

RESOLUTION BY ICCAT ON TRACEABILITY OF TUNA PRODUCTS

RECALLING that ICCAT introduced a Statistical Document Program for bluefin, bigeye and swordfish to improve the reliability of catch data;

ALSO RECALLING that the Statistical Document Program for bluefin was later converted to a Catch Document Scheme to deter IUU activities in the bluefin tuna fisheries and this scheme has been working well;

CONCERNED that IUU fishing is still one of the impediments to sustainable use of tuna resources;

ALSO CONCERNED that the Statistical Document Program for bigeye does not cover fresh products and catch destined to canneries, which could be a loophole for IUU fishing;

CONSIDERING, however, that a catch documentation scheme requires a large amount of financial and human resources;

RECOGNIZING that a certain type of traceability system which would require less resource is still likely to detect IUU fishing;

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

1. ICCAT should discuss a traceability system for all the products of bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack tunas at an inter-sessional working group such as an Integrated Monitoring Measures Working Group with a view to adopting the introduction of such a system at the 2012 Commission meeting.
2. In discussing the system, ICCAT should take into account existing traceability systems for fishery products, particularly those already implemented by developing countries to cope with the requirement of major foreign markets.