

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON NORTH ATLANTIC ALBACORE
CATCH LIMITS FOR THE PERIOD 2008-2009**

NOTING the SCRS advice advocating reductions in current fishing levels to ensure sustainability of the stocks;

AWARE that the system of carry-over of 50% of underages has substantially contributed to what the SCRS considered as overfishing;

CONCIENTIOUS of the need therefore to respond to the SCRS advice on reduction of fishing levels it is necessary to adjust the system of carry-over of underages in this Multi-annual Plan;

RECALLING the importance that all fleets participating in the northern albacore fishery, submit the required data (catch, effort and catch-at-size) on their fisheries for transmission to the SCRS;

CONCIENTIOUS of the desirability of obtaining a new scientific advice in the short term;

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

1. The establishment of a Total Allowable Catch (TAC) of 30,200 t for 2008 and 2009.
2. This catch limit shall be allocated among the ICCAT Contracting Parties according to the following table:

<i>Party</i>	<i>2008 and 2009 Quota</i>
European Community	25,462 t
United States	538 t
TOTAL	26,000 t

3. With the exception of Venezuela, which is allocated a quota of 250 t, and Japan, Contracting Parties other than those mentioned in paragraph 2 shall limit their catches to 200 t.
4. Japan shall endeavour to limit its total northern albacore catches to a maximum of 4% in weight of its total bigeye tuna longline catch in the Atlantic Ocean.
5. For Chinese Taipei, the catch limit for 2008 and 2009 shall be 3,950 t¹.
6. Any unused portion or excess of the annual quota/catch limit may be added to/shall be deducted from, according to the case, the respective quota/catch limit during or before the adjustment year, in the following way:

<i>Year of catch</i>	<i>Adjustment year</i>
2008	2010 and/or 2011
2009	2011 and/or 2012

However, the maximum underage that a Party may transfer in any given year shall not exceed 25% of its initial catch quota.

7. The 1998 *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Limitation of Fishing Capacity on Northern Albacore* [Rec. 98-08] remains in force.
8. The SCRS shall conduct an assessment of this stock in 2009.

¹ Chinese Taipei will each year transfer 100 t from its catch allocation to St. Vincent and the Grenadines.