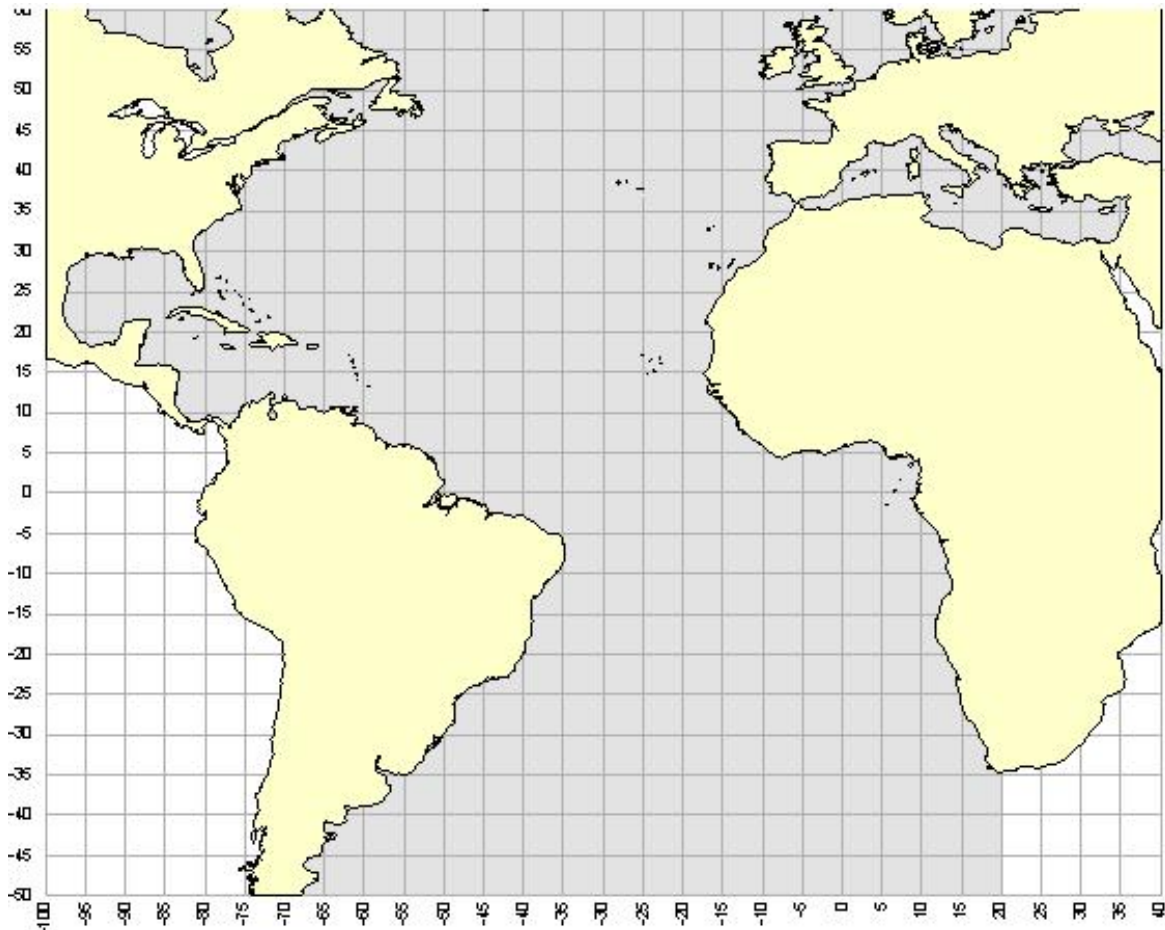


## The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) – [www.iccat.int/en/](http://www.iccat.int/en/)

The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) is responsible for the conservation of tunas and tuna-like species in the Atlantic Ocean and adjacent seas. The organization was established at a Conference of Plenipotentiaries, which prepared and adopted the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, signed in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1966. After a ratification process, the Convention entered formally into force in 1969.



**Figure 3.6:** The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) convention area which is highlighted by the dark grey squares

About 30 fish species are of direct concern to ICCAT including Atlantic bluefin, skipjack, yellowfin, albacore, swordfish, blue marlin, sailfish, mackerels such as spotted Spanish mackerel and king mackerel; and, small tunas like black skipjack, frigate tuna, and Atlantic bonito.

Through the Convention, it is established that ICCAT is the only fisheries organization that can undertake the range of work required for the study and management of tunas and tuna-like fishes in the Atlantic. Such studies include research on biometry, ecology, and oceanography, with a principal focus on the effects of fishing on stock abundance. The Commission's work requires the collection and analysis of statistical information relative to current conditions and trends of the fishery resources in the Convention area. The Commission also undertakes work in the compilation of data for other fish species that are caught during tuna fishing ("bycatch", principally sharks) in the Convention area, and which are not investigated by another international fishery organization.

The most recent advice from ICCAT (October 2009) is presented in the Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) which is available at the following web address: [http://www.iccat.int/Documents/Meetings/Docs/2009-SCRS\\_ENG.pdf](http://www.iccat.int/Documents/Meetings/Docs/2009-SCRS_ENG.pdf). This includes a report on an extension to the 2009 SCRS Meeting to consider specifically the status of Atlantic bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) populations with respect to CITES Biological Listing Criteria (e.g. evaluation of stock productivity and decline).

→ *Go to full QSR assessment report on environmental impact of fishing (publication number 465/2009)*