

Albacore North Atlantic

 Fishery:  North Atlantic  ICCAT  Spain  Trolling lines

IDENTIFICATION

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Thunnus alalunga

SPECIES NAME(S)

Albacore

COMMON NAMES

Albacore

STOCK IDENTIFICATION

For assessment purposes it is assumed there are three populations of albacore in the Atlantic (north, south and Mediterranean). There may be intermingling between immature fish from the Indian and Atlantic Oceans (ICCAT 2012).

This fishery entered full assessment by the Marine Stewardship Council system in September 2014. Click [here](#) to link to the MSC fishery page and to learn more about the MSC fishery certification unit.



RELATED LINKS:

- [International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas \(ICCAT\)](#)

ASSESSMENT

Strengths

ICCAT has been abiding by scientific advice in recent years in terms of setting the total allowable catch (TAC). Catches have been below TAC levels in recent years, except for two years. A recovery plan was put into place in 2009 and updated in 2011 and 2013. The most recent assessment indicates the recovery plan is likely to be successful if catches are maintained at the current TAC. Overfishing is not occurring and the population is no longer overfished.

Weaknesses

The current management recommendation allows for potential overages in the total allowable catch (TAC). Although work has continued with regard to developing limit reference points and a harvest control rule, none have been formally adopted. Observer coverage is low (5%) in longline fisheries and interactions with PET and other non-target species continue to occur.

SCORES

Management Quality:

| Management Strategy | Managers Compliance | Fishers Compliance |
|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| ≥ 6 | ≥ 8 | 10 |

Stock Health:

| Current Health | Future Health |
|----------------|---------------|
| ≥ 8 | ≥ 8 |

FIPS

No related FIPs

MSC

- North Atlantic albacore artisanal fishery:

MSC Certified

RECOMMENDATIONS

RETAILERS & SUPPLY CHAIN

- Monitor the progress in closing out conditions placed upon the MSC certification of the fishery and if agreed timelines are met. Offer assistance in closing conditions where possible.
- Work with ICCAT Contracting Parties and Cooperators to:
 - Develop and implement comprehensive, precautionary harvest strategies with specific timelines for all tuna stocks, including the adoption and implementation of limit and target reference points, harvest control rules, monitoring strategies, operational objectives, performance indicators, and management strategy evaluation.
 - Strengthen compliance processes and make information on non-compliance public and continue to provide evidence of compliance with all ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures in a timely manner.
 - Implement a 100% observer coverage requirement for at-sea transshipment activities, as well as other measures that ensure transshipment activity is transparent and well-managed, and that all required data are collected and transmitted to the appropriate bodies in a timely manner.
 - Increase compliance with the mandatory minimum 5% longline observer coverage rates by identifying and correcting non-compliance.
 - Implement a 100% observer coverage requirement – human and/or electronic – within five years for longline fisheries. Adopt a 100% observer coverage requirement for purse seine vessels where it is not already required and require the use of the best-available observer safety equipment, communications and procedures.
 - Adopt effective measures for the use of non-entangling FAD designs as a precautionary measure to minimize the entanglement of sharks and other non-target species, and support research on biodegradable materials and transition to their use to mitigate marine debris.
 - More effectively implement, and ensure compliance with, existing RFMO bycatch requirements and take additional mitigation action, such as improving monitoring at sea, collecting and sharing operational-level, species-specific data, and adopting stronger compliance measures, including consequences for non-compliance for all gear types.
- Ensure all products are traceable back to legal sources. Verify source information and full chain traceability through traceability desk audits or

third party traceability certification. For fisheries without robust traceability systems in place, invest in meaningful improvements to bring the fisheries and supply chain in compliance with best practices.