

**-- RECOMMENDATION --
 CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PERCENTAGE SHARES
 OF TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH (TAC)
 AND 1998-2000 CATCH QUOTAS FOR SOUTH ATLANTIC SWORDFISH**

Recommendation adopted by the Commission at its Fifteenth Regular Meeting (Madrid, November 1997). Report for Biennial Period, 1996-97, Part II. Entered into force: June 13, 1998.

IN VIEW OF the 1996 stock assessment on South Atlantic swordfish and the 1997 report from the Standing Committee on Research & Statistics (SCRS) indicating that the stock is over exploited, noting that 1996 catches exceeded the estimated replacement yield of 14,620 MT, and recommending that total allowable catch be reduced;

REALIZING that the setting of annual allocations of total allowable catch (TAC) for south Atlantic swordfish is necessary in order to meet conservation objectives;

NOTING that at the ICCAT Inter-sessional Meeting of Panel 4, held in July, 1997, in Joao Pessoa, Brazil, an agreement was reached on the proposal of quota allocation for south Atlantic swordfish for 1998, 1999 and 2000, after having considered a number of criteria specific to this fishery;

RECOGNIZING that the next stock assessment for swordfish will take place in 1999, and that TAC will be reassessed, if necessary, at that time;

DESIRING to facilitate an orderly and equitable setting of shares of TAC for South Atlantic swordfish under any conservation program established by ICCAT;

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

1. That, to achieve an orderly and equitable allocation of quota shares in the South Atlantic swordfish fishery, the following allocation scheme is established for a three-year period beginning in 1998 to determine annual quotas of total allowable catch for South Atlantic swordfish:

<i>PARTY</i>	<i>PERCENTAGE SHARE OF SOUTH ATLANTIC SWORDFISH</i>
Brazil	16.00%
Spain	40.00%
Japan	25.75%
Uruguay	4.75%
Other Contracting Parties:	5.50%
Others	8.00%

2. That the Other Contracting Parties and Others, as referred to in (1) above, should not increase their catches above the catch of recent years;
3. That based on the above sharing arrangement, a TAC of 14,620 MT shall apply for each of the years 1998, 1999, and 2000 (see table below). Underages/overages from 1998 quotas may be added to/must be subtracted from the 1999 and 2000 quotas. The TAC for the year 2000 may be revised at the 1999 meeting should the 1999 stock assessment for swordfish so require;

<i>PARTY</i>	<i>QUOTA (MT)</i>
Brazil	2339.2
Spain	5848.
Japan	3764.6
Uruguay	694.5
Other Contracting Parties:	804.1
Others	1169.6
Total	14620.

4. That Contracting Parties and others, as referred to in (1) above, adopt measures of effort limitation and catch control that may be necessary to ensure compliance with the quotas in the above paragraphs.