
ICCAT29 update_2025.11.21

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Quick ICCAT29 notes - key agenda outcomes and stakeholder side talks

PA3 - SAALB (closed)

- SCRS update on SAALB: The stock remains in the GREEN zone based on the 2018 assessment. SCRS also outlined ongoing MSE development and the workplan toward 2026, including growth and ageing studies.
- TAC vs MSY issue: JP questioned why the current TAC is higher than the MSY. SCRS explained that earlier projections showed a very high probability of remaining in the green zone, which justified increasing TAC at the time. SCRS will review this issue again.
- Quota carryover: Multiple CPCs confirmed they will carry over unused 2024 SAALB quota. Secretariat will update numbers in a revised COC-304.
--> **Although the SCRS has made some technical progress on the SAALB MSE - such as establishing the operating model framework and scheduling the 2026 assessment, all these steps remain preparatory. From MSC perspective, it means the fishery is still far from meeting SG80 under P1.**

Meet-up with Namibia Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR)

- We discussed the rationale for including Namibia as an MSC scope entity, and Mr. Bester expressed clear support.
- Logbook data gap: Bester indicated the missing periods may be due to vessels halting operations after exceeding quota, though this needs verification. He advised checking the details with Ms. Charmaine, whom we also briefly met.
--> **Potential MSC P3 risk if CAB questions MCS and reporting management..etc.**
- Observer data: **FOA is still compiling observer reports** and will share them once ready. Bester noted that observer coverage on chartered vessels has declined due to manpower shortages, but MFMR plans to increase the budget to deploy more observers. Regarding EM, he said they still prefer human observers, as EM costs and administration are more challenging for them.
- MSC on-site visit: Bester proposed an online interview in February, but given the MSC assessment timeline, we agreed to handle this via **email correspondence** instead.

Side-talk with CNFC (王旭陽, 張省宇)

- Social update: CNFC has built **履約制度 into their internal policy** and plans **to renew crew contracts** under the new policy **starting in 2026**.
- LL MSC progress: SHOU shared the data, and its observer coverage now up to abt 5%, and domestic EM installations have begun this year. with this, CNFC is planning to start MSC assessment in 2026, with Liu continuing to coordinate.
- 旭陽總 and 劉征(in charge of MSC) will attend WCPFC22 annual meeting, focusing mainly on catch-reduction proposal (by FFA) and VDS management.

Best,
Metilda

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