



COMHAFAT/ATLAFCO

*CONFERENCE MINISTERIELLE SUR LA COOPERATION HALIEUTIQUE ENTRE LES ETATS AFRICAINS
RIVERAINS DE L'OCEAN ATLANTIQUE*

*MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON FISHERIES COOPERATION AMONG AFRICAN STATES BORDERING THE
ATLANTIC OCEAN*

**Report on the participation of ATLAFCO in
2022 United Nations Ocean Conference in Lisbon,
and the ICCAT Panel 1 intersessional meeting in Ponta Delgada,
Azores Portugal**



ATLAFCO has participated in the **2022 United Nations Ocean Conference**, (27 June -01 July 2022 in Lisbon, Portugal) and **the ICCAT Panel 1 intersessional meeting** (28-30 June 2022 in Ponta Delgada, Azores Portugal)

The secretariat of ATLAFCO was represented by:

Mr. Abdelouahed Benabbou, Executive Secretary

Mr. Abdennaji LAAMRICH, Head of Cooperation and Information Systems

Mr. Atsushi ISIKAWA, Fisheries Expert

The 2022 United Nations Ocean Conference

2022 United Nations Ocean Conference comes at a critical time as the world is seeking to address many of the deep-rooted problems of our societies laid bare by the COVID-19 pandemic, and the world is strengthening its efforts to mobilize, create and drive solutions to realize the 17 Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

On 9th September 2021, the General Assembly adopted the draft decision (A/75/578) entitled “2022 United Nations Conference” to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development,” by which the Assembly decides to convene the Conference from 27th June to 1st July 2022 in Lisbon.

All 198 members of the United Nations unanimously adopted July 1, 2022 the Lisbon Declaration on ocean conservation.

Eight interactive dialogues were held in Tejo Hall, in parallel with the plenary meetings, as follows:

- “Addressing marine pollution”
- “Promoting and strengthening sustainable ocean-based economies, in particular for small island developing States and least developed countries”
- “Managing, protecting, conserving and restoring marine and coastal ecosystem
- “Minimizing and addressing ocean acidification, deoxygenation and ocean warming”
- “Making fisheries sustainable and providing access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets”
- “Increasing scientific knowledge and developing research capacity and transfer of marine technology”
- “Enhancing the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law, as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea”
- “Leveraging interlinkages between Sustainable Development Goal 14 and other Goals towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda

The 198 members of the United Nations presents at the conference unanimously adopted the Lisbon Declaration on ocean conservation, a new political declaration to save our ocean.

Adoption of the draft, Soares added, sends a strong signal to urgently improve the health, sustainable use and resilience of the ocean.

In the final draft of the declaration, member nations expressed regret for failing to achieve targets set for 2020. “*We renew our commitment to taking urgent action and cooperating at global, regional and sub-regional levels to achieve all targets as soon as possible without undue delay,*” the document read.

The Ocean Conference adopted the declaration entitled “Our Ocean, Our Future, Our Responsibility” (A/CONF.230/2022/L.1), as the outcome document, and recommends that the General Assembly endorse it, at its 76th session.

In the political declaration itself (A/CONF.230/2022/12), Heads of State and Government, and high-level representatives, civil society, and other relevant stakeholders, reaffirm strong commitment to conserve and sustainably use the ocean, seas and marine resources, and call for greater ambition at all levels to act decisively and urgently to improve health, productivity, sustainable use, and resilience of the ocean and its ecosystems. Reaffirming the 2017 UN Ocean Conference Declaration “Our Ocean, Our Future: Call for Action,” they also:

- recognize the ocean is fundamental to life on our planet and to our future, underlining the interlinkages and potential synergies between SDG 14 and other SDGs;
- regret collective failure to achieve targets 14.2, 14.4, 14.5, 14.6 that matured in 2020 and renew commitment to taking urgent action and to cooperate at the global, regional and subregional levels to achieve all targets as soon as possible;
- emphasize the importance of implementing the Paris Agreement and the Glasgow Climate Pact on mitigation, adaptation, and the provision and mobilization of finance, technology transfer, and capacity building to developing countries, including SIDS;
- call for an ambitious, balanced, practical, effective, robust, and transformative post-2020 global biodiversity framework for adoption at CBD COP 15, noting voluntary commitments by more than 100 Member States to conserve or protect at least 30% of global ocean within MPA effective area-based conservation measures by 2030, emphasizing the need for strong governance and adequate finance for developing countries, in particular SIDS, and recognizing the importance of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration;
- affirm the conservation and sustainable use of the ocean, advancement of nature-based solutions, and ecosystem-based approaches play a critical role to ensure sustainable, inclusive, and environmentally resilient recovery from COVID-19; and
- affirm the need to implement international law as reflected in UNCLOS, recognizing the importance of the work being undertaken by the INC on an ILBI under UNCLOS on BBNJ and call upon participating delegations to reach an ambitious agreement without delay.

