



Presentation of the SWWAC advices



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Dictamen 180 – 27/05/2025

Dictamen 180: Resiliencia de las pesquerías pelágicas al cambio climático



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Dictamen 181 – 27/05/2025

Dictamen 181: Recomendaciones sobre los TAC de atún rojo, atún blanco y pez espada

MEDAC – GT 2 on line- 19-6-2025

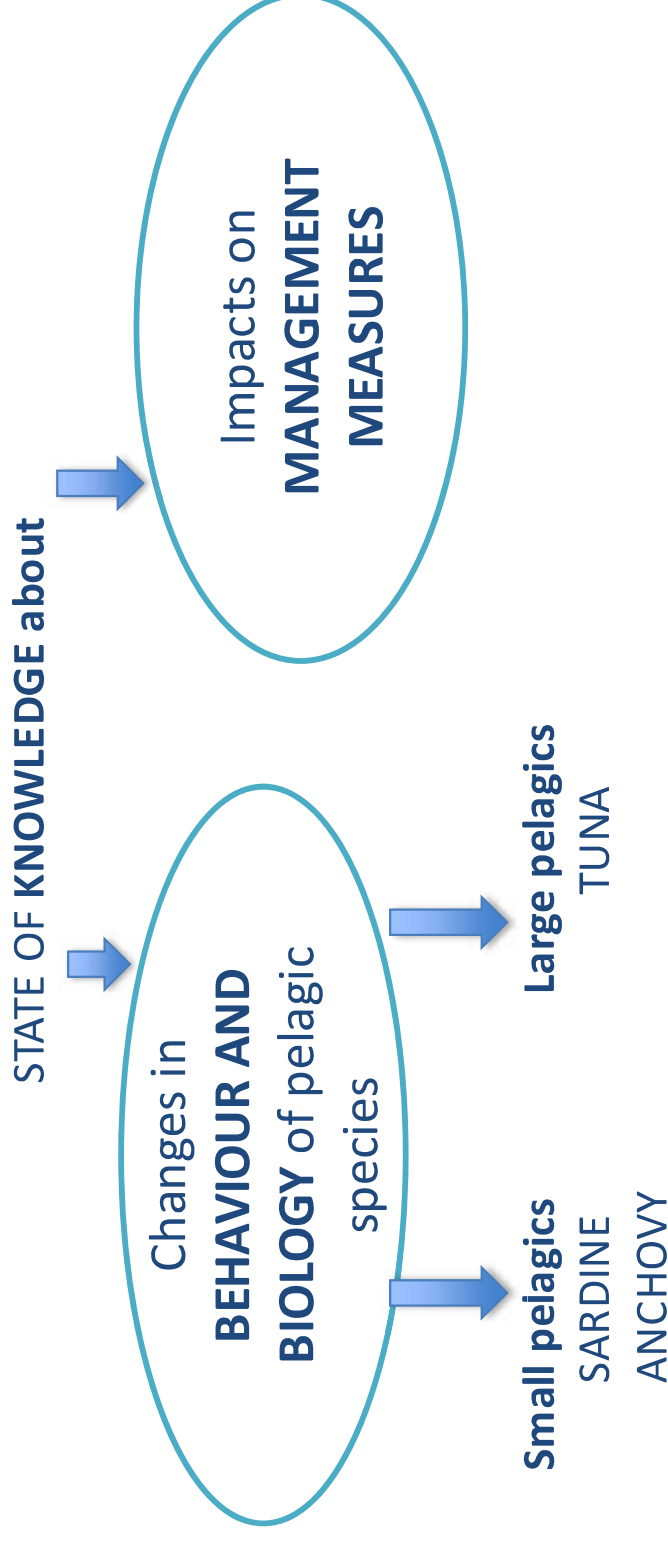
María José Rico: Chair of the SWWAC Pelagic Species and ICCAT WG



BASE OF THE ADVICE:

- **Scientific information:** Projects led by IFREMER and/or AZTI and presented at the SWWAC meetings in **2023 and 2024**
 - DEFIPEL, PROMPT, FISHNCHIP, SEAWISE
 - STUDIES PRESENTED BY GUILLEM CHUST
- **Participation:** in the ICCAT climate change expert WG 2024

