

– RESOLUTION –
CONCERNING LARGE-SCALE PELAGIC DRIFTNETS

Resolution adopted by the Commission at its Tenth Special Meeting (San Sebastian, November 1996). Report for Biennial Period, 1996-97, Part I. Officially transmitted to the Contracting Parties: February 3, 1997.

CONSIDERING that in November, 1993, and November, 1994, ICCAT adopted Resolutions in support of the Resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly, 44/225, 45/197 and 46/215, concerning large-scale, high seas, pelagic driftnets and their impact on the living marine resources of the world's oceans and seas, requesting its Contracting Parties to support these Resolutions;

CONSIDERING that it was brought to the attention of the Contracting Parties of the Commission that in 1995 such large-scale, high seas, pelagic driftnet fishing continued in the areas of ICCAT competence and that this activity in some fisheries was increasing;

CONSIDERING that the Commission continues to express its concern about the possibility that certain stocks under ICCAT mandate, as well as other marine resources, are being adversely affected by such fishing; and

CONSIDERING that the Commission has reaffirmed its commitment as regards the concept of responsible fishing, such as established within the framework of the FAO Code of Conduct,

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

REAFFIRMS the importance it gives to compliance with the Resolutions of the United Nations 44/225, 45/197 and 46/215,

EXPRESSES its appreciation for the individual and collective efforts made by some of its members to apply and support the objective of these Resolutions.

REITERATES its serious concern about the potential negative impacts that large-scale pelagic driftnet fishing can have on the marine resources of the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea, and its intention to carefully monitor the repercussions of this fishing on these stocks.

APPEALS to all its Contracting Parties to apply these Resolutions in their entirety and inform the Commission and the Secretary General of the United Nations on the regulatory measures adopted with a view towards assuring their application, in accordance with the Decisions of the United Nations 47/443 and 48/445.

APPEALS to all its Contracting Parties to commit themselves immediately as concerns their application, assuring that their nationals and their fishing vessels comply with Resolution 46/215, to provide all the necessary data relative to these fisheries in order that the scientists can study the effects of the utilization of these gears, and imposing adequate sanctions on their nationals and on their fishing vessels that act contrary to the terms of Resolution 46/215.

CHARGES the Compliance Committee and the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG) to monitor compliance with the U.N. Resolutions within the ICCAT Convention Area with a view to adopting adequate measures.