

**- RECOMMENDATION -  
ICCAT BLUEFIN TUNA STATISTICAL  
DOCUMENT PROGRAM (BTSD): FRESH PRODUCTS**

**TITLE: *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Implementation of the  
ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program on Fresh Products*  
(Entered into force: **May 31, 1994**)**

*RECALLING* the Recommendation concerning the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program adopted at the Eighth Special Meeting of the Commission (Madrid, November, 1992);

*NOTING* that at the initial stage of the Program, the document has been required for frozen bluefin tuna products;

*RECOGNIZING* that the inclusion of fresh bluefin tuna products in implementing the Program is essential to collect all bluefin trade data by this Program;

*RECOGNIZING* that fresh bluefin tuna products require prompt handling to avoid deterioration of their quality;

*NOTING* that many countries which export fresh bluefin tuna to ICCAT Contracting Parties do not apply a tagging system, an ICCAT-accepted logbook or an information retrieval system which grants a waiver of government validation of the bluefin statistical document;

*NOTING* that arrangements in such exporting countries to meet the Criteria which are appended to the ICCAT Resolution Concerning Validation by a Government Official of the Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document, which was adopted by the Commission at its Thirteenth Regular Meeting (Madrid, November 1993) are indispensable to avoid deterioration of the quality of the bluefin tuna products, while providing statistics to the Commission;

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

1. The Contracting Parties, no later than June 1, 1994, require all fresh bluefin tuna, when imported into the territory of a Contracting Party or at the first entry into a regional economic organization, be accompanied by an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document, which meets the requirements described in the "Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program", and supplemented by the "ICCAT Resolution Concerning Validation by a Government Official of the Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document". If, whenever required, a government official is unable to validate the Document, the Document may be accepted if properly prepared by the exporter;
2. The special provision for exception of government validation of the Statistical Document, as provided in paragraph 1 above, shall terminate on December 1, 1994.
3. Notwithstanding the provisions of Article VIII, paragraph 2 of the ICCAT Convention, the Executive Secretary shall immediately transmit the above to those non-Contracting Parties who have a recent record of export of fresh bluefin tuna to the Contracting Parties, and urge them to make the necessary arrangements so that government validation is provided to the Document or make the necessary arrangements to obtain ICCAT acceptance of an ICCAT-accepted logbook or ICCAT-accepted information retrieval system according to the Criteria that are appended to the "ICCAT Resolution Concerning Validation by a Government Official of the Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document".