

**-- RECOMMENDATION --
CONCERNING UNREPORTED CATCHES OF BLUEFIN TUNA,
INCLUDING CATCHES CLASSIFIED AS NOT-ELSEWHERE INCLUDED (NEI)**

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 existing discrepancies between the catch statistics reported to ICCAT by Contracting Parties and non-contracting parties, entities or fishing entities, and the import data compiled from the Bluefin Tuna Statistical Documents are used by the Standing Committee on Research & Statistics (SCRS) to identify non-reported catches and to classify them as NEI;

RECALLING the Resolution adopted by the Commission at its Tenth Special Meeting in November 1996 requiring Contracting Parties and non-contracting parties, entities or fishing entities to identify landings and transshipment data from foreign vessels and transmit such data to the Secretariat;

FURTHER RECALLING the Recommendation adopted by the Commission at its Eighth Special Meeting in November 1992 requiring all Contracting Parties to identify the source of all imported bluefin tuna through the use of the Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document;

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

1. Contracting Parties and non-contracting parties, entities or fishing entities follow the standards for the reporting of annual nominal catches (Task I) by vessels flying their flags as outlined in Chapter 2 of the *ICCAT Field Manual for Statistics and Sampling*. Contracting Parties and non-contracting parties, entities or fishing entities establish the necessary measures to ensure the reporting of the total landings and transshipments of bluefin tuna by vessels flying their flags.
2. Whenever the SCRS includes catches in the NEI category, it indicate to the Permanent Working for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG) the reasons which have led to their decision.
3. At the 1998 Commission meeting, and each year thereafter, Contracting Parties and non-contracting parties, entities or fishing entities compare their Task I statistics with the Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document reports. If an NEI catch appears as attributed to a Contracting Party or non-contracting party, entity or fishing entity, that Party shall provide an analysis of the source of the NEI catch to the PWG or Compliance Committee, where appropriate.
4. For purposes of determining whether Contracting Parties have complied with applicable catch limits, any NEI catch recognized by a Party shall subsequently be added to the Task I annual nominal catch data of the appropriate Contracting Party unless this Party provides an explanation showing that the amount or the allocation of the NEI catch is not appropriate.
5. For the purposes of determining whether non-contracting parties, entities or fishing entities have complied with applicable catch limits, any NEI catch attributed to that non-contracting party, entity or fishing entity shall subsequently be added to the Task 1 annual nominal catch data of the appropriate non-contracting party, entity or fishing entity, unless that non-contracting party, entity or fishing entity provides an explanation showing that the amount or the allocation of the NEI catch is not appropriate.