

**- RECOMMENDATION -
SWORDFISH CATCH QUOTAS**

TITLE: *Recommendation by ICCAT for the Management of Atlantic Swordfish*
(Entered into force: **October 2, 1995**)

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

- 1 The following quotas for swordfish in the north Atlantic shall apply in 1995 and 1996:

| | <i>1995</i> | <i>1996</i> |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|
| Canada | 1,500 MT | 1,400 MT |
| Portugal | 1,500 MT | 1,400 MT |
| Spain | 6,230 MT | 5,500 MT |
| United States | 3,970 MT | 3,500 MT] |

- 2 Japan shall take the necessary measures to limit the incidental catch of swordfish to no more than 8% of the total weight of its entire catch in the north Atlantic during 1995 and 1996.
- 3 Other Contracting Parties shall not increase their catches during 1995 and 1996 in the north Atlantic over their 1993 level.
- 4 Contracting Parties whose catches in the south Atlantic are greater than 250 MT shall not increase their catches during 1995 and 1996 beyond their 1993 or 1994 level, whichever is higher. Contracting Parties whose catches in the south Atlantic are less than 250 MT shall not increase their catch in 1995 and 1996 beyond 250 MT.
- 5 Existing recommendations, adopted at the 1990 ICCAT meeting, regarding minimum fish size remain in effect.
- 6 Contracting Parties are encouraged to take other appropriate measures to protect small swordfish, including, but not limited to, the establishment of time and area closures, possibly determined by test fisheries. Contracting Parties are further encouraged to conduct the necessary studies to determine whether gear selectivity can reduce catches of undersize fish.
- 7 Contracting Parties will exchange information through the Secretariat with respect to long term management approaches for swordfish in the Atlantic, and will decide whether or not to hold a Working Group to discuss these matters before the 1995 annual ICCAT meeting. The Working Group would also discuss the possibility of adopting multilateral trade measures, consistent with their trade obligations, to deal with non-Contracting Parties which undermine the ICCAT conservation measures regarding swordfish. Discussions of the Working Group would also focus on how ICCAT should deal with requests from Contracting Parties who wish to enter an ICCAT-managed fishery.
- 8 Notwithstanding Article VIII, paragraph 2, of the Convention, the Executive Secretary shall bring to the attention of non-Contracting Parties, whose vessels fish for swordfish in the Atlantic Ocean, the measures being taken by the Contracting Parties and seek their cooperation in taking similar conservation measures consistent with the recommendations of the Commission.

SWO N/S MAP available from the Secretariat