

Recommandation n. °: 42

Direct Allocation of part of the ICCAT Total Allowable Catch, for artisanal fisheries of the Outermost Regions

Considering that the European Union recognizes the specific characteristics of their Outermost Regions (ORs), as determined at article 349 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), namely: *"Having regard to the structural social and economic situation of Saint-Martin, Guadeloupe, Martinique, French Guyana, Azores, Madeira, Canary Islands, Mayotte and La Réunion, which is compounded by their remoteness, insularity, small size, difficult topography and climate, and their economic dependence on a few products, the permanence and combination of which severely restrain their development, the Council, on a proposal from the Commission and after consulting the European Parliament, shall adopt specific measures aimed, in particular, at laying down the conditions of application of the Treaties to those regions, including common policies"*¹.

Considering the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) code of conduct for responsible fisheries, that considers the promotion of *"the contribution of fisheries to food security and food quality, giving priority to the nutritional needs of local communities"*².

Considering that artisanal fisheries is very important for the socio-economy well-being of the territories, since it contributes culturally, socially and economically to local communities.

Considering that the management of tropical tuna stocks has been a relevant topic in the last few years, due to the economic dependence of small-scale fishing communities on this type of fisheries.

Considering the proposal presented by the European Union (EU) in the annual International Commission for Atlantic Tuna (ICCAT) meeting last year - allocation of 5% of the tropical tuna total allowable catch (TAC) to the small-scale fisheries, i.e., around 3.000 tons.

¹ [Consolidated version of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union](#)

² [Code of conduct for responsible fisheries](#)

Considering that, according to the Council regulation (2022/109) of 27 January 2022, “in 2022 the Union will receive, in addition to the allocated quota of 19 311,60 tonnes, an extra allocation of 100 tonnes, exclusively for artisanal vessels from specific archipelagos in Greece (Ionian Islands), Spain (Canary Islands) and Portugal (Azores and Madeira) (...)”³.

The **CCRUP recommends to the European Commission and interested Member states:**

1- The direct allocation of 5% of the ICCAT TAC for Bigeye Tuna (*Thunnus obesus*), to pole and line fishery of the ORs ;

2- Considering the previous criteria of the European regulation (2022/109)³, we recommend that in the next ICCAT Panel 2, an additional quota of 100 tonnes of Bluefin Tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) should be allocated again to the artisanal fleet of the ORs;

3- The positive discrimination of the ORs fleet, when allocating the internal quota by the Member states. Since the Common Fisheries Policy (Regulation (EU) no. 1380/2013), already predicts that artisanal fisheries should be considered, and the quotas are allocated in Europe according to these rules (with specific adaptations) through the Council of Ministers.

³ [Council Regulation \(EU\) 2022/109 of 27 January 2022](#)

Opinion of *Europêche, Organización Productores Asociados de Grandes Atuneros Congeladores (OPAGAC), Union des Armateurs à la Pêche de France (UAPF) and Orthongel* :

They are not favorable to the allocation of a quota to a specific fishing gear, namely pole and line fishing, or the allocation of a direct quota to small-scale coastal fisheries of the European ORs at ICCAT or EU level. The composition of the fleets and the relative weight of small-scale coastal fishing and artisanal fishing vary considerably from one Member State to another, as well as the existence and status of the ORs. In application of the principle of subsidiarity, they consider that it is the responsibility of each Member State to allocate a specific quota to small-scale coastal fishing and artisanal fishing of its ORs.

Opinion of *Comité National des Pêches Maritimes et des Élevages Marins (CNPMEM)* and *Comité Régional des Pêches Maritimes et des Elevages Marins des Îles de Guadeloupe (CRPMEM IG)* :

CNPMEM and *CRPMEM IG* are strictly against the allocation of a specific TAC for pole and line fishing of the ORs. The debate on the allocation of TACs should be held at national level, not at ICCAT level.

Opinion of *Comité National des Pêches Maritimes et des Élevages Marins* :

The *CNPMEM* is favourable to the application of the additional quota of 100 tons of Bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*), for the artisanal fleets of the ORs, in the Member States Spain, Portugal and Greece and not in the others.

Opinion of *Comité Régional des Pêches Maritimes et des Elevages Marins de Martinique (CRPMEM Martinique)* :

The *CRPMEM Martinique* is firmly opposed to the direct allocation of part of the EU or even ICCAT TAC to its region's fisheries in the absence of criteria, data, and reliable socio-economic indicators.

The President of the Executive Committee of the CCRUP,

(David Pavón González)