

RESOLUTION BY ICCAT FOR ATLANTIC BLUEFIN TUNA RECOVERY PROGRAMS

RECALLING that at the Thirteenth Regular Meeting of the Commission in 1993, Panel 2 recommended, and the Commission adopted, measures on bluefin tuna research on western Atlantic bluefin tuna during an interim period to provide scientific information "... so as to be able to develop in 1995 a recovery program ...";

ALSO RECALLING that a recovery program for eastern Atlantic bluefin tuna was requested by the Commission in 1994 (Item 4 of Annex 18 of the Commission's Ninth Special Meeting) to be available by 1998;

NOTING that the SCRS in its 1995 Report indicated that the most recent assessment shows that the 1993 age 8 and older biomass (spawning biomass) in the western Atlantic was about 13 % of the biomass currently estimated for 1975, while the 1994 value was expected to be 16 % of the 1975 age 8 and older biomass; and that there is grave concern about the status of bluefin resources in the eastern Atlantic;

ALSO NOTING that the General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean (GFCM) has adopted measures applicable to fishing for bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean portions of the eastern management area;

Therefore,

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

That the SCRS develop, at its 1996 meeting, separate and distinct recovery options for each of the western and eastern Atlantic bluefin tuna management stocks, taking into account the possible effects of mixing that may occur; and the SCRS should calculate a series of annual total allowable catches (TACs) based on stock projections that are needed for rebuilding the western and eastern management stocks, respectively, to levels which would support MSY, within selected alternative recovery time periods and with intermediate goals and milestones along the path to rebuilding. The recovery options shall be based on the 1996 stock assessments for each management stock. The selected alternative recovery time periods shall be 10, 15 and 20 years, with a 50 % probability. The SCRS shall also consider, in the recovery options for the eastern stock, the effect of banning fishing by nets, as well as longline, in the Mediterranean during the spawning months. The recovery options for the eastern stock shall take into consideration the problem of catch by non-Contracting Parties.

Also that ICCAT shall continue close collaboration with the GFCM with respect to collecting available Mediterranean data in connection with the above project.