

Report from the CCSBT Observer to the 2021 Discussions on Essential Commission
Business in Lieu of The 27th Regular Meeting of
The International Commission for The Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)

CCSBT Observer (Japan)

1. Introduction

Due to the pandemic of COVID-19, the 27th Regular Meeting of the Commission was held online, in which 51 Contracting Parties, 5 Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities and observers from 1 Non-Contracting Party, 6 international governmental organizations and 26 NGOs participated.

2. Management Measures

(1) Bluefin Tuna

(Western Atlantic)

The TAC for the Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna increased to 2,726 t for 2022 from 2,350t for 2021.

(Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean)

The TAC for the Eastern Atlantic Bluefin Tuna is maintained at 36,000t for 2022.

Control and monitoring on farming was streamlined and strengthened, including the introduction of sealing of cages.

(Both Western and Eastern stocks)

Management Procedure was discussed and will be adopted at the Commission meeting of 2022.

(2) Tropical tunas

The multi-annual conservation and management programme for tropical tunas was rolled over, with the increased TAC for bigeye tuna of 62,000 t for 2022 from 61,500 t for 2021 as well as shortened FADs closure period from 3months in 2021 to 72days in 2022. The annual TAC for yellowfin was maintained at the current level of 110,000 t. Additional measures for yellowfin tuna, including TAC and allocation of yellowfin tuna, will be discussed at the Commission meeting in 2022 based on the stock assessment.

3. Next meeting

The 23rd Special meeting of the Commission will be held in November 2022 in Portugal. Online participation to the meeting would be available as well.