

**- RESOLUTION -  
INTERPRETATION & APPLICATION OF BTSD PROGRAM**

**TITLE: *Resolution by ICCAT on Interpretation and Application of the  
ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program \****  
(Transmitted to Contracting Parties: **January 23, 1995**)

*BEARING* in mind the Recommendation Concerning the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program adopted at the Eighth Special Meeting of the Commission (Madrid, November 1992);

*RECALLING* the Recommendation Concerning the Implementation of the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program on Fresh Products adopted at the Thirteenth Regular Meeting (Madrid, November 1993);

*RECALLING FURTHER* the Resolution Concerning Validation by a Government Official of the Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document adopted at the Thirteenth Regular Meeting (Madrid, November 1993);

*STRESSING* the necessity of preparing complete documents in exporting countries to provide adequate statistics to ICCAT;

*AND RECOGNIZING* the need to clarify the requirements regarding validation of statistical documents;

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

- 1 The Recommendation Concerning the ICCAT Bluefin tuna Statistical Document Program adopted at the Eighth Special Meeting of the Commission (Madrid 1992) shall apply to all bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*).
- 2 Upon importation into the territory of a Contracting Party or first entry into a regional economic organization, all bluefin tuna shall be accompanied by an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document. There is no waiver of this requirement.
- 3 Each Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document shall be validated by a government official unless all bluefin tuna available for sale:
  - a) are tagged by the exporting state or entity;
  - b) are recorded in an ICCAT-accepted logbook; or
  - c) are recorded in an ICCAT-accepted information retrieval system.

In the case of (b) and (c), validation by an institution accredited by the government is required.

- 4 Summary of catch statistics of bluefin tuna other than Atlantic bluefin tuna need not be provided to ICCAT in order to receive an acceptance of logbook or information retrieval systems.
- 5 The Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG) is authorized by the Commission to grant acceptance of the logbook or information retrieval system of non-Contracting Parties. The criteria for acceptance of these logbooks and information retrieval systems are set out in the Appendix to this Resolution. No interim waivers will be granted.
- 6 The Commission hereby adopts the criteria for acceptance of logbook and information retrieval systems as set out in the Appendix to this Resolution.

**\* NOTE: Addendum attached to this Resolution replaces that which was attached to the Resolution adopted by ICCAT in 1993 concerning the "Validation by a Government Official of the ICCAT Statistical Document".**

## **Addendum on the Criteria for ICCAT Acceptance of Logbooks and Information Retrieval Systems**

**PURPOSE:** Provide a mechanism for ICCAT to determine if a flag state has a logbook system or statistical information retrieval system that is consistent with the needs of the Commission.

**CRITERIA:** Any flag state applying for acceptance of its logbook or statistical information retrieval system must provide to ICCAT the following information for all fish harvested by vessels flying its flag. All of the following criteria must be met before ICCAT can accept either system.

**A. Information Retrieval System** – The following must be provided:

- I. Copies of all pertinent government regulations requiring routine provision to the competent government authority of accurate information related to all bluefin tuna harvests. At a minimum this information must include the weight of fish harvested, the date of harvesting, the area of harvest, the gear and the name of vessel or trap. Such regulations are essential to a statistical information retrieval system.
- II. Copies of all pertinent regulations respecting penalties for non-compliance with the regulations referred to in Paragraph A.I. Penalties should be sufficient to deter non-compliance.
- III. Copies of all policies and procedures respecting enforcement of the regulations referred to in paragraph A.I and examples of sales slips or other similar tracking documents.
- IV. Penalties that have been imposed in cases of non-compliance.
- V. An outline of means the flag state would use to provide evidence of the origin of exported fish if requested to do so by authorities at the final point of import.
- VI. The name, address and fax number of each accredited institution plus a copy of the official imprint of stamps and seals.

**B. Logbooks** – The following must be provided:

- I. Copies of all pertinent government regulations requiring all fishermen to complete and submit logbooks. Such regulations are essential to a logbook system which must include requirements to provide the weight of fish harvested, the data of harvesting, the area of harvest, the gear and the name of vessel or trap.
- II. Copies of all pertinent regulations respecting penalties of sufficient gravity to deter non-compliance with the regulations referred to in Paragraph B.I.
- III. Copies of all policies and procedures respecting enforcement of the regulations referred to in Paragraph B.I and samples of logbooks and any other relevant documentation.
- IV. Penalties that have been levied in cases of non-compliance.
- V. An outline of how the flag state would use the logbook system to determine the origin of exported fish if requested to do so by authorities at the final point of import.
- VI. The name, address and fax number of each accredited institution plus a copy of the official imprint of stamps and seals.

**PROCEDURES:** Requests for acceptance of a statistical information retrieval system or logbook system should be directed to the Executive Secretary. The Executive Secretary will review the documentation submitted in support of the request and, if satisfied that the documentation is complete, will send the documentation as soon as possible to the Contracting Parties for review by the PWG.

The members of the Permanent Working Group will review the application and communicate to the Executive Secretary whether to grant acceptance. Five members of the Permanent Working Group shall constitute a quorum. The decision will be taken by simple majority. A mail vote may be taken.

Acceptance granted by ICCAT will become effective on the 60th day following the date that the ICCAT Executive Secretary mails the letter notifying of such acceptance. The Executive Secretary shall circulate copies of the letter to all the Contracting Parties.

The PWG shall from time to time review the acceptance any may rescind any such acceptance if it determines that the relevant state or entity failed to maintain ICCAT accepted logbook or information retrieval systems.