



Opinion 97 requesting a change in article 14, paragraph 3 of Monitoring Regulation no 1224/2009¹ relating to the margin of tolerance allowed between the tuna catches estimated, those noted in the log book, and the weight of fish actually landed.

CONSIDERATIONS

1. Whereas, in the different basins, the characteristics and circumstances of the ships and crew dedicated to fishing tuna in general, by trolling or with live bait are variable.
2. Whereas, in the albacore and general tuna fishery, in North West Cantabria, the ships and crews go on trips lasting approximately 20 to 30 days, with catches that can take place on a daily basis, and at the end of the trip, the number of albacore tuna onboard each boat can be considerable.
3. Whereas the Canaries basin is characterised by oligotrophic water (low production) and the insular plateau is very narrow, which limits the abundance and productivity of demersal resources. This means that the tuna fisheries have particular importance for the Canaries. The whole sector, irrespective of the boat length (including boats of less than 10m), benefits from the seasonal migrations of the different species of tuna (albacore tuna, bonito, yellowfin tuna and big-eye tuna and bluefin tuna), and the trips last 1 to 15 days.
4. Whereas in the albacore tuna and other tuna fishery, the ships have from 3 to 17 crew, depending on the size of the boat and the fishing gear used, whether it be trolling or with live bait and that each of these fishing methods catches individual tuna fish, one by one.
5. Whereas, albacore tuna and other tuna fishing is carried out in tuna shoals on a large scale, with the aim of catching the greatest number of individuals, which are then left on the deck, while the crew take maximum advantage of the duration of voracity of the tuna fish.
6. Once this action has been completed, and given that the fishing of these tuna fish (bonito, etc.) takes place in summer, it is necessary to refrigerate these catches immediately so as to maintain their freshness.
7. Whereas, according to the period of the catch, the girth of albacore tuna varies, and for the same length of fish the weight can vary, this makes the calculation more difficult:

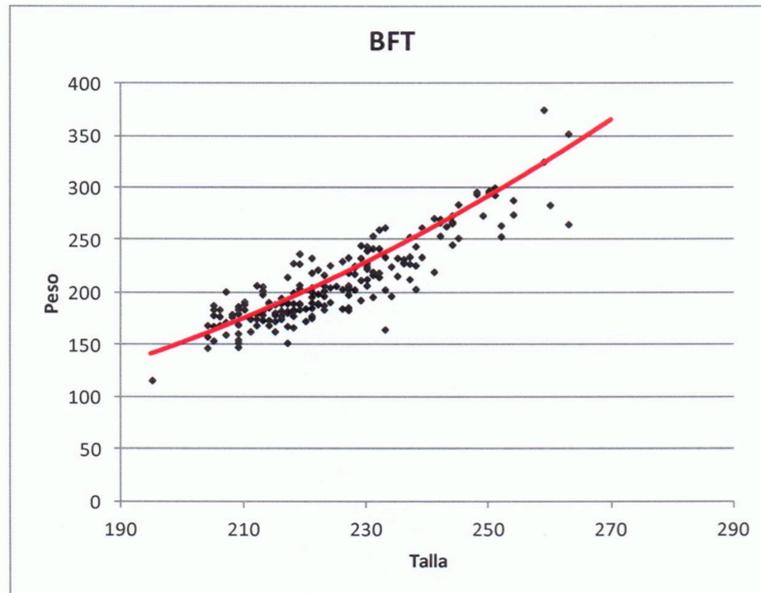
¹ After similar reflections, proposals will be made by SWWAC in a more global context: that of the assessment of the Monitoring Regulation and in relation to all fisheries.