The declaration also recognizes the importance of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) and stresses that science-based and innovative actions and international cooperation and partnerships based in science, technology and innovation, in line with the precautionary approach and ecosystem-based approaches, contribute to the solutions necessary to overcome challenges in achieving Goal 14 through:

- informing integrated ocean management, planning, and decision making;
- restoring and maintaining fish stocks;

- preventing, reducing, and controlling marine pollution of all kinds, from both land- and sea-based sources; and
- developing and implementing measures to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and avert, minimize and address loss and damage, reducing disaster risk and enhancing resilience, including through increasing the use of renewable energy technologies, especially ocean-based technologies.

The declaration further commits to taking science-based and innovative actions on an urgent basis, recognizing developing countries, in particular SIDS and LDCs, to:

- strengthen international, regional, subregional and national scientific and systematic observation and data collection efforts;
- recognize the important role of Indigenous, traditional and local knowledge, innovation and practices of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities;
- establish effective partnerships;
- explore, develop and promote innovative financing solutions to drive the transformation to sustainable ocean-based economies;
- empower women and girls, as their full, equal and meaningful participation is key in progressing towards a sustainable ocean-based economy;
- ensure that people, especially children and youth, are empowered with relevant knowledge and skills for decision-making; and
- reduce emissions from international maritime transportation, especially shipping, as soon as possible.

The declaration commits to implementing voluntary commitments made in the context of the Conference and urges appropriate review and follow-up on progress on the voluntary commitments made in 2017. The declaration strongly calls upon the UN Secretary-General to continue efforts to support the implementation of SDG 14 by enhancing inter-agency coordination and coherence throughout the UN system on ocean issues, through the work of UN-Oceans.

The conference has set the stage for the fifth session of the intergovernmental conference on an international legally binding instrument for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction.

The fifth round of negotiations to implement the international treaty will be held in New York from August 15-26, 2022.

It aims to protect biodiversity in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction, which lie outside the 200-mile (322-kilometre) exclusive economic zones of countries.

The ICCAT Panel 1 intersessional meeting

The Panel 1 intersessional meeting took place on 28-30 June, 2022 in a hybrid format. Although the agenda covers a number of relevant aspects that are essential to the revision of Recommendation by ICCAT replacing Recommendation 19-02 to replace Recommendation 16-01 on a multi-annual conservation and management for tropical tunas (Rec. 21-01), CPCs have participated fully in the discussions (among them those of ATLAFCO namely Angola, Côte d'Ivoire , Gabon, Guinea (Rep)., Guinea-Bissau Liberia, Mauritania, Morocco and

Senegal) aiming to move forward, focusing particularly on the development of quota allocation criteria, in particular for Bigeye tuna.

Mr. Justin Amande from Côte d'Ivoire, on behalf of ATLAFCO group made an explanatory presentation of the proposal to amend the preamble and Parts I, II and III of the Recommendation 21-01 by ICCAT replacing Recommendation 19-02 replacing Recommendation 16-01 on a multi-annual conservation and management program for tropical tunas

The proposal was submitted by Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea (Rep.), Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania, Morocco, Nigeria, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Angola, and Liberia) to modify recommendation 21-01, aimed at meeting the great challenge of the Panel1, relating to the allocation of bigeye tuna quotas (see Annex1).

The Member States of ATLAFCO, concerned about the stock status of bigeye tuna which at the moment shows worrying signs, wanted to contribute, through this proposal, to the resolution of quota allocations for this species.

For the sake of transparency, fairness, and objectivity, they wanted to positively consolidate their point of view of the TAC following the recommendations of the Scientific Committee, as well as its distribution in this proposed modification of recommendation 21-01, replacing 19-02.

The proposal for modification only relates to the preamble as well as Parts One, Two and Three of Recommendation 21-01.

The proposal does not imply deletion of the other parts of Recommendation 21-01 which was discussed during the meetings of Panel 1.

In the sidelines of this session, The Executive Secretary, Mr. Benabbou had several meetings with the representatives of ATLAFCO' MS in order to reach a common and harmonized position for better advocating their interests especially in the management of tropical tuna fisheries.

As it was expected from this coordination, the ATLAFCO group succeed to express the points of view of the African countries involved in this kind of fisheries and defend their interests.

At the end of the session, a small working group was set up to gather all the opinions of all the members of the Panel and to present a draft revision of Rec. 21-01.

