

Report from the CCSBT Observer to the 21st Special Meeting of the International Commission for the  
Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)  
(12-19 November, Dubrovnik, Croatia)

CCSBT Observer (Japan)

1. Introduction

The 2019 ICCAT annual meeting was attended by over 650 delegates from 45 Contacting Parties, two cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities and observers from one non-Contracting Party, two international organizations and 21 NGOs.

2. Management Measures

(1) Atlantic bluefin tuna (ABT)

The meeting agreed in 2017 that TAC would be 32,240 MT in 2019 and 36,000 MT in 2020, part of which was not allocated to Members as a reserve. The 2018 meeting endorsed the TAC for 2019 and decided to allocate the reserve among ABT fishing Members.

The meeting also agreed to request its scientific committee (SCRS) to identify growth rates including in weight and size gains during the fattening period, and review and update the growth table published in 2009.

The meeting also agreed to initial management objectives for conducting an MSE for ABT.

(2) North Atlantic albacore

The meeting discussed actions to be taken by the Commission when exceptional circumstances occur in the harvest control rules applied to this stock, but deferred discussion to next year.

(3) Tropical tunas

The meeting agreed that the current conservation measures be extended for one year.

(4) IUU Vessel list

The meeting decided to expand the scope of RFMOs for cross-listing of IUU vessels. The previous one limits the scope to only tuna RFMOs and now the following RFMOs were added: the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), the North Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO), the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC), and the South East Atlantic Fisheries Organization (SEAFO).

(5) VMS

The meeting agreed to change the frequency of collecting and transmitting VMS data from 4 hours to 1 hour for purse seiners and to 2 hours for other types of vessels.

3. Other matters

There was no discussion on SBT.

The next Commission meeting would be held in Palma de Mallorca, Spain, 18-25 November 2019.