

[03-20]

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON CRITERIA FOR ATTAINING THE STATUS
OF COOPERATING NON-CONTRACTING PARTY, ENTITY OR FISHING ENTITY IN ICCAT**

RECALLING the *Resolution by ICCAT on Coordination with Non-Contracting Parties* [94-6] adopted at the Commission's 9th Special Meeting in 1994 and the *Resolution by ICCAT on Becoming a Cooperating Party, Entity or Fishing Entity* [01-17] adopted at the 17th Regular Meeting in 2001;

RECOGNIZING the continuing need to encourage non-Contracting Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities with vessels fishing for ICCAT species in the Convention area to implement ICCAT conservation measures;

RECOGNIZING the need for clear criteria to enable non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities whose vessels fish for ICCAT species in the ICCAT Convention area to attain the status of Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity;

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

1. Each year, the Executive Secretary of ICCAT shall contact all non-Contracting Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities known to be fishing in the Convention area for species under ICCAT competence to urge them to become a Contracting Party to ICCAT or to attain the status of a Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity. In doing so, the Executive Secretary shall provide a copy of all relevant Recommendations and Resolutions adopted by the Commission.
2. Any non-Contracting Party, Entity, or Fishing Entity that seeks to be accorded the status of a Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity shall apply to the Executive Secretary. Requests must be received by the Executive Secretary no later than ninety (90) days in advance of an ICCAT annual meeting, to be considered at that meeting.
3. Non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities requesting the status of Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity shall provide the following information in order to have this status considered by the Commission:
 - a) where available, data on its historical fisheries in the Convention area, including nominal catches, number/type of vessels, name of fishing vessels, fishing effort and fishing areas;
 - b) all the data that Contracting Parties have to submit to ICCAT based on the Recommendations adopted by ICCAT;
 - c) details on current fishing presence in the Convention area, number of vessels and vessel characteristics and;
 - d) information on any research programs it may have conducted in the Convention area and the information and the results of this research.
4. An applicant for Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity Status shall also:
 - a) confirm its commitment to respect the Commission's conservation and management measures and;
 - b) inform ICCAT of the measures it takes to ensure compliance by its vessels with ICCAT conservation and management measures .
5. The Commission's Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (hereinafter PWG) shall be responsible for reviewing requests for Cooperating Status and for recommending to the Commission whether or not an applicant should receive Cooperating Status. In this review, the PWG shall also consider information regarding the applicant available from other Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) as well as data submission of the applicant to the Commission. Caution shall be used so as not to introduce into the Convention area the excessive fishing capacity of other regions or IUU fishing activities in granting Cooperating Status to the applicant.
6. Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entity status shall be annually reviewed and renewed unless revoked by the Commission due to non-compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures.
7. The *Resolution by ICCAT on Becoming a Cooperating Party, Entity or Fishing Entity* [01-17], adopted at the 2001 Commission meeting, is substituted by this Recommendation.