

[03-06]

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON NORTH ATLANTIC ALBACORE
CATCH LIMITS FOR THE PERIOD 2004-2006**

CONSIDERING that, to maintain the stability of the spawning stock biomass of northern albacore, the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) recommends that catches do not exceed their current level of 34,500 t;

RECALLING the importance that all fleets, in particular longliners, participating in the northern albacore fishery, submit the required data (catch, effort and catch-at-size) on their fisheries for transmission to the SCRS;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS:

1. The establishment of a Total Allowable Catch (TAC) of 34,500 t for 2004, 2005 and 2006.
2. This catch limit shall be allocated among the ICCAT Contracting Parties according to the following table:

<i>Party</i>	<i>2004, 2005 and 2006 Quota</i>
European Community	28,712 t
United States	607 t
TOTAL	29,319 t

3. With the exception of Venezuela, which is allocated a quota of 270 t, and Japan, Contracting Parties other than those mentioned in paragraph 2 shall limit their catches to 200 t.
4. Japan shall endeavour to limit its total northern albacore catches to a maximum of 4% in weight of its total bigeye tuna longline catch in the Atlantic Ocean.
5. For the non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities, the catch limit for 2004, 2005 and 2006 shall be 4,459 t*
6. All underages or overages of the quota/annual catch limit of northern albacore may be added to or shall be deducted from the quota/catch limit as follows:

<i>Year of catch</i>	<i>Adjustment year</i>
2004	2006 and/or 2007
2005	2007 and/or 2008
2006	2008 and/or 2009

However, the maximum underage that a Party may transfer in any given year shall not exceed 50% of its initial catch quota:

7. The 1998 *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Limitation of Fishing Capacity on Northern Albacore* [98-8] remains in force.
8. The SCRS shall conduct an assessment of this stock in 2005.

* This total includes a special allocation for Chinese Taipei of 4,453 t, as it has Cooperating Status.