

[02-04]

**RESOLUTION BY ICCAT
FOR THE EVALUATION OF SMALL SWORDFISH MORTALITY**

HIGHLIGHTING that about 75 percent of the current stock biomass of North Atlantic swordfish is comprised of age 1 - 4 fish;

RECOGNIZING that the mature swordfish population, which declined dramatically during the 1990s, remained virtually unchanged from its historic low until the beginning of 2001;

CONSIDERING that recent strong year classes have not yet substantially recruited to the spawning population;

RECALLING the repeated advice of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) for Contracting Parties to reduce their catches of undersized swordfish for the purpose of increasing the yield and spawning stock biomass in accordance with repeated Recommendations of the Commission; and

EMPHASIZING that precaution dictates against allowing large increases in the total allowable catch of North Atlantic swordfish to result in a substantial increase in the mortality of immature swordfish;

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

1. The SCRS should monitor and analyze the effects on the mortality of immature swordfish, the stock, and fishing activities of the new management measures for North Atlantic swordfish for 2003 and 2004. The SCRS should report the results of the analysis to the Commission at the 2005 meeting.
2. The Commission should consider the result of the SCRS analysis and adopt, if necessary, additional measures at the 2005 meeting of the Commission.