

2 | Active Harvest Strategy

North Atlantic Albacore



Management Authority:

International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas

Adoption Year:

2017/2021

Management Objectives:

- Maintain stock in green quadrant of Kobe plot with at least 60% probability while maximizing long-term yield
- Rebuild to or above SSB_{MSY} with at least 60% probability within as short a time as possible, while maximizing average catch and minimizing TAC changes

Reference Points:

- **B-Threshold Reference Point (Interim):** B_{MSY}
- **B-Limit Reference Point (Interim):** 40% B_{MSY}
- **F-Target Reference Point (Interim):** 80% F_{MSY}
- **F- Minimum Reference Point (Interim):** 10% F_{MSY}

Harvest Strategy:

Adopted in 2021, ICCAT successfully converted the HCR into a full harvest strategy through the addition of an exceptional circumstances protocol and the specification of the data collection and assessment methods needed to apply the HCR.

Specifications:

- **Type:** Model-based
- **Management cycle:** 3 years
- **Data inputs:** Stock assessment estimates of current stock biomass (B_{curr}) with respect to B_{MSY} , stock biomass at maximum sustainable yield (B_{MSY}), fishing mortality at MSY (F_{MSY})
- **Management output:** Quota
- **Harvest control rule:**
 - If $B > B_{THRESHOLD}$ (B_{MSY}), fish at F_{TARGET} (80% F_{MSY})
 - If $B_{LIM} < B < B_{THRESHOLD}$, reduce F linearly as specified in HCR
 - If $B < B_{LIM}$, suspend fishery and initiate scientific monitoring at F_{MIN} (10% F_{MSY})
- **Other:**
 - Maximum catch limit: 50,000t
 - Maximum quota change: +25%/-20% if current biomass is above $B_{THRESHOLD}$

Outcome:

The stock was declared recovered in 2016, a year before the HCR was adopted. The 2018-20 quota set by the HCR was limited by the 20% maximum change clause included in the original HCR. Using the 2020 stock assessment, the HCR recommended a TAC increase for the 2021-23 management period which was agreed to by all parties without controversy, despite the virtual meeting necessitated by COVID-19.

Link to relevant policy document or update:

[Recommendation by ICCAT on Conservation and Management Measures, Including a Management Procedure and Exceptional Circumstances Protocol, for North Atlantic Albacore \(https://iccat.int/Documents/Recs/compendiopdf-e/2021-04-e.pdf\)](https://iccat.int/Documents/Recs/compendiopdf-e/2021-04-e.pdf)