Council of the European Union

Brussels, 27 November 2023
(OR. en)

16066/23

Interinstitutional File: 2023/0359(NLE)

PECHE 546

NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Proposal for a COUNCIL REGULATION fixing for 2024, 2025 and 2026 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks, applicable in Union waters and, for Union fishing vessels, in certain non-Union waters, and amending Regulation (EU) 2023/194 as regards deep-sea stocks (COM(2023)587) - *Commission services non-paper*

Delegations will find attached the above-mentioned document, as received from the European Commission services.

COMMISSION SERVICES NON-PAPER

27 NOVEMBER 2023

This document serves as a basis for discussion at the Working Party on Fisheries Policy.
It cannot in any circumstances be regarded as the official position of the Commission.
It is intended solely for those to whom it is addressed.

Updates to Commission proposal for a Council Regulation fixing for 2024, 2025 and 2026 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks, applicable in Union waters and, for Union fishing vessels, in certain non-Union waters, and amending Regulation (EU) 2023/194 as regards deep-sea stocks [COM(2023) 587]

1. AMENDMENTS IN RELATION TO ICCAT 3

2. AMENDMENTS IN RELATION TO IOTC 19

1. AMENDMENTS IN RELATION TO ICCAT

EXPLANATORY NOTE

At its 2023 annual meeting, the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) agreed to maintain for 2024 the total allowable catches (TACs) set for 2023 for Eastern Atlantic bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*), Mediterranean albacore and South albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*), Mediterranean, North and South Atlantic swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*), blue marlin (*Makaira nigricans*), white marlin (*Tetrapturus albidus*), yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*), bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*), as well as the retention allowance for South Atlantic shortfin mako (*Isurus oxyrinchus*).

At its 2023 annual meeting ICCAT also set the following TACs for 2024: (i) for North Atlantic albacore a TAC of 47 251 tonnes; (ii) for North Atlantic blue shark (*Prionace glauca*) a TAC of 30 000 tonnes; and (iii) for South Atlantic blue shark a TAC of 27 711 tonnes.

In order to reduce the fishing mortality of juvenile bigeye and yellowfin tuna, ICCAT further agreed to maintain a maximum limit of 300 fish aggregating devices (FADs) per fishing vessel in 2024 and a seventy-two-day closure period for the use of FADs.

It is therefore proposed to implement those measures in Union law.

Pursuant to several ICCAT recommendations[1], the EU may upon request carry over a percentage of its unused quota of ICCAT stocks in the period of one or two years, depending on the ICCAT stock. In order for Member States to make use of such carry-overs, the corresponding quantities provided for in those recommendations should be implemented in EU law on the basis of the Commission proposal of 21 April 2022[2] for a Regulation amending Regulation (EU) 2017/2107 as soon as possible, so that the Member States can use the EU quotas for ICCAT stocks in their totality as provided by ICCAT for 2024. Pending the implementation of those recommendations in EU law, it is therefore proposed to establish quotas for individual Member States for certain stocks on the basis of a total EU quota for 2024 as agreed by ICCAT before any adjustments due to overfishing or underfishing by Member States.

In addition, the level of access for EU vessels to target Northern albacore in UK waters in 2024 is marked as 'pm' (*pro memoria*), pending the conclusion of annual consultations between the UK and

1ICCAT Recommendation 19-05 to establish rebuilding programs for blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish

ICCAT Recommendation 21-04 on conservation and management measures, including a management procedure and exceptional circumstances protocol, for north atlantic albacore

ICCAT Recommendation 22-01 **replacing recommendation 21-01 on a multi-annual conservation and management programme for tropical tunas**

ICCAT Recommendation 22-03 **extending and amending Recommendation 17-02 for the conservation of North Atlantic Swordfish**

ICCAT Recommendation 22-04 **replacing supplemental Recommendation 21-03 extending and amending Recommendation 17-03 for the Conservation of South Atlantic Swordfish**

ICCAT Recommendation 22-06 **on the southern atlantic albacore catch limits for the period 2023-2026**

ICCAT recommendation 22-08 **amending the recommendation 21-08 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean**

2 Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) 2017/2107 laying down management, conservation and control measures applicable in the Convention area of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) and Regulation (EU) .../2022 establishing a multiannual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean (COM/2022/171 final).

the EU, under Article 498(2) of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community, of the one part, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, of the other part (the Trade and Cooperation Agreement) [3].

