

- RECOMMENDATION -
REVISION, IMPLEMENTATION & SHARING OF
S. ALBACORE CATCH LIMIT

TITLE: *Recommendation by ICCAT on Revision, Implementation and Sharing of the Southern Albacore Catch Limit*
(Entered into force: **June 21, 1999**)

NOTING that updated stock assessment conducted during 1998 indicates that the replacement yield of the southern albacore stock is estimated to be 28,200 MT, and that current catch levels appear to be sustainable;

RECOGNIZING the needs of developing coastal states who wish to further develop fisheries within their EEZs;

ALSO RECOGNIZING the needs of distant water fishing countries, entities and fishing entities that wish to maintain tuna fisheries in the Atlantic Ocean;

NOTING, however, that initiatives are underway to discuss quota allocation criteria for Atlantic tuna resources, and not wishing to pre-empt the outcome of those initiatives;

RECOGNIZING existing co-operative arrangements between countries exploiting southern albacore, and wishing to promote closer management co-operation between countries, entities or fishing entities actively fishing for albacore in the southern Atlantic Ocean;

DESIRING to implement effective measures to limit catches of southern albacore to sustainable levels;

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

- 1 The total catch limit for albacore caught in the Atlantic Ocean South of 5°N be set at 28,200 MT for 1999, that being the current estimated replacement yield of that stock.
- 2 The catch limit for southern albacore caught by countries, entities or fishing entities fishing actively for southern albacore, other than the European Community, as defined in the 1997 southern albacore catch limit recommendation, be set at 27,200 MT for 1999, with effect from 1 January 1999.
- 3 Those countries, entities or fishing entities referred to in paragraph 2 above implement effective monitoring systems for southern albacore catches by their fishing fleets, capable of determining total southern albacore catches by their fleets within two months of those catches having been made;
- 4 Those countries, entities or fishing entities referred to in paragraph 2 above report total cumulative southern albacore catches to a designated Contracting Party actively fishing for southern albacore within two months of those catches having been made.
- 5 The designated Contracting Party maintain records of those cumulative catches and notify actively fishing countries, entities or fishing entities, as well as the ICCAT Secretariat, of the cumulative southern albacore catch levels each two months.
- 6 The designated Contracting Party notify all those countries, entities or fishing entities referred to in paragraph 2 above when a total cumulative southern albacore catch level of 21,760 MT by those countries is reached, this being 20 % below the catch limit of 27,200 MT.
- 7 Those countries, entities or fishing entities referred to in paragraph 2 above immediately initiate multi-lateral discussions when the 21,760 MT warning catch level is reached, in order to decide on steps to be taken to prevent total catches by those countries, entities or fishing entities from exceeding the catch limit of 27,200 MT.
- 8 Those countries, entities or fishing entities referred to in paragraph 2 above immediately implement measures to stop fishing for southern albacore when the established catch limit of 27,200 MT is reached, so as to ensure that that limit is not exceeded.

- 9 Countries, entities or fishing entities, not fishing actively for southern albacore but not including Japan, as defined in the 1997 southern albacore catch limit recommendation, be subject to an annual catch limit of no more than 110% of their average 1992-1996 catch of albacore in the Atlantic Ocean south of 5°N. This provision shall also apply to the European Community.
- 10 Japan endeavor to limit its total catch of southern albacore to no more than 4 % by weight of its total longline bigeye tuna catch in the Atlantic Ocean south of 5°N.
- 11 The southern albacore catch limit and other management measures be reviewed, and revised as necessary, at the 1999 ICCAT Commission meeting.