



# OPRT

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FOR CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF TUNAS

### ICCAT SCRS

## The Atlantic bigeye stock further deteriorated. ICCAT is urged to realize the recovery of productivity of the stock as a priority by introducing strengthened measures that are effective enough to reduce fishing mortality of small bigeye tunas, along with a reduction of the total removal from the stock.

A plenary Meeting of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) of ICCAT (International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas) was held from October 1 to 5, 2018 in Madrid, Spain and a new full stock assessment was conducted for the Atlantic bigeye. The previous full assessment was made in 2015. Management recommendations were also developed for the Commission.

The report concluded “The stock was estimated to be overfished and overfishing was occurring in 2017. Maintaining the catches at 2016 and 2017 levels (approximately 78,000t) in the future, which exceeded the TAC (65,000t) by 20%, the probability of achieving the status where the stock is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring by 2033 (15 years (two generation times of bigeye) after 2019) is expected to reduce to around 1%.”

As management recommendations, the SCRS urged “The Commission should urgently ensure that catches are appropriately reduced to end overfishing and allow the stock to recover in line with the Commission’s framework.” In this connection, the SCRS pointed out that because the TAC of 65,000t in Rec. 15-01 does not affect all countries that can catch bigeye, in theory the total catch could exceed the TAC. And it notes that the necessary reduction of fishing mortality could not be achieved with current and previous Fish Aggregating Device (FAD) time area closures and/or changes to fleet allocation alone.

Furthermore, the SCRS warned that the Commission should be aware that increased harvests on small fishes by FADs and other fisheries as well as the development of new fisheries could have had negative conse-

quences for the productivity of bigeye tuna fisheries (e.g. reduced yield at MSY and increased SSB required to produce MSY). Therefore, it recommended that should the Commission wish to increase long-term sustainable yield, effective measures need to be found to reduce fishing mortality of small bigeye tunas.

In 2015, the Commission decided to reduce the TAC from 85,000 t to 65,000 t based on the result of a full stock assessment and recommendations from the SCRS. This year, the Commission is urged to further strengthen the management measures for tropical tunas including bigeye.

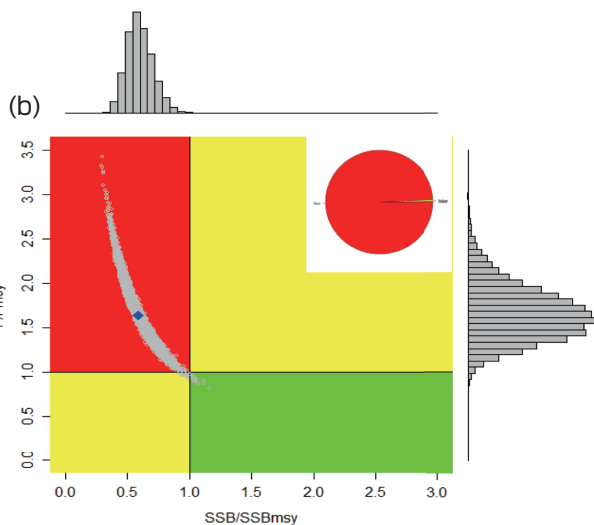
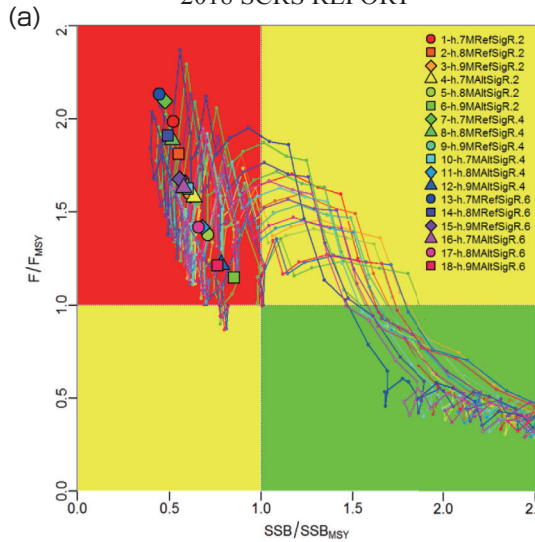
The 21st Special Meeting of ICCAT will be held from November 10 to 19 in Dubrovnik, Croatia.

It is obvious that the Commission is urged, while taking measures to reduce total removal from the Atlantic bigeye stock from the levels of 2016 and 2017, to take measures that will effectively reduce fishing mortality of small bigeye tunas with the view to increasing the productivity of the stock, and the level of MSY and eventually the TAC as soon as possible, taking into account the relevant recommendations from the SCRS, so that the level of catch of approximately 78,000 t may be accommodated in the near future in a sustainable manner.