AMENDMENTS TO THE RECITALS

Recitals (35) to (41) are replaced by the following:

"(35) At its 2023 annual meeting, the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) agreed to maintain for 2024 the TACs set for 2023 for Eastern Atlantic bluefin tuna (T*hunnus thynnus*), Mediterranean albacore and South albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*), Mediterranean, and North and South Atlantic swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*), blue marlin (*Makaira nigricans*), white marlin (*Tetrapturus albidus*), yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*), bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*), as well as the retention allowance for South Atlantic shortfin mako (*Isurus oxyrinchus*). ICCAT also set for 2024 TACs for North Atlantic albacore of 47 251 tonnes, for North and South Atlantic blue shark (*Prionace glauca*) of 30 000 and 27 711 tonnes, respectively. Those measures should be implemented in Union law.

(36) In order to reduce the fishing mortality of juvenile bigeye and yellowfin tuna, ICCAT also agreed to maintain a maximum limit of 300 fish aggregating devices (FADs) per fishing vessel in 2024 and a seventy-two-day closure period for the use of FADs.

(37) Under several ICCAT recommendations, the Union may, upon request, carry over a percentage of its unused quota of stocks in the ICCAT Convention area from the penultimate or the preceding year to a given year, according to rules for each stock as laid down by ICCAT. In order for Member States to make use of such carry-overs, the corresponding quantities provided for in those recommendations should be implemented in Union law on the basis of a Commission proposal as soon as possible, so that the Member States can use the Union quotas for ICCAT stocks in their totality as provided by ICCAT for 2024. Pending the implementation of those recommendations in EU law, quotas for individual Member States for certain stocks should be established on the basis of a total EU quota for 2024 as agreed by ICCAT before any adjustments due to overfishing or underfishing by Member States."

AMENDMENTS TO THE ARTICLES

In Article 26 the following paragraph is inserted:

3 Trade and Cooperation Agreement between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community, of the one part, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, of the other part (OJ L 149, 30.4.2021, p. 10).

"5a. The number of traps engaged in bluefin tuna fishery in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean shall be limited as set out in point 5 of Annex VI."

AMENDMENTS TO THE ANNEXES

In Annex ID is replaced by the following:

"

ANNEX ID

ICCAT CONVENTION AREA

Table 1			
Species:	Sailfish *Istiophorus albicans*	Zone:	Atlantic Ocean, east of 45°W (SAI/AE45W)
TAC	1 271,00	Analytical TAC Article 3(2) and (3) of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	

Table 2			
Species:	Sailfish *Istiophorus albicans*	Zone:	Atlantic Ocean, west of 45°W (SAI/AW45W)
TAC	1 030,00	Analytical TAC Article 3(2) and (3) of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	

Table 3			
Species:	Blue marlin *Makaira nigricans*	Zone:	Atlantic Ocean (BUM/ATLANT)
Spain France	22,77 332,82	Analytical TAC Article 3(2) and (3) of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	

Portugal	46,21	Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply
Union	401,80	
TAC	1 670	

Table 4

Species:	Blue shark *Prionace glauca*	Zone:	Atlantic Ocean, north of 5°N (BSH/AN05N)
Ireland	0,73	Analytical TAC	
Spain	20 598,57	Article 3(2) and (3) of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	
France	115,59	Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	
Portugal	4 082,11		
Union	24 797,00		
TAC	30 000		

Table 5

Species:	Blue shark *Prionace glauca*	Zone:	Atlantic Ocean, south of 5°N (BSH/AS05N)
Spain	12 498,27	Analytical TAC	
Portugal	4 906,73	Article 3(2) and (3) of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	
Union	17 405,00	Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	
TAC	27 711,00		

