

**–RECOMMENDATION –  
REGARDING BELIZE AND HONDURAS PURSUANT  
TO THE 1994 BLUEFIN TUNA ACTION PLAN RESOLUTION**

*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.*

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

*RECOGNIZING* the authority and responsibility of ICCAT to manage populations of bluefin tuna in the Atlantic Ocean and its adjacent seas, at the international level;

*NOTING* the need for all non-Contracting Parties fishing for bluefin tuna in the Atlantic Ocean and its adjacent seas to join ICCAT or cooperate with ICCAT's conservation and management measures;

*RECALLING* the Commission's past actions over many years to encourage Belize and Honduras to cooperate with ICCAT conservation and management measures for Atlantic bluefin tuna;

*CONSIDERING* the sighting of vessels of Belize and Honduras in the Mediterranean Sea during the closed season when the bluefin tuna are spawning;

*TAKING INTO ACCOUNT* the import data compiled from the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Documents that must accompany bluefin tuna imports, and further taking into account that such data reveal significant exports of Atlantic bluefin tuna by Belize and Honduras;

*EXPRESSING CONCERN* with regard to the over-fished status of bluefin tuna in the Atlantic Ocean;

*RECALLING* the Commission's Action Plan, adopted in 1994, to ensure the effectiveness of the conservation measures for Atlantic bluefin tuna;

*RECOGNIZING* that effective management of bluefin tuna stocks cannot be achieved by Contracting Parties of ICCAT whose fishermen are forced to reduce their catches of Atlantic bluefin tuna unless all non-Contracting Parties cooperate with ICCAT in connection with its conservation and management measures;

*CALLING ATTENTION* to the 1995 decision by the Commission identifying Belize and Honduras as countries whose vessels have been fishing for Atlantic bluefin tuna in a manner which diminishes the effectiveness of the ICCAT bluefin tuna conservation measures, and recognizing that the decision was based on catch, trade and vessel sightings data;

*CAREFULLY REVIEWING* information regarding the efforts by the Commission to get the collaboration of Belize and Honduras over the past year, including recognition of the fact that there has been no response from Belize to the ICCAT requests, and limited response, but no action, from Honduras; and

*NOTING* that this Recommendation does not prejudice the rights and obligations of Contracting Parties based on other international agreements; Therefore,

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

- a. Contracting Parties take appropriate measures, consistent with provisions of the "*Resolution by ICCAT Concerning an Action Plan to Ensure Effectiveness of the Conservation Program for Atlantic Bluefin Tuna*", to the effect that the import of Atlantic bluefin tuna and its products in any form from Belize and Honduras be prohibited, effective from the time this Recommendation enters into force.
- b. The Commission again request that Belize and Honduras cooperate with ICCAT by fishing in a manner and extent

consistent with ICCAT conservation and management measures and by providing catch statistics to ICCAT in accordance with ICCAT procedures.

- c. The Commission continue to encourage participation by Belize and Honduras in all ICCAT meetings.
- d. Contracting Parties lift the import prohibition on either of the two countries referred to in paragraph (a) above, upon the decision of the Commission and receipt of notification from the ICCAT Executive Secretary that fishing practices of that country have been brought into consistency with ICCAT measures.