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MEDAC ADVICE ON BFT-E and SWO MED

The Executive Committee members adopted the advice proposed by Working Group 2 which convened on October 10 in Split addressing the issue of BFT-E and SWO-MED to monitor the stock condition on the basis of the results of the SCRS annual meeting. The ExCom adopted this document by consensus with the exception of the recreational fisheries associations. *

Considering

That the ExCom favorably welcomed the last SCRS advice on the stock of the east Bluefin tuna stating:

- *"The implementation of recent regulations through [Recs. 13-07, 12-03, 10-04, 09-06, and previous recommendations] has clearly resulted in reductions in catch and fishing mortality rates, and in a substantial increase in the spawning stock biomass"*

- *"The Committee noted that maintaining current TAC or moderately and gradually increasing over recent TACs under the current management scheme should not undermine the success of the rebuilding plan and should be consistent with the goal of achieving FMSY and BMSY through 2022 with at least 60% of probability. ..."*

"Such stepped increases should be reviewed annually by the Commission on the advice of the SCRS..."

The Executive Committee members agreed to:

- increase the TAC over the next years, according with the recent scientific results and as suggested by the latest SCRS reported in Section 6 "BFTE-6 Management recommendations" in order to maintain the MSY according with the results reported above;
- balance the eventual increase of TAC among all the ICCAT Contracting Parties, according to the current allocation key
- strengthen the current ICCAT traceability system.

Moreover, the ExCom hopes that the possibility to outline new rules for the small scale fishery could be considered, complying with sustainability principles of the CFP (Reg. 1380/2013), in order to give back more feasibility in terms of access to the resource.



The ExCom also agreed on the need to ensure that the management plan for SWO MED allows to achieve the objectives laid down in the CFP and to ask the SCRS to include them in the next ICCAT stock assessment. Moreover

the ExCom acknowledged the SCRS observations related to the high percentage of juveniles catch of SWO-MED and agreed on the need to avoid this harmful practice.

The ExCom also recognized the need to revise the “*potential excess in fleet capacity*” reported by SCRS in Section 6 “SWO-MED-6. Management recommendations”.

*ExCom members: CEPRR, EAA/IFSUA and FIPSAS/CIPS that share the seats.

