

## **Recommendation n° 19**

### **Allocation of Bigeye tuna Fishing Possibilities in the ICCAT Convention Area**

The CCRUP is highly concerned about the upcoming ICCAT negotiations on the allocation of bigeye tuna fishing possibilities and the impact catch limits are having on our low impact fisheries, i.e. that use the most selective and artisanal tuna fishing methods that exist, which reflect an old and beautiful tradition in our isolated regions. We note that the ICCAT Panel 1 Intersessional Meeting in September 2021 will discuss the allocation key for the distribution of the bigeye tuna TAC and it is of crucial importance that small-scale fisheries will be specifically recognized and protected while ICCAT Rec. 19-02 is further improved. The fisheries we represent, mainly use pole-and-line fishing methods and highly fecund small pelagic fish as live bait. Besides securing jobs and its cultural importance, our sector provides a healthy and sustainably caught source of protein. The fact that tuna populations have started to become overfished is a disgrace and threatens food security, the wider ecosystem, and the livelihoods of the sector we represent.

The geomorphological specificities of the Outermost Regions and their habitats, as well as the distance to the main markets, reinforces the need for sustainable and responsible fisheries management. In this regard, we would very much welcome the **application of an approach similar to the *polluter pays* principle**. After all, it would be impossible for artisanal tuna fisheries across the Atlantic to overfish highly migratory and productive tuna populations. Our fisheries tend to be seasonal and most fish escape when using one-by-one methods. Despite this, the Azores, Madeira and the Canary Islands have self-imposed minimum size limits, which shows how much our regions and fisheries care about responsible tuna management.

**It is important for the one-by-one sector, that the disproportionate burden of enforced catch limits is fully recognized.** In this regard, we urge the **establishment of positive differentiation in the quota set for selective tuna fishing, as practiced by the outermost regions (ORs) and allocated to the Member States**. We also recommend the creation of a 'reserve quota' included in the total allowable catch (TAC), allocated to coastal and artisanal tuna fisheries, should there be a need to use it. In the event of this reserve not being used, tuna stocks would be strengthened. This could be achieved by considering the estimated catches from our

fisheries and redistributing what remains with non-coastal, non-selective, and large-scale fisheries. We are of the belief that we should not be the ones paying for the overfishing caused by others, which would be in line with the various international agreements and instruments that exist in support of this (ICCAT Res. 15-13, UN SDGs, FAO SSF Guidelines, among others).

Also, we would like to realize that “unused” Contracting Parties and Non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Cooperating Fishing Entities (CPCs) catch limits, not being carried forward or traded for use, by industrial fleets. This is not best practice for an overfished stock, and it is difficult to understand that this has been allowed while many of our smallest vessels were moored in port, not allowed to catch tuna swimming through our coastal waters. Regarding the negotiation of a new TAC based on the latest scientific advice from the SCRS, we would like to see a 10-year rebuilding program that will achieve the goal of BMSY with a probability of more than 60%.

\*Position of the Comité National des Pêches Maritimes et des Élevages Marins (CNPMEM) :

The CNPMEM, representing all the French professional fishermen, is not in favor of a differentiation between fishermen, whether they operate in small- or large-scale fisheries. Furthermore, the CNPMEM believes that the priority for European fishermen should be the defense of and respect for the global bigeye tuna quota, as some CPCs do not respect the agreement. Therefore, the CNPMEM does not support this recommendation and would like all Advisory Councils to issue a joint recommendation on this matter.

The President of the Executive Committee of the CC RUP,

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(David Pavón González)

Praia da Vitória, 19 August 2021