
AQUATIC RESOURCES AUTHORITY OF PANAMA



TECHNICAL NOTICES

N° 066-2023

FOR: International service capture fishing fleet operating in the Convention Area of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT).

ON BEHALF: Directorate of Technical Cooperation and International Fisheries Affairs

SUBJECT: Compliance with the recommendations of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna (ICCAT):

- 16-11 Management measures for the conservation of Atlantic sailfish,
- 19-05 Recovery program for blue marlin and white marlin,
- 22-03 Conservation of North Atlantic swordfish, and
- 22-04 Conservation of South Atlantic swordfish..

DATE: September 20, 2023

The Aquatic Resources Authority of Panama (ARAP), informs to Shipowners, Operators, Captains and Resident Agents, the guidelines and measures that the Panamanian fishing fleet must comply with in reference to **ICCAT recommendations: 16-11, 19-05, 22-03 and 22-04**, applied to swordfish, sailfish and marlin for the conservation of the resources caught in the ICCAT Convention area, and that Panama as a Contracting Party (CPC) of the RFMO recognizes and guarantees compliance with these recommendations.

These guidelines and measures apply to the fishing fleet with an **International Fishing License of Catch** flying the Panamanian flag, greater than or equal to 20 meters in length, which is on the vessel register to operate in the ICCAT Convention area; and also, for those capture fishing vessels flying the Panamanian flag, less than 20 meters in length, not included in the ICCAT vessel register, but operating in the Convention area of this RFMO.

In the annex (**Table 1**), you will find the guidelines and measures for the conservation and management by species caught within the ICCAT convention area referred to in this circular for each of the above-mentioned recommendations.

✓ Important and Mandatory

Failure to comply with these guidelines and measures shall be subject to the application of the regulations in force and established by this Authority in sanctioning matters in accordance with Law No. 204 of March 18,

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2021, and the Recommendation by ICCAT on penalties applicable in case of non fulfilment with data collection and reporting obligations (Rec. 11-15).

Attachments: ICCAT Recommendations:

- ICCAT 16-11
- ICCAT 19-05
- ICCAT 22-03
- ICCAT 22-04..

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Annex: Table 1.

Guidelines and measures for conservation and management by species within the ICCAT Convention area are detailed below:

GUIDELINES	REC. ICCAT	SPECIES
Total annual catches and landings for the Panamanian flag fishing fleet are limited to 10 tons. The Authority will establish an annual limit for each of the vessels, starting in 2024.	ICCAT 19-05	Atlantic blue Marlin (BUM- <i>Makaira nigricans</i>)
Total annual catches and landings for the Panamanian flag fishing fleet are limited to 2 tons. The Authority will establish an annual limit for each of the vessels, starting in 2024.	ICCAT 19-05	White marlin/roundscale spearfish (WHM- <i>Kajikia albida</i>)
Vessels flying the Panamanian flag are prohibited from retaining on board, transshipping and landing all or part of sailfish and swordfish.	ICCAT 16-11 ¹ ICCAT 22-03 ² ICCAT 22-04 ³	¹ Atlantic sailfish (SAI- <i>Istiophorus albicans</i>) ² North Atlantic swordfish (SWO- <i>Xiphias gladius</i>). ³ South Atlantic swordfish (SWO- <i>Xiphias gladius</i>).
The crew of Panamanian flag vessels, taking into account their safety and the minimum standards for safe handling and release procedures, shall release without delay and unharmed, as far as possible, the specimens that cannot be retained. * For blue marlin and white marlin this guideline shall be applied when the total annual and per vessel catch limit is complied with.	ICCAT 16-11 ¹ ICCAT 22-03 ² ICCAT 22-04 ³ *ICCAT 19-05 ⁴	¹ Atlantic sailfish (SAI- <i>Istiophorus albicans</i>) ² North Atlantic swordfish (SWO- <i>Xiphias gladius</i>). ³ South Atlantic swordfish (SWO- <i>Xiphias gladius</i>). ⁴ Atlantic blue Marlin (BUM- <i>Makaira nigricans</i>) and White marlin/roundscale spearfish (WHM- <i>Kajikia albida</i>)*.
The captains of the vessels shall report in the fishing logbooks, the discard and/or release of the specimens and inform the condition of each specimen (dead or alive), coordinates, date, hauls, and others that the authority determines. * For blue marlin and white marlin this guideline shall be applied when the total annual and per vessel catch limit is complied with.	ICCAT 16-11 ¹ ICCAT 22-03 ² ICCAT 22-04 ³ *ICCAT 19-05 ⁴	¹ Atlantic sailfish (SAI- <i>Istiophorus albicans</i>) ² North Atlantic swordfish (SWO- <i>Xiphias gladius</i>). ³ South Atlantic swordfish (SWO- <i>Xiphias gladius</i>). ⁴ Atlantic blue Marlin (BUM- <i>Makaira nigricans</i>) and White marlin/roundscale spearfish (WHM- <i>Kajikia albida</i>)*.
On vessels with an On-Board Observer Program, in addition to the established requirements, the observer shall also report the discard and/or release of specimens and inform the condition of each specimen (dead or alive), coordinates, date, hauls, and others that the Authority may determine.	ICCAT 16-11 ¹ ICCAT 22-03 ² ICCAT 22-04 ³ ICCAT 19-05 ⁴	¹ Atlantic sailfish (SAI- <i>Istiophorus albicans</i>) ² North Atlantic swordfish (SWO- <i>Xiphias gladius</i>). ³ South Atlantic swordfish (SWO- <i>Xiphias gladius</i>). ⁴ Atlantic blue Marlin (BUM- <i>Makaira nigricans</i>) and White marlin/roundscale spearfish (WHM- <i>Kajikia albida</i>).