

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT
CONCERNING POSSIBLE MANAGEMENT MEASURES
FOR NORTHERN ALBACORE**

CONSIDERING that SCRS concluded in 1998 that the northern albacore stock appears to be at or above full exploitation and reiterated in 1999 that fishing mortality should not be increased above the 1997 level;

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;
assert

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 or to implement any other appropriate management measures;

NOTING that SCRS was unable to estimate the current level of effective effort in the fishery due to absence of data from some surface fleets;

NOTING that SCRS has expressed its concern with the consequences that any increment in the overall effective effort in this fishery would have, given the present status of the stock.

CONSIDERING that Task I and Task II data are required for scientific assessment,

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

- 1 The Commission reiterates its Recommendation of 1998 concerning the limitation of fishing capacity of vessels, exclusive of recreational vessels, fishing for northern albacore from 1999 onwards, through a limitation of the number of vessels to the average number in the period 1993-1995.
- 2 The Commission requests the SCRS to carry out an evaluation of the fishing capacity of the different fleets/gears that participate in the fishery with a view to establishing effective fishing effort correspondence, taking as the reference period the years 1993-1995. Contracting Parties, Non-Contracting Parties/Entities/Fishing Entities which have directed fisheries for northern albacore will provide SCRS with all the information required to establish fishing effort correspondence. In the event of the continuation of the lack of data, the SCRS should estimate the missing data from those available.
- 3 In the event that SCRS will not be able to ascertain the correspondence of effective fishing effort among gears, or if the SCRS feels that the existing management measures are insufficient to limit fishing mortality, it may suggest any other appropriate management measures, including different possible stock recovery scenarios, as necessary, taking into account the scientific assessment of the stock at that time.
- 4 Contracting Parties will provide the best available Task I and Task II data that will enable the SCRS to accomplish these analyses.