

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT
CONCERNING THE WESTERN ATLANTIC BLUEFIN TUNA REBUILDING PROGRAM
AND THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR
BLUEFIN TUNA IN THE EASTERN ATLANTIC AND MEDITERRANEAN**

NOTING that the 2002 amendment to the 1998 *Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Rebuilding Program for Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna* [Rec. 98-07] established a quota sharing arrangement for the United States, Japan, and Canada only through 2004,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that the next assessment of Atlantic bluefin tuna was scheduled for 2004 in the 2002 *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning a Multi-year Conservation and Management Plan for Bluefin in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean* [Rec. 02-08],

CONSIDERING the on-going work of the Working Group to Develop Integrated and Coordinated Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Management Strategies,

DESIRING to align stock management discussions with new scientific advice and, in the meantime, to extend for one year existing management measures which support the western Atlantic bluefin tuna rebuilding program,

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

- 1 The provisions of the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Conservation of Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna* [Rec. 02-07], which amend the *Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Rebuilding Program for Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna* [Rec. 98-07], be extended through 2006.
- 2 All other operative paragraphs of Recommendation 98-07 as amended by Recommendation 02-07 remain unchanged.
- 3 The 3^d Meeting of the Working Group to Develop Integrated and Coordinated Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Management Strategies take place in April 2005 in Japan. Its primary objective will be to develop a range of future alternative management approaches which will be submitted to the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) for its opinion. The Commission will review at its 2005 Meeting the SCRS Report, notably on the feasibility and implications of those alternative management approaches.
- 4 In 2006, the SCRS will conduct the stock assessment for bluefin tuna for the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean and western Atlantic and provide advice to the Commission on the appropriate management measures, *inter alia*, on total allowable catch levels for those stocks for future years. This provision amends paragraph 6 of Recommendation 02-08.
- 5 At its 2006 meeting, the Commission will consider the distribution of the total allowable catch among Contracting Parties in the western Atlantic and make any necessary changes for future management periods.