On Limitation of Fishing Capacity on Northern Albacore


RECOGNIZING that the stock of northern albacore is considered by the Commission’s Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) to be close to full exploitation;

RECALLING that SCRS has recommended over the last years that fishing mortality on this stock should not be increased with regard to the current level;

CONSIDERING that, in order to prevent a further increase in fishing mortality it is necessary to limit the fishing capacity at the level of recent years;

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

1. Contracting Parties, non-contracting parties, entities or fishing entities fishing for northern albacore shall limit the fishing capacity of their vessels, exclusive of recreational vessels, for this stock from 1999 onwards, through a limitation of the number vessels to the average number in the period 1993-1995.

2. In order to control the compliance with this recommendation, Contracting Parties, and non-contracting parties, entities or fishing entities shall submit, by 1 June 1999, a list of the vessels, exclusive of recreational vessels, participating in a directed fishery for northern albacore in the years referred to in paragraph 1 and, by 1 June and every year thereafter, the list of vessels which will participate in a directed fishery for this stock.

3. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 will not apply to Contracting Parties, non-contracting parties, entities or fishing entities whose average catches are less than 200 MT.

4. Contracting Parties, non-contracting parties, entities and fishing entities referred to in paragraph 3 above shall limit their annual catches to 200 MT.

5. Contracting Parties, non-contracting parties, entities or fishing entities which have already met or will meet by the end of 1999 the requirements of paragraph 1 are not subject to the requirements of paragraphs 3 and 4 and are subject to the reporting requirements of paragraph 2.

6. Japan endeavor to limit its total catches of northern albacore to no more than 4% by weight of its total longline bigeye tuna catch in the Atlantic Ocean.

7. The Commission requests SCRS to carry out an evaluation of the fishing capacity of the different fleets / gears that participate in this fishery with a view to establish fishing effort correspondence.