



FIRMS Steering Committee Meeting
Seventh Session
Rome, Italy, 12–13, and 16 December 2011
ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY ICCAT DURING THE INTERSESSIONAL
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1. Development of inventories of marine resources and of fisheries

Following the recommendation of the SCRS in 2011 the ICCAT Secretariat has created new factsheets for the stocks assessed by the SCRS of the three oceanic shark species caught as by-catch species in the tuna fisheries: porbeagle, shortfin mako and blue sharks.

2. Reporting on status/trends of Marine resources and of fisheries

During the intersessional period the ICCAT Secretariat has continued with the implementation of the fact sheets corresponding to the principal tuna and tuna-like stocks under ICCAT mandate.

Two activities have been developed:

- Creating new factsheets for North and South Atlantic Blue shark stocks, northeastern Atlantic, northwestern Atlantic and southwestern Atlantic stocks of Porbeagle and North Atlantic stock of Shortfin mako.
- Updating fact sheets for those stocks for which assessment was conducted in 2010: Bigeye Atlantic, Bluefin West Atlantic and East Atlantic and Mediterranean stocks and Mediterranean Swordfish stock.

3. Development/review of standards

Implementation of FIRMS descriptors for the stocks for which assessment has been conducted during the year following the criteria to map ICCAT stock status results to FIRMS standard descriptors established by the second FIRMS Technical Working Group (TWG) based on the phase plot stock status figure adopted by the Tuna RFMOs.

4. Development of applications

In producing the updated fact sheet for FIRMS, a numbers of FIRMS systems were tested. Some problems were identified and feedback was provided to the FIRMS team concerning the problems. In particular some inconsistencies regarding the ICCAT inventory and search criteria used to find ICCAT stocks (e.g. stocks as North and South Atlantic Albacore or North and South Atlantic and Mediterranean Swordfish stocks do not appear as ICCAT stocks) were found.

During 2011 ICCAT has provided relevant information to be included in the new Tuna thematic page.

Currently ICCAT is working in the creation of a gateway page to FIRMS similar to that created by GFCM. The creation of this web page has been made in coordination with the FIRMS Secretariat and following the guidelines they have developed in supporting the exploitation of the FIRMS products. Figure attached shows the ICCAT gateway web page.

5. Development of case studies/prototypes

Not applicable.

6. Training or skills development



Not applicable.

7. Promotional activities

The ICCAT web page has a permanent link to the FIRMS web site and a gateway page to FIRMS will be shortly incorporated.

8. Planned activities during the coming intercessional period

- Annual updating of fact sheets when new assessments are carried out.
- Provision of comments/feedback to FIRMS on an ad-hoc basis.


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Marine Resource Fact Sheet

Stock status report 2009
Albacore - North Atlantic, 2007
North Atlantic albacore

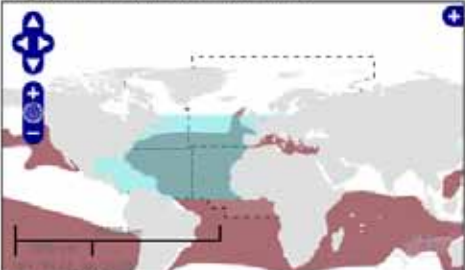
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Species:
Thunnus alalunga


Fao Names : en - Albacore, fr - Geron, es - Atún blanco

Geographic extent of Albacore - North Atlantic


[Map legend](#)
[Area Details](#)

Main Descriptors
 Considered a single stock: Yes Spatial Scale: Regional
 Considered a management unit: Yes

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History

The 2007 Commission meeting decided in Recommendation 07-02 to conduct an assessment of the North stock in 2009. Accordingly, in July 2009 the assessment of North Atlantic albacore stock was conducted by means of applying statistical modelling to the available data.

Complete information on the assessment of the North albacore stock can be found in the Report of the 2009 ICCAT Albacore Stock Assessment Session.

Habitat and Biology
 Climatic zone: Temperate. Horizontal distribution: Oceanic. Vertical distribution: Pelagic.

The expected life-span for albacore is around 15 years. While albacore is a temperate species, spawning occurs in tropical waters. A new weight at length relationship for the western Atlantic fishery was presented that showed to be different from the presently used for Northern stock. Present available knowledge on habitat distribution according to size, spawning areas and maturity estimates of Atlantic albacore are based on limited studies from past decades. More information on albacore biology is published in the ICCAT Manual.