

Position Statement for the ICCAT Annual Commission Meeting 17-24 November 2025

Drafted with agreement from all FIP Participants – October 2025

This FIP aims to meet the rising global demand for tuna in a sustainable manner by assuring catches do not exceed sustainable levels, promoting the ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management and strengthening policy and governance systems in the region. The end goal is to achieve certification under the [Marine Stewardship Council](#) Fisheries Standard.

As part of this FIP reaching MSC certification there are various actions that need to be undertaken that involve a range of different stakeholders. To ensure the FIP meets these objectives we need the support of ICCAT and urge action at the ICCAT annual meeting this year on multiple topics laid out in this position statement.

The FIP strongly urges ICCAT and its member states to ensure the following:

Compliance processes

- Adopt a workplan for the Compliance Committee to develop audit points for ICCAT management measures, such as those developed for sharks in Rec. 18-06.
- Adopt procedures to identify and address non-compliance with TAC allocations.

Tuna stock conservation

- Continue to implement the tropical tuna conservation measure Rec. 24-01. If the total allowable catch (TACs) for either bigeye or yellowfin is increased, it should be done in accordance with SCRS advice, ensuring that the two stocks are maintained at sustainable levels.
- Fully allocate the TAC for yellowfin tuna or adopt an alternative mechanism to ensure compliance with the agreed TAC.

FAD management

- Establish a timeline to develop a FAD register.
- Develop and adopt a requirement for provision to ICCAT of near real-time FAD position and acoustic biomass records data for scientific use with a maximum time lag of 90 days to protect confidentiality.
- Develop and adopt an effective FAD marking scheme for both FAD structure and geolocating buoy.
- Develop and adopt clear rules for FAD ownership and for FAD buoy activation and deactivation.

Electronic monitoring (EM) and reporting & observer coverage

- Enable electronic monitoring to be used to meet some portion of the current ICCAT observer coverage requirements for tropical tuna fisheries and increase observer coverage (human and/or electronic in accordance with the adopted minimum EM standards) on large-scale longline vessels to an interim level of 20%.

Port state measures

- Amend Rec. 23-07 to establish minimum standards for port inspection reports and to require reporting on all port inspections.

Effective management procedures (harvest strategies)

- Adopt a management procedure for western Atlantic skipjack.
- Accelerate the development of multi-stock management procedures for bigeye, yellowfin and eastern skipjack, as well as management procedures for southern Atlantic albacore.

Bycatch mitigation & shark protections

- Require all sharks be landed with fins naturally attached without exceptions.
- Request the SCRS to review science-based mitigation techniques for seabird bycatch so the Commission can adopt revisions to Rec.11-09 that reflects up-to-date scientific bycatch mitigation best practices.
- Adopt a non-retention policy without exceptions for North Atlantic shortfin mako to allow its recovery and adopt South Atlantic shortfin mako catch limits that account for total removals, in line with SCRS advice.
- Require vessels to implement the safe-handling and release best practices and bycatch mitigation measures adopted by.
- ICCAT or other tuna RFMOs to reduce the bycatch mortality of sharks, seabirds, and sea turtles.

Labour and social issues in tuna fisheries

- Develop and then adopt a binding crew labour and safety resolution

If the above-mentioned are addressed effectively it will have positive long-term sustainability implications and improve the overall health of the Atlantic marine ecosystem to allow for fisheries like our current FIP to achieve sustainability targets, particularly in line with MSC certification.

For more information, please do not hesitate in contacting the project coordinator.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.