

**- RECOMMENDATION -
ON BIGEYE TUNA CONSERVATION MEASURES**

TITLE: *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Bigeye Tuna Conservation Measures*
(Entered into force: **August 26, 2001**, except for **China**
who presented an objection and reaffirmed their objection)

RECALLING that in 1997 the Commission urged parties to reduce catches of bigeye tuna to levels below maximum sustainable yield (MSY);

RECOGNIZING that in 1998 the Commission requested that the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) develop stock rebuilding scenarios to levels that support MSY;

RECALLING the 1998 *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Bigeye Tuna Conservation Measures for Fishing Vessels Larger Than 24 Meters Length Overall (LOA)* limiting the number of the fishing vessels, which will fish for bigeye tuna in the Convention Area, to the average number of its fishing vessels actually having fished for bigeye tuna in the Convention area for the two years of 1991 and 1992;

CONSIDERING the importance of establishing interim measures pending the development of a stock rebuilding plan;

EXPRESSING CONCERN that several states have increased the number of their large-scale tuna longline fishing vessels and their bigeye catches drastically;

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

- 1 Each Contracting Party and Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity shall, in 2001, limit their catch of Atlantic bigeye tuna to the average of the catch of bigeye tuna taken by all their vessels in the two years of 1991 and 1992.
- 2 Notwithstanding the paragraph above,
 - a China shall limit, in 2001, its catch of Atlantic bigeye tuna to 4,000 MT. China shall make every effort to limit the number of its fishing vessels fishing for Atlantic bigeye tuna to 30, while the overall number of its vessels registered with the Commission be frozen at 60 for 2001 and thereafter, unless the Commission decides otherwise. The catch and the number of the fishing vessels of China will be reviewed before the 2001 Commission annual meeting.
 - b The Commission shall request Chinese Taipei to limit, in 2001, its catch of Atlantic bigeye tuna to 16,500 MT and the number of its fishing vessels fishing for Atlantic bigeye tuna to 125.
 - c The Commission shall request the Philippines to limit, in 2001 and thereafter, the number of its fishing vessels fishing for Atlantic bigeye tuna to five (5).
- 3 The provision of paragraph 1 will not apply to Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities whose reported 1999 catch, as provided to the SCRS in 2000, was less than 2,100 MT.
- 4 Underages/overages of the 2001 catch limit for bigeye tuna may be added to/must be subtracted from the 2002 and/or 2003 catch limits for bigeye tuna.
- 5 The SCRS shall include in its next assessment of the Atlantic bigeye stock, possible recovery scenarios, including specific TAC recommendations, with the goal of rebuilding Atlantic bigeye tuna to biomass levels that will support MSY.