**Albacore**

**North Atlantic**

**Fishery:** North Atlantic  
**ICCAT:** Spain  
**Species:** 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).

**Related Links:**

- International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)

**Assessment**

**Strenghts**

- 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 2015 and 2018. 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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Management Quality:</th>
<th>Management Strategy</th>
<th>Manager Compliance</th>
<th>Fisher Compliance</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>≥ 6</td>
<td>≥ 8</td>
<td>10</td>
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**Stock Health:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Health</th>
<th>Future Health</th>
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<tr>
<td>≥ 8</td>
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**FIPS**

No related FIPs

**MSC**

No related MSC fisheries

**Recommendations**

**Retailers & Supply Chain**

- 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 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.
  - 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. Adapt 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 ByMFV Bycatch requirements and take additional mitigation actions, 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.