

**SUPPLEMENTAL RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON BLUEFIN TUNA
RESEARCH IN THE CENTRAL NORTH ATLANTIC OCEAN**

GIVEN that at its 1998 meeting the Commission adopted a 20-year rebuilding program for bluefin tuna in the West Atlantic;

CONSIDERING that the uncertainty associated with the boundary between the east and west management units for bluefin tuna highlights the need for sound management in both the east and west Atlantic;

NOTING the 2000 Recommendation by this Commission to support research in the central north Atlantic, and the subsequent research conducted in 2001 and reported to the SCRS;

DESIRING to continue to support this important research in the central north Atlantic Ocean:

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

1. The Commission continue to endorse the recommendation of the ICCAT Bluefin Year Program and the 2000 Workshop on the Biology of Bluefin Tuna in the Mid-Atlantic regarding new research on bluefin tuna in the central north Atlantic;
2. All Contracting Parties, Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities undertake to consider providing funding or other logistical support in order to conduct this critical scientific endeavor;
3. Participants in this research be exempt from the Commission's conservation measures for up to 15 MT of bluefin tuna annually and up to 15 MT annually of other tunas and tuna-like species taken incidentally during the research in 2002 and future years; and
4. The United Kingdom on behalf of the Overseas Territory of Bermuda assign exemptions, in accordance with Paragraph 3, to participants in the research such that the objectives of the research are fulfilled to the extent possible, and report to the Commission annually.