
**INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION
for the
CONSERVATION of ATLANTIC TUNAS**

**R E P O R T
for biennial period, 1994-95
PART I (1994) - Vol. 1
English version**

MADRID, SPAIN

1995

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS

Contracting Parties (as of January 1, 1995)

Angola, Brazil, Canada, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, France, Gabon, Ghana, Japan, Republic of Korea, Morocco, Portugal, Republic of Guinea, Russia, Sao Tomé & Príncipe, South Africa, Spain, United States, Uruguay, Venezuela.

Chairman of Commission

Dr. A. RIBEIRO LIMA, Portugal

First Vice-Chairman of Commission

Mr. K. SHIMA, Japan

Second Vice-Chairman of Commission

Mr. L. G. PAMBO, Gabon

Panel Membership (as of January 1, 1995)

Panel	Contracting Parties	Chairman
1	Angola, Brazil, Canada, Cape Verde, France, Gabon, Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, Japan, Republic of Korea, Morocco, Portugal, Russia, Sao Tomé & Príncipe, Spain, United States, Venezuela.	Côte d'Ivoire
2	Canada, France, Japan, Republic of Korea, Morocco, Portugal, Spain, United States.	Morocco
3	Japan, South Africa, Spain, United States.	United States
4	Angola, Brazil, Canada, France, Japan, Republic of Korea, Portugal, Spain, United States, Venezuela.	Japan

Council

No election was conducted for the 1994-95 biennial period.

Standing Committees

Standing Committees:

Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD)

Chairman

Mr. D. SILVESTRE, France

Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS)

Dr. Z. SUZUKI, Japan

Infractions Committee

Mr. A. J. PENNEY, South Africa

Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG)

Mr. B. S. HALLMAN, USA

Secretariat

Estébanez Calderón, 3, Madrid 28020 (Spain)
Executive Secretary: Dr. ANTONIO FERNÁNDEZ
Assistant Executive Secretary: Dr. PETER M. MIYAKE

FOREWORD

The Chairman of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas presents his compliments to the Contracting Parties of the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (signed in Rio de Janeiro, May 14, 1966), as well as to the Delegates and Advisers that represent said Contracting Parties, and has the honor to transmit to them the "*Report for the Biennial Period, 1994-95, Part I (1994)*", which describes the activities of the Commission during the first half of said biennial period.

This issue of the Biennial Report contains the reports of the Ninth Special Meeting of the Commission, held in Madrid, in November/December, 1994, and the reports of all the meetings of the Panels, Standing Committees and Sub-Committees, as well as some of the Working Groups. It also includes a summary of the activities of the Secretariat and a series of National Reports of the Contracting Parties of the Commission, relative to their activities in tuna and tuna-like fisheries in the Convention Area.

Given that the combined length of these reports is too great for them to be included in one volume, the Report for 1994 has been published in two volumes. *Volume 1* includes the Proceedings of the Commission Meetings and the reports of all the associated meetings, with the exception of the Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS). It also includes the National Reports mentioned above. *Volume 2* includes the SCRS Report and its appendices.

This Report has been prepared, approved and distributed in accordance with Article III, paragraph 9, and Article IV, paragraph 2-d, of the Convention, and Rule 15 of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission. Due to a delay in the Commission's adoption of a part of the Proceedings of the Commission Meeting, Volume 2 was issued before Volume 1. The Report is available in the three official languages of the Commission: English, French and Spanish.

Dr. A. Ribeiro Lima
Commission Chairman

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECRETARIAT REPORTS

Administrative Report 1994	5
Financial Report - 1994	12
Report on Statistics & Coordination of Research in 1994	26

RECORD OF COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS

Proceedings of the Ninth Special Meeting of the Commission	31
Attachment 1 Opening Addresses	49
Attachment 2 Statement by the New Zealand Member of the CCSBT Observer Delegation on Behalf of the CCSBT	54
Attachment 3 Statement by the United States on the U.N. Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks	55
Attachment 4 Memorandum by Spain on Driftnets	56
Attachment 5 Statement by Japan on the Implementation of ICCAT's Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program on Fresh Products	59
ANNEX 1 Commission Agenda	60
ANNEX 2 List of Commission Participants	61
ANNEX 3 List of Commission Documents	71
ANNEX 4 Resolution by ICCAT in Support of the Ratification or Acceptance of the Protocol of Amendment to the Convention (adopted in Paris in 1994)	73
ANNEX 5 Resolution by ICCAT on Large-scale Pelagic Driftnet Fishing	74
ANNEX 6 Report of the Meeting of the Infractions Committee	75
Tables on Status of Implementation of the ICCAT Recommendations	80
Appendices to the Infractions Committee Report	87
ANNEX 7 Resolution by ICCAT Concerning an Action Plan to Ensure Effectiveness of the Conservation Program for Atlantic Bluefin Tuna	91
ANNEX 8 Resolution by ICCAT on Interpretation and Application of the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program (includes Appendix)	92
ANNEX 9 Resolution by ICCAT Concerning the Effective Implementation of the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program (includes Addendum)	95
ANNEX 10 Resolution by ICCAT on Coordination with Non-Contracting Parties	97
ANNEX 11 Resolution by ICCAT on Fishing in the Mediterranean During Spawning Months	98
ANNEX 12 Resolution by ICCAT Regarding the Agreement to Promote Compliance with Interna- tional Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas	99
ANNEX 13 Resolution by ICCAT on Compliance with the ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures (includes Addendum)	100
ANNEX 14 Resolution by ICCAT on Vessel Monitoring	104
ANNEX 15 Report of the Second Meeting of the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG) (Tokyo, April, 1994)	105

ANNEX 16	Report of the Third Meeting of the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG) (Madrid, November, 1994) . . .	130
	Appendices to the PWG Report	138
ANNEX 17	Reports of the Meetings of Panels 1 to 4	
	Report of the Meeting of Panel 1	150
	Report of the Meeting of Panel 2	154
	Report of the Meeting of Panel 3	165
	Report of the Meeting of Panel 4	168
	Appendices to Panel Reports	175
ANNEX 18	RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF BLUEFIN TUNA FISHING IN THE EASTERN ATLANTIC OCEAN AND MEDITERRANEAN SEA	186
ANNEX 19	RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF BLUEFIN TUNA FISHING IN THE WESTERN ATLANTIC OCEAN	187
ANNEX 20	RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON THE LIMITATION OF CATCHES OF SOUTHERN ALBACORE	189
ANNEX 2	RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF ATLANTIC SWORDFISH	190
ANNEX 22	ICCAT Executive Secretary's Letter to CITES Concerning the Draft Criteria for Listing Species on the CITES Appendices	191
ANNEX 23	Report Presented to the Commission by Mr. J.S. Beckett (ICCAT Representative to the 9th Conference of CITES)	193
ANNEX 24	Report of the Meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance & Administration (STACFAD) (First & Second Sessions)	195
	Table 1. Budget adopted for 1995 (in Pesetas)	201
	Table 2. Member country contributions to the 1995 Commission Budget	202

NATIONAL REPORTS

Angola	. . . . .	205
Brazil	. . . . .	206
Canada	. . . . .	212
France	. . . . .	230
Gabon	. . . . .	233
Ghana	. . . . .	234
Guinea	. . . . .	235
Japan	. . . . .	237
Korea	. . . . .	240
Morocco	. . . . .	242
Spain	. . . . .	246
South Africa	. . . . .	258
Uruguay	. . . . .	262
U.S.A.	. . . . .	265
Venezuela	. . . . .	277

SECRETARIAT REPORTS

1994 ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT (COM/94/9)*

1. Contracting Parties of the Commission

The Commission is currently comprised of 22 Contracting Parties: Angola, Benin, Brazil, Cape Verde, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, France, Gabon, Ghana, Republic of Guinea, Japan, Republic of Korea, Morocco, Portugal, Russia, Sao Tomé & Príncipe, Spain, South Africa, United States, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

The Legal Department of FAO informed the Secretariat that on December 20, 1993, it had received a notification of withdrawal from ICCAT from the Government of Benin, which would be effective on December 31, 1994, in accordance with Article XII, paragraph 2, of the Convention.

The FAO Legal Department also informed the Secretariat that on February 9, 1994, the Government of Italy had signed the ICCAT Convention, pending ratification in the near future.

2. Bodies of the Commission

Since November 12, 1993, the officers of the Commission are as follows:

<i>Chairman:</i>	Dr. A. Ribeiro Lima (Portugal)
<i>First Vice-Chairman:</i>	Mr. K. Shima (Japan)
<i>Second Vice-Chairman:</i>	Mr. L. G. Pambo (Gabon)

The current Panel membership is as follows:

<i>Panel</i>	<i>Contracting Parties</i>	<i>Chairman</i>
1	Angola, Brazil, Canada, Cape Verde, France, Gabon, Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, Japan, Republic of Korea, Morocco, Portugal, Russia, Sao Tomé & Príncipe, Spain, United States, Venezuela	Côte d'Ivoire
2	Canada, France, Japan, Republic of Korea, Morocco, Portugal, Spain, United States	Morocco
3	Brazil, Japan, South Africa, Spain, United States	United States
4	Angola, Canada, France, Japan, Republic of Korea, Portugal, Spain, United States, Venezuela	Japan

* The Administrative Report presented at the 1994 Commission Meeting was updated to December 31, 1994.

Other bodies of the Commission are as follows:

- a) Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD)
Chairman: Mr D. Silvestre (France)
- b) Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS)
Chairman: Dr. Z. Suzuki (Japan)
 - b.1 Sub-Committee on Statistics - *Convener:* Dr. S. Turner (United States)
 - b.2 Sub-Committee on Environment - *Convener:* Mr. J. Persira (Portugal)
- c) Infractions Committee - *Chairman:* Mr. A. J. Penney (South Africa)
- d) Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures -
Chairman: Mr. B. S. Hallman (United States)

3. Ratification or acceptance of the Paris Protocol to the ICCAT Convention

In accordance with its Article III, the Protocol signed in Paris in July, 1984, shall enter into force upon deposit with the Director-General of FAO instruments of approval, ratification or acceptance of all the Contracting Parties to the Convention. The date of entry into force will be thirtieth day following the deposit of the last instrument.

Of the 22 countries that are currently Contracting Parties to ICCAT, 19 countries have ratified or accepted the aforementioned Protocol. Cuba and Senegal, which are no longer Contracting Parties, had also accepted the Protocol earlier. Consequently, for the Paris Protocol to enter into effect, the ratification or acceptance by the governments of three Contracting Parties is still pending (Benin, Gabon and Morocco). As indicated earlier in this Report, the withdrawal of the Government of Benin will become effective on December 31, 1994.

4. Ratification or acceptance of the Madrid Protocol to the ICCAT Convention

The Chairman of ICCAT wrote to the Heads of Delegations of the Contracting Parties on June 5, 1993, upon completion of one year since the adoption of the Protocol to amend Article X, paragraph 2, of the Convention, and pointed out his concern that up to that date, none of the Contracting Parties classified as developed countries with a market economy (i.e., Group A: Canada, France, Japan, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, and the United States of America) had deposited with the Director General of FAO an instrument of ratification, approval, or acceptance. On the other hand, and on a positive note, the Commission Chairman informed that none of the remaining Contracting Parties had requested, during the six-month period established, (which ended on January 8, 1993) the suspension of the entry into force of said Protocol.

In November, 1993, the Commission adopted a Resolution recommending that the Contracting Parties which have not accepted or ratified the Madrid Protocol do so as soon as possible so that the Protocol may enter into force in the near future.

On February 28, 1994, the Legal Department of FAO notified ICCAT that it had received, on February 14, 1994, an instrument of ratification of the Madrid Protocol from Spain.

