

**-- RECOMMENDATION --
REGARDING ATLANTIC BLUE MARLIN AND ATLANTIC WHITE MARLIN**

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 the objective of ICCAT is to maintain populations of tunas and tuna-like species, including Atlantic blue marlin and Atlantic white marlin, at levels that will produce maximum sustainable yield (MSY) for food and other purposes;

EXPRESSING CONCERN that the Standing Committee on Research & Statistics (SCRS) has estimated that current Atlantic blue marlin biomass is at 24% of the MSY level, and that Atlantic white marlin biomass is at 23% of the MSY level;

NOTING that the current stock assessment is derived in part from problematic data as indicated in the 1997 SCRS Report;

CAREFULLY REVIEWING projections for blue marlin and white marlin indicating that reductions in fishing mortality are necessary to avoid further declines in the stocks and to begin rebuilding these stocks;

RECOGNIZING that rebuilding blue marlin and white marlin stocks will be beneficial to all parties fishing on these stocks, as they are a source of food and recreational activity for many parties, entities or fishing entities

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

All Contracting Parties and non-contracting parties, entities or fishing entities

1. Reduce, starting in 1998, blue marlin and white marlin landings by at least 25% for each species from 1996 landings, such reduction to be accomplished by the end of 1999.
2. Promote the voluntary release of live blue marlin and white marlin.
3. Advise ICCAT annually of measures in place or to be taken that reduce landings of marlins or fishing effort in the commercial and recreational fisheries that interact with blue marlin and white marlin.
4. Provide all base data requested by the SCRS to improve stock assessment and work to improve current monitoring, data collection and reporting procedures in all their fisheries. In 1999, the SCRS shall conduct blue marlin and white marlin stock assessments and, at the 1999 Commission meeting, the Commission shall review the results of the stock assessment and recommend appropriate management measures, if necessary.
5. The provisions of Section 1 shall not apply to small-scale artisanal fisheries, i.e. those small-scale fisheries for subsistence purposes, including sale to local markets.

The ICCAT Secretariat shall inform all non-contracting parties, entities or fishing entities of this recommendation and encourage them to cooperate with these measures.