

**-- RESOLUTION --
ON BECOMING A COOPERATING PARTY, ENTITY OR FISHING ENTITY**

Resolution adopted by the Commission at its Fifteenth Regular Meeting (Madrid, November 1997), Report for Biennial Period, 1996-1997 (Part II). Officially transmitted to Contracting Parties: December 12, 1997.

RECALLING the "Resolution on Coordination with Non-Contracting Parties" adopted at its Ninth Special Meeting in 1994; and

RECOGNIZING the continuing need to encourage all non-contracting parties, entities or fishing entities with vessels fishing for ICCAT species to implement ICCAT conservation measures;

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

1. Each year, the Executive Secretary of ICCAT shall contact all non-contracting parties, entities or fishing entities known to be fishing in the Convention area for species under ICCAT competence to urge each of them to become a Contracting Party to ICCAT or to attain status as a Cooperating Party, Entity or Fishing Entity. In doing so, the Executive Secretary shall provide a copy of all relevant Recommendations and Resolutions adopted by the Commission.
2. Any non-contracting party, entity or fishing entity which seeks to be accorded Cooperating Party, Entity, or Fishing Entity status shall apply to the Executive Secretary. At the time such a request is made (and annually thereafter), the applicant shall inform ICCAT of its firm commitment to respect the Commission's conservation and management measures. The applicant shall commit itself to transmit all the data to ICCAT that the Contracting Parties have to submit to ICCAT based on the recommendations adopted by the Commission. Requests must be received by the ICCAT Secretariat no later than ninety (90) days in advance of an ICCAT annual meeting, to be considered at that meeting.
3. The Commission's Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG) shall be responsible for reviewing requests for Cooperating Party, Entity or Fishing Entity status and for recommending to the Commission whether or not an applicant should be considered a Cooperating Party, Entity or Fishing Entity. The PWG shall also be responsible for the annual evaluation of those applicants that receive Cooperating Party, Entity or Fishing Entity status with a view towards determining whether that status should be continued.
4. Those non-contracting parties, entities or fishing entities that do not respond to the Commission as specified in this Resolution will not be considered Cooperating Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities to ICCAT.