

Explanatory meetings of the EU acquis – Chapter 13

International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)

These slides accompany the explanation of the acquis to Albania and North Macedonia and can only be used for that purpose. Their content is subject to further development of the acquis and interpretation by the Court of Justice of the European Union

RFMOs

- International Bodies composed of States and REIOs (EU) and established by an International Convention
- Their role is recognized in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the New York Agreement on Fish Stocks (UNFSA)
- The reasons for their establishment:
 - with the Declaration of EEZs in the 1970s by Coastal States which regulated fisheries inside 200 miles, there was a need to foresee management for stocks either occurring solely in the High Seas or occurring both in EEZs and the High Seas.
 - RFOs were established therefore with the mandate of ensuring the conservation and sustainability of those fisheries resources in the High Seas

European Commission objectives in RFMOs

- To represent the Community within RFMOs to defend EU fleet legitimate interests and ensure that EU vessels respect the RFMO measures
- To promote better governance of international fisheries
- To ensure that RFMOs have an array of instruments and measures to effectively regulate fisheries and conserve resources
- To ensure full coherence between its internal CFP and its external multilateral action, as well as among the different RFMOs where EU is member

RFMOs – EU participation

➤ ***EU presence***

- EC high profile in RFOs by virtue of presence of fleet
- Examples: ICCAT, IOTC, NAFO etc (EC no of vessels/catches compared to total presence and catch)

➤ ***EU competence***

- Mixed Competence – GFCM
- Exclusive Competence – Tuna RFOs (+ Fr et UK on behalf of Overseas Territories)

➤ ***Negotiation process***

- Plenary Sessions of Fisheries Commission – EU (in presence of MS Representatives + sector + EP)
- Restricted Technical Sessions – EU only
- Co-ordination Meeting under External Group Discipline (EU + Member States)

ICCAT transposition

- Council Regulation (EC) N° 520/2007 of 7 May 2007 laying down technical measures for the conservation of certain stocks of highly migratory species and repealing Regulation (EC) N° 973/2001
- Regulation (EC) N° 1936/2001 laying down control measures applicable to fishing for certain stocks of highly migratory fish
- Regulation (EU) 2017/2107 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 November 2017 laying down management, conservation and control measures applicable in the Convention area of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), and amending Council Regulations (EC) No 1936/2001, (EC) No 1984/2003 and (EC) No 520/2007
- Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 September 2016 on a multiannual recovery plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean, and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 302/2009
- Regulation (EU) No 640/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 July 2010 establishing a catch documentation programme for bluefin tuna *Thunnus thynnus* and amending Council Regulation (EC) No 1984/2003

ICCAT transposition (cont)

- Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a catch documentation programme for bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) repealing Regulation (EU) No 640/2010 of the European Parliament and the Council
- Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2018/191 of 30 November 2017 amending Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/98 on the implementation of the Union's international obligations, as referred to in Article 15(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, under the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, regarding the Mediterranean stock of swordfish
- Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2018/17 of 5 January 2018 amending Implementing Decision 2014/156/EU establishing a specific control and inspection programme for fisheries exploiting stocks of bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean, swordfish in the Mediterranean and for fisheries exploiting stocks of sardine and anchovy in the Northern Adriatic Sea (SCIP)
- Multiannual recovery plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean (Council Regulation(EU) No 2016/1627 of 14 September 2016)

ICCAT transposition (cont)

Commission proposals:

- COM Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a multiannual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean, and repealing Regulation (EU) 2016/2017
- Regulation (EU) No [...] on a multiannual recovery plan for Mediterranean swordfish and amending Council Regulation (EC) No 1967/2006 and Regulation (EU) 2107/2107 of the European Parliament and of the Council
- Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) [...] amending Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/98 on the implementation of the Union's international obligations, as referred to in Article 15(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1382/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, under the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, regarding bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean.

Areas for improvement

- Submission of information on by-catches of vulnerable species (sea turtles, birds, etc)
- Missing fleet characteristics
- Task II catch & effort data.