



**ON THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF IOTC KAWAKAWA, LONGTAIL TUNA AND SPANISH
MACKEREL**

SUBMITTED BY: EUROPEAN UNION, 21 APRIL 2017

Explanatory Memorandum

According to the IOTC Scientific Committee Kawakawa is not overfished and not subject to overfishing, but there is a 96% probability that biomass is below MSY levels. Longtail Tuna and Spanish Mackerel are subject to overfishing and are also overfished, i.e. their stock biomass is below sustainable levels.

Furthermore, the Scientific Committee also recommended implementing the following management measures:

- For Kawakawa: given the uncertainties as regards stock status and the high risk of exceeding MSY-based reference points, catches should be reduced by 20% of 2013 levels, i.e. to 136,144 tons, which corresponds to a 11% reduction from 2015 levels. Although this stock is classified as not overfished and not subject to overfishing, catches should be frozen at 2015 levels. This freeze would be a first step to avoid that MSY-based reference points are exceeded, but even freezing would still mean, by 2023, a 55% probability of falling below Bmsy and a 91% probability of being fished over Fmsy.
- For Longtail Tuna: as in the past, there is a high risk of exceeding MSY-based reference points in 2017 if catches are maintained at current levels. If catches are reduced by 10% from 2014 levels, i.e. to 132,000 tons, which corresponds to a 3% reduction from 2015 levels, the risk is significantly lower.
- For Spanish Mackerel: in order to recover Spanish Mackerel to levels above MSY reference points, current catches should be reduced by at least 30% from 2014 levels, i.e. to 108,000 tons, which corresponds to a reduction of around 30% from 2015 levels.

It is therefore proposed to implement a reduction of the level of catches for Kawakawa, Longtail Tuna and Spanish Mackerel in point 2 of the proposal.

RESOLUTION 17/XX

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Keywords: kawakawa, longtail tuna, Spanish mackerel, neritic tunas

The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC),

RECOGNISING that, based on past experience in the Neritic tuna catches, the potential production from the resource can be negatively impacted by excessive fishing effort;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the available scientific information and advice, in particular the IOTC Scientific Committee conclusions whereby Longtail Tuna and Spanish Mackerel have been overexploited in recent years;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that the available scientific information and advice, in particular the IOTC Scientific Committee conclusions whereby measures need to be taken in order to achieve levels consistent with MSY reference points;

FURTHER RECOGNISING that the 19th IOTC Scientific Committee meeting also recommended implementing management measures or significantly reducing the catches of these three species accordingly:

- For Kawakawa: given the uncertainties as regards stock status and the high risk of exceeding MSY-based reference points, catches should be reduced by 20% of 2013 levels, i.e. to 136,144 tons, which corresponds to a 11% reduction from 2015 levels. As a first step towards avoiding that MSY-based reference points are exceeded, catches should be frozen at 2015 levels.
- For Longtail Tuna: as in the past, there is a high risk of exceeding MSY-based reference points in 2017 if catches are maintained at current levels. If catches are reduced by 10% from 2014 levels, i.e. to 132,000 tons, which corresponds to a 3% reduction from 2015 levels, the risk is significantly lower.
- For Spanish Mackerel: in order to recover Spanish Mackerel to levels above MSY reference points, current catches should be reduced by at least 30% from 2014 levels, i.e. to 108,000 tons, which corresponds to a similar reduction of around 30% from 2015 levels.

NOTING the importance of applying the precautionary approach for the management of these three stocks;

ADOPTS, in accordance with paragraph 1 of Article IX of the IOTC Agreement, that:

1. This Resolution is applicable until 31 December 2021 within the IOTC area of competence.
2. With the main objective of decreasing the fishing pressure on Kawakawa (*Euthynnus affinis*) Longtail Tuna (*Thunnus tonggol*) and Spanish Mackerel (*Scomberomorus commerson*) in the IOTC area of competence, Contracting Parties and cooperating non-Contracting Parties (CPCs) shall adapt future catch levels of those stocks in 2018, 2019 and 2020 by applying the following mechanism:
 - a) For Kawakawa:
 - For CPCs whose 2015 catch levels are equal to or below 0.5% of the 2015 overall IOTC catches, catches shall remain equal to or below 0.5% of those 2015 overall IOTC catches.



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- for CPCs whose 2015 catch levels exceed 0.5% of the 2015 overall IOTC catches, a 13% reduction of catches compared to 2015 catch levels.
- b) For Longtail Tuna:
- For CPCs whose 2015 catch levels are equal to or below 0.5% of the 2015 overall IOTC catches, catches shall remain equal to or below 0.5% of those 2015 overall IOTC catches.
 - For CPCs whose 2015 catch levels exceed 0.5% and are equal or below 10% of the 2015 overall IOTC catches, no increase in catches beyond 2015 levels;
 - For CPCs whose 2015 catch levels exceed 10% of the 2015 overall IOTC catches, a 22% reduction of catches compared to 2015 catch levels.
- c) For Spanish Mackerel:
- For CPCs whose 2015 catch levels are equal to or below 0.5% of the 2015 overall IOTC catches, catches shall remain equal to or below 0.5% of those 2015 overall IOTC catches.
 - For CPCs whose 2015 catch levels exceed 0.5% and are equal or below 2% of the 2015 overall IOTC catches, no increase in catches beyond 2015 catch levels;
 - For CPCs whose 2015 catch levels exceed 2% and are equal or below 8% of the 2015 overall IOTC catches, a 35% reduction of catches compared to 2015 catch levels;
 - For CPCs whose 2015 catch levels exceed 8% of the 2015 overall IOTC catches, a 40% reduction of catches compared to 2015 catch levels.
3. The Scientific Committee will review in its annual session of 2021 the level of catches of the species mentioned in point 2 above for the previous years.
4. If the catch by a CPC in 2018, 2019 or 2020 exceeds the catch levels established in point 2 of this Resolution, that CPC's catch of the species concerned in the following year shall be reduced by the excess catch.
5. The Scientific Committee shall carry out in 2021 an evaluation of the measures described in this Resolution and their impact on each of the three species mentioned in point 2. As a result of that evaluation, further measures shall be considered in order to bring these species back to sustainable exploitation levels (green quadrant of the Kobe plot).