

**– RECOMMENDATION –
ON NORTH ATLANTIC SWORDFISH CATCH QUOTAS
FOR 1997, 1998, AND 1999**

Recommendation adopted by the Commission at its Tenth Special Meeting (San Sebastian, November 1996), Report for Biennial Period, 1996-97, Part I. Entered into force: August 4, 1997.

IN VIEW OF the results of the 1996 stock assessment on north Atlantic swordfish,

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

1. That the total allowable catch for north Atlantic swordfish be established at 11,300 MT in 1997, 11,000 MT in 1998, and 10,700 MT in 1999.
2. That country quotas be determined according to the Recommendation on establishment of percentage shares of north Atlantic swordfish adopted by the Commission in 1995, as follows:

<i>Country</i>	<i>Quota (MT)</i> <i>1997</i>	<i>Quota (MT)</i> <i>1998</i>	<i>Quota (MT)</i> <i>1999</i>
Canada	1,130.0	1,100.0	1,070.0
Japan	706.25	687.50	668.75
Portugal	847.50	825.0	802.50
Spain	4,661.25	4,537.50	4,413.75
United States	3,277.0	3,190.0	3,103.0
Others	678.0	660.0	642.0
TOTAL	11,300.0	11,000.0	10,700.0

Annual under-harvests for each country may be added to the subsequent year's quota.

3. That, notwithstanding the over-harvest provisions in the 1995 sharing agreement, provisions of the "*Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding Compliance in the Bluefin Tuna and North Atlantic Swordfish Fisheries*", adopted at the 1996 Commission Meeting, shall be applied to the implementation of the country quotas in paragraph (2) above, for all countries except Japan. Each year is considered a separate management period, as that term is used in the Recommendation Regarding Compliance.
4. That, notwithstanding the over-harvest provisions in the 1995 sharing agreement, if Japan's landings exceed its quota in any year, the overage shall be deducted in subsequent years such that total landings for Japan shall not exceed its total quota for the five-year period commencing in 1997. When annual landings by Japan are less than its quota, the underage may be added to the subsequent years' quota, such that total landings for Japan do not exceed its total for the same five-year period. At the Commission meeting in the year 2000, the Commission shall conduct a comprehensive review of Japan's landings.

5. All countries catching swordfish in the north Atlantic should make all efforts to report catch, catch at size (by sex when possible) and effort statistics annually, even when no analytical stock assessment is scheduled. The SCRS should review these data annually.

This Recommendation is supplemental to the current regulations on the size limit of Atlantic swordfish.