Table 6			
Species:	White marlin *Tetrapturus albidus*	Zone:	Atlantic Ocean (WHM/ATLANT)
Spain	30,50	Analytical TAC	
Portugal	19,50	Article 3(2) and (3) of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	
Union	50,00	Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	
TAC	355		

Table 7			
Species:	Northern Albacore *Thunnus alalunga*	Zone:	Atlantic Ocean, north of 5°N (ALB/AN05N)
Ireland	3 967,52	Analytical TAC	
Spain	22 362,40	Article 3(2) and (3) of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	
France	7 033,33	Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	
Portugal	2 452,65		
Union	35 815,90 [(1)(2)]		
TAC	47 251		

(1)	The number of Union fishing vessels fishing for Northern albacore as a target species shall be: 1 241.
(2)	Special condition: Within the limit of this quota, no more than the following quantity may be taken in United Kingdom waters: pm.

Table 8			
Species:	Southern Albacore *Thunnus alalunga*	Zone:	Atlantic Ocean, south of 5°N (ALB/AS05N)
Spain	870,12	Analytical TAC	
France	285,95	Article 3(2) and (3) of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	
Portugal	608,93	Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	
Union	1 765,00		
TAC	28 000		

Table 9			
Species:	Mediterranean Albacore *Thunnus alalunga*	Zone:	Mediterranean Sea (ALB/MED)
Greece	385,38	Analytical TAC	
Spain	99,48	Article 3(2) and (3) of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	
France	14,42	Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	
Croatia	6,69		
Italy	1 128,14		
Cyprus	416,11		
Malta	39,71		
Union	2 089,93		

TAC	2 500	(1)(2)(3)

(1) In order to protect juvenile swordfish, a closure period shall also apply to longline vessels targeting Mediterranean albacore from 1 October to 30 November. In addition, Mediterranean albacore, either as a targeted species or as by-catch, shall not be caught, retained on board, transhipped or landed during the following periods:

- Greece, Croatia, Italy and Cyprus: 1 October to 30 November and 1 to 31 March;

- Spain, France and Malta: 1 January to 31 March.

(2) Each Member State shall limit the number of their fishing vessels authorised to fish for Mediterranean albacore to the number of fishing vessels authorised to fish this species in 2017. Member States may apply a tolerance of 10% to this capacity limit.

(3) Special condition: by-catches of albacore are to be counted against this quota, but shall be reported separately (ALB/MED-BC). Dead catches of albacore from sport and recreational fisheries are to be counted against this quota, but shall be reported separately (ALB/MED-SR).

Table 10

Species:	Yellowfin tuna *Thunnus albacares*		Zone:	Atlantic Ocean (YFT/ATLANT)
TAC	110 000	(1)	Analytical TAC Article 3(2) and (3) of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	

(1) Catches of yellowfin tuna by purse seiners (YFT/*ATLPS) and longliners with an overall length of 20 metres and above (YFT/*ATLLL) shall be reported separately.

Table 11

Species:	Bigeye tuna *Thunnus obesus*		Zone:	Atlantic Ocean (BET/ATLANT)
Spain	7 438,09	(1)	Analytical TAC	

France	3 159,38	(1)	Article 3(2) and (3) of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply
Portugal	2 823,84	(1)	Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply
Union	13 421,31	(1)	
TAC	62 500	(1)	

(1) Catches of bigeye tuna by purse seiners (BET/*ATLPS) and longliners with an overall length of 20 metres and above (BET/*ATLLL) shall be reported separately. As of June, when catches reach 80% of the quota, Member States are required to transmit the catches for these fishing vessels on a weekly basis.

Table 12

Species:	Bluefin tuna *Thunnus thynnus*		Zone:	Atlantic Ocean, east of 45°W, and Mediterranean (BFT/AE45WM)
Cyprus	188,09	(4)	Analytical TAC	
Greece	349,61		Article 3(2) and (3) of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	
Spain	6 783,67	(2)(4)	Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	
France	6 693,70	(2)(3)(4)		
Croatia	1 057,97	(6)		
Italy	5 283,00	(4)(5)		
Malta	433,43	(4)		
Portugal	637,88			
Other Member States	75,65	(1)		
Union	21 503,00	(2)(3)(4)(5)		

TAC	40 570	(1)

(1) Except Cyprus, Greece, Spain, France, Croatia, Italy, Malta and Portugal, and exclusively as by-catch. Catches to be counted against this shared quota shall be reported separately (BFT/AE45WM_AMS).

