



6 rue Alphonse Rio · 56100 Lorient · FRANCE  
+33 297 83 11 69 · info@ccr-s.eu  
www.ccr-s.eu

## Opinion 105 relating to preliminary scientific work on the northern albacore exploitation rule

### Considering:

- ICCAT recommendation 15-04 and the ICCAT Madeira working group report concerning the assessment of this stock in particular,

### Whereas:

- On the one hand, the scientific recommendation not to increase the TAC to above 28,000 Tons, due to the fact that it is impossible to accurately assess the associated levels of risks,
- On the other hand, the fact that the scientists consider that the maintenance of the current TAC would guarantee the observance of the objective set in recommendation 15-04, (60% probability of being in the green zone in the Kobe diagram)
- That the exploratory work surrounding the definition of the points of reference for the future exploitation rule indicates that the TAC could in the short term be set at over 40,000 Tons, in accordance with this management strategy, and excluding any limitation of the interannual TAC variation
- The very high number of sources of uncertainty negatively affecting the reliability of the scientific diagnostic, particularly the unavailability of the abundance index from all the fisheries, have led to the invalidation of the forecasts made

### The members of SWWAC recommend:

- That the highest priority should be given to **the** improvement of the means allocated to the assessment of this stock, possibly including the means to develop modelling tools and the efficient transmission of all the necessary data
- That all the risks associated with the implementation of an exploitation rule should be considered by all the stakeholders, particularly as regards the interannual changes in fishing opportunities, and also, the changes that are weighing upon the state of the resource
- That the starting point for the setting of the future fishing opportunities should be based on the 2016 TAC level, 28,000 Tons
- That all the points of reference and options modelled should also be accompanied by mechanisms for the limitation of TAC variability from one year to another: +/- 1000 and 2000 Tons; +/- 5 and 10%
- That the different mechanisms modelled should be compatible with monitoring which will take place every 2 or 3 years.

