

**Report from the SEAFO Observer to the 21st Special Meeting of the
International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)
(12 - 19 November, Dubrovnik, Croatia)**

SEAFO Observer (Japan)

1. Introduction

At the 21st Special Meeting, over 650 people from 45 Contracting Parties, 2 cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities; and observers from one non-Contracting Party, 2 international organizations and 21 Non-Governmental organizations were present.

2. Management Measures

The Commission adopted overall 12 Recommendation and two Resolutions covering relevant issues on Atlantic tuna and tuna-like species conservation and fisheries management.

(1) Tropical tuna

A wave of cooperation allowed significant improvements in the discussions aimed at a new conservation and management program for the tropical tuna, however, the Commission could not reach a consensus and the annual catch limits for bigeye tuna for 2018 will continue to apply through 2019. In addition the Commission agreed to roll over current measures for the stock and to work in advance of the 2019 Commission meeting to develop new plans acceptable to all.

(2) Bluefin tuna

The Commission agreed to update “A Multi-Annual Management Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean Sea” including the revised allocation table for 2019 and 2020.

3. Convention amendment

The Commission agreed to move forward to adopt the package of comprehensive amendments to modernize the ICCAT Convention, which had been developed over the past five years within the Working Group on Convention Amendment, Contracting Parties will work over the coming year to ensure that these amendments, and related measures, will be formally adopted at the 2019 Commission meeting.

4. Next Commission meeting

The next annual meeting will be held in Curaçao in 18 - 25 November, 2019.