

CCSBT
European Union Self-Assessment of Fishing Capacity

1. Recent History of the EU in the Convention for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna

The EU was a cooperating non-member to the Convention for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) since 2006 and became a member in 2015.

There are no EU vessels targeting Southern Bluefin Tuna (SBT). The European Union has important fisheries Northern Bluefin Tuna (ICCAT) and relevant experience in the management of this fishery that have significant similarities with the Southern Bluefin Tuna fisheries managed by CCSBT. The EU membership to CCSBT ensures consistency of its approach across Southern Oceans and reinforces the commitment for conservation, science and responsible management of tuna stocks.

The EU does not have a strong presence in SBT migratory areas and only has a 10 tonnes TAC for SBT (11 tonnes in 2018), which covers possible by-catches of longline fisheries for swordfish made by EU longliners mainly operating in IOTC, but also in ICCAT and WCFPC areas.

2. Capacity with Respect to EU's Allocation

In 2016, 26 long-liners were fishing for swordfish in IOTC in which interaction with SBT sporadically occurred in the past.

For the same year there were 4 EU longliners operating in the Southwest Pacific Ocean and in Atlantic Ocean, the large majority of EU longliners authorized to operate in all ICCAT area operate out of the zone where encounters with SBT could occur and only few vessels enter occasionally in the Southern Atlantic waters.

Historical catches of SBT bycatch by EU vessels are show in the table below:

Indian Ocean	2000	0
Indian Ocean	2001	0
Indian Ocean	2002	0
Indian Ocean	2003	3
Indian Ocean	2004	22
Indian Ocean	2005	0
Indian Ocean	2006	3
Indian Ocean	2007	18
Indian Ocean	2008	14
Indian Ocean	2009	2
Indian Ocean	2010	11
Indian Ocean	2011	3
Indian Ocean	2012	4
All	2013	0
All	2014	0
All	2015	0
All	2016	0

All EU vessels are subject to stringent monitoring and control activities according to the EU Common Fisheries Policy and the rules of IOTC, WCPFC and ICCAT. In addition, EU vessels are also subject to observation programmes and/or sampling in Port providing reports where all species caught are identified.

All SBT catches by the EU fleet are duly reported and the quota allocated to the EU has been respected.

To be noted, as shown in the table above and taking into account the very scarce quantity of the EU quota and the number of EU vessels fishing within the SBT migratory zone, the 10/11 tonnes (12/13.2 tonnes if carry-forward of Unfished Annual Total Allowable) could be occasionally exceeded with by-catches, even if there are no EU fishing vessels targeting SBT.