(2) Special condition: within this TAC, the following catch limits and allocation between Member States shall apply to catches of bluefin tuna between 8 kg/75 cm and 30 kg/115 cm by the vessels referred to in point 1 of Annex VI (BFT/*8301):

Spain	1 027,76
France	477,45
Union	1 505,21

(3) Special condition: within this TAC, the following catch limits and allocation between Member States shall apply to catches of bluefin tuna weighing no less than 6,4 kg or measuring no less than 70 cm by the vessels referred to in point 1 of Annex VI (BFT/*641):

France	100,00
Union	100,00

(4) Special condition: within this TAC, the following catch limits and allocations between Member States shall apply to catches of bluefin tuna between 8 kg/75 cm and 30 kg/115 cm by the vessels referred to in point 2 of Annex VI (BFT/*8302):

Spain	135,67
France	133,87
Italy	105,66
Cyprus	3,76
Malta	8,67
Union	387,63

(5) Special condition: within this TAC, the following catch limits and allocations between Member States shall apply to catches of bluefin tuna between 8 kg/75 cm and 30 kg/115 cm by the vessels referred to in point 3 of Annex VI (BFT/*643):

Italy	105,66

Union	105,66

(5) Special condition: within this TAC, the following catch limits and allocations between Member States shall apply to catches of bluefin tuna between 8 kg/75 cm and 30 kg/115 cm by the vessels referred to in point 3 of Annex VI for farming purposes (BFT/*8303F):

Croatia	952,17
Union	952,17

Table 13

Species:	Shortfin mako *Isurus oxyrinchus*		Zone:	Atlantic Ocean, south of 5°N (SMA/AS05N)
Union	503,00	(1)	Analytical TAC Article 3(2) and (3) of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	
TAC	1 325	(1)(2)	Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	

(1) Quota set for the purpose of implementing a Union retention allowance for this stock.

(2) Exclusively for by-catches.

Table 14

Species:	Swordfish *Xiphias gladius*		Zone:	Atlantic Ocean, north of 5°N (SWO/AN05N)
Spain	5 525,49	(2)	Analytical TAC Article 3(2) and (3) of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	
Portugal	1 004,27	(2)		
Other Member States	147,57	(1)(2)	Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	
Union	6 677,33			

TAC	13 200

(1)	Exclusively for by-catches. Catches to be counted against this shared quota shall be reported separately (SWO/AN05N_AMS).
(2)	Special condition: up to 2,39% of this quantity may be fished in the Atlantic Ocean, south of 5°N (SWO/*AS05N). Catches to be counted against the special condition of the shared quota shall be reported separately (SWO/*AS05N_AMS).

Table 15

Species:	Swordfish *Xiphias gladius*		Zone:	Atlantic Ocean, south of 5°N (SWO/AS05N)
Spain	4 525,88	(1)	Analytical TAC	
Portugal	298,12	(1)	Article 3(2) and (3) of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	
Union	4 824,00		Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	

TAC	10 000

(1)	Special condition: up to 3,51% of this quantity may be fished in the Atlantic Ocean, north of 5°N (SWO/*AN05N).

Table 16

Species:	Swordfish *Xiphias gladius*		Zone:	Mediterranean Sea (SWO/MED)
Croatia	13,74	(1)(2)	Analytical TAC	
Cyprus	50,67	(1)(2)	Article 3(2) and (3) of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	
Spain	1 565,04	(1)(2)	Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	
France	109,08	(1)(2)		

Greece	1 036,02	(1)(2)
Italy	3 208,46	(1)(2)
Malta	380,64	(1)(2)
Union	6 363,63	(1)(2)
TAC	9 017	

(1) This quota may only be fished from 1 April to 31 December.

