

**-- RECOMMENDATION --**  
**ON CHANGES OF CLOSED SEASON FOR THE**  
**BLUEFIN PURSE SEINE FISHERY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA**

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

*CONSIDERING* the need to take measures regarding the gears used during periods when their impact is most notable on juveniles as well as on spawning stock;

*CONSIDERING* the insufficient efforts made by Contracting Parties to reduce their own catches of the bluefin tuna in accordance with different Recommendation adopted by the Commission:

*CONSIDERING* the highly-migratory characteristics of bluefin tunas, including juveniles, as well as the appearance of these juveniles at different times in different areas of the Mediterranean Sea:

*CONSIDERING* and *RECALLING* the conclusions of the Commission's Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) that the existing closed season is not established on scientific data, as well as the obligation of each Contracting Party to provide data about catch composition throughout the fishing season for the Mediterranean Sea and which was provided for the Adriatic Sea;

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

- 1 prohibiting purse seine fishing in the Adriatic Sea during the period from 1 - 31 May, in order to protect juveniles;
- 2 prohibiting purse seine fishing in the other areas of the Mediterranean Sea during the period from 16 July - 15 August in order to protect juveniles;
- 3 The border line between Adriatic and other parts of the Mediterranean will be the line which connects the Albanian - Greek border line and Cape Santa Maria-Leuca
- 4 that each Contracting Party, Cooperating non-contracting Party, entity or fishing entity which has a purse seine bluefin tuna fishery in areas of the Mediterranean Sea prohibit any transfer of its fleets to either of the two areas during the above respective closed seasons referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 above;
- 5 that this recommendation replace the regulatory measure currently in effect on a closed season for the Mediterranean bluefin tuna purse seine fishing.