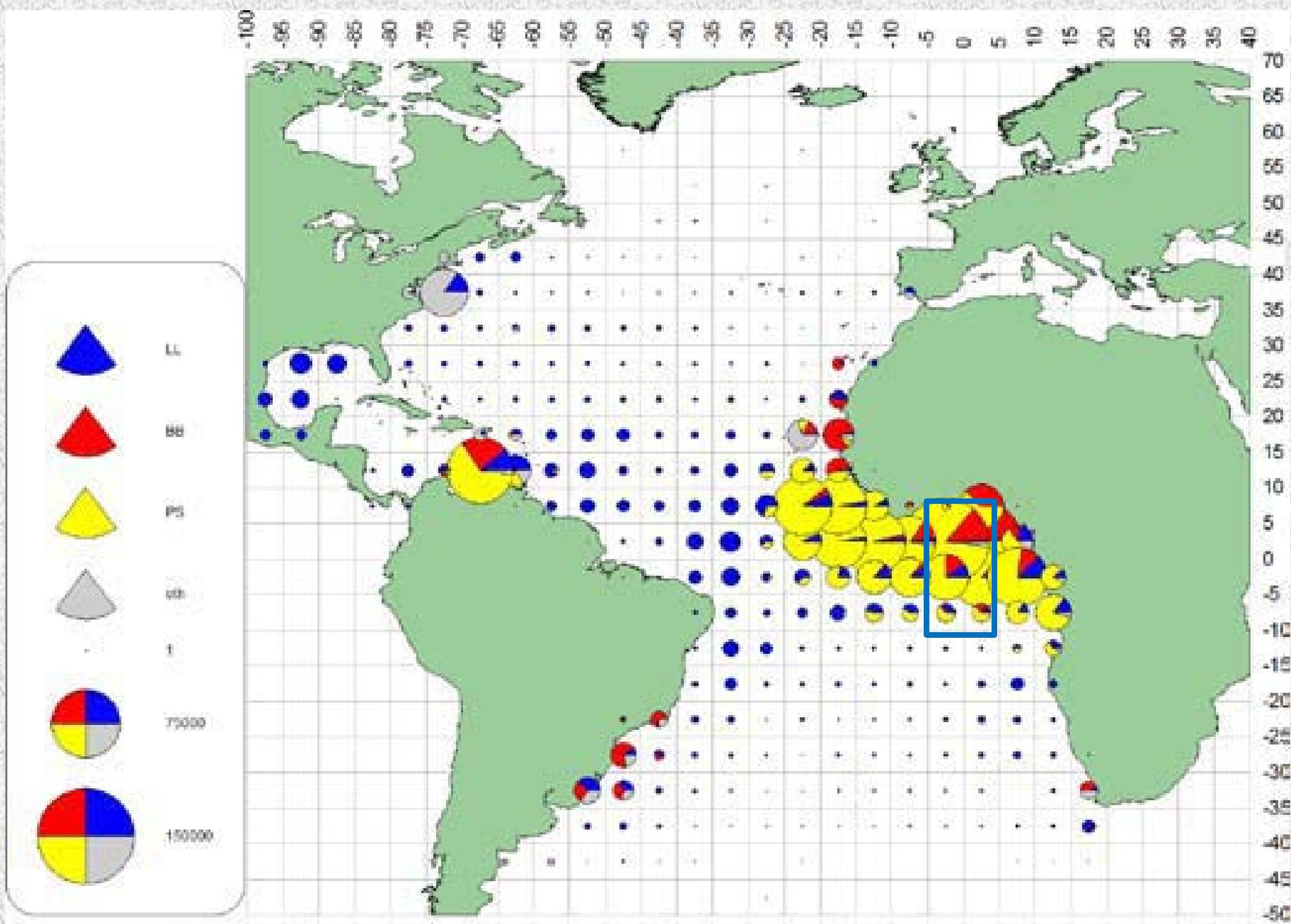
- **Bigeye and yellowfin tunas**
 - Comprehensive measure includes closed area, TACs, capacity limits, logbooks for vessel >20m, port sampling plan from SCRS
- **Bigeye tuna**
 - TAC of 85,000 mt for 2012 and subsequent years (Δ w/ scientific advice)
 - Major harvesters with specific catch limits
 - Minor harvesters
 - Developed states: If catch <2,100 mt, do not exceed
 - Developing states: If catch exceeds 3500 mt, establish quota

- **Yellowfin tuna**

- TAC of 110,000 for 2012 and subsequent years (Δ w/scientific advice)
- If catch exceeds TAC, review measures in place

- **Closed area (FAD fishing)**

- Duration increased from November to January and February
- Area increased from "Piccolo" closure
- FAD management plan
- 100% observer and VMS coverage (vessels > 20 m) during closure starting in 2013



Panel 2: Northern Temperate Tunas

- **Bluefin tuna**

- 2012 assessment update on schedule
- Libyan request to use 2011 underharvest in 2012 & 2013 not approved; to be reviewed in 2012
- E. Atl. 2012 fishing plans approved (except Syria & Albania which did not submit; neither country is authorized to fish in 2012)
- GBYP provided a research mortality of 20 mt



- **North Atlantic albacore**

- Continue TAC of 28,000 mt for 2012 and 2013
- U.S. continues w/ quota of 527 mt
- Carryforward of unused quota capped at 25% of initial catch quota
- Assessment in 2013