On August 31, 1994, the Legal Department of FAO notified ICCAT that it had received, on August 30, 1994, an instrument of ratification of the Madrid Protocol from the United States.

The Legal Department of FAO notified the Secretariat on October 6, 1994, that it had received on September 14, 1994, an instrument of acceptance of the Madrid Protocol from the Russian Federation.

Up to now, the following countries have ratified or accepted the Protocol:

Republic of Korea	Acceptance on June 11, 1993
Canada	Ratification on September 22, 1993
Republic of South Africa	Acceptance on October 4, 1993

Spain
 United States
 Russian Federation

Ratification on February 14, 1994
 Ratification on August 30, 1994
 Acceptance on September 14, 1994

In order to apply the new contribution scheme established in the Protocol for 1995, the Protocol should have entered into force prior to September 30, 1994, which would have required the deposit of instruments of ratification, approval or acceptance by three-quarters of the Contracting Parties (currently 17 countries), including all those countries classified as developed countries with a market economy.

The Commission, at its first meeting after the entry into force of the Protocol, should introduce the pertinent modifications to the texts of the Financial Regulations and Rules of Procedure (see Document COM/93/28).

5. ICCAT Regulations/Port Inspection

On November 30, 1993, the Secretariat transmitted, to the Contracting Parties, the texts of the following Recommendations that were adopted at the Thirteenth Regular Meeting of the Commission:

- Recommendation by ICCAT on Supplemental Regulatory Measures for the Management of Atlantic Yellowfin Tuna
- Recommendations by ICCAT on the Management of Bluefin Tuna Fishing in the Western Atlantic
- Recommendation by ICCAT on Supplemental Regulatory Measures for the Management of Eastern Atlantic Bluefin Tuna
- Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Implementation of the ICCAT Bluefin tuna Statistical Document Program on Fresh Products

Since no objections were received, these Recommendations entered into force on May 31, 1994, which were transmitted to the Contracting Parties and to non-Contracting Parties involved in these fisheries:

On March 2, 1994, the Secretariat transmitted to the Contracting Parties the definitive text of the Recommendation by ICCAT on the Management of Bluefin Tuna in the Central North Atlantic Ocean, which was also adopted at the Thirteenth Regular Meeting of the Commission. Since no objections were received, this Recommendation entered into force on September 2, 1994, and the Contracting Parties and non-Contracting Parties involved in this fishery were so notified.

In Document COM/94/26, the Secretariat presented updated information, in accordance with the official notifications received, on the regulation schemes in effect on the four species regulated by ICCAT (bluefin, yellowfin, bigeye and swordfish), including information on the historical development of their application by the Contracting Parties.

At the initiative of Canada, on January 10 and April 8, 1994, the Secretariat requested, from the members of Panel 4 (Other species), information on the measures adopted by those countries to implement the Recommendations adopted by the Commission for the management of the swordfish fisheries. Corresponding information was received from Canada, the United States, Spain and Japan, which is contained in Document COM/94/33.

Document COM/94/27 provided updated information on the ICCAT Port Inspection Scheme, including the list of authorized Inspectors and Correspondents.

6. National Reports of the Contracting Parties

In accordance with Article IX of the Convention and bearing in mind the proposals made by the Infractions Committee, the Secretariat requested from the Contracting Parties on April 11, 1994, the submission of National Reports containing all the information required by the SCRS, the Infractions Committee and the Commission.

The content of these National Reports was considered by the Commission and its other auxiliary bodies in light of the Draft Guidelines that are contained in Document COM/93/34, and which were reviewed in November, 1993.

7. Meetings organized by ICCAT

In accordance with Commission decisions, the Secretariat organized the following meetings of a scientific-technical nature in 1994; details on these meetings are provided in the Report on Statistics and Coordination of Research (COM-SCRS/94/12):

- Second Meeting of the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (*Tokyo, Japan - April 19 to 21, 1994*)
- Final Meeting of the ICCAT Albacore Research Program (*Sukarrieta, Vizcaya, Spain - June 1 to 8, 1994*)
- Second Meeting of the Consultation on the Technical Aspects of Methodologies which Account for Individual Growth Variability by Age (*Brest, France - June 27 to 29, 1994*)
- Data Preparatory Meeting for the South Atlantic Abundance Indices (*Tamandare, Brazil - August 3 to 9, 1994*)
- First Meeting of the *Ad Hoc* GFCM/ICCAT Joint Working Group on Stocks of Large Pelagic Fishes in the Mediterranean Sea (*Fuengirola, Malaga, Spain - September 19 to 24, 1994*)

Meetings of the ICCAT Species Groups & SCRS Plenary Sessions

The Species Groups met at the places and dates that are indicated below, and presented the corresponding reports to the SCRS:

- East Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Stock Assessment Session (*Fuengirola, Malaga, Spain - September 21 to 27, 1994*)
- Swordfish Stock Assessment Session (*Madrid, Spain - October 19 to 26, 1994*)
- Albacore Stock Assessment Session (*Madrid, Spain - November 14 to 18, 1994*)
- Special West Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Stock Assessment Session (*Madrid, Spain - November 14 to 18, 1994*)
- Stock Assessments of other species (*Madrid, Spain - November 16 to 18, 1994*)
- Plenary Sessions of the SCRS (*Madrid, Spain - November 21 through 25, 1994*)

8. Meetings at which ICCAT was represented

- *United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks*

In accordance with a decision adopted by the Commission in November, 1993, the Executive Secretary participated, as an observer, in the Third and Fourth Sessions of the United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, which were held in New York from March 14 to 31 and from August 15 to 26, 1994, respectively. Document COM-SCRS/94/18 presented information on these sessions of the Conference.

- *Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)*

Since it was impossible for ICCAT to participate as an observer at the 53rd Meeting of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), held in Puerto La Cruz, Venezuela, from June 7 to 9, 1994, the Executive

Secretary asked Mr. D. Gaertner (ORTSOM, France) to represent ICCAT at this meeting and to report to the Commission (see Document SCRS/94/10).

-- *Coordinating Working Group on Atlantic Fishery Statistics (CWP)*

At its Eighth Special Meeting (Madrid, 1992), the Commission approved that the Secretariat host the 16th Session of CWP in Madrid, in July, 1994. Later contacts with the CWP Secretary (FAO) advised postponing this session until March, 1995, and to hold beforehand, at the ICCAT Headquarters, an *Ad Hoc* Inter-agency Consultation on Atlantic Fishery Statistics. This meeting, which was held in Madrid from July 11 to 15, 1994 (see Document COM/94/36-SCRS/94/27), was presided by Dr. P. M. Miyake, the ICCAT Assistant Executive Secretary, and was dedicated mainly to developing the new Statutes and Rules of Procedure of the CWP, with a view towards their eventual adoption at the 16th Session of the CWP, scheduled to be held from March 20 through 25, 1995, in Madrid.

This change in dates will not represent any additional cost in the ICCAT Budget, since funds which had been foreseen for this meeting in 1994 are available and will be applied in 1995.

-- *Ninth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)*

Corresponding to the invitation issued by the Secretary General of CITES to ICCAT to attend in an observer capacity at the Ninth Conference of the Parties to CITES, was held in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, U.S.A., from November 7 to 18, 1994, the Commission Chairman issued instructions to Mr. J. S. Beckett (Canada) to represent ICCAT at this Conference, and inform the Commission on matters discussed that are relative to ICCAT's work. Mr. Beckett's report is attached as Annex 23 to the Proceedings of the Ninth Special Meeting of the Commission.

9. Coordination of research and statistics

The Secretariat's report (Document COM-SCRS/94/12) summarizes the activities during 1994 concerning the coordination of research and biostatistical activities, relative to tunas and tuna-like species in the Convention Area.

It should be pointed out that in April 25, 1994, the ICCAT Secretariat and the Department of Mathematics of the Autonomous University of Madrid signed a "Technical Assistance Contract", for the purpose of obtaining statistical advice on the review of the sampling scheme of the surface fisheries of the eastern tropical Atlantic. The amount budgeted for this Contract was 1 million pesetas in 1994. The report resulting from this Contract is contained in Document SCRS/94/9.

10. ICCAT rewards for tag recoveries

The annual ICCAT lottery to award prizes to participants in the ICCAT International Cooperative Tagging Program of Tunas and Tuna-like Species was held at the Commission Headquarters on October 14, 1994. A total of three US\$ 500 prizes were awarded for the drawing, corresponding to the following three groups:

- Tropical tunas (17 tags entered in the drawing)
- Temperate tunas (113 tags were entered)
- Billfishes (75 tags were entered)

Two prizes were won by U.S. fishermen and one prize was won by a Spanish fisherman.

11. Cooperation with other countries and organizations

Taking into account the increasing concern expressed by the Commission about the activities carried out by vessels of non-Contracting Parties, which result in a decrease in the efficiency of the conservation and management measures adopted by ICCAT, the Secretariat has maintained frequent contacts, mainly through correspondence,

with non-member countries involved in fishing for tunas and tuna-like species, requesting the submission of information and statistical data on the catches and fishing effort, and transmitting to them the Recommendations adopted by ICCAT and issuing invitations to participate in meetings organized by ICCAT, as well as diverse information on the Commission's activities and operation. Among the countries that have been collaborating, at least partially, in the objectives of ICCAT are the following: Algeria, Argentina, Barbados, Bermuda, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Dominican Republic, Greece, Italy, Malta, Mexico, Santa Helena, Santa Lucia, Senegal, Taiwan, Tunisia, Turkey, and the United Kingdom.

In 1994, there was continuing interest from some non-member countries, such as Bahamas, Bermuda, People's Republic of China, Italy, Libya, Namibia and Panama, for detailed information on ICCAT's activities, with a view to possible future membership as Contracting Parties of the Commission.

The exchange of information and the cooperation with the fishing authorities of Taiwan continues to be very positive. Responding to a generous invitation from the Council of Agriculture of Taiwan, and after consultation with the Chairman of the Commission, the Executive Secretary visited Taiwan from June 14 to 20, 1994. During this trip, he was amply informed on the procedures in effect to follow, regulate and monitor the fishing activities of Taiwanese tuna fishing vessels in the Atlantic Ocean, as well as information on research programs and the collection of the corresponding statistical data. The Taiwanese authorities reiterated their intention to participate at the highest possible level in the ICCAT activities and their willingness to cooperate, including in their national legislation the provisions on the conservation and management contained in the ICCAT Recommendations, once the information on their content and their entry into force is duly transmitted to Taiwan by the Secretariat.

Working relations were also reinforced with diverse intergovernmental organizations (FAO, United Nations, CITES, European Community; GFCM, IATTC, CARICOM, etc.), as were contacts and information with other non-governmental organizations and entities.

The Government of Australia transmitted to the Secretariat a certified copy of the Convention for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna, which entered into force on May 20, 1994.

Throughout the year, information relative to the following subjects was sent to the Governments of non-Contracting Parties and intergovernmental organizations:

- Recommendations by ICCAT on fisheries management, adopted in November, 1993.
- Resolution by ICCAT on Large-Scale Pelagic Driftnet Fishing
- Resolution by ICCAT in support of the Elaboration of a Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing
- Resolution by ICCAT Concerning Validation by a Government Office of the Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document and Addendum concerning the Criteria for ICCAT Acceptance of Logbooks and Information Retrieval Systems
- The need to provide statistics on tuna catches and effort (Task I and Task II)
- Invitations to participate, as observers, in the different scientific meetings organized by ICCAT in 1994
- Participation in the ICCAT International Cooperative Tagging Program of Tunas and Tuna-like Species
- Information on by-catches of the tuna fisheries
- Invitation to participate, as observers, in the annual meetings of ICCAT and its auxiliary bodies

Document COM/94/28 provided more details on the activities described above.

