

[03-18]

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT FOR BIGEYE TUNA
TRADE RESTRICTIVE MEASURES ON GEORGIA**

RECOGNIZING the authority and responsibility of ICCAT to manage populations of tuna and tuna-like species in the Atlantic Ocean and adjacent seas, at the international level;

NOTING the need for all non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities fishing for such species in the Atlantic Ocean or its adjacent seas to join ICCAT or to cooperate with ICCAT's conservation and management measures;

EXPRESSING CONCERN with regard to the overfished status of bigeye tuna in the Atlantic Ocean;

RECOGNIZING that large-scale longline vessels registered in Georgia are fishing in the Atlantic Oceans and are harvesting bigeye tuna;

RECALLING the adoption in 1998 of the *Resolution by ICCAT Concerning the Unreported and Unregulated Catches of Tunas by Large-Scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area* [98-18];

CALLING ATTENTION to the 2002 decision by the Commission, based on data and associated information submitted by Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities to identify Georgia pursuant to Resolution [98-18] and that the Commission duly notified Georgia of the identification and requested that it rectify the situation;

CAREFULLY REVIEWING the information regarding efforts by the Commission to obtain the cooperation of Georgia since the 2002 meeting, including information that Georgia has taken insufficient action to rectify the situation and continues to operate in a manner that diminishes the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures by, *inter alia*, increasing harvests of bigeye tuna and failing to control effectively the large-scale longline vessels that appear on the ICCAT list of vessels believed to engaged in illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing activities in the ICCAT Convention area and other areas.

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

1. Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities take appropriate measures consistent with the provisions of the Resolution [98-18] to the effect that the import of Atlantic bigeye tuna and its products in any form from Georgia be prohibited effective from the time this Recommendation enters into force.
2. Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities lift the import prohibitions on Georgia upon the decision of the Commission and receipt of notification from the ICCAT Executive Secretary that fishing practices of Georgia have been brought into conformity with ICCAT measures.
3. The Commission again request Georgia to cooperate with ICCAT by ensuring that vessels entitled to fly its flag fish in a manner consistent with ICCAT conservation and management measures and by providing catch statistics in accordance with ICCAT procedures.
4. The Commission continue to encourage participation by Georgia in ICCAT meetings.