This would allow Panel 1 to work intersessionally with a view to having a draft proposal in September 2022, well before the November 2022 meeting.

Therefore, in the meantime, as it was highlighted, CPCs who have draft proposals are encouraged to forward them to the Secretariat and to the President of Panel 1.

Introductory Note

This proposal for modification only relates to the preamble as well as Parts One, Two and Three of Recommendation 21-01.

This proposal does not imply deletion of the other parts of Recommendation 21-01 which will be discussed during the meetings of Panel 1.

**Proposal to amend the preamble and Parts I, II and III of the
Recommendation 21-01 by ICCAT replacing Recommendation 19-02 replacing Recommendation 16-01
on a multi-annual conservation and management programme for tropical tunas**

*(Submitted by Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea (Rep)., Guinea-Bissau,
Mauritania, Morocco, Nigeria, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Angola, Mauritania and Liberia)*

RECALLING the current multi-annual conservation and management programme for tropical tunas;

NOTING that the stocks of bigeye and yellowfin tuna are currently overfished;

RECOGNISING that the decisions on fishing possibilities offered to CPCs have been systematically inconsistent with the current TAC for bigeye tuna, which, since implementation of the TAC for bigeye tuna, has regularly led to overharvest;

RECOGNISING that the TAC for bigeye tuna for 2017 was exceeded by more than 20% and that this level of catch is projected to reduce the probability to reach the Convention objectives by 2028 is less than 10%;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the TAC for yellowfin tuna was also exceeded in 2016 by 37% and by 26% in 2017;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Principles of Decision Making for ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures* (Rec. 11-13) mandates that for stocks that are overfished and not subject to overfishing (i.e., stocks in the lower left yellow quadrant of the Kobe plot), the Commission shall adopt management measures designed to rebuild these stocks in as short a period as possible, taking into account, *inter alia*, the biology of the stock and SCRS advice;

TAKING FURTHER INTO ACCOUNT that it is necessary to explore alternative and more effective systems or regimes for the management of tropical tunas and for this the SCRS' recommendation is required;

CONSIDERING that the SCRS continues to recommend that effective measures be found to reduce FAD- related and other fishing mortality of small yellowfin and bigeye tuna;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the recommendations made by the Panel on the Second ICCAT Performance Review regarding the carryover of underage of catches from one year to another;

FURTHER TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the recommendations made by the first meeting of the Joint Tuna RFMO FAD Working Group and the third meeting of ICCAT's *Ad Hoc* Working Group on FADs, on FAD management objectives and the availability of FAD management measures to reduce juvenile tuna mortality;

NOTING that the SCRS has advised that increased harvests on FADs as well as other fisheries as well as development of new fisheries could have had negative consequences for the productivity of bigeye and yellowfin tuna fisheries (e.g., reduced yield at MSY);

FURTHER NOTING that support vessels contribute to the increase in efficiency and capacity of purse seiner vessels using FADs and that the number of support vessels has increased significantly over the years;

RECALLING the significant body of international law that recognizes the rights and special requirements of developing States, including but not limited to, as applicable, Article 119 of UNCLOS and Article 25 and Part VII of UNFSA;

RECOGNISING the interests of developing coastal States to develop their fishing opportunities, and committing to achieve a more equitable distribution of fishing opportunities to developing coastal States over time;

RECOGNISING the absolute need to develop a fair, equitable and transparent allocation key for bigeye tuna fishing possibilities for CPCs in accordance with the provisions of Resolution 15-13, in particular, article 19;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

PART I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Interim conservation and management measures

1. Without prejudice to the allocation of fishing rights and opportunities to be adopted in the future, for the years 2023-2027, the Contracting Parties and the Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (hereinafter referred to as CPCs) with vessels that fish for tropical tunas in the Atlantic will apply the following management measures with the objective of reducing current levels of fishing mortality of tropical tunas, in particular small bigeye and yellowfin.

Multi-annual Management, Conservation, and Rebuilding Programme

2. CPCs whose vessels have been actively fishing for tropical tunas in the Atlantic shall continue the 15- year rebuilding programme for bigeye tuna that has been implemented since 2020 and continuing through 2034, with the goal of achieving BMSY with a probability of more than 60%. CPCs shall also implement management measures with the objectives of ensuring that the stocks of yellowfin and skipjack tuna continue to be exploited sustainably.

