

[02-05]

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON
NORTH ATLANTIC ALBACORE CATCH LIMITS**

CONSIDERING that, to maintain the stability of the spawning stock biomass of northern albacore, the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) recommends that for 2003 catches do not exceed their current level of 34,500 MT;

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

1. The establishment of a Total Allowable Catch (TAC) of 34,500 MT for 2003.
2. This catch limit shall be allocated among the ICCAT Contracting Parties according to the following table:

<i>Party</i>	<i>2003 Quota</i>
European Community	28,712 MT
United States	607 MT
TOTAL	29,319 MT

3. With the exception of Venezuela, which is allocated a quota of 270 MT, and Japan, Contracting Parties other than those mentioned in paragraph 2 above shall limit their catches to 200 MT.
4. Japan shall endeavor to limit its total northern albacore catches to a maximum of 4% in weight of its total bigeye tuna longline catch in the Atlantic Ocean
5. For the non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities, the catch limit for 2003 shall be 4,459 MT*.
6. All underages or overages of the quota/annual catch limit of northern albacore shall be deducted from or may be added to the quota/catch limit for the year 2004 and/or 2005.
7. The 1998 *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Limitation of Fishing Capacity on Northern Albacore* remains in force.

* This total includes a special allocation for Chinese Taipei of 4,453, as it has cooperating status.