

Report from the CCSBT Observer to the 2023 Discussions on Essential Commission  
Business in Lieu of The 28<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting of  
The International Commission for The Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)

CCSBT Observer (Japan)

1. Introduction

The 28<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting of the Commission was held in a hybrid format, in Egypt and online, in which 52 Contracting Parties, 4 Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities and observers from 1 Non-Contracting Party, 10 international governmental organizations and 26 NGOs participated.

2. Management Measures

(1) Bluefin Tuna

(Western Atlantic)

The TAC for the Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna is maintained at 2,726 t for 2024.

(Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean)

The TAC for the Eastern Atlantic Bluefin Tuna is maintained at 40,570 t for 2024.

(Both Western and Eastern stocks)

An Exceptional Circumstances (ECs) protocol of Management Procedure (MP) was discussed and adopted at the Commission meeting. The protocol defines indicators that trigger an EC (e.g., an excess catch of 20% or more above the TAC in any year). In the event of EC occurrence, the SCRS determines whether the EC precludes the application of the MP or implementation of its results. If yes, the SCRS advises the Commission on follow-up actions. Based on the advice of the SCRS, the Commission shall decide on alternative management action(s), including as appropriate, a reduction in TAC(s) for the following year.

(2) Tropical tunas

The multi-annual conservation and management programme for tropical tunas was rolled over, with the maintained TAC for bigeye tuna of 62,000 t for 2024 as well as the maintained FADs closure period of 72 days in 2024.

(3) Others

The TAC for the Northern Atlantic swordfish is maintained at 13,200 t for 2024 as a result of the postponement of the MP adoption. The discussion on the MP will continue in 2024. The TAC for the Northern Atlantic albacore is increased to 40,251t for 2024 from 37,801 t for 2023.

3. Next meeting

The 24<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting of the Commission will be held in November 2024 in Cyprus.  
Online participation in the meeting would be available as well.