In other words, if the productivity and the status of the Atlantic bigeye stock had been maintained at the level commensurate with the level allowing the previous TAC of 85,000t had been applied before 2016 by means of implementation of management measures effective enough to maintain or reduce fishing mortal-

ity of small fish as recommended by the SCRS, the total catches of approximately 78,000 t (<85,000t) for 2016 and 2017 would have been considered not to hamper the sustainability of the stock. Moreover the stock would have been able to provide room to accommodate a further increase in total catch at or below the level of 85,000 t (TAC) if the selectivity of the relevant fisheries had been properly maintained.

2018 SCRS REPORT



BET-Figure 8. Stock Synthesis: (a) Kobe phase plot for the deterministic runs of the 18 Stock Synthesis uncertainty grid for Atlantic bigeye tuna. For each run the benchmarks are calculated from the yearspecific selectivity and fleet allocations. (b) Kobe plot of SSB/SSB<sub>MSY</sub> and F/F<sub>MSY</sub> for stock status of Atlantic bigeye tuna in 2017 based on the log multivariate normal approximation across the 18 uncertainty grid model runs of Stock Synthesis with an insert pie chart showing the probability of being in the red quadrant (99.5 %), green quadrant (0.2 %), and in yellow (0.3 %). Blue square is the median and marginal histograms represent distribution of either SSB/SSB<sub>MSY</sub> or F/F<sub>MSY</sub>. [source : the 2018 SCRS Report]

ATLANTIC BIGEYE TUNA SUMMARY

Maximum Sustainable Yield	76,232 t (72,664-79,700 t) <sup>1</sup>
Current (2017) Yield	78,482 t <sup>2</sup>
Relative Spawning Biomass (SSB <sub>2017</sub> /SSB <sub>MSY</sub> )	0.59 (0.42-0.80) <sup>1</sup>
Relative Fishing Mortality (F <sub>2017</sub> /F <sub>MSY</sub> )	1.63 (1.14-2.12) <sup>1</sup>
Stock Status (2017)	Overfished: Yes Overfishing: Yes

Conservation & management measures

in effect: [Rec. 16-01]

- Total allowable catch for 2016-2018 is set at 65,000 t for Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities.
- Be restricted to the number of their vessels notified to ICCAT in 2005 as fishing for bigeye tuna.
- Specific limits of number of longline boats; China (65), Chinese Taipei (75), Philippines (5), Korea (14), EU (269) and Japan (231).
- Specific limits of number of purse seine boats; EU (34) and Ghana (17).
- No fishing with natural or artificial floating objects during January and February in the area encompassed by the African coast, 20° W, 5°N and 4°S.
- No more than 500 FADs active at any time by vessel.
- Use of non-entangling FADs.

1 Combined result of SS3 18 uncertainty grid. Median and 10 and 90% percentile in brackets.

2 Reports for 2017 reflect most recent data but should be considered provisional. [source : the 2018 SCRS Report]

IATTC

No agreement reached regarding a new restriction on the number of FAD settings recommended by IATTC Staff

The 93rd Meeting of IATTC (Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission) was held from August 24 to 30, 2018 in La Jolla, USA. Based on the IATTC Staff Recommendations, introduction of restriction on the number of purse seine settings associated with Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) was discussed aiming at avoiding further deterioration of yellowfin and bigeye stocks in the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO).

According to IATTC Staff (Document IATTC-93-04), the base case assessment for the EPO bigeye stock indicates that the stock is not overfished (S>S<sub>MSY</sub>; S/S<sub>MSY</sub>= 1.02), but that overfishing is taking place (F>F<sub>MSY</sub>; F multiplier\* = 0.87). Likewise, for yellowfin, the base case assessment indicates that the stock is not overfished (S>S<sub>MSY</sub>; S/S<sub>MSY</sub>=1.08), but that overfishing is taking place (F>F<sub>MSY</sub>; F multiplier = 0.99). The F multiplier for bigeye, 0.87 was much

lower than the 1.15 estimated the previous year.

\*: F multiplier =  $F_{MSY}$  (the fishing mortality that will produce the maximum sustainable yield) divided by  $F_{current}$  (the average fishing mortality for the three most recent years).

The results of the assessment of bigeye, specifically such change in the F multiplier, suggest extension of the seasonal closure for purse seine operations from the current 72 days to 107 days. However, the Staff did not recommend any change in the duration of the closure because of high levels of uncertainties existing in the current bigeye assessment, etc.