12. Publications

In accordance with that agreed upon by the Commission, the results of the Second ICCAT Billfish Workshop (Miami, July, 1992) were printed in enhanced form, since this volume is dedicated to the previous Executive

Secretary, Dr. Olegario Rodriguez Martin. In June, 1994, 500 copies of this book were published for the ICCAT Enhanced Research Program for Billfish, which contributed US\$ 8,000 towards its publication.

In the January-December, 1994 period, the following publications were distributed by the Secretariat:

<i>Publication</i>	<i>No. of Pages</i>	<i>No. of copies</i>
-- Statistical Bulletin, Vol. 23	199	500
-- Data Record, Vol. 35	434	350
-- Report for Biennial Period, 1992-93, Part II - English	395	275
-- Report for Biennial Period, 1992-93, Part II - French	435	275
-- Report for Biennial Period, 1992-93, Part II - Spanish	425	275
-- Collective Volume of Scientific Papers, Vol. XLI - Report of the Second Billfish Workshop (Special issue)	599	500
-- Collective Volume of Scientific Papers, Vol. XLII (1)	420	350
-- Collective Volume of Scientific Papers, Vol. XLII (2)	435	350

In order to reduce costs, all the above publications were prepared, edited, and reproduced at the Secretariat, except for the covers and the binding.

For reasons of economy, the distribution of publications is usually done by surface mail at reduced rates. It is calculated that if distribution were by airmail, the average cost would be about ten times higher.

13. Change in the Commission Headquarters

At his closing remarks to the Thirteenth Regular Meeting of the Commission (Madrid, November 1993), the Chairman expressed the wish that the offices of the ICCAT Headquarters could be at the height of the noble and important objectives established in the ICCAT Convention, especially as the Commission celebrates its 25th anniversary by December, 1994-1995.

The Secretary General of Maritime Fisheries of Spain took note of this wish and after numerous consultations of an administrative and financial nature, communicated to the Secretariat, on October 18, 1994, that the Spanish authorities were offering new offices for the ICCAT Headquarters, located at No. 3 & 5 Estebanez Calderon Street (8th floor). He indicated that these new offices had modern, functional installations and can be easily reached by public transportation.

The Executive Secretary, after consulting with the Commission Chairman, gratefully accepted, in his behalf, the new ICCAT Headquarters offices. The move to the new offices took place at the end of 1994, which had a certain effect on the normal rhythm of the Secretariat's activities for a certain period.

14. Secretariat staff

In accordance with the Commission's decisions as regards budgetary matters, in 1994 the two positions in the General Services (vacated in 1991 and 1992) were temporarily not filled.

In the first half of 1994, two staff members in the General Services category (Mrs. Susan Martin, Statistical Secretary classified at GS-4) and Ms. Ginette Turpeau (Multilingual Secretary classified at GS-5), resigned voluntarily, which was accepted. The two posts were announced and numerous resumes were presented. The following personnel have been contracted locally for a one-year probationary period:

Ms. Jenny Cheatle, Statistical Secretary (from July 4, 1994)

Ms. Juliette Cayol-Richez, Multilingual Secretary (from September 1, 1994)

Therefore, as of December 31, 1994, the Secretariat staff is comprised as follows: Executive Secretary (D-1), Assistant Executive Secretary (P-5); Systems Analyst (P-2), five multi-lingual secretaries (three GS-6, one GS-5 and one GS-4), a statistical secretary (GS-4), four clerical staff (one GS-2 and three GS-1), and a locally-contracted data entry clerk.

1994 FINANCIAL REPORT COM/94/10 (Revised)

1. Auditor's Report - for Fiscal Year 1993

The Auditor examined the books and accounts of the Commission to the end of Fiscal Year 1993. In accordance with Regulations 9-3 and 12-7 of the Financial Regulations, and following a recommendation of the Council at its Second Regular Meeting, the Executive Secretary transmitted a copy of the Auditor's Report to the governments of all the Contracting Parties in April, 1994. The General Balance at the close of Fiscal Year 1993 (see attached **Statement 1**), showed a balance in Cash and Bank of 30,728,596 pesetas, corresponding to the available in the Working Capital Fund (25,972,093 pesetas), available in the Albacore Research Program Funds (1,482,518 pesetas), and the advances on future contributions, at the close of Fiscal Year 1993, (3,273,985 pesetas).

At the close of Fiscal Year 1993 there were accumulated pending contributions (corresponding to 1993 and previous years) that amounted to 113,535,253 pesetas, equivalent to 85.3% of the 1993 total budget (133,172,000 pesetas).

Since the Commission changed the base currency of the budget in 1992 from United States dollars to convertible pesetas, to avoid the effect of the fluctuations in the currency exchange rates, which were uncontrollable and difficult to foresee, the accounting records for Fiscal Year 1993 were maintained in pesetas. The differences in exchange rates resulting from those accounts which originated in U.S. dollars were adjusted at the close of the Fiscal Year based on the official U.N. exchange rate of 138 pesetas/1 US\$, as of December, 1993.

In accordance with the recommendation made by the Working Group on Financial and Administration at its meeting held in Madrid on November 29-30 and December 1, 1971: *"It was considered that the Working Capital Fund ... should be maintained at a level of approximately 15% of the total annual budget"*. This recommendation was adopted by the Commission. At the close of Fiscal Year 1993, the balance was 25,972,093 pesetas, or 19.5% of the annual budget.

2. Financial Status of the First Half of the Biennial Budget - Fiscal Year 1994

Continuing with the accounting practices established since 1992, the financial operations of the Commission corresponding to Fiscal Year 1994 were maintained in pesetas. The accounting entries which originate in U.S. dollars are also registered in pesetas, applying the official monthly exchange rates facilitated by the United Nations.

The total regular Budget for 1994 (140,268,000 pesetas) was approved by the Commission at its Thirteenth Regular Meeting (Madrid, November 1993). (See Annex 20 to the Report for Biennial Report, 1992-93, Part II, 1993.) The General Balance Sheet (attached as **Statement 2**) reflects the assets and liabilities at the close of Fiscal Year 1994, which are shown in detail in **Tables 1 to 7**.

Table 1 shows the status of the contributions of each of the Contracting Parties at the close of Fiscal Year 1994.

Of the total budget approved for 1994, income received from contributions amounted to 112,853,730 pesetas. Only 10 of the 22 Contracting Parties have paid their total contributions corresponding to 1994 (Canada, France, Japan, Republic of Korea, Morocco, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Russia and the United States). Partial payments

* The Financial Report presented at the 1994 Commission Meeting was updated to the close of Fiscal Year 1994.

were received or were applied to 1994 contributions from that country's positive balance from: Angola (5.4%), Brazil (82.6%), Côte d'Ivoire (59.7%), Sao Tome & Principe (99.7%).

Consequently, at the close of Fiscal Year 1994, 8 Contracting Parties (Benin, Cape Verde, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Ghana, Republic of Guinea, Uruguay and Venezuela) have not paid any amount towards their 1994 contributions; 9 countries have balances pending payment from 1993 or before (Benin, Cape Verde, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Ghana, Republic of Guinea, Morocco, Uruguay and Venezuela).

The contributions to the 1994 regular budget that were pending payment by the Contracting Parties at the close of the Fiscal Year amounted to 27,414,270 pesetas, which represents 19.5% of the total budget. This figure is indicative of the difficulties of the Contracting Parties to honor their financial commitments to the Commission. What is even more indicative is the accumulated debt owed to the Commission, which amounted to 128,803,065 pesetas at the close of Fiscal Year 1994, including debts owed from Cuba and Senegal, which are no longer Contracting Parties to ICCAT.

Table 2 shows the budgetary and extra-budgetary expenditures (to the close of the Fiscal Year), broken down by budget chapters. For all chapters, the total expenses have been less than the amount budgeted. Table 2 also shows an extra-budgetary expense of 1,223,891 pesetas, due to the difference in peseta/US \$ currency exchange rate throughout the year, which in Fiscal Year 1994 was negative, contrary to the last two previous fiscal years.

Following herewith are some general comments by budget chapter:

Chapter 1 - Salaries: The salaries and remuneration for 11 members of the ICCAT Secretariat staff were charged to this chapter. Faced with the voluntary resignation of one General Services staff member in late 1992, and hoping that the financial situation of the Commission improves over the short-term (through the receipt of member country contributions or with the entry into force of the Madrid Protocol), it was decided to impose a temporary freeze on filling this position, as also was the case for a position in the Statistics Department that was vacated in August, 1991.

Since January, 1994, three staff members previously classified as locally contracted staff, have been included in the U.N. General Services category at G-1, Step 1, in accordance with that authorized by the Commission at its 1993 Commission Meeting.

The total amount budgeted for Chapter 1 amounted to 77,216,000 pesetas, whereas expenses to the close of Fiscal Year 1994 amounted to 73,451,558 pesetas. The latter amount includes the updating of the remuneration schemes to those currently in effect for staff classified in the United Nations categories, the monthly adjustments for the successive variations in the US\$/peseta exchange rate in 1994, (the average of which was less than 138 Pts/\$ that was applied to estimates made in December, 1993), and the updating (retroactive to November 1, 1993) of the pensionable remuneration base for staff in the Professional and Higher U.N. categories.

In June, 1994, a multi-lingual secretary, classified at G-5, Step 12, voluntarily resigned. This position was filled in September, 1994, by a new international civil servant, classified at G-4, Step 1. Consequently, there was an estimated budgetary savings of 1,564,000 pesetas.

Chapter 2 - Travel: Expenses charged to this chapter included travel and per diem expenses pertaining to the Executive Secretary's participation in the two sessions of the United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (New York, March and August, 1994), as well as travel and per diem for the participation of two Secretariat staff members and partial per diem for one staff member at the GFCM/ICCAT Working Group on Stocks of Large Pelagic Fishes in the Mediterranean Sea and the ICCAT East Atlantic Bluefin Stock Assessment Session, both held in Fuengirola, Malaga, in September, 1994). The European Union (EU) financed 41% of the per diem for one member of the Secretariat staff.

Chapter 3 - Commission Meeting: Expenditures remained within the amount budgeted.

Chapter 4 - Publications: The costs for the Commission publications listed in the Administrative Report (COM/94/9) were charged to this budget chapter. All the work on these publications, except for the covers and binding, was done by the Secretariat staff.

Extra-budgetary funds received in Fiscal Year 1993 amounting to US\$ 8,000 (i.e., 1,064,000 pesetas) (See 1993 Financial Report in "Report for Biennial Period, 1992-93, Part II") from Billfish Program funds were applied to partially cover the costs of publication of the Report of the Second Billfish Workshop (Miami, July, 1992), in an enhanced form.

Chapter 5 - Office Equipment: Expenses charged up to the close of Fiscal Year 1994, to this chapter included the acquisition (annual rental with option to buy) in 1994 a new MITA photocopier to replace an obsolete one, as well as the annual leasing cost of a XEROX photocopier (this is the second of a four-year rental contract, with option to buy).

Chapter 6 - Operating Expenses: This chapter shows the expenses incurred to the close of the Fiscal Year in the operation of the Secretariat, including some expenses related to the re-location to the new Secretariat offices. Expenses remained within the amount budgeted.

Chapter 7 - Miscellaneous: This chapter includes various expenses of a minor nature.

It should be pointed out that the amount owed to the company that handled the moving to the new Secretariat offices was assumed by the Government of Spain, which resulted in a substantial savings for the Commission.

Chapter 8 - Coordination of Statistics and Research

a) Salaries: Salaries and remuneration for three Secretariat staff members are charged to this sub-chapter.

Whereas the amount budgeted to Chapter 8.a amounted to 18,766,000 pesetas, the expenses for 1994 (to the close of the Fiscal Year) amounted to 17,620,469 pesetas. The observations made under Chapter 1 as regards the salary revision corresponding to 1994 for U.N. classified staff also apply to this sub-chapter.

