[02-14]

RESOLUTION BY ICCAT
ON INCIDENTAL MORTALITY OF SEABIRDS

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the FAO International Plan of Action for Reducing the Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries;

RECOGNIZING the need to evaluate the incidental mortality of seabirds during longline fishing operations for tunas and tuna-like species;

NOTING that fisheries other than longline fisheries targeting tuna and tuna-like species may also contribute to the incidental mortality of seabirds;

FURTHER NOTING that other factors, such as swallowing marine debris, are also responsible for seabird mortality.

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

1. Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities should inform the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS), if appropriate, and Commission of the status of their National Plans of Action for Reducing Incidental Catches of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries. All are strongly urged to implement, if appropriate, the International Plan of Action for Reducing Incidental Catches of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries if they have not already done so.

2. Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities should be encouraged to collect and voluntarily provide SCRS with all available information on interactions with seabirds, including incidental catches in all fisheries under the purview of ICCAT.

3. When feasible and appropriate, SCRS should present to the Commission an assessment of the impact of incidental catch of seabirds resulting from the activities of all the vessels fishing for tunas and tuna-like species, in the Convention Area.