

**–RECOMMENDATION –
TO IMPROVE COMPLIANCE WITH MINIMUM SIZE REGULATIONS**

Recommendation adopted by the Commission at its Fifteenth Regular Meeting (Madrid, November 1997), Report for Biennial Period, 1996-1997 (Part II). Entered into force: June 13, 1998.

RECOGNIZING that some Contracting Parties are not complying with the minimum size regulations for ICCAT stocks;

ACKNOWLEDGING that compliance with minimum size regulations would improve the state of ICCAT stocks;

NOTING THAT to better assess all harvest of ICCAT stock, parties, entities or fishing entities should make every effort to submit timely and complete Task II information (catch and effort statistics in detailed time/area strata and size data by ICCAT sampling areas and quarterly periods).

Therefore,

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

1. That Contracting Parties immediately implement measures to ensure the monitoring and enforcement of the minimum size regulations for ICCAT stocks;
2. That at the 1998 Commission meeting, and each year thereafter, each Contracting Party who has harvested any bluefin tuna weighing less than 1.8 kg, or whose harvest of any ICCAT stock exceeds the specified minimum size tolerance level adopted by the Commission, explain to the Compliance Committee:
 - a) The magnitude of the over-harvest;
 - b) Domestic measures implemented to avoid further over-harvest;
 - c) Monitoring of compliance with domestic measures; and
 - d) Any other actions to be taken to prevent further over-harvest;
3. That beginning at the 2000 Commission Meeting, if any Contracting Party's actions pursuant to paragraph (2) have failed to prevent further over-harvest, the Commission may recommend measures to reduce harvest of undersized fish, which may include, but are not limited to, time and area closures, assignment of small fish quotas, and/or gear restrictions.