In May, 1994, the Statistical Secretary voluntarily resigned her position (G-4, Step 9). This position was filled in July, 1994, by a new international civil servant, initially classified at G-4, Step 1. Consequently, there has been a budgetary savings estimated at 1,409,000 pesetas.

It should be noted that this sub-chapter also includes the salary and Spanish Social Security expenses and income taxes of one staff member who, although authorized by the Commission for classification in the U.N. salary scheme as GS-2, opted to remain as locally-contracted staff in order to continue under the Spanish Social Security regime.

b) Travel to improve statistics and research: Trip expenses and per diem for the Secretariat's participation in the following meetings were charged to this sub-chapter:

- Final Meeting of the ICCAT Albacore Research Program (Sukarrieta, Vizcaya, Spain - June 1 to 8, 1994)
- Second Meeting of the Consultation on the Technical Aspects of Methodologies which Account for Individual Growth Variability by Age (Brest, France - June 27 to 29, 1994)
- Data Preparatory Meeting for the South Atlantic Abundance Indices (Tamandare, Brazil - August 3 to 9, 1994)

The total trip expenses and per diem of two members of the Secretariat staff who participated in the "Second Meeting of the Permanent Working for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures" (Tokyo, April, 1994) were assumed by the Government of Japan, by means of an extra-budgetary contribution.

It should be pointed out that the trip expenses of one of the two members of the Secretariat who participated in the Final Meeting of the Albacore Research Program were covered by the "Instituto de Investigación y Tecnología para la Oceanografía, Pesca y Alimentación" (AZTI-SIO), of Vizcaya, Spain.

c) Port Sampling: No expenses were charged to this sub-chapter, due to the cessation of the port sampling contract in the Canary Islands.

d) Biostatistical Work: Expenses corresponding to the contract formulated with the "Universidad Autónoma de Madrid" in April, 1994, (1,000,000 pesetas), for statistical advice on the sampling strategy of tropical tunas,

the purchase of 10,000 tags for sampling, and two prizes for the 1994 ICCAT tuna tagging lottery were charged to this sub-chapter.

e) Computer Equipment: Following the recommendations made by the Sub-Committee on Statistics, the Secretariat purchased the following computer equipment in Fiscal Year 1994: two Notebook computers (a 486 DX 50 8 MB RAM & 200 MB hard disk and a 486 DX 20 MB & 200 MB hard disk), two additional SVGA color monitors and two expanded keyboards, a battery charger and carrying case for the Notebook, a virus detector program (Artemis Professional, ver. 3.1), and a program to transfer files between computers (Laplink, ver. 4.0).

f) Data Processing: The major part of the expenditures charged to this sub-chapter corresponded to the computer maintenance contracts, including expenses for the electronic mail system used for some correspondence of a scientific and statistical nature.

g) Scientific Meetings at the Headquarters: Expenses charged to this sub-chapter included the cost of the Plenary Sessions of the SCRS as well as the Meetings of the Species Groups. Expenditures remained within the amount budgeted for this purpose.

h) Miscellaneous: There were no expenses charged to this sub-chapter during Fiscal Year 1994.

Table 3 shows the budgetary and extra-budgetary income received by the Commission to the close of Fiscal Year 1994), which amounted to 130,175,408 pesetas, from member country contributions paid in 1994 towards the 1994 budget, from contributions paid in 1994 towards previous budgets, other income (extra-budgetary) received in 1994, and from advances on future contributions received. The extra-budgetary income received in 1994 included: (a) from observers at the 1993 meeting (paid in 1994) and observers at the 1994 meeting; (b) from the Billfish Research Program Budget and applicable to the Secretariat's operating expenses concerning this Program; (c) a voluntary contribution from the Taiwan Deep Sea Tuna Boatowners & Exporters Association, and (d) bank interest, the refund of Value Added Tax, reimbursement for publications.

An extra-budgetary contribution was received from the Government of Japan which amounted to 7,227,846 pesetas, to cover all the expenses for the organization of the Second Meeting of the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (Tokyo, April 1994). The expenses of this meeting amounted to 7,196,222 pesetas, and therefore there was a balance of 31,624 pesetas, which was deposited to the Working Capital Fund, according to the instructions of the Delegate of Japan on May 13, 1994.

Table 4 presents the composition and balance of the Working Capital Fund (to the close of Fiscal Year 1994). The Fund showed a positive accounting balance of 29,791,056 pesetas (see Table 2). Consequently, the available in the Fund corresponded to a level of 21.2% of the total 1994 budget.

Table 5 shows a summary of pending contributions (128,803,065 pesetas) as well as their origin, by year, at the close of Fiscal Year 1994.

Table 6 shows cash flow during Fiscal Year 1994, as regards generated income and expenses.

Table 7 presents the status of Cash and Bank (at the close of Fiscal Year 1994), which showed a balance of 33,775,099 pesetas, and corresponded to the available in the total cash in cash and bank as well as to the total available and advances.

3. Albacore Research Program

At the 1990 Commission meeting, it was decided that the balance in sub-chapter 8-i (Albacore Research Program), which amounted to US\$ 15,052.51, would be applied exclusively to this Program. There was no variation during 1994 in the amount available for this Program. It is expected that the amount of 1,482,518 pesetas will be applied towards the publication, in enhanced form, of the Final Report of this Program.

4. Program for Enhanced Research for Billfish

In 1987, a special fund (in U.S. dollars) was established to administer the Program for Enhanced Research for Billfish. For accounting purposes, the Program funds are shown in pesetas within the General Balance of the

Commission, although the deposits and expenditures are made in U.S. dollars. The status of these funds, in U.S. dollars during Fiscal Year 1994, was as follows:

Balance at the start of Fiscal Year 1994	US\$ 44,624.81	
Deposits made in 1994	68,496.65	
Interest earned on time deposit account	<u>526.03</u>	US \$113,647.49
Expenditures to the close of FY 1994	57,580.95	
Bank charges	<u>512.68</u>	<u>US \$58,093.63</u>
BALANCE (at the close of FY 1994)		US\$ 55,553.86

The balance of US\$ 55,553.86 was adjusted at the close of the Fiscal Year to pesetas, based on the official exchange rate of the United Nations of 130 pesetas/1 US\$, in December, 1994.

5. Bluefin Year Program (BYP)

This Program was approved by the Commission in 1991 and started in 1992. However, there were no funds budgeted by the Commission for this Program in 1994, nor was a special fund established, as was the case for the Billfish Program.

6. Other Comments

All the member country contributions to the 1994 Budget, except one were received in convertible pesetas. The amount of the only contribution received in U.S. dollars was not enough to meet the expenditures that are made in that currency, for which it was necessary to acquire U.S. dollars on the foreign exchange market, at variable rates, for the salaries and pensions of staff in the D and P categories, that are established in U.S. dollars, and for the pensions of staff in the General Services categories.

The information contained in this Report shows that the financial status of the Commission has improved with respect to the previous Fiscal Year. Nevertheless, it is still difficult to implement all the instructions given by the Contracting Parties, when the countries do not comply in a timely and responsible fashion as regards their financial commitments to the Commission, thereby assuring that the necessary funds are available to carry out those instructions. At the close of Fiscal Year 1994, about half of the Contracting Parties still owed all or part of their contributions to the 1994 budget (i.e., 19.5% of the total amount budgeted for 1994 had not yet been received). Therefore, in order to maintain at a minimum the activities of the Secretariat, it was necessary to use funds available in the Working Capital Fund, including the extra-budgetary income. It is evident that if the contributions had been received in a timely manner, other budgetary objectives could have been attained during 1994.

Because only six of the minimum required 17 Contracting Parties, including all those classified as developed countries with a market economy, have proceeded with acceptance or ratification of the Madrid Protocol that was signed in June, 1992, this possible course of solution to finance the budget did not come about in 1994. Consequently, the financing of the 1995 budget will have to be done by the present contribution scheme. In order to avoid resorting frequently to the Working Capital as a "bridging" mechanism, it will be absolutely essential that the member countries pay their 1995 contributions in a timely fashion, if possible early in the year, as indicated in Article X, paragraph 4, of the Convention.

During 1994, a line of credit was not opened, according to the terms of the authorization given by the Commission at its Eight Special Meeting (Madrid, November 1992), and further extended at its Thirteenth Regular Meeting (Madrid, November 1993), since due to the reduction of expenses and to the receipt of some extra-budgetary funds, it was not considered absolutely necessary to resort to a bank loan. Moreover, there would have been some difficulties as regards the guarantees to obtain such a loan.

STATEMENT 1
GENERAL BALANCE (AT CLOSE OF FISCAL YEAR 1993) (PESETAS)

<i>ASSETS</i>			<i>LIABILITIES</i>	
Available:		Pts.		Pts.
-- Banco Exterior de España:			Acquired holdings (net)	8,747,689
Ckg. Acct. 030-31279.43-E (US\$)	\$36,116.17	4,984,031	Guaranty deposit	81,564
Ckg. Acct. 030-17672.60A (Pts.)		1,050,897	Available in the Working Capital Fund	25,972,093
Ckg. Acct. 030-17329.75-F (Conv.Pts.)		23,258,765	Available in Albacore Research Program Funds	1,482,518
-- Bankinter:			Available in Billfish Trust Fund	6,158,224
Ckg. Acct. 16.10096.2 (Pts.)		1,004,748	Advances on future contributions	3,273,985
Ckg. Acct. 15.030009.7 (US\$)	\$2,643.31	364,777	Accumulated pending contributions	113,535,253
Dep. Acct. 16.10096.2 (Pts.)		14,462		
Cash on hand (Pts.)		<u>50,916</u>		
Total Available (Pts.)		30,728,596		
(Exchange rate: 1US\$ = 138 Pts.)				
Available in Billfish Trust Fund:				
Ckg. Acct. 030-31555.90-B (US\$)	\$44,624.81	6,158,224		
Receivables:				
Overdue contributions		113,535,253		
Fixed Assets:				
Acquired before 1993	32,249,651			
Acquired during 1993	1,296,833			
Retired during 1993	0			
Total Fixed Assets, in use	<u>33,546,484</u>			
Accumulated depreciation	<u>(24,798,795)</u>			
Fixed Assets (net)		8,747,689		
Guaranty deposit		<u>81,564</u>		
TOTAL ASSETS		159,251,326	TOTAL LIABILITIES	159,251,326

STATEMENT 2
GENERAL BALANCE (AT CLOSE OF FISCAL YEAR 1994) (PESETAS)

<i>ASSETS</i>			<i>LIABILITIES</i>	
Available:		Pts.		Pts.
-- Banco Exterior de España:			Acquired holdings (net)	5,552,836
Ckg. Acct. 030-31279.43-E (US\$)	\$31,222.89	4,058,976	Guaranty deposit	81,564
Ckg. Acct. 030-17672.60A (Pts.)		793,597	Available in the Working Capital Fund	29,791,056
Ckg. Acct. 030-17329.75-F (Conv.Pts.)		984,771	Available in Albacore Research Program Funds	1,482,518
Time deposit (Conv. Pts.)		25,000,000	Available in Billfish Trust Fund	7,222,002
-- Bankinter:			Advances on future contributions	2,501,525
Ckg. Acct. 16.10096.2 (Pts.)		2,790,133	Accumulated pending contributions	128,803,065
Ckg. Acct. 15.030009.7 (US\$)	\$743.89	96,706		
Cash on hand (Pts.)		<u>50,916</u>		
Total Available (Pts.)		33,775,099		
(Exchange rate: 1US\$ = 130 Pts.)				
Available in Billfish Trust Fund:				
Ckg. Acct. 030-31555.90-B (US\$)	\$25,553.86	3,322,002		
Time deposit (US\$)	\$30,000.00	3,900,000		
	<u>\$55,553.86</u>	<u>7,222,002</u>		
Receivables:				
Overdue contributions		128,803,065		
Fixed Assets:				
Acquired before 1994		33,546,484		
Acquired during 1994		1,006,942		
Retired during 1994		<u>(19,191,339)</u>		
Total Fixed Assets, in use		15,362,087		
Accumulated depreciation		<u>(9,809,251)</u>		
Fixed Assets (net)		5,552,836		
Guaranty deposit		<u>81,564</u>		
TOTAL ASSETS		175,434,566	TOTAL LIABILITIES	175,434,566

