

**- RECOMMENDATION -
VALIDATION OF BTSDs BETWEEN
ICCAT CONTRACTING PARTIES WHICH ARE
MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY**

TITLE: *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Validation of Bluefin Statistical Documents Between ICCAT Contracting Parties Which are Members of the European Community*
(Entered into force: **August 4, 1997**)

RECALLING the Recommendations and Resolutions in relation to the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the structure of commercial transactions and landings of bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean, particularly between Member States of the European Community;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that the European Community constitutes a single market and that the commercial transactions between its Member States do not suppose imports in the sense implied in the Resolutions and Recommendations relative to the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program;

RECALLING the need to improve transparency of information in relation to the origin of catches and trade of bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean, until measures with this aim are adopted;

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

- FIRST:* That a Contracting Party which is also a Member State of the European Community can validate Bluefin Statistical Documents for bluefin caught by vessels which fly the flag of another Contracting Party which is a Member State of the European Community, when the aforementioned bluefin tuna are exported outside the European Community from the former Contracting Party, if these States submit Task I data.
- SECOND:* That the Contracting Parties which validate Statistical Documents in accordance with the First paragraph notify the Secretariat, which in turn will notify the other ICCAT Contracting Parties. The validation system established in this Recommendation will enter into force two months after the receipt by all Contracting Parties of such notification from the Secretariat.
- THIRD:* That ICCAT Contracting Parties which import bluefin tuna accept the Statistical Documents validated in accordance with the procedure described in the First paragraph.
- FOURTH:* That the ICCAT Contracting Party that validates the Statistical Documents in accordance with the procedure set out in the First paragraph will require from the bluefin tuna dealer which introduces it into his territory, the necessary documents validated by the parties involved in the contract of the transaction, which indicate the quantity of bluefin tuna acquired and the vessel which caught it.
- FIFTH:* That the Contracting Party which validates the Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document in accordance with the procedure in the first paragraph periodically send to the corresponding flag State a summary of the information contained in the validated Statistical Documents.