

-- RESOLUTION --
**CONCERNING THE UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED
 CATCHES OF TUNAS BY LARGE-SCALE LONGLINE
 VESSELS IN THE CONVENTION AREA**

Resolution adopted by the Commission at its 11th Special Meeting (Santiago de Compostela, Spain-November, 1998). Report for Biennial Period, 1998-99, Part I. Officially transmitted to the Contracting Parties: December 22, 1998.

RECOGNIZING that a large number of large scale longline vessels are catching Atlantic bluefin tuna, bigeye tuna, swordfish and other tunas and tuna like species in the Convention Area without reporting their catches to the Commission or respecting the ICCAT conservation measures,

BEING AWARE that a considerable number of those longline vessels have transferred their flags from Belize, Honduras and Panama to Contracting Parties, non contracting parties, entities or fishing entities, so as to avoid the trade restrictive measures,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the serious threat that those longline vessels are posing to the ICCAT resource conservation measures for Atlantic bluefin tuna as well as other tunas and tuna like species,

NOTING that this situation must be addressed in the light of the Code of Conduct of Responsible Fisheries and other relevant international instruments such as the 1993 Compliance Agreement and in accordance with the relevant rights and obligations established in the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement.

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

- 1 The Commission shall request the Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-contracting parties, entities or fishing entities which import frozen tunas and tuna-like fish products or in which those products are landed to collect and examine as much import or landing data and associated information as possible and submit the following information to the Commission each year:
 - a Names of the longline vessels which caught and produced such frozen tuna products,
 - b Flag states of those vessels,
 - c Species of tuna and tuna like species of the products,
 - d Areas of catch (Atlantic Ocean, Mediterranean Sea, or other area),
 - e Product weight by product type,
 - f Points of export,
 - g Names and addresses of owners of the vessels,
 - h Registration
- 2 The Compliance Committee and the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG) shall review annually the information submitted to the Commission pursuant to paragraph 1 above and identify those Contracting Parties and non-contracting parties/entities or fishing entities whose large-scale longline vessels have been fishing tuna and tuna-like species in a manner which diminishes the effectiveness of the ICCAT conservation and management measures, based upon the above information, the information obtained through national statistics and the Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program, as well as other relevant information obtained in ports and at the fishing grounds.
- 3 The Commission shall request those Contracting and non-contracting parties/entities or fishing entities identified in paragraph 2 above to take all necessary measures so as not to diminish the effectiveness of the ICCAT conservation and management measures including, if appropriate, the revocation of vessel registration or fishing licenses of the large-scale longline vessels concerned.
- 4 The Compliance Committee and the PWG shall review annually the actions taken by those Contracting Parties and non-contracting parties/entities or fishing entities referred to in paragraphs 2 and 3 above in order to identify those Contracting Parties and non-contracting parties/entities or fishing entities which have not taken appropriate actions as requested.
- 5 The Commission will recommend effective measures, if necessary including non-discriminatory trade restrictive measures on the subject species, consistent with their international obligations, to prevent those longline vessels of those Contracting Parties and non-contracting parties/entities or fishing entities identified in paragraph 4 above from continuing the fishing operations for tunas and tuna-like species in a manner which diminishes the effectiveness of the ICCAT conservation measures.