TABLE 1
STATUS OF MEMBER COUNTRY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE REGULAR BUDGET (PESETAS) (AT THE CLOSE OF FISCAL YEAR 1994)

Country	Past due at the start of Fiscal Year 1994	1994 Member country contributions	Contributions paid in 1994, or in advance, & applied towards the 1994 Budget	Contributions paid in 1994 towards previous budgets	Balance due at the close of Fiscal Year 1994
Angola	0	2,760,169	150,092 (1)	0	2,610,077
Benin	7,498,693	905,268	0	0	8,403,961
Brasil	6,028,781	6,444,393	5,325,276	6,028,781	1,119,117
Canada	0	2,786,037	2,786,037	0	0
Cap Vert	9,647,989	2,243,186	0	0	11,891,175
Côte d'Ivoire	0	2,829,435	1,689,513 (2)	0	1,139,922
España	0	35,529,420	35,529,420	0	0
France	0	17,464,390	17,464,390	0	0
Gabon	1,092,518	1,716,984	0	0	2,809,502
Ghana	43,503,605	6,797,669	0	0	50,301,274
Guinea Ecuatorial	3,990,029	905,402	0	0	4,895,431
Guinea (Rep. of)	1,597,049	858,492	0	0	2,455,541
Japan	0	11,583,572	11,583,572 (3)	0	0
Korea	0	3,685,408	3,685,408	0	0
Maroc	2,888,379	3,174,859	3,174,859	2,886,379	2,000
Portugal	0	7,793,034	7,793,034	0	0
Russia	10,356	3,814,049	3,814,049	10,356	0
Sao Tomé & Príncipe	3,220,942	1,789,226	1,784,171	3,220,942	5,055
South Africa	0	2,198,688	2,198,688	0	0
United States	0	15,875,221	15,875,221	0	0
Uruguay	71,517	909,289	0	0	980,806
Venezuela	15,365,007	8,203,809	0	0	23,568,816
Sub-total	94,914,865	140,268,000	112,853,730	12,146,458	110,182,677
Cuba (4)	11,034,300	0	0	0	11,034,300
Senegal (5)	7,586,088	0	0	0	7,586,088
TOTAL	113,535,253	140,268,000	112,853,730	12,146,458	128,803,065

(1) The advance from Angola (150,092 pts.) at the close of Fiscal Year 1993 was applied as payment towards the 1994 contribution.

(2) The advance from Cote d'Ivoire (1,689,513 pts.) at the close of Fiscal Year 1993 was applied as payment towards the 1994 contribution.

(3) The advance from Japan (1,434,380 pts.) at the close of Fiscal Year 1993 was applied as payment towards the 1994 contribution. There is also an advance from Japan in 1994 (2,501,525 pts.), which will be applied towards future contributions of Japan.

(4) Cuba withdrew from the Commission, effective December 31, 1991.

(5) Senegal withdrew from the Commission, effective December 31, 1988.

TABLE 2
LIQUIDATION OF BUDGETARY & EXTRA-BUDGETARY EXPENDITURES (PESETAS) (AT THE CLOSE OF FISCAL YEAR 1994)

<i>Chapters</i>	<i>1994 Budget</i>	<i>Expenditures at the close of Fiscal Year 1994</i>
1. Amount budgeted & budgetary expenditures:		
Chapter 1. Salaries	77,216,000	73,451,558
Chapter 2. Travel	3,158,000	1,797,396
Chapter 3. Commission Meeting	5,898,000	5,200,333
Chapter 4. Publications	3,473,000	2,636,023
Chapter 5. Office Equipment	810,000	569,244
Chapter 6. Operating Expenses	10,851,000	10,135,886
Chapter 7. Miscellaneous	1,329,000	601,172
Sub-total Chapters 1-7	102,735,000	94,391,612
Chapter 8. Statistics and Research:		
8A Salaries	18,766,000	17,620,469
8B Travel to improve statistics	1,180,000	1,070,363
8C Port Sampling	1,736,000	0
8D Biostatistical Work	2,389,000	1,802,250
8E Computer Equipment	1,736,000	1,013,217
8F Data Processing	4,366,000	3,782,866
8G Scientific Meetings (including SCRS)	6,724,000	6,224,237
8H Miscellaneous	636,000	0
8I Albacore Research Program	0	0
Sub-total Chapter 8	37,533,000	31,513,402
Total budget and budgetary expenditures	140,268,000	125,905,014
2. Extra-budgetary expenditures:		
Difference in currency exchange	0	1,223,891
TOTAL BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES	140,268,000	127,128,905

TABLE 3

BUDGETARY & EXTRA-BUDGETARY INCOME RECEIVED (PESETAS) (AT THE CLOSE OF FISCAL YEAR 1994)

1.1 Contributions received in 1994 towards the 1994 Budget:			
Brasil	(18 & 30 May; 9 Aug 1994)	5,325,276	
Canada	(25 Jan 1994)	2,786,037	
España	(14 Sept 1994)	35,529,420	
France	(24 March 1994)	17,464,390	
Japan	(12 April 1994)	10,149,192	
Korea	(14 June 1994)	3,685,408	
Maroc	(19 Sept 1994)	3,174,859	
Portugal	(19 Dec 1994)	7,793,034	
Russia	(16 June 1994)	3,814,049	
Sao Tome & Principe	(11 March 1994)	1,784,171	
South Africa	(12 May 1994)	2,198,688	
United States	(28 Jan 1994)	15,875,221	109,579,745
1.2 Contributions received in 1994 towards previous budgets:			
Brasil	(24 March & 18 May 1994)	6,028,781	
Maroc	(24 Jan 1994)	2,886,379	
Russia	(16 June 1994)	10,356	
Sao Tome & Principe	(11 March 1994)	3,220,942	12,146,458
1.3 Other income (extra-budgetary) was received in 1994 from:			
Voluntary Contributions:			
-- Observers at 1993 ICCAT meetings paid in 1994			
(Ireland, Sweden, Mauritania)	412,945		
-- Observers at 1994 ICCAT meetings (Bermuda, People's Rep. of China, Sweden, United Kingdom, European Union)	1,253,125		
-- Taiwan Deep Sea Tuna Boatowners & Export. Assoc.	1,250,000	2,916,070	
Bank interest		1,526,468	
Refund from VAT		913,247	
Reimbursement for publications		58,631	
Billfish Program-towards Secretariat operating expenses		501,640	
Japan (towards 2nd Meeting of PWG, Tokyo, 1994)		31,624	5,947,680
1.4 Advances on future contributions (received in 1994):			
Japan	(12 April 1994)	2,501,525	2,501,525
TOTAL INCOME RECEIVED IN 1994:			130,175,408

* Balance from 2nd PWG Meeting in Tokyo (1994), deposited to the Working Capital Fund, according to the instructions received from the Delegation of Japan (his letter dated May 13, 1994). (Total amount received to cover the cost of the meeting [7,227,846 pts.] less expenses incurred [7,196,222 pts.]

TABLE 4
COMPOSITION & BALANCE OF THE WORKING CAPITAL FUND (PESETAS) (FISCAL YEAR 1994)

Available in the Working Capital Fund (at start of Fiscal Year 1994)		25,972,093
Deposits:		
Contributions paid in 1994 towards previous budgets	12,146,458	
Other income (extra-budgetary) received in 1994	<u>5,947,680</u>	<u>18,094,138</u>
		44,066,231
Less:		
Difference between contributions paid in 1994, or in advance, and applied towards the 1994 Budget (112,853,730 Ptas.) * and budgetary (Chapters 1-9) and extra-budgetary expenditures (127,128,905 Ptas.)		<u>(14,275,175)</u>
Available in the Working Capital Fund (at the close of Fiscal Year 1994)		29,791,056

* Includes an advance by Japan (2,501,525 Ptas.) applicable to future contributions of Japan.

TABLE 5
SUMMARY OF PENDING CONTRIBUTIONS & THEIR ORIGIN, BY YEAR, AT THE CLOSE OF FISCAL YEAR 1994 (PESETAS)

<i>PENDING CONTRIBUTIONS</i>		<i>ORIGIN OF THE DEBT</i>	
Angola	2,610,077	a) from 1987 and before	18,410,985
Benin	8,403,961	b) from 1988	9,587,400
Brasil	1,119,117	c) from 1989	8,894,100
Cape Verde	11,891,175	d) from 1990	9,768,100
Côte d'Ivoire	1,139,922	e) from 1991	13,707,666
Gabon	2,809,502	f) from 1992	19,447,571
Ghana	50,301,274	g) from 1993	21,572,973
Guinea Ecuatorial	4,895,431	h) from 1994	27,414,270
Guinea (Rep. of)	2,455,541		
Maroc	2,000		
Sao Tomé & Príncipe	5,055		
Uruguay	980,806		
Venezuela	23,568,816		
Cuba *	11,034,300		
Senegal **	7,586,088		
TOTAL PENDING CONTRIBUTIONS	128,803,065	TOTAL PENDING DEBT	128,803,065

* Cuba's withdrawal from the Commission was effective December 31, 1991.

** Senegal's withdrawal from the Commission was effective December 31, 1988.

TABLE 6
CASH FLOW (DURING FISCAL YEAR 1994) (PESETAS)

<i>INCOME & ORIGIN</i>		<i>EXPENSES & APPLICATION</i>	
Balance in Cash and Bank (at the start of Fiscal Year 1994)	30,728,596	Expenditures to the close of Fiscal Year 1994 (Chapters 1 - 9)	127,128,905
Income:			
Contributions paid in 1994 towards the 1994 Budget	109,579,745	Available in the Working Capital Fund	29,791,056
Contributions, paid in 1994, towards previous budgets	12,146,458	Available in the Albacore Research Program	1,482,518
Other income (extra-budgetary), received in 1994	5,947,680		
Advances on future contributions, received in 1994 (Japan)	2,501,525	Total advances on future contributions, received in 1994	2,501,525
	130,175,408		
TOTAL INCOME & ORIGIN	160,904,004	TOTAL EXPENSES & APPLICATION	160,904,004

TABLE 7
STATUS OF CASH & BANK (AT THE CLOSE OF FISCAL YEAR 1994) (PESETAS)

<i>SUMMARY</i>		<i>BREAKDOWN</i>	
Balance in Cash and Bank	33,775,099	Available in the Working Capital Fund	29,791,056
		Available in Albacore Research Program Funds	1,482,518
		Advances on future contributions	2,501,525
TOTAL CASH IN CASH & BANK	33,775,099	TOTAL AVAILABLE & ADVANCES	33,775,099

**REPORT ON STATISTICS
AND COORDINATION OF RESEARCH IN 1994
(COM-SCRS/94/12) ***

I. DATA COLLECTION AND SAMPLING

1. Collection of 1993 statistics through national offices

Table 1, attached to the Report of the Sub-Committee on Statistics (Appendix 4 to the 1994 SCRS Report), shows the progress made by the national offices and by the Secretariat in the collection of 1993 statistics. As many inter-sessional meetings were held this year, many statistics required for such meetings did not become available at the time of the meetings. However, for the SCRS meeting, most of the major statistics were made available to the Committee.

