

[02-06]

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON THE SOUTHERN ALBACORE
CATCH LIMIT AND SHARING ARRANGEMENT FOR 2003**

NOTING that the current best estimate of the replacement yield of the southern albacore resource is 29,200 MT;

NOTING FURTHER the failure of the 2001 catch monitoring arrangement to limit southern albacore catches within the established Total Allowable Catch (TAC) level during 2001;

RECOGNIZING the need to develop and agree on sharing arrangements for southern albacore based on the 2001 *ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities*;

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

1. The total catch limit for albacore caught in the Atlantic Ocean south of 5° N be set at 29,200 MT for 2003, this being the current best estimate of the replacement yield of the stock.
2. For the purpose of this recommendation, Brazil, Namibia, South Africa and Chinese Taipei be considered to be Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities fishing actively for southern albacore. All other Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities shall be considered to be not actively fishing for southern albacore, whether taking albacore as a target species or by-catch.
3. The catch limit for southern albacore caught by those Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities fishing actively for southern albacore be set at 27,500 MT for 2003.
4. Those Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities fishing actively for southern albacore make every effort to improve their catch reporting systems to ensure the reporting of all southern albacore catches during 2003 to the ICCAT Secretariat within two months of those catches having been made.
5. The ICCAT Secretariat notify all those Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities referred to in paragraph 2 above when a cumulative catch level of 22,000 MT is reached, that being 80% of their catch limit of 27,500 MT.
6. Those Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities referred to in paragraph 2 above immediately initiate multi-lateral discussions when the 22,000 MT warning level is reached, in order to decide on steps to be taken to prevent total catches by those Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities from exceeding their 27,500 MT catch limit.
7. Those Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities referred to in paragraph 2 above immediately implement measures to stop fishing for southern albacore when their established catch limit of 27,500 MT is reached, so as to ensure that the limit is not exceeded.
8. Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities not actively fishing for southern albacore and having caught, on average, less than 100 MT of southern albacore per year during 1992-1996 be subject to a catch limit of 100 MT.
9. Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities not fishing actively for southern albacore and having caught, on average, more than 100 MT of southern albacore during 1992-1996, but excluding Japan, shall be subject to an annual catch limit of 110% of their respective average 1992 - 1996 catches of albacore in the Atlantic Ocean south of 5° N.

10. Japan endeavor to limit its total catch of southern albacore to 4% by weight of its total longline bigeye tuna catch in the Atlantic Ocean south of 5° N.
11. No provision shall be made for carry-over of any under-harvests made under this sharing arrangement.
12. Those Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities fishing for southern albacore participate in inter-sessional activities to develop and agree on sharing formulae based on the *ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities* adopted in 2001. These activities should include an exchange of sharing formulae proposals and, if possible, an inter-sessional meeting to discuss and finalize proposed sharing formulae before the 2003 meeting of Panel 3.
13. The southern albacore catch limit and sharing arrangement be reviewed and revised at the 2003 ICCAT Commission meeting, based on the outcome of the updated southern albacore assessment to be conducted in 2003, and the inter-sessional process to develop sharing formulae based on the ICCAT allocation criteria.
14. This recommendation replaces, in its entirety, the 2001 *Recommendation by ICCAT on Revision and Sharing of the Southern Albacore Catch Limit*.