**The closures corresponding to the F multipliers for capacity increase**

	Bigeye	Yellowfin
F multiplier from the stock assessment	0.87	0.99
Capacity increase	1.0%	1.0%
F multiplier adjusted for capacity increase	0.86	0.98
Days of closure	107	71

Instead, taking into account the continuing increase in fishing effort in the purse seine fishery, in terms of the number of sets, the Staff recommended that in the context of precautionary management, a limit on the total number of floating-object and unassociated sets, as follows.

Recommendations from IATTC Staff for conservation of tropical tunas: bigeye, yellowfin, and skipjack are as follows:

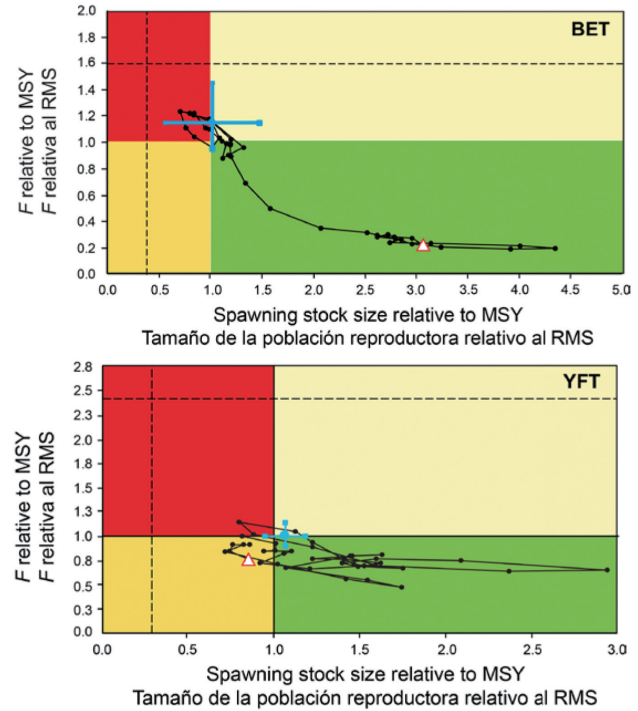
- i) Maintain the provisions of the current resolution (C-17-02); and
- ii) For the purse seine fishery, limit the total annual number of floating-object and unassociated sets combined by class-6 vessels in 2019 and 2020 to 15,723. Once the limit is reached, only dolphin-associated sets will be allowed during the rest of that year, and all vessels without a Dolphin Mortality Limit must return to port.

However, at the 93rd meeting of the Commission, because members with major purse seine fleets such as Ecuador and El Salvador expressed opposition, IATTC was not able to reach agreement on the later element of the recommendations and left the matter over till the next meeting.

With respect to Pacific bluefin, IATTC adopted the harvest strategy prepared by the joint Working Group Meeting between IATTC and the Northern Committee of WCPFC in September 2017.

It was also agreed that effective 1 January 2020, flag Members and Cooperating Non-Members of the Commission (CPCs) shall ensure that all their motorized inboard fishing vessels (except for recreational fishing vessels) of 100 GT or less down to a size limit of 12

meters in length overall (LOA) or registered length, authorized to fish in the high seas of the Convention Area have an International Maritime Organization (IMO) or Lloyd’s Register (LR) number issued, and that each CPC shall supply such IMO or LR number, if issue, to the Director.



[source : IATTC-93-04]

**Seafood Expo**

**OPRT exhibited displays at the 20th Japan International Seafood & Technology Expo emphasizing the importance of sustainable utilization of tuna stocks**

OPRT exhibited displays for the third time at the 20th Japan International Seafood & Technology Expo held from August 22 to 24, 2018 in Tokyo. Panels emphasized the following points, among others, to appeal to the visitors : three fourths of the wild sashimi-grade tuna (excluding skipjack) supplied to Japan is produced by tuna longline vessels registered to OPRT; OPRT’s efforts including restriction of the total number of registered vessels are aimed at ensuring sustainable utilization of the tuna stocks concerned; and expanded catch of juvenile bigeye by Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) setting of purse seine fisheries have adversely affected, in particular, bigeye stocks ,and have been threatening the sustainability of those stocks and this situation must be rectified.

Tuna longline vessels basically catch adult tuna. If we compare the magnitude of negative impacts on tuna stocks between longline operation and purse seine operation associated with FADs for the same weight of fish caught, the latter affects more adversely.



