**Original: English**

**DRAFT RESOLUTION BY ICCAT TO COMPLETE THE STANDARDIZATION**

**OF THE PRESENTATION OF SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION**

**IN THE SCRS ANNUAL REPORT**

***(Proposal by the European Union)***

*RECOGNIZING* that, in response to ICCAT Resolution 11-14, the presentation of scientific information in the Standing Committee for Research and Statistics (SCRS) annual report and inter-sessional meeting reports have significantly improved.

*NOTING*, however, that the standardization of information included in the SCRS reports with respect to the quality and reliability of input data and projections of stock status can be further enhanced;

*RECALLING* the recommendation of the Kobe II Workshop of Experts to Share Best Practices on the Provision of Scientific Advicethat the eExecutive sSummaries of scientific reports should be standardized to the extent possible;

*RECALLING* that the Kobe III Workshop of Experts on Science recognized that substantial uncertainties still remain in the assessments and recommended that the Scientific Committees and Bodies of the t-RFMOs develop research activities to better quantify the whole uncertainty and understand how uncertainty is reflected in the risk assessment inherent in the Kobe II Strategy Matrix;

*CONSIDERING* the utility of distiinguishing, where possible, between the inherent variability directly relates to features of the studiedin natural system, like (*i.e.* life history parameters) which is unavoidable, and the uncertainty related to the quality of the state of knowledge of the system and of the fishery data, which could potentially be reduced through improvements to the available data and/or the models applied (i.e. the ontic variability, non-reducible by definition) and;

*FURTHER NOTING* that the SCRS, as part of its 2015-2020 Strategic Plan for Science, will develop specific formats to provide scientific advice in line with the needs of the Commission.

*FINALLY STRESSING* that the best way to tackle uncertainties related to fisheries data consists forin CPCs in complying with their fundamental obligations of reporting basic catch and effort statistics, including reliable Task I and Task II data, in a due time to ensure their availability to the SCRS. is to

*THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION*

*OF ATLANTIC TUNAS RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:*

1. The SCRS should clearly identify sources of variability and uncertainty and clearly explain how these variability and uncertainty affect the stock assessment results and the interpretation of the Kobe II Strategy Matrices.
2. The SCRS should further enhance the standardization of information included in its reports.
3. In addition to the minimum elements required by Resolution 11-14, the SCRS should further score the quality of the fishery data and related to the knowledge of the system (e.g. biological parameters, fishery patterns history, selectivity) used as inputs to stock assessments. Quality scores on data should be detailed and should summarize the state of knowledge of the different inputs and report on:
   1. the quality, the reliability and, where relevant, the representativeness of input data and information, such as, but not limited to, (i) fisheries statistics and fisheries indicators (e.g. catch and effort, catch-at-size and catch-at-age matrices by sex and, when applicable, fisheries dependent indices of abundance), (ii) biological information (e.g. growth parameters, natural mortality, maturity and fecundity, migrations patterns and stock structure, fisheries independent indices of abundance) and (iii) complementary information (*i.e.* consistencies among available abundance indices, influence of the environmental factors on the dynamic of the stock, changes in fishing effort distribution, selectivity and fishing power, changes in target species),
   2. limitations of the assessment models used with respect to the type and the quality of the input data,
   3. potential biases in the assessment results associated with uncertainties of the input data.
4. For the purpose of paragraphs 3 and 4, the SCRS should consider a specific table or any other alternative format to be included in its annual report in association to the Kobe plot in order to summarize the information required in this resolution.

The SCRS should clearly identify sources variability and uncertainties associated with the input data and available information and specify on how these variability and uncertainties can affect the stock assessment results and the interpretation of the information provided in the Kobe II Strategy Matrices.

1. In cases where the SCRS utilizes different modeling approaches and/or scenarios (*i.a.*, sensitivity runs or alternate hypotheses) to incorporate uncertainty in stock assessments, the SCRS should clearly identify the most defensible approach or the most likely scenario (*i.e.*, 'base case') and provide the rationale for its decision. In cases where these different approaches and/or scenarios would finally be considered as equivalent, the uncertainty between the models should be accounted for in the calculation of the stock assessment parameters.