

**-- RESOLUTION --
ON BIGEYE TUNA**

Resolution adopted by the Commission at its Fourteenth Regular Meeting (Madrid, November, 1995). Report for Biennial Period, 1994-95, Part II. Officially transmitted to the Contracting Parties: December 21, 1995.

NOTING that since 1993, longline and purse seine bigeye catches have increased considerably and that the total annual bigeye catch has substantially exceeded all the current MSY estimates, and the projections made in 1995 indicate that the 1994 level of fishing will not only reduce the population size to far below that of the MSY level, but will also reduce the catch in the near future due to over-fishing;

NOTING that the increase in the catch of small fish, which was brought about by the equatorial baitboat fleet and by the intensive operations on small fish associated with fish aggregating devices (FADs) by the purse seine fisheries, will lead to a reduction in yield per recruit;

EXPRESSING CONCERN that despite the bigeye minimum size regulation of 3.2 kg, in effect since 1980, it has been clear that the equatorial surface fleets (baitboat and purse seine) continue to land a large quantity of juvenile bigeye tuna less than 3.2 kg, and that about 65% of the total number of fish caught in 1994 was below the minimum size;

RECOGNIZING that the SCRS strongly recommended reducing the catch to levels below MSY and that this overall reduction in catch must be accompanied by a reduction in the catch of small fish;

Now, therefore,

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

1. That countries fishing for bigeye tuna are urged to reduce their catches to levels below MSY;
2. That countries which carry out equatorial surface fisheries and catch substantial amounts of bigeye tuna under 3.2 kg should carry out comprehensive observation programs during 1996:
 - a to determine the incidence of catches of undersized fish resulting from the use of FADs, with special emphasis on time/area analysis; and
 - b to determine the incidence of catches of undersized fish in baitboat fleet operations, with special emphasis on time/area analysis
3. That the SCRS develop, based upon these observation programs and other available information, specific proposals for the regulation of the use of FADs, as well as measures necessary to reduce the catches of undersized fish in equatorial surface fisheries;
4. That SCRS analyze the impact of the application of the measures referred to in paragraph 3;
5. That countries be urged to take measures to reduce their catches of undersized fish.