(2) Special condition: by-catches of Mediterranean swordfish are to be counted against this quota, but shall be reported separately (SWO/MED-BC). Dead catches of Mediterranean swordfish from sport and recreational fisheries are to be counted against this quota, but shall be reported separately (SWO/MED-SR).

”

In Annex VI is replaced by the following:

“

ANNEX VI

ICCAT CONVENTION AREA[4]

1. Maximum number of Union bait boats and trolling boats authorised to fish actively for bluefin tuna *(Thunnus thynnus)* between 8 kg/75 cm and 30 kg/115 cm in the eastern Atlantic

Spain	60
France	50
Union	115

[4]The numbers in points 1, 2 and 3 of this Annex may decrease in order to comply with international obligations of the Union.

2. Maximum number of Union coastal artisanal fishing vessels authorised to fish actively for bluefin tuna between 8 kg/75 cm and 30 kg/115 cm in the Mediterranean

Spain	364
France	140[(1)]
Italy	30
Cyprus	20[(1)]
Malta	54[(1)]
Union	684

[(1)] This number may increase if a purse seiner is replaced by up to 10 longline vessels in accordance with Table A in point 4 of this Annex.

3. Maximum number of Union fishing vessels authorised to fish actively for bluefin tuna between 8 kg/75 cm and 30 kg/115 cm in the Adriatic Sea for farming purposes

Croatia	18
Italy	12
Union	28

4. Maximum number of fishing vessels of each Member State that may be authorised to fish for, retain on board, tranship, transport or land bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean.

Table A

	Number of fishing vessels[1][2]							
	Greece[3]	Spain	France	Croatia	Italy	Cyprus[4]	Malta[5]	Portugal
Purse seiners[6]	To be established	To be established	To be established	To be established	To be established	To be established	To be established	To be established
Longliners	To be established	To be established	To be established	To be established	To be established	To be established	To be established	To be established
Baitboat	To be established	To be established	To be established	To be established	To be established	To be established	To be established	To be established
Handline	To be established	To be established	To be established	To be established	To be established	To be established	To be established	To be established
Trawler	To be established	To be established	To be established	To be established	To be established	To be established	To be established	To be established
Small-scale	To be established	To be established	To be established	To be established	To be established	To be established	To be established	To be established
Other artisanal[7]	To be established	To be established	To be established	To be established	To be established	To be established	To be established	To be established

(1) The numbers in this table will be established following the approval of the Union fishing, farming and capacity management plan by ICCAT, in accordance with the applicable ICCAT recommendations and Union rules.

(2) The numbers in this table may be further increased, provided that the international obligations of the Union are complied with.

(3) One medium-size purse seiner has been replaced by no more than 10 longline vessels or one small purse seiner and three other artisanal vessels.

(4) One medium-size purse seiner may be replaced by no more than 10 longline vessels or one small purse seiner and no more than three longline vessels.

(5) One medium-size purse seiner may be replaced by no more than 10 longline vessels.

(6) The individual numbers of purse seiners in this table are the result of transfers between Member States and do not constitute historical rights for the future.

(7) Polyvalent vessels, using multi-gear equipment (longline, handline, trolling line).

5. Maximum number of traps engaged in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna fishery authorised by each Member State

Maximum number of traps[1]	
Member State	Number of traps
Spain	5
Italy	6
Portugal	2

[1] The numbers in this table will be adapted following the approval of the Union fishing, farming and capacity management plan by ICCAT, in accordance with the applicable ICCAT recommendations and Union rules.

6. Maximum bluefin tuna farming capacity and fattening capacity for each Member State and maximum input of wild-caught bluefin tuna that each Member State may allocate to its farms in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean

Table A

Maximum tuna farming capacity and fattening capacity[1]		
	Number of farms	Capacity (in tonnes)
Greece	2	2 100
Spain	10	11 852
Croatia	4	7 880
Italy	13	12 600
Cyprus	3	3 000
Malta	6	12 300
Portugal	2	500

[1] The numbers in this table will be adapted following the approval of the Union fishing, farming and capacity management plan by ICCAT, in accordance with the applicable ICCAT recommendations and Union rules.

