

**JOINT LETTER MEDAC and SWWAC
On Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE)
for Atlantic Bluefin Tuna**

On the first half of October 2021 the following meetings aimed at involving stakeholders on the process of MSE: the MEDAC WG2, the Ambassadors Webinars of ICCAT and the SWWAC WG on Pelagic Species.

Acknowledging the importance and the effort needed to involve stakeholders and national administration in the participatory process, the ACs involved reiterate¹ that:

“- The joint workshop was a first step of stakeholders’ involvement and dissemination of information. It is important that consultation continues in collaboration with ICCAT and the EU as a Contracting Party, regularly throughout the process and by organizing as soon as possible informal webinars to collect the opinions from a heterogeneous platform of stakeholders with particular attention to the working languages and the simplification of the scientific information to collect informed feedback;

- The process of adoption of Harvest Strategy needs enough time in order to provide reliable simulations based on the best available science. Acquiring data and improving its quality must be continued and strengthened;

- Bottom-up approach and collaboration of stakeholders should be the basis in defining the future Harvest Control Rules (HCR) taking into account their interests and their experience as well as the typology of the fleet;

- Other factors, such as environmental changes, pollution, trophic dynamics and possible interactions with other species from other fisheries, needs to be taken in due account when defining Harvest Strategies. “With regard to the ambassadors’ webinars, recently organized by ICCAT, we acknowledge the importance of having such an informative initiative put in place, nevertheless we found that a true participation and active stakeholders’ involvement in the debate was hampered by the high level of the technical contents of the meetings. Moreover, we fully understand that the working languages in ICCAT are limited to 3 (EN, ES, FR), however we recommend to consider providing simultaneous interpretation for other languages (Greek, Croatian, Italian and Portuguese) in order to facilitate a solid and fruitful discussion.

¹ Ref. 145/2021 - JOINT ADVICE MEDAC and SWWAC On Harvest Control Rule Strategy (HCR) of Atlantic and Mediterranean Bluefin Tuna.



In this spirit and strongly welcoming and supporting the initiative to involve stakeholders in this process, the MEDAC and SWWAC would like to offer cooperation in the following ways:

- to co-organize such a meeting providing the additional working languages, that are not among the ICCAT official ones
- sharing the presentations ahead of the meeting with all the members offering ways to simplify the scientific content
- sharing the information on CMPs (Candidate Management Procedures) in a clear manner, in time to provide some advice before the ICCAT Panel 2 meeting scheduled on 12 November. When a discussion on MSE is scheduled.