2. Improvements and pending difficulties

a) Major improvements made in 1994

a.1 Southwest Atlantic data. The Data Preparatory Meeting for the South Atlantic Abundance Indices, held in Tamandare, Brazil in August 1994, improved catch and effort data for Brazilian-based fleets. Many missing segments of data were provided and effort data were improved, including information on the number of hooks per basket for each set.

a.2 Mediterranean statistics. Major improvements were again made on Mediterranean statistics in 1994, as a result of the Ad-Hoc GFCM/ICCAT Joint Working Group on Stocks of Large Pelagic Fishes in the Mediterranean Sea (Fuengirola, Malaga, Spain, September 1994). These improvements included updating catch statistics to 1993 for bluefin, albacore and swordfish. Many historical series of catch statistics were modified as well. During the session, the catch-at-size data base was created by the Secretariat and approved by the Working Group for Mediterranean bluefin tuna, and was used at the stock assessment meeting held simultaneously by the ICCAT SCRS.

b) Pending difficulties

b.1 Timeliness in getting catch-at-size data. Most of the major fishing countries for east Atlantic bluefin, north Atlantic swordfish and north Atlantic albacore presented catch-at-size data, although not always on a timely basis. There was a major data problem for the Albacore meeting held in Sukarrieta, June 1994. Since the meeting was held too early in the year, 1993 data were either unavailable for many countries, or contained serious errors. Hence, the albacore group could not up-date the catch-at-size data for 1993.

b-2) Accuracy of catch-at-size data. Due to the lack of size data, many of the catches are matched to data substituted from other fisheries. The level of such substitutions is a major concern (particularly for the Mediterranean areas). Another concern is the number of discrepancies between catch estimated from the catch-at-size file and reported Task I catch data. All the catch-at-size table data are checked against the Task I catch. When the size data are weighted to the total Task I catch, the discrepancies do not exist. However, when extrapolated to the catch in number of fish, there are always some discrepancies and often significant ones. Such discrepancies have been reported in SCRS/94/7 for albacore.

* The Report presented at the 1994 Commission Meeting was edited, but not updated.

b.3 Lack of detailed catch-and-effort data. Catch and effort data are still not detailed enough for many fisheries for use in the standardization of effort. This is particularly true for most of the major Mediterranean fisheries.

b.4 Uncertainty of landing data. The landing data are often collected independently from the commercial records. Therefore, there are often discrepancies between Task II catch and effort data (which is the log summary), and catch-at-size data (as mentioned in the paragraph b-2). Their separation by ocean regions is frequently doubtful.

3. ICCAT Port Sampling

Routine sampling from longliners at various transshipment ports was carried out by ICCAT, as in the past. However, the sampling rate remained very low, due to the reduced activities of transshipments of Asian fleets. South Africa kindly carried out port sampling at Cape Town and the data have been transmitted to the Secretariat.

II. SECRETARIAT DATA PROCESSING AND BIOSTATISTICAL WORK

1. Facilities

Two notebooks (486DX 8 MB RAM & 200 MB hard disk; 486DX 20 MB RAM & 200 MB hard disk), with external keyboards and SVGA screens were purchased. Two new programs were also purchased: ARTEMIS (anti-virus) and LAPLINK (for data transmission).

The data base at the Secretariat has been managed using a Micro VAX. This computer is now quite old and very slow. Also, the hard disk (600 MB + 140 MB) is becoming saturated and is less and less reliable. Apart from this, the maintenance of VAX is expensive. The Secretariat presented a feasibility study for the replacement of the VAX computer in COM-SCRS/94/22. The Commission accepted the proposal to purchase a new computer for the management of the ICCAT data base.

2. Data Processing and biostatistical work

The large number of inter-sessional meetings held during 1994 put a very heavy work load on the Secretariat. Work associated with the scientific meetings is listed below.

a) Reports of scientific meetings

When the reports adopted by such groups are well marked for all the changes, and all the figures and tables are provided to the Secretariat, the finalizing of the reports do not take too long. However, for some meetings, the adopted reports are not well organized, and the Secretariat has to do considerable work on the editing and finalizing of these reports. It took more than four months to get agreement on the content of the Albacore meeting report after it was adopted at the meeting (since some of the changes made at the adoption of the report were not clear, or new changes were proposed after the report was adopted).

b) Extra statistical work and data processing

The Secretariat's work for the inter-sessional meetings held in 1994 (see list in Section III of this report) included the following:

- preparing catch tables
- preparing data catalogues
- writing various reports on the status of statistics, data base, etc.
- preparing catch, catch and effort and size data bases and updating them during the sessions
- creating catch-at-size bases using substitutions and raising
- converting catch at size into catch at age

- providing computer support during the meetings
- preparing catch and effort indices
- preparing graphics and tables for the meeting reports
- checking the results of analyses after the sessions

b) Routine work

The volume of routine work increased as the volume of data increased. Routine work included entering, verifying and processing all the catch, catch and effort and biological data, updating the data catalogue and tagging file for recent years, and preparing and providing data files for scientists who requested specific data. The data processing for all the ICCAT statistical publications was also done.

c) Coordination of the Program of Enhanced Research for Billfish, the Albacore Research Program and the Bluefin Year Program

The Secretariat, in collaboration with the Coordinators of these research programs, was involved in the coordination, administration of funds, and preparation of data for research activities.

d) Reorganization of tagging data base

As recommended by the SCRS in the past, the Secretariat has been reorganizing the tag release-recovery data base. The ICCAT tag data base contained most of the recoveries (together with their corresponding release information) but release information for the tags which were not recovered has been very incomplete. Also one record was created for each tag. Therefore, if release and recovery analysis is to be carried out, the base has to be processed to create records on a fish-basis rather than on a tag-basis.

The data format of the newly-developed base is on a fish-basis, i.e. one record contains all the tags on one fish. The Secretariat requested all the scientists involved in tagging research to provide the Secretariat with historical release-recovery information. The U.S., Canada and Spain transmitted the historical records for most of the releases. There are still some missing segments, however. These new data were all converted to the ICCAT new format and made available to the scientists concerned. The data for albacore and bluefin tuna are almost complete.

The files for releases of tropical tunas were not at all complete. Although several requests were made, no data were received for tags released during the International Skipjack Year Program and the Yellowfin Year Program, except those recovered and enrolled in the tag lotteries.

e) The 1994 tuna tagging lottery (for tag recoveries reported in 1993)

Details are reported in the Administrative Report (COM/94/9).

f) Analysis of sampling scheme from the catches of tropical tunas associated with flotsam

This study has been requested by the SCRS since 1992. The Secretariat formulated a contract with the Autonomous University of Madrid. The results of this biostatistical work are reported in SCRS/94/9.

g) Purse seine logbook for Oriental crews

The SCRS recommended the development of such a logbook in English, Korean and Japanese. The format of the log was agreed upon among the scientists concerned and the Secretariat, and translations were completed with the assistance of a Korean scientist. The original copy was set and printed and copies have been sent to the scientists, who will delivery them to the vessel captains.

III. INTER-SESSIONAL MEETINGS

The inter-sessional meetings relative to research and statistics activities attended, which the Commission or the Secretariat staff organized or participated, included the following:

a) Ad Hoc Consultation on the Role of Regional Fishery Agencies in Relation to High Seas Fishery Statistics

The Assistant Executive Secretary attended this meeting, held in December, 1993, in La Jolla, California, U.S.A. at the invitation of FAO. The Group discussed the roles of the Regional Agencies in compiling high seas statistics, and how to assemble information on a world-wide basis. The results of the discussions were submitted to the U.N. Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks. The Report is available as COM/94/35-SCRS/94/26.

b) Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures

Although the meeting was the direct concern of the Commission rather than the SCRS, the Secretariat provided technical, secretarial and particularly statistical support during this session. The meeting was held in Tokyo, in April 1994, at the invitation of the Government of Japan. The trip expenses for the Assistant Executive Secretary and a multilingual secretary were paid by the Japanese Government.

c) Longline data preparatory meeting for the south Atlantic

The meeting was held in Taipei, Taiwan in May, 1994, at the invitation of the Institute of Oceanography of the National Taiwan University. Although the Secretariat staff was invited by the Institute to attend this session, the Secretariat was not represented, due to time constraints. The Report of the meeting was presented as SCRS/94/36

d) Final Meeting of the ICCAT Special Albacore Research Program

The Meeting was held at the AZTI-SIO, Sukarrieta, Spain, at the invitation of the Autonomous Basque Government, Spain. The intention of this meeting was to evaluate all the research carried out during the Albacore Research Program and draw conclusions on the stock condition of albacore. The Secretariat was represented by the Assistant Executive Secretary and a multilingual secretary. The trip expense for the latter was assumed by the Autonomous Basque Government. The Report is available as COM-SCRS/94/16

e) Consultation on the Technical Aspects of Methodologies Which Account for Individual Growth Variability by Age

The meeting was held at the IFREMER, Brest, France at the invitation of IFREMER. This meeting was a follow-up to the work carried out at the first Consultation, held at St. Andrew's, Canada, in June 1993. The Group reviewed the additional work carried out by various scientists, using the simulated data, to convert catch-at-size into catch-at-age, applying various models. The Report is available as COM-SCRS/94/17

f) Data Preparatory Meeting for the South Atlantic Abundance Indices

The meeting was called since there had been sufficient catch and effort data prepared for standardization by longline countries (at the meeting mentioned above) and by Brazilian scientists. Consequently, the Commission accepted the invitation of the Government of Brazil to hold it at the IBAMA Training Center, Tamandare, Pernambuco, Brazil in August, 1994. Prior to the meeting, a manual for preparing a catch-effort data set for standardization, which was developed by the U.S. scientists, was distributed among the scientists involved in the work. During the meeting, several series of standardized swordfish CPUE series were prepared for the Brazilian and Taiwanese fisheries. The Report is available as COM-SCRS/94/24.

g) Ad-Hoc GFCM/ICCAT Joint Working Group on Stocks of Large Pelagic Fishes in the Mediterranean Sea

The Ad Hoc Working Group held its first meeting at Spanish Institute of Oceanography (IEO), Fuengirola, Malaga, Spain, in September, at the invitation of the IEO. Although FAO's intention was to hold this meeting in 1995, ICCAT felt it was more convenient to hold it before the ICCAT swordfish and east Atlantic bluefin stock assessments in 1994 (in 1995 there will be no such assessment scheduled). Hence, ICCAT agreed to take care of all logistics, including sending out the official invitations. The meeting was held partly overlapping the ICCAT SCRS east bluefin tuna stock assessment session, in order to allow the scientists to participate in both meetings. The Secretariat was represented by the Assistant Executive Secretary, the Systems Analyst and a multilingual secretary. The trip expenses of the multilingual secretary were assumed by the GFCM funds (i.e. provided by the EU).

During the Joint Working Group, the catch, catch and effort, tag release-recapture and size data for bluefin, swordfish and albacore as well as east bluefin catch-at-size data base were updated to include 1993.

The Report of the Working Group is available as COM-SCRS/94/21

h) Stock Assessment Session for East Bluefin Tuna

This meeting, held at the IEO, Fuengirola, at the invitation of IEO, took place consecutively and concurrently with the Ad Hoc GFCM/ICCAT Joint Working Group on Stocks of Large Pelagic Fishes in the Mediterranean Sea, as mentioned above. The Group evaluated the east bluefin stock and drafted the relevant section of the SCRS Report. The draft was circulated to the Commissioners in advance of the 1994 meetings.

i) Stock Assessment Session for the Atlantic Swordfish

The meeting was held at the Commission Headquarters, in October, 1994. The Group evaluated Atlantic swordfish stocks and drafted the relevant section of the SCRS Report and Background Document for the stock assessments. The SCRS draft Report of this section was circulated to the Commissioners in advance of the 1994 meetings.

