

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT CONCERNING JUVENILE BIGEYE TUNA
AND FISHING FLEET SIZE**

NOTING the 1997 SCRS Report recommendations concerning the need to reduce the catch of juveniles of bigeye tuna as well as the total catch of this species in the Atlantic;

RECOGNIZING that there is a need to collect basic data on fleet size;

AWARE of the danger that the large increase in bigeye tuna catches observed could present to this stock;

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

That all Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-contracting parties, entities or fishing entities whose vessels harvest bigeye tuna in the Atlantic Ocean:

1. Endeavor to take the necessary measures to reduce the catch of juvenile bigeye tuna and to reduce the total catch of this species in the Atlantic to the levels recommended by the Standing Committee on Research & Statistics (SCRS).
2. Notify the ICCAT Executive Secretary, by 31 August 1998, the list of their respective vessels (of more than 80 GRT) that are fishing for bigeye tuna in the Atlantic Ocean. This list of vessels shall contain the following information:
 - Name of vessel, register number
 - Previous flag (if any)
 - International radio call sign (if any)
 - Type of vessels, length and GRT
 - Name and address of owner(s)
3. Endeavor to establish, at the 1998 annual meeting of the Commission, a limitation on the number of their vessels of more than 80 GRT fishing for bigeye tuna as of 1999, taking into account the recommendation of the SCRS.
4. In the event of the fixing of this limitation, the evolution of the number of vessels in this fishery since the period 1991-1992, shall be taken into account as the main factor.
5. This recommendation will not apply to vessels which fish Atlantic bigeye tuna only occasionally, or to parties whose annual catch of Atlantic bigeye tuna in recent years is less than an average of 200 MT over the period 1992-1996.