



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

The Director-General

Brussels
MARE/B2/SH

Dear Mr López,

I would like to thank you for sending the Long Distance Fleet Advisory Council's (LDAC) recommendation regarding the conservation and management of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) species. The recommendation has helped us in establishing an EU position for the 29th regular meeting of ICCAT that to be held from 17-24 November.

With regard to tropical tunas, on yellowfin the EU has worked closely with Japan to initiate work in ICCAT this year with the aim of establishing a future allocation at next year's annual meeting as well as the requisite control measures. In this context, we are working with like-minded parties to develop a timeline for the necessary actions. On bigeye tuna, along with a TAC increase and advocating for a reduction in the FAD-closure period in line with the best available scientific advice, the EU continues to insist that good governance and proper control are vital. Rest assured that any potential non-compliance with the tropical tuna measure, including on the FAD closure, is being actively pursued by the EU in the context of ICCAT's compliance committee. With regards to a management procedure for western skipjack, the EU will support the adoption of a management procedure this year which aligns with the best available scientific advice.

The European Commission also agrees with the importance of the work on the conservation and management of sharks including through the SCRS and will continue to advocate strongly for a fins naturally attached (FNA) policy in ICCAT as the only option. Moreover, on sharks, the EU will drive forward the blue shark MSE and advocate for strict measures on the South Atlantic shortfin mako aiming to rebuild the stock as soon as possible.

Finally, I thank you for your joint advice along with CCRUP, MEDAC and CCSUD which highlights important areas of convergence across Advisory Councils on important issues such as IUU fishing, regional observers, MSEs and cooperation with other RFMOs.

Mr. Ivan López
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I am looking forward to our continued fruitful cooperation. Should you have 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,

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