

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT
CONCERNING THE LIFTING OF TRADE SANCTIONS AGAINST EQUATORIAL GUINEA**

RECOGNIZING ICCAT's responsibility as concerns the management of tuna and tuna-like stocks in the Atlantic and adjacent seas, in an international scope;

RECALLING the decisions adopted by the Commission in 1999 (ICCAT Recommendation concerning Equatorial Guinea in accordance with the *Recommendation Regarding Compliance in the Bluefin Tuna and North Atlantic Swordfish Fisheries*" [Rec. 99-10]) and in 2000 (*Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding Equatorial Guinea Pursuant to the 1998 Resolution Concerning the Unreported and Unregulated Catches of Tuna by Large-scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area* [Rec. 00-16]) to prohibit, respectively, the imports of Atlantic bluefin tuna, Atlantic bigeye and their products from Equatorial Guinea,

CONSIDERING that Equatorial Guinea has demonstrated in an irrefutable manner that the vessels which motivated the adoption of the aforementioned ICCAT Recommendations were not licensed or flagged by Equatorial Guinea;

INDICATING SATISFACTION with regard to the measures adopted by Equatorial Guinea through Decree No. 33/2004 of 17 May, canceling the licenses and flags attributed to Equatorial Guinea of all registered or unregistered vessels in this country, as well as the collaboration requested from all the Contracting Parties to intervene and immobilize these vessels, informing Equatorial Guinea to take the corresponding legal actions;

CONSIDERING that on 23 August 2004 the Minister of Fisheries of Equatorial Guinea presented to the ICCAT Secretariat in Madrid the package of actions undertaken by this country to guarantee compliance with the ICCAT conservation and management measures, and requested the lifting of the trade sanctions against Equatorial Guinea;

EXAMINING IN DETAIL during its 2004 meeting the actions undertaken by Equatorial Guinea, and considering that the action of this country is in accordance with the ICCAT conservation and management measures,

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

- 1 Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (CPCs) shall lift the import prohibitions on Atlantic bigeye tuna and Atlantic bluefin tuna and their products that were imposed on Equatorial Guinea pursuant to the 1999 and 2000 Recommendations.
- 2 Notwithstanding the provisions of Article VIII, paragraph 2, of the Convention, the CPCs shall implement this Recommendation as soon as possible in accordance with their regulatory procedures.
- 3 The ICCAT Secretariat continue providing Equatorial Guinea with the technical assistance necessary for the implementation of a statistical-fishing data system so that this country can fully adapt to the ICCAT requirements concerning the submission of statistical data.