PART II

CATCH LIMITS

Catch limits for bigeye tuna

3. The Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for bigeye tuna shall be 70,000 t in 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026 and 2027. The following elements shall apply.
 - a) If the total catch exceeds the TAC in any year, the overage shall be paid back by the CPCs to which a catch limit for the species concerned has been assigned. The excess catches shall be deducted in the following year proportionally to the adjusted catch limits / quotas of the CPC concerned, in accordance with paragraphs 10 and 11.
 - b) The TAC for 2025 and following years of the multi-annual programme shall be adjusted based on the most recent scientific assessment available and SCRS advice; and taking into account at least the complete data for 2023.
 - c) The allocation key which allows to obtain the annual catch limits of the CPCs is applicable for the five-year period from 2023 to 2027, and shall remain unchanged for 2023, 2024 and 2025. It shall be discussed by the Commission for the period after 2027. Notwithstanding, at the request of at least five CPCs of Panel 1, this allocation key may be modified in 2025 or 2026 for the remainder of the years of the period 2023-2027.
4. The allocation key, expressed as a percentage of TAC, shall apply for 2023 and the following years of the multi-annual programme to CPCs, based on the following and in accordance with the table in this paragraph:
 - a) CPCs classified in category A, corresponding to those whose average catches over the period 2014-2018 have been greater than 10,000 t, shall benefit from 44% of the TAC;
 - b) CPCs classified in category B, corresponding to those whose average catches over the period 2014-2018 have been greater than 3,500 t and less than 10,000 t, shall benefit from 17% of the TAC;
 - c) CPCs classified in the category C, corresponding to those whose average catches over the period 2014-2018 have been greater than 1,000 t and less than 3,500 t, shall benefit from 23% of the TAC;
 - d) The CPCs classified in category D, corresponding to those whose average catches over the period have been less than 1,000 t, shall benefit from 11% of the TAC;

- e) Any developing coastal CPC of the Atlantic Ocean that has submitted a declaration of intent to develop its bigeye tuna fishery or has declared its intent to ICCAT to fish this species, including developing coastal CPCs not listed in the categories of the **Table 1** below, may access an additional quota share or a new share of the bigeye quota. Panel 1 shall decide upon the share to be allocated to this developing coastal CPC that has made the request. This share of fishing possibility shall then be taken from the equalisation quota. It should be noted that this equalisation quota corresponds to a share of the TAC that has been set aside to enable development of the fisheries of developing coastal countries and resolve any eventual unanticipated difficulties.

Table 1. Allocation key in percentage of TAC for Atlantic bigeye tuna over the period 2023-2027.

<i>Flag name</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>Category %</i>	<i>Allocation 2023-2027 (%)</i>	
Japan	A	44.00	17.00	
EU-all	A		16.18	
Chinese Taipei	A		10.82	
Brazil	B	17.00	7.06	
China (P.R.)	B		5.55	
Ghana	B		4.39	
Curaçao	C	23.00	4.24	
Panama	C		2.76	
Cabo Verde	C		2.66	
Belize	C		2.64	
Senegal	C		2.99	
El Salvador	C		2.45	
Korea (Rep.)	C		2.11	
Guinea (Rep.)	C		1.57	
Guatemala	C		1.58	
United States	D		11.00	2.26
Côte d'Ivoire	D			1.44
St Vincent and the Grenadines	D	1.35		
Morocco	D	1.03		
Sao Tomé and Príncipe	D	0.86		
Philippines	D	0.79		
Namibia	D	0.72		
South Africa	D	0.65		
Canada	D	0.60		
Venezuela	D	0.52		
UK-St Helena	D	0.14		
Trinity and Tobago	D	0.12		
Liberia	D	0.12		
Guyana	D	0.08		
Grenada	D	0.07		
Barbados	D	0.07		
St Lucia	D	0.04		
Equatorial Guinea	D	0.03		
Vanuatu	D	0.02		
Mexico	D	0.01		
UK-Turks and Caicos	D	0.01		
St Kitts and Nevis	D	0.01		
Angola	D	0.01		
Mauritania	D	0.01		
Great Britain	D	0.01		
Dominica	D	0.01		
FR-St Pierre and Miquelon	D	0.01		
UK-Bermuda	D	0.01		
Equalisation quota	*	5.00		5

5. The provisions of paragraph 4 of this Recommendation shall not prejudice the rights and obligations under international law of those developing coastal CPCs in the Convention Area whose current fishing activity for bigeye tuna is limited or non-existent. but that have a real interest in fishing for the species. that may wish to develop their own fisheries targeting bigeye tuna in the future. CPCs shall implement robust monitoring. control and surveillance measures. as applicable in relation to their capacity and resources.
6. Small scale artisanal fishers shall be given special consideration to their specificities and needs.
7. The annual quotas and catch limits described in this Recommendation do not constitute long term rights and are without prejudice to any future process of allocation.
8. A CPC of a given category may transfer a share of its bigeye tuna fishing possibilities to another CPC of the same category or to the following category in alphabetical order.
9. If the total catch exceeds in any year the relevant TAC specified in paragraph 3. the surplus shall be paid back by the CPCs responsible for this overage in proportion to the contributions of each to these overages and according to the provisions of paragraph 12.