IV. PUBLICATIONS

Details on the scientific publications issued in 1994 are reported in the Administrative Report (COM/94/9). All publications were prepared, reproduced and published at the Secretariat, except for the covers and binding.

RECORDS OF MEETINGS

PROCEEDINGS OF THE NINTH SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COMMISSION *Madrid, November 28 - December 2, 1994*

FIRST PLENARY SESSION November 28, 1994

Item 1. Opening of the meeting

1.1 The Ninth Special Meeting of the Commission was held in Madrid, Spain, at the Hotel Pintor from November 28 to December 2, 1994, and was presided over by the Commission Chairman, Dr. A. Ribeiro Lima (Portugal).

1.2 The meeting was formally opened by Dr. Lima. He welcomed all the participants and many observers attending this session. He mentioned that the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program was already providing useful information, and emphasized the importance of the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG). He also reviewed the numerous meetings which ICCAT had organized, or participated in, during 1994, and noted the impressive progress made by the scientific committee.

1.3 The Commission Chairman referred to the two sessions of the United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (New York). Dr. Lima noted the difficulties the Commission is facing as regards the increasing activities of the tuna fishing fleets of the non-contracting parties, and stressed the need not only for Contracting Parties to supply more detailed information relating to the implementation at national level of ICCAT regulations, but also for multilateral cooperation to promote international awareness.

1.4 The Commission Chairman hoped that the biostatistician, a position which has been proposed for many years, will be financed this year by the Commission, and stressed the importance of making material resources available to the Secretariat in order for them to be able to carry out their responsibilities as efficiently as possible, as good management of fishery resources would result in economic benefits to the Contracting Parties in the long run.

1.5 He noted that the ICCAT is celebrating its 25th Anniversary in 1995 and he proposed holding a Tuna Symposium to mark this occasion. At the same time, he thanked the Spanish Government for providing improved office space for the ICCAT Secretariat. The Chairman's opening address is included as **Attachment 1-A** to the Proceedings of the First Plenary Session.

1.6 Mr. J. Loira, Secretary General of Maritime Fisheries of Spain, addressed the Commission. After welcoming all the participants, he announced that, despite financial constraints, the Spanish Government had provided more modern office space for the Headquarters of the Commission. It was hoped that the Secretariat could have moved before the Commission Meeting, but this has been postponed for logistical reasons until after the Meeting.

1.7 Mr. Loira reported that the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing was still being developed within the framework of FAO, via the "fast tract" in accordance with the ICCAT Resolution adopted at the Thirteenth Regular Meeting of the Commission (November, 1993). He pointed out that the United Nations Conference of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks would be continuing its work in 1995. He called for international cooperation to conclude both processes, in strict accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 1982, and the Cancun Declaration.

1.8 The Secretary General of Maritime Fisheries of Spain also mentioned the use of large-scale driftnets in the Atlantic and Mediterranean and appealed to all the ICCAT Contracting Parties to apply the United Nations Resolutions

on these gears, due to the harm which they represent to the conservation of resources. The text of Mr. Loira's opening address is included as **Attachment 1-B** to the Proceedings of the First Plenary Session.

Item 2. Adoption of Agenda, arrangements for the meeting and appointment of subsidiary bodies

2.1 Dr. A. Fernández, the ICCAT Executive Secretary, reviewed the Tentative Agenda of the Commission item by item, and pointed out those items that were included in accordance with the decisions adopted by the Commission in 1993, and those that were proposed later for inclusion, as the need arose. Dr. Fernández also referred to the proposal made by Japan to modify Item 21 of the Agenda. He briefly mentioned the documentation prepared for this meeting by the Secretariat, and the meeting schedule. It was noted that the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures would continue its meeting on Wednesday, November 30, 1994.

2.2 The Delegate of Spain proposed that driftnets be discussed under Agenda Item 24.

2.3 The Agenda was adopted, including the change to Agenda Item 21 proposed by the Delegate of Japan. The revised Agenda, as adopted, is attached as **Annex 1**.

2.4 The Chairman reviewed the tentative schedule for the meeting and discussed the meeting arrangements. He also referred to the numerous Commission documents and requested the Delegates to review these for later discussion. The List of Commission Documents is attached as **Annex 3**.

Item 3. Introduction of delegations

3.1 The Head Delegate of each Contracting Party present at this year's meeting introduced his respective delegation. The names and addresses of all the members of the delegations are found in the List of Participants, attached as **Annex 2**.

Item 4. Admission of observers (non-member countries, intergovernmental organizations, and non-governmental organizations)

4.1 The observers present at the 1994 Meeting, all of whom had been duly invited by the Commission, were introduced and admitted in accordance with the current criteria. The list of observers is included in **Annex 2**, the List of Participants.

4.2 While introducing himself, the observer from the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) made a statement, with the intention of clarifying some of the questions raised at the 1993 ICCAT Meeting concerning the duplication of competence between his organization and ICCAT. He stressed that his organization is not trying to intervene in the work of ICCAT and is only interested in the management of the southern bluefin tuna stock, which is distributed among three oceans. He expressed his intention to collaborate very closely with the Commission and to ensure that there would be no duplication of effort. The statement by the observer from the CCSBT is attached as **Attachment 2** to the Proceedings of the First Plenary Session.

Item 5. Review of Commission membership

5.1 The Executive Secretary, referring to the Administrative Report (COM/94/9), informed the Commission that the Secretariat was officially informed by FAO (Depositary of the ICCAT Convention) that, on December 20, 1993, a notification of withdrawal had been received from the authorities of Benin. Thus, Benin will no longer be a Contracting Party from December 31, 1994. The Secretariat was informed that the Italian Government had signed the Convention but that this had not yet been ratified. The Libyan authorities informed the Commission that its Government was taking the necessary steps to become a full member of ICCAT, recognizing their international responsibility and declaring affiliation with the ICCAT objectives.

5.2 Two delegations requested a change in the composition of the Panels. While Russia wished to withdraw from Panel 4, the Canadian Delegation, on 11 of October, 1994, expressed a wish to join the Panel 1. According to the Commission's Rules of Procedure, no member can withdraw from a Panel between two regular meetings of the Commission. However, the Executive Secretary pointed out that the Commission could overrule this if it wished. The

financial repercussions were studied and it was noted that the financing of the budget is based on the number of participating countries on the panels and Commission membership. Hence, while the changes in Commission and Panel membership affect contributions of all the countries, these changes have no effect on the total budget figure. The Delegate of Côte d'Ivoire expressed that his country had no objections to these changes, and this sentiment was similarly expressed by Portugal, Venezuela, Spain, France and Gabon.

5.3 The Commission approved these changes in Panel membership and decided that they should be taken into consideration in the calculation of the country contributions for 1995.

Item 6. Ratification or acceptance of the Protocol of amendment to the Convention (adopted in Paris in 1984)

6.1 The Executive Secretary referred to Item 3 of the Administrative Report (COM/94/9), concerning the status of the Protocol signed in Paris in 1984 to permit the accession of the European Union (EU) to ICCAT and noted that as of today, three countries have not yet ratified: Benin, Gabon and Morocco. Since Benin will withdraw from the Commission (effective December 31, 1994), the Protocol requires only acceptance or ratification by Gabon and Morocco.

6.2 Noting that more than 10 years have passed since the Protocol was drafted, the representative of the EU requested the countries which had not yet ratified to do so, so that EU can become a full member of the Commission. Spain felt the activities of ICCAT would be very much enhanced by the addition of EU as a member.

6.3 The Delegate of Spain presented a draft resolution urging those countries to ratify the Paris Protocol.

6.4 The Chairman pointed out that he had done all he could do in his capacity to achieve this ratification. He emphasized that entry into effect of this Protocol was very important to ICCAT and urged these countries to take prompt action in this regard.

6.5 The Delegate of Morocco informed the Commission that every effort had been made to ratify or accept the Paris Protocol, but that there were administrative delays. He pointed out that he, as Commissioner, had urged his Government to take prompt action, and would continue to do so. He indicated that he hoped the matter would be resolved in 1995.

6.6 The Delegate of Japan felt that the participation of the EU was very important, particularly in the implementation of the Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program. He added that the collaboration of the EU was essential for the success of this Program, and expressed the concern of the Japanese Government about the delay of the implementation of the Protocol.

6.7 The Delegate of Gabon commented that there has been substantial reorganization of the Government of his country, which, together with other domestic problems had delayed the administrative procedure to ratify or adopt the Protocol. The Delegate of Gabon added that he was taking every action to speed up the procedure and hoped that Gabon would ratify the Protocol by the next Commission meeting, or before.

6.8 The Delegate of France reiterated the concern expressed by the various delegations and he considered it most important that the EU become a member, so that all its Member States could participate in ICCAT activities.

6.9 The Delegate of Portugal also expressed concern about the delay in the ratification of the Protocol, and thanked the Delegates of Morocco and Gabon for their efforts to resolve this matter.

6.10 The Resolution by ICCAT in Support of the Ratification or Acceptance of the Protocol of Amendment to the Convention (Paris, 1984) was adopted by the Commission and is attached as **Annex 4**.

Item 7. Ratification or acceptance of the Protocol of amendment to the Convention (adopted in Madrid in 1992)

7.1 The Executive Secretary referred to Item 4 of the Administrative Report (COM/94/9), concerning the Madrid Protocol to amend the scheme of calculating the member country contributions. He informed the Commission that Korea, Canada and South Africa had ratified or accepted the Protocol in 1993. Ratification or acceptance had been received in 1994 from Spain, the United States and Russia. Thus, out of the 22 Contracting Parties, only six had accepted or ratified, a total of 17 being necessary to bring the Protocol into effect.

7.2 The Executive Secretary reminded the Commission that ratification or acceptance is needed from all the countries with developed market economies, and that France, Japan and Portugal have yet to accept or ratify. Acceptance or ratification by a minimum of 10 developing countries is also needed, and the Executive Secretary pointed out that ratification would be to their benefit and urged them to do so promptly.

7.3 The Delegate of Portugal stated that her government has already taken steps to ratify the Madrid Protocol.

7.4 The Delegate of Guinea informed the Commission that the Government of his country had already accepted the Protocol and that this acceptance had been transmitted to FAO.

7.5 The Delegate of Spain pointed out that in spite of the considerable increase in the Spanish contribution under the new scheme, it had already ratified this Protocol. He emphasized that this new scheme would ease the burden of the developing countries, and also help to stabilize the Commission's finances. Therefore, he urged that early ratification of the Protocol be made by all the Contracting Parties. He felt that the Commission should pass a new resolution on the matter so that this Protocol would not take 10 years to come into effect.

7.6 The Delegate of Angola considered it very important to accept the Protocol. He indicated that the document had been submitted to the Secretariat of Council of Ministers of Angola and he hoped that it would be soon accepted and deposited with FAO.

7.7 The Delegate of France stated that the process of ratification was almost completed and had reached the final parliamentary stage. He pointed out that the process had been delayed since France required a new law in order to be able to ratify the Protocol, but hoped that it would be formalized by April, 1995.

7.8 The Delegate of Japan noted that the acceptance of the Protocol by Japan is essential, and that the domestic process has been initiated. While it was difficult to predict when it would be finalized, he would do his best to ensure that Japan would not be the last country to ratify.

7.9 The Delegate of Venezuela noted that acceptance would benefit his country. He explained that there had been some procedural delays since acceptance required the approval of the National Congress, as Venezuela's accession to ICCAT has legal implications. He also pointed out that the recent elections in 1993 had resulted in the formation of a new Congress in March, 1994, which has been working to resolve internal political problems. Nevertheless, he assured the Commission that the his national government would take the necessary steps to accelerate the process.

7.10 The Delegate of Côte d'Ivoire indicated that his country had also started the necessary legislative procedure. However, since 1994 was a pre-election year, less attention had been given to the issue, but it was hoped that the Protocol would be ratified in 1995.