MAIN ELEMENTS:





CHANGES IN BEHAVIOUR AND BIOLOGY

SARDINE AND ANCHOVY

- Decrease in **average weight and average length** at age
- Temperature **increases initial growth** but decreases **size**
- Drop in **zooplankton** energy quality
- Decrease in average **fat** content in sardine
- **Maturation** at smaller size and later in the year
- Increase of **natural mortality** (**smaller size and lower body fat**)
- **Shifts** to the North
- Changes in fish **phenology**
- Variation in **water column distribution**

TUNA

- **Changes in the behaviour of BLUEFIN TUNA**
 - Observation in **higher latitudes**
 - **Longer time spent** in certain areas
 - **Presence in new feeding zones**
- **Migration:** Changes in migratory patterns: **energy cost of migration for bluefin tuna, poleward movement of albacore bringing their arrival in the Bay of Biscay earlier**





IMPACT ON MANAGEMENT MEASURES

- **Modification of the distribution of catches** between target and by-catch species in fishing seasons
- SCRS have studied and demonstrated the **vulnerability of fisheries** to climate change

SCRS studies on the robustness of existing management measures at the ICCAT level, ranking management standards according to their effectiveness in addressing predictable impacts of climate change, in particular:

- **Spatial distribution**
- **Survival**
- **Distribution area contraction**
- **Difficulty of testing on a regional and species scale,**
- **Starting with generic evidence** and building up to more tailored climate evidence,
- **Encouragement of research** to support this more tailored robustness testing
- **Need to anticipate management** as a guarantee of resilience and sustainability of fisheries.
- **Decision-making at the ecosystem scale.**





SWWAC RECOMMENDATIONS to address the challenges of climate change

RESEARCH

Maintain/develop a **research effort to understand** the impact of physical parameters on the behaviour and biology of species

ASSESSMENTS

Integration of climate aspects into assessments, introducing specific indicators

TOOLS

Use by managers of **ecosystem tools developed by scientists**, allowing a better understanding of global changes in ecosystems

RULES

Review of the **robustness of existing rules and measures** to the identified impacts of climate change

MANAGEMENT

Flexible management, in consultation with **stakeholders**, allowing fisheries to adapt and become resilient

A clear roadmap for the management of pelagic fisheries in the face of climate change.





CONTEXT

- Framework for ICCAT's management of TACs
- Recommendations to the EC

EASTERN ATLANTIC BLUEFIN TUNA (*Thunnus Thynnus*)

- Highlight the efforts made by the EU in the context of the **recovery plan and management plan**
- **Allocation key:** no open discussions / stability of existing management mechanisms
- Possible **TAC increase prioritise benefits** to CPCs
 - According to the effort made
 - With quota limitations
- Ensuring **observer safety**
- Supporting the **fight against IUU fishing**
- **Joint ICCAT/ICES work** on Common Species Assessments
- **Improving knowledge:** financial support to studies on the Eastern Stock





NORTH ATLANTIC ALBACORE TUNA (*Thunnus alalunga*)

- Quota increase in 2023: 47251 tn (2024-2026)
 - Request for modification of the albacore catch rule (SWWAC advice 165) based on scientific advice from SCRS members:
 - Recommended to **raise the F-Target value of the harvest rule to 90% MSY**
 - The increase of the value has no impact on the TAC level
 - Ensure long-term possibilities
 - Avoid under-exploitation
 - Not compromise the sustainability objective according to SCRS 2023 report
- <https://cc-sud.eu/wp-content/uploads/import/avis/Avis-2023-2024/Avis165-Germon-0523/Avis165-Germon-0523-ES.pdf>
 - https://www.iccat.int/Documents/Meetings/Docs/2023/REPORTS/2023_SCRS_FRA.pdf





BY-CATCHES NORTHERN ATLANTIC SWORDFISH(*Xiphias gladius*)

- France: increase in by-catches in the albacore fishery
- Joint quota 'other Member States' -Ireland/France: joint management
- Risk of overrun: request for quota sharing or alternative solution
- Without affecting Spain and Portugal





Thank you for your attention