OPRT called for distributors' and consumers' support to the longline vessels registered to OPRT, which have committed to conduct fishing operations in a responsible manner. Purchasing more wild tuna products harvested by the vessels registered to OPRT is greatly appreciated.

Copies of News Letters in both English and Japanese were available for visitors. In addition, an 8-page brochure was prepared for distribution to demonstrate factors relating to the attraction of wild frozen sashimi tuna, such as retrieval of fish one by one, and dexterous onboard processing including gutting and gilling immediately after the retrieval, and quick-freezing available onboard the fishing vessel.

More than 300 people visited the OPRT booth.



## Toyosu Market

### Toyosu Market starts operation at the midnight of October 11

Toyosu Market started its regular operation at the midnight [0:00a.m.] of October 11, 2018. Wholesale work of Tsukiji Fish Market ceased on October 6, 2018 and a total of 4 days from October 7 to 10 were designated for relocation to Toyosu.

The site area of Toyosu Market (40.7 ha) is approximately 1.8 times larger than that of Tsukiji Market. Toyosu Market is composed of three buildings: two are for Fish (wholesale (Block 7) and (intermediate wholesale (Block 6) and the other (Block 5) is for fruits and vegetables.

The Opening Ceremony was held on the auction site for tunas on the 1st floor of the wholesale building (Block 7).

At the beginning of the Opening Ceremony, Mr. Hiromi Amino, President of Daito-Gyorui (大都魚類: one of the seven wholesale companies working in Toyosu Fish Market) in his address made on behalf of the wholesale companies, mentioned "We have responsibility for creating prosperity with this brand-new market place at any cost. At the first stage of the Toyosu era, we will have to make our utmost effort to take over the skill, know-how and tradition established in Tsukiji. But at the same time, it is necessary for us to

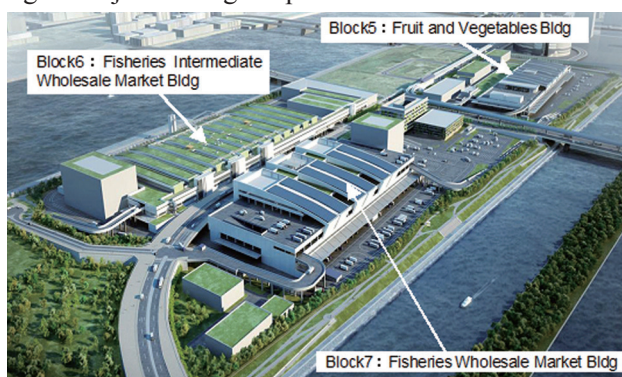
create a new value here in Toyosu."

Following Mr. Amino, Mr. Shigeo Yokota, President of the Tokyo Toyosu Uoichiba Ohmono Gyokai (大物業会: Association of Intermediate Wholesalers for Tunas, Tokyo Toyosu Fish Market) stressed in his address "We would like to endeavor to build up the basis for the Toyosu brand." He also requested the Tokyo Metropolitan Government - the establisher of Toyosu Market responsible for the facilities of the Market as well as for orderly operation of the market- to fully support the relevant sectors working in Toyosu Market so that all the workers in Toyosu will be able to exercise their ability to the maximum extent.

Governor Yuriko Koike also made her address in the ceremony and emphasized "Tokyo Metropolitan Government will make its utmost effort to develop Toyosu Market to the chief Fish Market in Japan in cooperation with all the relevant sectors to Toyosu Market."

In the opening day's auction, a 219 kg fresh bluefin tuna landed in Mim-maya, Aomori Prefecture, fetched the highest price of JPY 4.38 million, which corresponds to 20,000 JPY per kg.

The information for visitors to Toyosu Market in English is available at <http://www.shijou.metro.tokyo.jp/toyosu/pdf/kenngaku/hajimaru-english.pdf>



## Schedule

### Updated Schedule for Annual Commission Meetings of Tuna-related RFMOs\* —2018—

(as of October 29, 2018)

Dates	RFMOs	Venues
[Nov.10 (Sat) -11 (Sun)] Nov. 12 (Mon) -19 (Mon)	[ICCAT: Meeting of the Compliance Committee] ICCAT: 21st Special Meeting of the Commission	[Dubrovnik, Croatia] Dubrovnik, Croatia
Dec.10 (Sun) -14 (Fri)	WCPFC: 15th Regular Session of the Commission (WCPFC15)	Honolulu, USA

Source: Websites of respective Commissions

Note: Date and/or Venue might be subject to change.