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

Weight

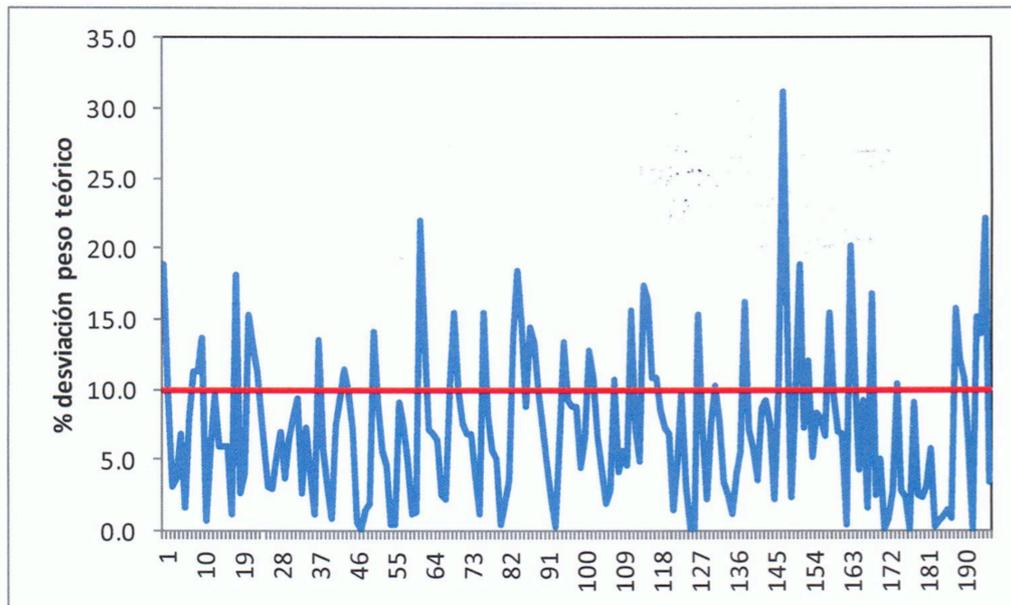


Size

Source: IEO

8. Whereas the characteristics and number of the crew, the ships and the fishery detailed in the previous points, it is difficult to count the number of fish that are caught during the trip, and even more difficult to ascertain the weight of these fish reliably with a margin of more or less 10%
9. Whereas it is impossible to store these catches in crates, as is the case for other species, and this prevents an estimation in the conventional way based on the number of crates,
10. Whereas in the fishery of large individual tuna, estimating the weight of the fish without there being a variation of more or less 10% between the estimation noted in the log book and the weight of tuna landed in kilograms is extremely difficult, even provisionally, as demonstrated in the following graph:





Theoretical weight deviation %

Source: IEO.

11. Whereas the sanctions that have been imposed related mainly to cases of simple errors involving differences greater than 10% between the sales notes and the log book, and there is no reason to deliberately conceal the weight of tuna caught, due to the transparency that exists in this fishery. This is also demonstrated in the analysis of ICCAT's official catch data, with the example of albacore tuna:

- 2011: Spanish quota: 15 996.9 tn; catches: 8,357 tn (52%)
- 2012: Spanish quota: 14 076.4 tn; catches: 13,719 tn (97%)
- 2013: Spanish quota: 17096.8 tn; catches: 10,502 tn (61%)

WE PROPOSE

To ask the Commission to change article 14, paragraph 3 of Monitoring Regulation no. 1224/2009, allowing an exception to be made for the fisheries mentioned in the above points, and allowing a margin of tolerance of 25% between the weight and the number of albacore tuna or other tuna caught and noted in the log book and the number of albacore tuna and other tuna actually landed.

Minority opinions:

- LPN, Oceana, Seas at Risk and WWF do not support the draft opinion. The four organisations think that, on the basis of the scientific information put forward, an



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

increase in the margin of tolerance from 10% to 25% (in weight and in number of fish) may prove to be excessive and thus prevent the achievement of the desired objective. They think that there is a risk of overshooting the authorised weight/actual number of fish caught.

- The organisation PESGALICIA-ARPEGA-OBARCO and the FREMSS foundation expressed their disagreement with the specific character of this request, which should not be applied solely to the tuna fisheries. They maintain that a proposal should be included to change the margin of tolerance for all species to 20%, except for tuna which should remain at 25% as proposed in this opinion.

Origin of the opinion: Fédération de cofradías de Bizkaia

Contributions: Fédération de cofradías de Guipuzkoa, IslaTuna, JM Ortiz,

