

Capsen and Grand Bleu Atlantic Ocean purse seine tuna FIP Position Statement for the ICCAT annual meeting, 17-24 November, 2025

Drafted with agreement from all Capsen and Grand Bleu FIP Participants – November 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 Capsen and Grand Bleu FIP strongly urges the ICCAT and its member states to ensure the ICCAT acts in November at the ICCAT annual meeting to:

1. 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.
2. Adopt procedures to identify and address non-compliance with TAC allocations.
3. Adopt a specific harvest strategy/management plan for eastern skipjack, bigeye and yellowfin tuna stocks in the Atlantic Ocean, which includes harvest control rules (HCRs) that work together and are responsive to the stock.
4. 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.
5. Fully allocate the TAC for yellowfin tuna or adopt an alternative mechanism to ensure compliance with the agreed TAC.
6. Adopt management measures or a partial strategy for small tunas in the Atlantic Ocean, including little tunny (*Euthynnys alletteratus*) to maintain and not hinder rebuilding of stocks.
7. Establish a timeline to develop a FAD register.
8. 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.
9. Develop and adopt an effective FAD marking scheme for both FAD structure and geolocating buoy.
10. Develop and adopt clear rules for FAD ownership and for FAD buoy activation and deactivation.
11. Develop and adopt a policy for FAD-recovery.
12. 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%.
13. Amend Rec. 23-07 to establish minimum standards for port inspection reports and to require reporting on all port inspections.



14. Accelerate the development of multi-stock management procedures for bigeye, yellowfin and eastern skipjack.
15. Require all sharks be landed with fins naturally attached without exceptions.
16. 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.
17. 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.
18. 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 FIP coordinator Emily Wardrop at e.wardrop@keytraceability.com.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.