

**RESOLUTION BY ICCAT  
ON THE CLARIFICATION OF THE STOCK STRUCTURE AND  
BOUNDARIES BETWEEN THE SWORDFISH STOCKS IN THE ATLANTIC**

*NOTING* that SCRS has indicated that the stock separation between the swordfish stocks in the Atlantic is based on different sources of information, including recent genetic analysis;

*NOTING* that, in the context of the current scientific information, the stock structure and the boundaries between the northern and the southern stocks are uncertain;

*FURTHER NOTING* that the SCRS in 1999 has recommended scientific actions to reduce these uncertainties;

*RECOGNIZING* the need for maximum correspondence between the biological units and the management units.

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

- 1 The Contracting Parties, non Contracting Parties, entities or fishing entities should support national and international research programs in order to reduce the current uncertainties about the structure, mixing and boundaries of the swordfish stocks. These research programs should, as recommended by the SCRS in 1999, be based on genetic analysis, tag-recapture study and other techniques scientifically appropriate for this goal.
- 2 The SCRS should co-ordinate the efforts developed by the different Contracting Parties, non Contracting Parties, entities or fishing entities and evaluate the results of the programs. The results of these programs for the refinement of the stock structure and boundaries will be considered in the next swordfish assessment.