

## **INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION**

### **RESOLUTION ON THE MODIFICATION OF THE CONVENTION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE REPUBLIC OF COSTA RICA FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION BY MEANS OF A PROTOCOL SO THAT REGIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION ORGANIZATIONS MAY ADHERE TO THE CONVENTION**

**JUNE 1998**

The High Contracting Parties of the Convention establishing the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), meeting in La Jolla, California, on June 12, 1998, during the 61<sup>st</sup> ordinary meeting of the IATTC,

*Welcome* the declaration of the European Union for timely accession to the Convention of 1949, by which the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission was established,

*Note* that this adherence requires an amendment of the text of the Convention, and

*Invite* the High Contracting Parties of the Convention to state their position on this matter as soon as possible, by means of a note addressed to the Government of the United States in its capacity of Depository of the Convention, in order that the necessary amendment may be negotiated and adopted as soon as possible.

## APPENDIX 8

### STATEMENT BY THE COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF SOUTHERN BLUEFIN TUNA

#### BACKGROUND

The objective of the Convention for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna is to ensure, through appropriate management, the conservation and optimum utilisation of southern bluefin tuna. The Convention establishes the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin tuna, with the current membership being Australia, Japan and New Zealand.

The Commission has a responsibility for the conservation and management of southern bluefin tuna throughout its habitat range. In general terms this covers waters in the southern hemisphere between 30° and 50° south and the only known spawning ground in the Indian Ocean south of Java, Indonesia.

The Commission is required to decide upon the total allowable catch and its allocation among the Parties to the Convention unless the Commission decides upon other appropriate measures. In recent years, the total allowable catch (TAC) for Parties to the Convention has been 11,750 tonnes of which 6065 tonnes has been allocated to Japan, 5265 tonnes to Australia and 420 tonnes to New Zealand. Members are still considering the TAC for the current year.

#### ISSUES

While recent assessments suggest existing management actions have averted further stock decline, the Commission acknowledges that the SBT stock is at a level requiring rebuilding and is actively working to develop a robust and comprehensive management strategy for stock recovery.

There are a number of uncertainties relating to the assessment of the state of the SBT stock and recent meetings of the Scientific Committee have not been able to reach a consensus on the estimates of the probability of recovery of the SBT stock. Japan has programmed a pilot program of experimental fishing in 1998 with a view to obtaining data to assist in reducing some areas of uncertainty. The Commission has also agreed that an independent review of the scientific assessment process be undertaken in 1998 to establish whether improvements could be made to the scientific analysis and stock assessment processes.

While Commission members have limited catches to agreed quota levels, increased catches of SBT in recent years by non members are reducing the effectiveness of the Commission's management efforts. Non-member annual catches are now estimated to be over of 4,000 tonnes. A high priority is therefore being given to the establishment of appropriate arrangements with Indonesia, Korea and Taiwan who are not currently members of the Commission but whose fleets take significant quantities of SBT. Commission representatives held meetings with representatives from Korea and Taiwan in April 1998 to discuss possible arrangements.

The following SBT matters may be relevant to the IATTC meeting:

#### 1. SBT Data

- the CCSBT is seeking to refine its assessment of the state of the SBT stock and would welcome advice of any SBT catch and effort data collected by IATTC or its members who are not members of CCSBT.

#### 2. Cooperation with CCSBT management arrangements

- effective management of SBT requires the cooperation of all countries and entities in the implementation of the CCSBT management arrangements. To achieve this, the Commission invites any other State whose vessels engage in fishing for SBT or any other coastal State through whose exclusive economic or fishery zone SBT migrates, to join the Commission and for entities to cooperate with those management arrangements.
- the CCSBT would also welcome the opportunity to enter into cooperative arrangements with other organisations or entities to achieve the objective of the Convention.

## APPENDIX 7

### RESOLUTION

*The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)*, having responsibility for the scientific study of the tunas and tuna-like fishes of the eastern Pacific Ocean, and for recommending proposals, based on scientific evidence, for joint action by the High Contracting Parties designed to keep the populations of fishes covered by the Convention at levels of abundance that will permit the maximum sustainable catches;

*Expresses concern* that, if the carrying capacity of the fleet is allowed to increase without restriction beyond its current level, the tuna stocks in the eastern Pacific Ocean may be reduced to levels less than those capable of producing the maximum sustainable yields;

*Concludes* that measures should be taken to limit the growth in capacity of the international tuna purse-seine fleet operating in the eastern Pacific Ocean;

*Agrees* to establish, as soon as possible, a working group of its member governments, open to other governments of coastal states and other States and regional economic integration organizations whose vessels are operating in the tuna fishery in the eastern Pacific Ocean, to evaluate measures for achieving the objectives of this resolution, and to report on the results of its work to the IATTC as soon as possible. In formulating its recommendations for any such measures, both interim and long-term, the working group shall use as a basis the legitimate interests and rights of coastal states, the operational capacity of each fleet as of June 12, 1998, as well as appropriate consideration of historical participation in the fishery.