

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON A PROCESS TOWARDS THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF A CATCH CERTIFICATION SCHEME FOR TUNA AND TUNA-LIKE SPECIES**

RECOGNIZING the impact that market factors have on the fishery;

CONCERNED by the impact that illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing has in the ICCAT Convention area;

REITERATING the responsibilities of flag States to ensure that their vessels conduct their fishing activities in a responsible manner, fully respecting ICCAT conservation and management measures;

NOTING the need for improved and strict control on all the components involved in the tuna and tuna-like species fisheries;

UNDERLINING the complementary role that importing States also have in the control of the catches of tuna and tuna-like species to ensure compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures;

RECALLING ICCAT's statistical document program for bigeye tuna and swordfish and their objectives;

RECOGNIZING that properly tracing tuna and tuna-like species from the point of capture to their final import has significant operational and technical aspects that would need to be addressed for any effective catch certification scheme;

COMMITTED to taking steps that conform with international law, notably as regards the World Trade Organization (WTO), and to ensure that tuna and tuna-like species entering markets of Contracting and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (CPCs) of ICCAT and non-members of ICCAT is caught in the Convention area in a manner that does not diminish the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures;

CONSIDERING the discussions on traceability system in the 7th Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (hereinafter referred to as the 7th IMM WG),

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

1. The next meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures in 2013 shall address technical and practical issues associated with the development of a Catch Certificate Scheme for tuna and tuna-like species, taking into consideration Appendix 3 of the Report on the 7th IMM WG and taking into account the following factors:
 - i) The conservation status of ICCAT species/stocks;
 - ii) Monitoring and control measures currently in place, including catch and trade tracking programs, and their effectiveness and utility;
 - iii) Which species, stocks, ocean areas, and/or fisheries would most benefit from additional monitoring and control measures, and which approaches or tools, including catch certification schemes, could best be used to enhance the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures;
 - iv) How ICCAT fisheries are conducted (e.g., fishing grounds, gear types, transshipment activities, harvesting CPCs, etc);
 - v) The ways in which products from ICCAT fisheries are processed, transported, and traded;
 - vi) The overall level of trade by species and product type as well as the CPCs and non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (NCPs) involved;
 - vii) Operational issues, capacity requirements, and costs associated with various monitoring and control approaches, including data collection, submission, handling, analysis, reconciliation and dissemination associated with catch certification schemes and options for addressing the costs; and

- viii) Any other relevant issues or information.
2. The Commission shall also hold a Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures meeting in 2014 to review the draft recommendation on catch certification in Appendix 3 of the Report of the 7th IMM WG and consider the development of catch certification schemes in light of the results of the discussions on paragraph 1 above.
 3. In considering matters mentioned in paragraphs 1 and 2, CPCs shall take into account the progress of developments of the Electronic Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation (eBCD) programme and each CPC's experience of existing catch documentation schemes.
 4. The Commission at its 2014 Annual Meeting shall consider any draft recommendations on catch certification schemes for tuna species for their adoption with a view to implementing such scheme in 2015.