



Ref.: 89/2025

Rome, 14 March 2025

To Charlina Vitcheva  
Director General DG MARE  
To Stijn Billiet  
MARE B2 Regional  
Fisheries, Management  
organizations  
Cc MARE-AC

***SUBJECT: ICCAT MANAGEMENT STRATEGY EVALUATION (MSE) PROCESSES. REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON THE CALENDAR AND PROGRESS OF MSE PROCESSES FOR 2025 AND PARTICIPATION IN AMBASSADORS' MEETINGS.***

Considering the importance of ICCAT regulated species for the members of the Advisory Councils (ACs) with interest in this RFMO, and with the objective of being able to develop **informed advice**, we ask to have detailed information both on the calendar and processes foreseen for the evaluation of management strategy evaluations (MSE) in line with the **MSE roadmap** available on the ICCAT website<sup>1</sup>.

In relation, we need to know in more detail the next steps related to the actions foreseen in the schedule for the year **2025 relating to TROPICAL TUNA** (Bigeye Tuna (*Thunnus obesus*), Yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*), Skipjack tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*)).

We understand that:

*In the framework of the intersessional period of the Commission, COM (Panel 1) will meet with the participation of the SCRS to:*

- *Discuss Candidate Management Procedures (CMPs), operational management objectives and performance indicators.*

- *Refine the CMPs and recommend final operational management objectives and identify performance indicators.*

*Ambassador meetings are planned.*

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.iccat.int/com2024/ENG/PLE\\_108\\_ENG\\_REV.pdf](https://www.iccat.int/com2024/ENG/PLE_108_ENG_REV.pdf)



Considering that these meetings are key to adequately understand the decision-making processes within the MSE framework. We wish to be able to participate at them whether as members of the EU delegation or keep timely informed on the outcomes of the Ambassadors meetings by the DG MARE negotiation team.

Furthermore, we request the holding and participation of Ambassadors meetings, which are of great importance for the correct understanding of the MSE decision-making processes in the different species.

All of this would facilitate the inclusion of this topic in the drafting of Advisory Council advice on the ongoing processes, through access to all available information that affects or may affect the members.

As consultative bodies, we Advisory Councils need to gather the available information for proper transmission to our members.

As a precedent of best practice, we can highlight the case of the Eastern Bluefin Tuna (E-BFT / *Thunnus thynnus*) which currently has an MSE in which there has been a high degree of participation thanks, to a large extent, to the 3 Ambassadors meetings organised into 3 different working languages (EN-FR-ES) in which the relevant Advisory Councils have participated. We would also kindly ask to add Portuguese to the interpretation languages, since Portuguese members have high interest in these species too.


We therefore **request the DG MARE negotiation team, to provide timely information on the above-mentioned MSE process, as well as allowing our participation or, where appropriate, information on the work being carried out,** bearing in mind that we need the reference elements of the procedures, including operational management objectives and Candidate Management Procedures (CMPs), both of which are essential elements for the drafting of our advice.

We look forward to your kind reply,



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(CCRUP – Ruben Farias)



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(SWWAC – Sergio Lopez)



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(LDAC - Ivan Lopez)



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(MEDAC - Antonio Marzoa Notlevsen)