

– RECOMMENDATION –  
ON FISHING VESSELS > 24m LOA

*Recommendation adopted by the Commission at its 11th Special Meeting (Santiago de Compostela, Spain- November, 1998), Report for Biennial Period, 1998-99, Part I. Entered into force: June 21, 1999.*

*RECALLING* that in 1997 the Commission urged parties to reduce catches of bigeye tuna to levels below MSY;

*RECOGNIZING* that the Commission has requested that the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) study and present at its 1999 meeting a range of possible stock recovery scenarios;

*CONSIDERING* the importance of establishing interim measures pending the development in 1999 by the Commission of a stock recovery plan;

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

- 1 Each Contracting Party or Cooperating non-Contracting Party, entity or fishing entity shall, in 1999 and thereafter, limit the number of their fishing vessels larger than 24 meters length overall (LOA), with the exclusion of recreational vessels, which will fish for bigeye tuna in the Convention area to the average number of its fishing vessels actually having fished for bigeye tuna in the Convention area for two years of 1991 and 1992. Such limitation of the vessel numbers shall be associated with a limitation of Gross Registered Tonnage (GRT) so as not to increase the total fishing capacity.
- 2 By August 31, 1999, each Contracting Party or Cooperating non-contracting party, entity or fishing entity shall report to the Commission the limit on the fishing vessel number established pursuant to paragraph 1 above and the basis for calculation. The Commission shall review the appropriateness of such limit and its calculation basis at the 1999 meeting.
- 3 That paragraphs 1 and 2 above do not apply to Contracting Parties or Cooperating non-contracting parties, entities or fishing entities that catch annually less than 2,000 MT of bigeye tuna on an average of the recent five years. When the annual catch of any of those Parties / entities or fishing entities exceeds 2000 MT before 2001, the Commission should consider and recommend, if appropriate, new conservation measures for bigeye tuna, applicable to them.
- 4 The Commission will consider in 1999 options of conservation measures to manage by-catch of bigeye tuna by other fisheries targeting tunas and tuna-like fishes.
- 5 That the Commission shall review, at the 2001 meeting, the effectiveness of this effort control in conjunction with the stock recovery plan.
- 6 Notwithstanding paragraph 1 above, the Commission shall request Chinese Taipei to limit in 1999 and thereafter catches of Atlantic bigeye tuna to 16,500 MT and the number of their fishing vessels fishing for Atlantic bigeye tuna to 125. Such limitation of the vessel number shall be associated with a limitation of Gross Registered Tonnage (GRT) so as not to increase the total fishing capacity.

- 7 Without prejudice to the full implementation of this Recommendation, parties should bear in mind the interest of all countries, entities and fishing entities concerned, in accordance with their rights and obligations under international law, particularly those of developing coastal countries in developing their own fisheries. In this regard, the parties recognize that further action may be required, consistent with the need to ensure the sustainability of the fishery resources.