

06-19

TOR

RESOLUTION BY ICCAT TO ESTABLISH A CAPACITY WORKING GROUP

RECALLING that the Commission's management objective is to maintain populations of tuna and tuna-like species at levels that will support maximum sustainable yield and that, to this end, several conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission currently contain capacity limits;

FURTHER RECALLING that the immediate objective of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) International Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity (IPOA-Capacity) is for States and regional fisheries organizations to achieve world-wide an efficient, equitable and transparent management of fishing capacity with particular priority on highly migratory fisheries;

NOTING the recommendations of the 2006 FAO Workshop on the Management of Tuna Fishing Capacity;

RECOGNIZING that some stocks under ICCAT jurisdiction are fully or overfished;

RECALLING the recent recommendations of the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement (UNFSA) Review Conference (May 2006) and other international fisheries meetings regarding fishing capacity;

AGREEING that overcapacity can threaten the achievement of ICCAT's conservation and management objectives;

GIVEN the need to assess and address overcapacity in fleets participating in many ICCAT fisheries and seeking eventually to develop effective ways to address this problem in a comprehensive manner;

RECOGNIZING that Article 5 of FAO's Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and Article 10 of the IPOA-Capacity note the need to enhance the ability of developing countries to develop their own fisheries as well as to participate in high seas fisheries, including access to such fisheries;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

1. A Capacity Working Group is established and will meet as early as possible in 2007 at a place to be determined by the Commission. The Working Group has the following terms of reference:
 - a) to determine by fishery the availability of the data required to assess fishing capacity and appropriate methodologies to measure fishing capacity based on available data;
 - b) to review and assess the level of fishing capacity for ICCAT managed species by country/fleet/gear/fishery in light of the status of the resources, as indicated in SCRS assessments with a priority focus on bluefin tuna, including caging activities;
 - c) to review the CPUE data and other relevant information in order to evaluate the relationship between capacity levels and available fishing possibilities.
 - d) In light of the outcomes of points 1(a)-(c) above, the Working Group may, if necessary, develop guidelines for managing fishing capacity in ICCAT fisheries for consideration by the Commission, *inter alia*, taking into account the needs of developing countries while ensuring the sustainable and equitable use of tuna and tuna-like resources;
2. Prior to the first meeting of the Working Group, CPCs shall submit to the Secretariat available information to be used in an assessment of fishing capacity including, but not limited to, the following:
 - a) Inputs in terms of numbers of vessels, vessel characteristics, fishing operational characteristics, and any other relevant information;
 - b) Information on the types of measures and approaches used by the CPCs to manage fishing capacity;

3. At the 2007 annual meeting, the Working Group will report the progress of deliberations and, as appropriate, present proposals for next steps to the Commission.
4. The SCRS should provide the Working Group with relevant information on short- and long-term stock conditions and harvest levels in ICCAT fisheries for the most recent year(s) available, and data on effort and CPUE by flag, gear, season and area, in advance of the 2007 Working Group meeting to assist deliberations.
5. The Working Group should be supported by the ICCAT Secretariat staff. Broad representation from ICCAT's CPCs is encouraged, including by relevant experts in the field.
6. The Working Group could also draw upon the technical work (and expertise) of relevant intergovernmental organizations as well as the work of other regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs). The results of the joint tuna RFMO meeting in January 2007 should also be taken into account.