

**-- RECOMMENDATION --
ON TRANSSHIPMENTS AND VESSEL SIGHTINGS**

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 the importance of ensuring that at-sea transshipments do not undermine ICCAT conservation measures; and

ALSO RECOGNIZING the importance of cooperating with respect to the sightings of vessels which may be fishing contrary to ICCAT conservation measures;

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

1. Contracting Parties shall ensure that fishing vessels and mother vessels flying their flag only transfer or receive at-sea transshipment of ICCAT species from Contracting Parties and Cooperating [Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities], as defined in the "Resolution on Becoming a Cooperating Party, Entity or Fishing Entity" adopted by the Commission in 1997. Such transshipment activities shall be reported annually to the Commission.
2. Any sightings of vessels that appear to be without nationality (stateless) that may be fishing for ICCAT species shall be reported immediately to the appropriate authorities of the Contracting Party whose vessel or aircraft made the sighting. Where there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that a fishing vessel targeting ICCAT species on the high seas is stateless, a Contracting Party may board and inspect the vessel. Where evidence so warrants, the Contracting Party may take such action as may be appropriate in accordance with international law. Any Contracting Party receiving a report of a sighting or conducting an action against a stateless fishing vessel shall immediately notify the ICCAT Secretariat, which, in turn, shall notify all other Contracting Parties. In addition, Contracting Parties are encouraged to establish points of contact to facilitate cooperation and other appropriate actions
3. Any observation by a Contracting Party vessel or aircraft of Contracting Parties' vessels that may be fishing contrary to ICCAT conservation measures shall be reported immediately to the appropriate authorities of the flag-State making the observation. That Contracting Party shall then immediately notify the appropriate authorities of the flag-State of the vessel fishing. Each Contracting Party making the observation and the Contracting Party whose fishing vessels were observed shall provide the pertinent information to the ICCAT Secretariat for review by the Compliance Committee.
4. Any observation by a Contracting Party vessel or aircraft of non-contracting party, entity or fishing entity vessels that may be fishing contrary to ICCAT conservation measures shall be reported immediately to the appropriate authorities of the flag-State making the observation. The Contracting Party shall then notify immediately the appropriate authorities of the flag-State of the vessel fishing. Each Contracting Party making the observation shall also immediately notify the ICCAT Secretariat, which, in turn, shall notify the other Contracting Parties.