

**RESOLUTION BY ICCAT ON A PROGRAM OF WORK
FOR THE WORKING GROUP ON THE FUTURE OF ICCAT**

RECALLING the 2005 *Resolution by ICCAT to Strengthen ICCAT* [Res. 05-10], calling for the Commission to review its conservation and management program and develop a workplan to address the strengthening of the organization, and the 2006 *Resolution by ICCAT to Strengthen ICCAT* [Res. 06-18] establishing the Working Group on the Future of ICCAT to review the Convention and, notably, to evaluate its compatibility with developments in international law since the adoption of the Convention in 1966;

BEARING IN MIND that pursuant to the Terms of Reference of the Working Group on the Future of ICCAT, annexed to Res. 06-18, the Working Group should evaluate the ICCAT Convention and other ICCAT instruments, including Recommendations and Resolutions and make recommendations in order to strengthen ICCAT;

CONSIDERING the Report of the Working Group on the Future of ICCAT for its first meeting in Sapporo, Japan, August 31 to September 3, 2009 and the Report of the second meeting of the Working Group on the Future of ICCAT, which took place in Madrid, Spain, May 16 to 20, 2011, and noting in particular the progress achieved at those two meetings to identify a number of priority issues that should be considered in amending ICCAT's *Basic Texts*, or updating and adopting further conservation and management measures;

RECALLING that, at the conclusion of the second meeting of the Working Group, there was no consensus to recommend that the Commission undertake an immediate exercise to draft amendments to the Convention, and that instead, the Working Group requested its Chair to prepare, with input from CPCs, an analysis paper assessing the legal, management and policy implications of the various approaches available to the Commission in addressing the priority issues previously identified, including the potential benefits, disadvantages and procedural aspects involved;

WELCOMING in this regard, the paper entitled: Analysis of Issues for the Strengthening of ICCAT and acknowledging the significant contribution it makes to further the discussion on improving the work of the Commission;

RECALLING that in the report of its second meeting, the Working Group requested the Commission to consider the analysis paper and comments by CPCs and decide on the next steps needed to achieve progress in improving the Basic Texts and recommendations of ICCAT and that the Commission also consider whether to continue this Working Group and, if so, whether any changes to its terms of reference were needed.

NOTING that three CPCs have provided input into the analysis paper from the Chair of the Working Group and one had provided additional comments before the annual meeting and acknowledging that CPCs might require additional time to consider the analysis paper and undertake consultations domestically.

RECOGNIZING the need to continue discussions within the context of the Working Group to build consensus on the priorities to be addressed to strengthen ICCAT, on the approaches to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Commission and on the desired outcomes of potential modifications to ICCAT's Basic Texts or decisions;

DESIRING to provide some guidance to the program of work of the Working Group on the Future of ICCAT, as called for in Resolution 06-18;

REITERATING that the strengthening of ICCAT is a matter of priority;

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

1. A third meeting of the Working Group on the Future of ICCAT should be convened in 2012 in advance of the 18th Special Meeting of the Commission;

2. At this third meeting, the Working Group should discuss concrete proposals to address the priority issues identified during the first two meetings of the Working Group on the Future of ICCAT with a view to making recommendations to the Commission at the 18th Special Meeting to achieve progress on strengthening ICCAT.
3. The reports from the previous meetings of the Working Group on the Future of ICCAT, the analysis paper from the Chair of the Working Group and proposals elaborated by the Contracting and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities (CPCs) described in **Annex 1** shall provide the basis for discussion at this third meeting of the Working Group.
4. In order to propose recommendations to 18th Special Meeting of the Commission, the Working Group should seek to build consensus among the participants on priority issues which the Commission should address to strengthen ICCAT as well as the desired mechanism for and outcomes of a proposed modification including amendments to the Convention.
5. The Commission should review the current program of work at its 18th Special Meeting.

Proposals by CPCs

In order to facilitate the work of the Working Group at its third meeting, CPCs should prepare proposals addressing a priority issue for strengthening ICCAT, as follows:

1. CPCs should indicate to the Secretariat, which issues or areas they intend to work on, by December 31, 2011. The Secretariat will combine this information into a list and circulate to all CPCs by January 15, 2012;
2. CPCs should prepare their proposals with a view of achieving consensus among CPCs on addressing the priority issues identified by the Working Group and submit them to the Secretariat for circulation to all CPCs at least 45 days in advance of the meeting of the Working Group. CPCs interested in preparing proposals on the same issues should coordinate and collaborate on joint proposals to the extent possible.
3. The proposals should address:
 - Objectives and desired outcomes of a proposed initiative to address a particular priority issue;
 - Mechanisms envisaged for the proposed initiative (modifying Basic Texts, decisions of the Commission or both), and;
 - Potential legal, management and policy implications associated with the proposal;
 - Possible drafting suggestions for eventual amendments to Basic Texts or for decisions of the Commission, as appropriate.
4. Interested parties may submit comments to authors of a proposal at least 30 days in advance of the meeting of the Working Group for their integration, as appropriate, in a revised proposal.
5. CPCs should submit revised proposals to the Secretariat for circulation to all CPCs at least 15 days in advance of the meeting of the Working Group.
6. Nothing in the above should prevent CPCs from making proposals on additional issues at any stage of the process.