Panel 3: Southern Temperate Tunas

- **South Atlantic Albacore**

- TAC reduced from 29,900 mt in 2011 to 24,000 mt in 2012 and 2013
- Catch limits established for major players (those w/ reported catches >100 mt)
- Minor players (including U.S.) allowed up to 100 mt
- No carryforward of catch limit underages

Panel 4: Swordfish, Billfish, Sharks

- North Atlantic swordfish

- ~~One year rollover (again)~~ Two year measure
- TAC remains at 13,700 mt (no reduction)
- U.S. allocation preserved
- Carryover = 25% of initial catch limit (major harvesters); others = 50%
- Cleithrum/keel measurement accepted for minimum size
- Annual fishing/management plan submission
- Next assessment and consideration of allocation criteria in 2013

- **Mediterranean Swordfish**

- Closed season 1 Oct - 30 Nov and one month between 15 Feb and 31 Mar
- Vessel list
- Minimum size 90 cm LJFL w/10% tolerance in 2012, 5% in 2013
- PLL limited to 55 km and 2800 hooks
- Minimum hook size (7 cm height)

- **Blue and white marlins**

- Extends rebuilding recommendation through 2012 with a few changes
- Blue marlin TAC of 2,000 mt
- White marlin and spearfish combined
- Country-specific catch limits set at 30% of highest annual landing from 1996 - 2004
- No carryforward of underharvest except for those with catch limits <5 mt (50% max)
- Does not apply to those dead at haulback that do not enter commerce
- Review existing data collection programs for artisanal fisheries; SCRS to develop plan to expand/improve such programs

- SCRS to analyze potential benefits and applicability of time/area closures
- At 2012 Commission meeting establish a multi-year rebuilding program with total mortality limits (allocation?)





- **Silky shark**

- Release dead or alive in ICCAT fisheries
- Prohibits retention on board, landing and transshipment
- Developing coastal nations exempted for local consumption (reporting required)
- Exemption for nations that require all dead fish to be landed

- **Porbeagle shark**

- Competing EU (no retention) and Canadian (some retention) proposals
- No compromise, neither proposal adopted

- **Fins attached**

- Would apply to all sharks caught in ICCAT fisheries
- Japan suggests limit to fresh product
- Canada seeks exception for fisheries w/ dockside monitoring
- No consensus, not adopted

- **Seabirds**

- Builds on existing measure
- In waters south of 25°S use at least two of the following mitigation measures (by July 2013)
 - Night setting
 - Tori lines
 - Line weighting
- Between 20 and 25°S use either Tori lines or night setting with swivel weights
- Report on implementation
- Next fishery impact assessment in 2015

Compliance Committee (COC)

- Two days of COC meetings before the start of the ICCAT meeting
- Several COC sessions during the ICCAT meeting
- Considered each member's compliance relative to each applicable reporting and management measure (48 members!)
- First use of a Task Force to assist chair in recommending appropriate compliance actions to the COC

- 12 parties with clean records
- 27 receive letters of concern
- 9 receive letters of identification (trade measures recommendation)
- U.S. w/ letter of concern regarding implementation of ICCAT statistical document programs
- Recommendation to clarify application of quota carryforward & payback
- Other compliance issues
 - Ghana
 - Unauthorized fishing in Libyan waters

PWG

- Identification lifted for Bolivia and Georgia (bigeye)
- Colombia receives letter of identification (lack of data)
- Continuing Cooperating Party (CP) status for Taiwan, Colombia, Curacao, & Guyana
- Suriname gets CP status, El Salvador does not (more information needed)

- **Anti-IUU Measures**

- *Access Agreements*: increases transparency
- *IUU Vessel List*: lowers minimum length to 12 m
- *Authorized Vessel List*: new data reporting requirements and submission deadlines
- *Paper-based BCD Program*: prohibits comingling of catches of vessels of different flags and allows grouped BCD for caged product
- *Electronic BCD program*: continues implementation of near real-time system; call for tender to build the system
- *No Data - No Fish*: If no Task 1 (catch) data, cannot retain that species

- Bycatch data collection
 - Requires collection of bycatch/discard data in existing logbook & observer programs
 - Alternative means of data collection for artisanal fisheries to be evaluated by SCRS
- STACFAD
 - Meeting participation fund (€60K)
 - Best available science
 - Independence
 - Confidentiality
 - Code of conduct



Plenary

- Non-party participation - Taiwan can present or co-sponsor proposals
- Future of ICCAT (May 2012)- concrete proposals on priority issues
- Principles of Decision Making
- Standardization of SCRS presentations
- Terms of reference for COC & PWG

Commission Elections

- Commission Chair: Masa Miyahara (Japan)
 - 1st Vice Chair: Mario Aguilar (Mexico)
 - 2nd Vice Chair: M.G. Tackey (Ghana)
- COC: Chris Rogers (USA)
- PWG: Taoufik El Ktiri (Morocco)
- STACFAD: Sylvie LaPointe (Canada)
- Panel 1: Cote D'Ivoire
- Panel 2: EU
- Panel 3: South Africa
- Panel 4: Brazil

2012 ICCAT Events

- SCRS assessments
 - May 21 - 25. White marlin. Madrid, Spain.
 - June 11 - 18. Mako shark assessment and shark ecological risk analyses. Portugal.
 - September 4 - 11. Bluefin tuna. Madrid, Spain
- 2012 commission meetings
 - April 2 - 6. Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures. Tokyo, Japan
 - May 28 - 31. Working Group on the Future of ICCAT. Madrid, Spain.
 - November 12 - 19. 18th Special Meeting of the Commission. Agadir, Morocco.

