

AQUATIC RESOURCES AUTHORITY OF PANAMA INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES AFFAIRS

Technical Circular 057-2023

For:	Longline and Purse Seine Fishing Fleets Operating in ICCAT
On Behalf:	Directorate of Technical Cooperation and International Fisheries Affairs
Subject:	Compliance with ICCAT Recommendation 21-04, on Conservation and Management Measures, which includes a management procedure and exceptional circumstances protocol for the management of the North Atlantic albacore tuna resource.
Ref.:	ARAP/IFA/TC/057/2023

The Aquatic Resources Authority of Panama (ARAP), communicates to the Owners, Operators, Masters and Resident Agents, the guidelines for the management and conservation of North Atlantic albacore tuna, in accordance with Recommendation 21-04 of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Albacore (ICCAT). This provides that Member Parties (CPCs) shall manage and establish management measures for the utilization of the resource in an orderly manner and aligned with the regulations established by ICCAT, in its Article 1:

- 1. Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (CPCs) whose vessels fish North Atlantic albacore in the Convention area shall implement the following conservation and fishery management measures for North Atlantic albacore tuna, which include the Management Procedure (MP) set out in Annex 1 for establishing annual Total Allowable Catches.*

In this regard, Panama, in its condition as CPC to ICCAT, is responsible for managing the measures on North Atlantic albacore catch limits, as well as the over-harvests and under-harvests, established in Articles 7 and 9 of Recommendation 21-04:

- 7. CPCs other than those mentioned in paragraph 6 shall limit their annual catches to 242 t.*
- 9. Any unused portion or excess of a CPC's annual quota/catch limit may be added to/shall be deducted from, according to the case, the respective quota/catch limit during or before the adjustment year, in the following way:*

<i>Year of Catch</i>	<i>Adjustment Year</i>
2019	2021
2020	2022
2021	2023
2022	2024
2023	2025

In view of the above, you are hereby notified that due to the excess catches during 2020 and with the pending commitment to adjust the surplus in 2022 (year of adjustment), you are informed of the following:

- The fleet currently operational shall not fish for, retain on board, transship, transport, transfer, process or land North Atlantic albacore tuna from June 28, 2023 to December 31, 2023.
- An exception is made for catches that, at the time of publication of this circular, are on board vessels that are currently engaged in fishing operations; these vessels in the landing process will have to support their catches by means of fishing logs and/or on-board observer reports that justify the date of catch of the product.

Vessels that do not comply with providing the data corresponding to their fishing activities shall be subject to the application of the regulations in force and established by this Authority in sanctioning matters.

Attachment: ICCAT Recommendation No. 21-04

For more information about this Technical Circular, please contact:

***Directorate of Technical Cooperation and International Fisheries Affairs
Aquatic Resources Authority of Panama***

Phone: (+507) 511-6019 / 511-6008

E-mail: hsfs@arap.gob.pa