



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

The Director-General

Brussels
MARE/B2/FM

Subject: Reply to CCS advice 181 on TACs bluefin tuna, albacore and swordfish

Dear Mr López,

I would like to thank you for your letter of 27 May providing the Southwestern Waters Advisory Council's (CCS) recommendation regarding bluefin tuna, north Atlantic albacore and north Atlantic swordfish. The recommendation will help to inform us in establishing an EU position for the 29th regular meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) that will take place in November.

On your observations regarding bluefin tuna, the EU has been at the forefront of the efforts made for the recovery of the stock, foregoing substantial fishing opportunities. We are happy to see these efforts have paid off as the stock is thriving, and we expect that our fishers, who have contributed the most to this success story, can see concrete benefits of these developments. The EU's core position has been stated clearly in previous years: we will not accept any decrease of our fishing opportunities.

The Commission also agrees with the importance of the work of observers and the need to ensure their safety on board, as well as with the importance of combating illegal fishing and ensuring a level playing field with other contracting parties. We will continue to lead the fight against illegal fishing and maintain our efforts in ensuring proper implementation of regulations.

I take good note of your position regarding the opportunities to increase the TAC for north Atlantic albacore. You also include a recommendation asking for a change in the North Atlantic swordfish quota allocation within the EU. This is the prerogative of the Council and I would invite you to communicate this to the Member States.

Mr. Sergio López
Chair of the South Western Waters Advisory Council
6 Rue Alphonse RIO
56100 - Lorient
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Thanks again for providing your advice and I am looking forward to our continued fruitful cooperation. Should you have any further questions on this reply, please contact Ms Julia RUBECK, our Advisory Councils coordinator, via the functional mailbox MARE-AC@ec.europa.eu.

Yours sincerely,

[e-Signed]
Charlina VITCHEVA