Table B

Maximum input of wild caught bluefin tuna (in tonnes)[1]	
Greece	785
Spain	6 300

Maximum input of wild caught bluefin tuna (in tonnes)[1]	
Croatia	2 947
Italy	3 764
Cyprus	2 195
Malta	8 786
Portugal	350

[1] The numbers in this table will be adapted following the approval of the Union fishing, farming and capacity management plan by ICCAT, in accordance with the applicable ICCAT recommendations and Union rules.

7. Maximum number of Union fishing vessels authorised to fish for northern albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*) as a target species, in accordance with Article 17 of Regulation (EU) No 2017/2107.

Member State	Maximum number of vessels
Ireland	50
Spain	730
France	151
Portugal	310

8. Maximum number of Union fishing vessels of at least 20 meters length that fish for bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*) in the ICCAT Convention area

Member State	Maximum number of vessels with purse seines	Maximum number of vessels with longlines
Spain	23	190
France	11	-
Portugal	-	79
Union	34	269

”

2. AMENDMENTS IN RELATION TO IOTC

EXPLANATORY NOTE

At its 2023 annual meeting, the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) maintained the limitation of fishing capacity, of fish aggregating devices (FADs) and of supply vessels and the catch limit for yellowfin tuna in the IOTC Area of Competence. The IOTC also adopted Resolution 23/04 establishing for the first time a catch limit for bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*) for 2024 and 2025 in the IOTC Area of Competence[5]. The catch limit for that stock allocated to the EU corresponds to 17 010 tonnes.

The Commission services have been undertaking technical consultations with the involved Member States to facilitate an agreement on the allocation key for bigeye tuna in the IOTC Area of Competence. However, during these consultations, no agreement could be reached on an allocation key. The main point of disagreement is the reference period to be used as a basis for the allocation key, in consideration of the unusual high level of catches for one Member State in 2018 and for another Member State in 2019.

Against this background, and given the need to make available to EU vessels the fishing opportunities under the EU quota for bigeye tuna in the IOTC Area of Competence for 2024, it is proposed to allocate the EU catch limit to the concerned Member States based on the average of the catches reported during two reference periods (2019-2021 and 2017-2021).

AMENDMENTS TO THE RECITALS

Recital (43) is replaced by the following:

"(43) At its 2023 annual meeting, the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), maintained the limitation of fishing capacity, of FADs and of supply vessels and the catch limit for yellowfin tuna in the IOTC Area of Competence. The IOTC also adopted Resolution 23/04 establishing for the first time a catch limit for bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*) for 2024 and 2025 in the IOTC Area of Competence[6]. Those measures should be implemented in Union law. The shares of the concerned Member States of the Union quota for bigeye tuna in the IOTC Area of Competence is based on the average of the catches reported during two reference periods (2019-2021 and 2017-2021)."

AMENDMENTS TO THE ANNEXES

Annex IJ is replaced by the following:

[5] Resolution 23/04 on establishing catch limits for bigeye tuna in the Area of IOTC Competence.
[6] Resolution 23/04 on establishing catch limits for bigeye tuna in the Area of IOTC Competence.

‘‘

ANNEX IJ

IOTC AREA OF COMPETENCE

Table 1				
Species:	Yellowfin tuna *Thunnus albacares*		Zone:	IOTC Area of Competence (YFT/IOTC)
France	27 736		Analytical TAC	
Italy	2 367		Article 3(2) and (3) of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply.	
Spain	42 943		Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply.	
Portugal	100	(1)		
Union	73 146			
TAC	Not relevant			
(1)	Exclusively for by-catches. No directed fisheries are permitted under this quota.			

Table 2				
Species:	Bigeye tuna *Thunnus obesus*		Zone:	IOTC Area of Competence (BET/IOTC)
France	3646		Analytical TAC	
Italy	410		Article 3(2) and (3) of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply.	
Spain	12916		Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply.	
Portugal	38	(1)		
Union	17 010			
TAC	Not relevant			
(1)	Exclusively for by-catches. No directed fisheries are permitted under this quota.			

’’