Underage or overage of catch of bigeye tuna

10. Overage of an annual catch limit for any CPC including those that are not listed in paragraph 4 for bigeye tuna shall be deducted from the annual catch limit of the following year:

<i>Year of catch</i>	<i>Adjustment year</i>
<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
<u>2025</u>	<u>2026</u>
<u>2026</u>	<u>2027</u>

11. Notwithstanding paragraph 10. if any CPC exceeds its annual catch limit:
 - a) In one year. then the amount deducted in the adjustment year shall be determined as 100% of the overage; and
 - b) During any two consecutive years. the Commission will recommend appropriate measures. which shall include reduction in the catch limit equal to 125% of the excess harvest.
12. No carryover of underage throughout the allocation period 2023-2027 and until the stock is in the green quadrant of the Kobe plot.

Monitoring of catch

13. CPCs shall report quarterly to the Secretariat the amount of tropical tunas (by species) caught by vessels flying their flag. within 30 days of the end of the period during which the catches were made.
14. For purse seiners and large longline vessels (LOA 20m or greater). CPCs shall report on a monthly basis. increasing to weekly when 80% of their catch limits have been caught.
15. The Secretariat shall notify all CPCs once 80% of the TAC has been caught.
16. CPCs shall report to the ICCAT Secretariat the dates when their entire catch limit of bigeye tuna has been utilized. The ICCAT Secretariat shall promptly circulate this information to all CPCs.

TAC for yellowfin tuna

17. The annual TAC for 2023 and subsequent years of the Multi-annual Programme is 110.000 t for yellowfin tuna and shall remain in place until changed based on scientific advice.
18. Based on the stock assessment and SCRS advice. the Commission shall adopt additional conservation measures for yellowfin tuna at the 2025 annual meeting. which may include a revised TAC. closures or allocated catch limits.
19. If the total catch exceeds in any year the TAC in paragraph 17. the Commission shall consider additional management measures for yellowfin tuna. Any other measures shall recognise the obligations of international law and the rights of CPC developing coastal States.

Fishing Plans

20. CPCs should provide ICCAT with a fishing and capacity management plan on how they will implement any catch reductions necessary as a result of paragraph 4.
21. Any developing CPC intending to increase its participation in ICCAT fisheries for tropical tunas shall endeavour to prepare a statement of its development intentions for tropical tuna with the purpose of informing other CPCs of potential changes in the fishery over time. These statements should include details

of proposed/potential fleet additions, including vessel size and gear type. The statements shall be submitted to the ICCAT Secretariat and be made available to all CPCs. Those CPCs may amend their statement as their situation and opportunities change.

PART III

CAPACITY MANAGEMENT MEASURES

Capacity limitation for tropical tunas

22. A capacity limitation shall be applied for the duration of the Multi-annual Programme, in accordance with the following provisions:
- a) By 31 January each year, each CPC fishing with recent average catches of more than 1.000 t for tropical tuna shall produce an annual capacity/fishing plan that outlines how that CPC will ensure that its overall longline and purse seine fleet capacity will be managed to ensure that the CPC can meet its obligation to limit the catch of bigeye, and its yellowfin and skipjack catches, consistent with the catch limit established under paragraph 4.
 - b) Any CPCs listed in the categories C and D of paragraph 4 as well as those not listed that have planned an expansion of capacity during the period 2023-2027, will provide a declaration at the latest by 31 January each year.
 - c) The Compliance Committee shall annually review CPCs' compliance with capacity management measures.
23. Any CPC having vessels that operate, part-time or full-time, in support of purse seiners shall report the names and characteristics of all of their vessels to the ICCAT Secretariat, including which of those vessels were active in 2019 in the ICCAT Convention area, and the names of the purse seiner(s) that received the support of each support vessel. This information shall be updated as appropriate and reported no later than 31 January each year. The Secretariat shall prepare a report for the Commission to be able to consider the type of limitation that support vessels shall be subject to in the future, including a phasing-out plan, where required.
24. Notwithstanding this, CPCs shall not increase the number of support vessels from the numbers recorded by the time of adoption of this measure.

For the purposes of this measure, a support vessel is defined as any vessel that carries out activities in support of purse seine vessels that increases the efficiency of their operations including, but not limited to deploying, servicing and retrieving