

Report from the CCSBT Observer to the 20th Special Meeting of
the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)
(14 – 21 November, Vilamoura, Portugal)

CCSBT Observer (Japan)

At the 2016 ICCAT annual meeting, 46 Contracting Parties, 3 Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities, 2 non-Contracting Parties, 3 intergovernmental organizations and 22 non-governmental organizations were present, totaling about 600 people.

The meeting adopted conservation and management measures for the Mediterranean swordfish, North Atlantic albacore, South Atlantic albacore, sailfish and blue shark. The meeting also decided to extend the current conservation and management measures for North Atlantic swordfish and South Atlantic swordfish, respectively, for one year, given that new stock assessments are scheduled in 2017 for both stocks.

The meeting endorsed the increase in the TAC for the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean stock of bluefin tuna while maintaining the TAC for the Western Atlantic stock at 2,000 metric tons. According to the decision made by 2014 ICCAT annual meeting, the TAC for the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean stock of bluefin tuna would be increased from 19,296 metric tons in 2016 to 23,155 metric tons in 2017.

The meeting received a report on the Second ICCAT Performance Review. In order to analyze and, where appropriate, address recommendations contained in the report, the meeting decided to establish an ad-hoc working group to follow-up on the Second ICCAT Performance Review.

The meeting decided to develop an online reporting system. As the number of reporting requirements has been increasing in recent years, Members are facing more difficulties in meeting all those requirements while the Secretariat needs more time to extract necessary information and compile them into the specified formats. The new system is expected to be established in 2019 and address these problems.

There was no discussion on SBT.

The next annual meeting will be held in Marrakech, Morocco from 14 – 21 November.