

**-- RECOMMENDATION --
VALIDATION OF BTSD: EC**

**TITLE: *Recommendation by ICCAT on Validation of the
Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document by the European Community***
(Transmitted to Contracting Parties: **December 22, 1998**)

RECALLING the Recommendations and Resolutions adopted in relation to the Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program;

NOTING that the European Community is a Contracting Party to ICCAT and that it is necessary to replace the “*Recommendation By ICCAT on Validation of the Bluefin Tuna Statistical Documents Between ICCAT Contracting Parties Which are Members of the European Community*”;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the structure of commercial transactions and landings of bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean, particularly between Member States of the European Community;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that the European Community constitutes a single market and that the commercial transactions between its Member States do not suppose imports in the sense implied in the Resolutions and Recommendations relative to the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program;

RECALLING the need to improve transparency of information in relation to the origin of the catches and trade of bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean;

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

- FIRST:* Statistical documents for bluefin tuna caught by fishing vessels flying the flag of a Member State of the Community may be validated by the competent authorities of the Member State whose flag the vessel flies or by those of a different Member State where the products are landed, provided the corresponding quantities of bluefin tuna are exported outside the Community from the territory of the Member State of landing.
- SECOND:* The European Community will transmit the information on the authorities of the Member States authorized to validate the bluefin tuna statistical documents including sample impressions of stamp or seal to the Secretariat, which in turn will transmit it to the other Contracting Parties. The validation system established in this Recommendation will enter into force two months after the receipt by all Contracting Parties of such notification from the Secretariat.
- THIRD:* That ICCAT Contracting Parties which import bluefin tuna accept the statistical documents validated in accordance with the procedures described in the First paragraph.
- FOURTH:* That the competent authorities of the Member States of the European Community that validate the statistical documents in accordance with the procedure described in the First paragraph will require from the bluefin tuna dealer which introduces it into his territory, the necessary documents validated by the parties involved in the contract of the transaction, which indicate the quantity of bluefin tuna acquired and the vessel which caught it.