

**-- RECOMMENDATION --
ON LIMITATION OF FISHING CAPACITY ON NORTHERN ALBACORE**

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.

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.