7.11 The Chairman concluded discussions on this item by expressing his hope that the Madrid Protocol would be accepted or ratified by all countries in the near future.

SECOND PLENARY SESSION
November 28, 1994

Item 8. Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS)

8.1 Dr. Z. Suzuki, Chairman of the SCRS, presented the Committee's Report to the Commission (attached as Annex 25) and summarized the scientific findings. He indicated that since the Report was becoming more and more voluminous and that the SCRS was considering substantial changes in the Reporting format for next year.

8.2 Dr. Suzuki referred to various inter-sessional scientific meetings which the Commission held in 1994 and those meetings at which ICCAT was represented (Item 7 of the SCRS Report).

8.3 The SCRS Chairman also commented on the special ICCAT scientific programs, specifically the Enhanced Research Program for Billfish and the Bluefin Year Program. Although the Billfish Program is funded by private sources, the Bluefin Year Program is progressing slowly since no funds are being allocated by the Commission.

8.4 The SCRS Chairman reported on the results of the assessments carried out by the Committee on the stocks of yellowfin, bigeye, skipjack, albacore, southern bluefin and bluefin tunas, billfishes, swordfish, and small tunas (Item 11 of the 1994 SCRS Report).

8.5 Dr. Suzuki noted that the recommendations for statistics, research and management are included in each species section of the Report and the Chairman asked the Panels and the Commission to refer to these recommendations when considering stock management measures.

8.6 The SCRS Chairman called the attention of Panel 1 to the management recommendations made this year by the SCRS concerning yellowfin tuna (Section YFT-4c of the 1994 SCRS Report). He called the attention of Panel 2 to the management recommendations made concerning east bluefin tuna, i.e., that efforts be made to reduce the current level of fishing mortality (Section BFT-4E.c), and to the options of possible regulatory recommendations, including no reduction in the present level for scientific monitoring purposes for west bluefin (Section BFT-4W.c) as well as those made for northern albacore (Section ALB-4c). The SCRS Chairman referred Panel 3 to the recommendations of effort reduction if the apparent decline in the southern albacore stock size is to be stopped (Section ALB-4c). He called the attention of Panel 4 to the recommendation to reduce mortality on bigeye (Section BET-4c) and to the recommendations to reduce fishing effort, fishing mortality rate and catch, if the stock of northern swordfish is to be increased (Section SWO-4c).

8.7 Dr. Suzuki requested that the Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD) give due attention to those recommendations made by the Committee which required funding, in particular, to the recommendations in the Report under Agenda Item 15 concerning a proposal for the publication, in an enhanced manner, the results of the Albacore Research Program, and to Agenda Item 17 concerning the proposals of several inter-sessional meetings that require funding arrangements. He also referred to certain proposals in the Report which may require significant funding by the Commission, i.e. the proposed Tuna Symposium in 1995 and to the revision of Bluefin Year Program.

8.8 The SCRS Chairman noted that the Sub-Committee on Statistics had also met during the SCRS Meeting, with Dr. S. Turner (U.S.A.) as Convener. The Chairman also asked the Commission to carefully consider those recommendations in the report of the Sub-Committee on Statistics concerning the continuing of the study on sampling strategies of tropical surface fisheries by outside contract, hiring of a biostatistician and the proposed plan regarding computer facilities, which requires funding by the Commission.

8.9 The SCRS Chairman also referred to the Bluefin Year Program, (Appendix 7 to the SCRS Report), which was proposed and approved in 1991, the Program for Enhanced Research for Billfish (Appendices 5 and 6 to the SCRS Report), which has been carried out since 1987, and the Albacore Research Program, which concluded in 1994.

8.10 The SCRS Chairman further informed the Commission that the Sub-Committee on Environment had met during this year's SCRS Session, with Mr. J. Pereira (Portugal) as Convener, and that its report and recommendations are included as Appendix 8 to the SCRS Report.

8.11 The SCRS Chairman explained that several meetings have been proposed for the forthcoming inter-sessional period, including: (1) an Ad-Hoc GFCM/ICCAT Joint Working Group on Stocks of Large Pelagic Fishes in the Mediterranean Sea, to create abundance indices for Mediterranean swordfish; (2) a meeting to review the progress of the Bluefin Year Program; (3) a preparatory meeting on methodology for bluefin stock assessments (east and west together); and (4) a meeting to develop stock abundance indices for yellowfin.

8.12 The SCRS Chairman and all the scientists participating in this year's meetings and research activities were highly commended for the high quality of their research carried out on behalf of the Commission.

8.13 The Commission decided that more detailed discussion on the SCRS findings would take place during the Panel Meetings.

8.14 The Delegate of Spain informed the SCRS Chairman that at the later session and/or at the Panel meetings he would be seeking a response to some of the specific questions concerning albacore, which had been presented to the Committee before their Sessions.

THIRD PLENARY SESSION
Tuesday, November 29, 1994

Item 9. United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks

9.1 The Executive Secretary referred to Document COM/94/18 and reported on the two sessions of the Conference (in March and in August, 1994) he attended, in an observer capacity, in representation of ICCAT. He noted that the meeting was very valuable from the point of view of acquiring more information and to encourage more participation in the Commission. Document COM/94/18 contains the negotiating text, prepared by the Chairman of the Conference, on the "Draft Agreement of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1992 Relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks". The Executive Secretary informed that he had presented the Declaration adopted by the Commission in 1993 in support of the Conference.

9.2 The Executive Secretary further reported that two more sessions of the U.N. Conference are scheduled in 1995 to conclude its work. He referred in particular to Article VII of the Draft Agreement, concerning the compatibility of management measures, and Articles X and XI, which refer specifically to the roles of fisheries management organizations. Reference was also made to Annexes 1 and 2 of said Agreement regarding minimum standards for the collection and sharing of data and suggested guidelines for the application of precautionary reference points for the management of straddling and highly migratory fish stocks.

9.3 The U.S. Delegate commented that he had also attended the Conference, and that he appreciated that ICCAT was represented at this Conference. He noted that the role of international organizations such as ICCAT is important. In accordance with this he indicated that the U.S. Delegation had prepared a draft resolution requesting that all countries fishing on the high seas join the relevant management organizations in order to strengthen management of the resources under their mandate. This Resolution was discussed further during the meeting of the Permanent Working Group and was later adopted by the Commission (Annex 10). He expressed the importance of all the non-Contracting Parties fishing in the ICCAT Convention Area to join the Commission. He noted another important point discussed during the U.N. Conference was that fishing nations are called upon to exercise precautionary measures to prevent over-fishing and excessive fishing vessel capacity. The statement by the U.S. Delegate on the U.N. Conference is included as Attachment 3 to the Proceedings of the Third Plenary Session.

9.4 The Delegate of France noted that no consensus had been reached on the legal status that this negotiating text may have, which was one of the reasons for holding two more sessions of the Conference in 1995.

9.5 The Delegate of Spain noted that the results of the Conference should be fully adjusted to the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. He stated that the current negotiating text is not balanced and that the scope of application should apply to both the high seas and the exclusive economic zones (EEZ). He stressed he was in favor of the compatibility of the conservation measures both inside and outside the EEZ, and that in this context no preferential right to the high seas can be conferred to a coastal state.

9.6 The Delegate of Spain further expressed his concern that the work of the United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks might interfere with the preparation of the Code of Conduct which is presently being carried out, as occurred with FAO's last Technical Consultation on the Code of Conduct. He mentioned that the problem of access to regional fisheries organizations of countries which were not members of these organizations should be solved. He concluded by saying that it is vital to reach agreement on the content of the resulting text, as this would be the only guarantee that a balance had been reached.

9.7 The Delegate of Gabon, speaking on behalf of the developing countries, indicated that the responsibilities of flag states had been the subject of lengthy debate at the Conference. He commented that the coastal states should have responsibility regarding the vessels fishing along their coasts. The Delegate of Gabon reiterated the comments by the Delegate of Spain as regards the need for a balanced final text from the U.N. Conference.

9.8 The Delegate of Japan considered that the U.N. Conference Chairman's text was drafted in a well balanced manner among coastal states and high seas fishing countries, while no consensus was reached on the legal status.

Item 10. Large-scale driftnet fishing and its effects on tuna stocks

10.1 Reference was made to the two Resolutions that the Commission adopted in support of the U.N. decision for a moratorium on large-scale pelagic driftnets (see Annex 6 to the 1993 Proceedings and Annex 5 to the 1991 Proceedings.) The Delegate of Spain noted that the use of driftnets and the effects of this gear on tuna stocks were very important issues. He believed that this gear is ecologically harmful, involves problems in selectivity, has a negative impact on other species, and is hazardous for navigation. For all these reasons, Spain has prohibited, at the national level, the use of driftnets. If ICCAT had assumed the commitment of strict monitoring of the activity and development of these gears, particularly their increasing impact on the stock of northern albacore, the result of the work of the SCRS was insufficient. He highlighted the need for the Contracting Parties to provide the SCRS with all the information it needs to be able to carry out the work entrusted to it.

10.2 The Delegate of Spain noted that in 1994, the SCRS (under its Agenda Item 14) had studied the by-catches of various fisheries, and that it was clear from this Report that driftnets are harmful to ecology and are particularly dangerous for marine mammals. He indicated that many non-targeted species die as a result of this gear.

10.3 The Delegate of France expressed agreement with some points raised by the Delegate of Spain, but he could not agree with others.

10.4 The U.S. Delegate also indicated concern about the continuing use of driftnets measuring more than 2.5 km. He felt that it has an effect on the credibility of management organizations. To this effect, the Delegate of the U.S. indicated that his delegation was preparing a draft resolution on large scale pelagic driftnet fishing. (See Proceedings of the Fourth Plenary Session.)

Item 11. Collaboration of non-Contracting Parties in the objectives of ICCAT

11.1 The Executive Secretary introduced document COM/94/28, which provides information on the action taken by the Secretariat as regards contacts with non-Contracting Parties. He pointed out the numerous correspondence sent to these countries to keep them informed on ICCAT's activities, meetings, resolutions and management recommendations adopted, etc. He made particular mention of the increased collaboration of Algeria, Argentina, Barbados, Bermuda, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Dominican Republic, Greece, Italy, Malta, Mexico, St. Helena, St. Lucia, Senegal, Taiwan, Tunisia, Turkey and Ireland. He indicated that there has been growing interest in the Commission's work and an increase in the inquiries about ICCAT membership.

11.2 The Executive Secretary reported on his visit to Taiwan during 1994 at the invitation of the Taiwanese authorities and he reiterated Taiwan's willingness to continue cooperating in ICCAT's work and to comply with all the Regulations adopted by the Commission.

11.3 In referring to collaboration with other international fisheries organizations, the Executive Secretary made special mention of the close working relationship maintained with FAO. He also expressed appreciation to the European Union and reiterated the successful work accomplished by the *Ad Hoc* GFCM/ICCAT Working Group Meeting held this year. The Executive Secretary also noted the collaboration with IATTC, CCSBT and CARICOM.

11.4 The U.S. Delegate observed that the catches by non-Contracting Parties was the most serious problem faced by the Commission. He indicated that a solution to this problem is essential to ensure proper conservation of the resources under ICCAT's mandate. He indicated that the developments of the U.N. Conference were very encouraging. He stressed the need of inviting those non-Contracting Parties that fish in the Convention Area to become members of ICCAT and if not, asking them to voluntarily comply with ICCAT's conservation measures.

11.5 The Delegate of Japan also shared the views expressed by the U.S. and appreciated all the actions taken by the Secretariat as regards the non-Contracting Parties. He believed that the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program was a positive step towards assuring the collaboration of non-Contracting Parties, as indicated from the results reported at the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures. As a result of this Program, many statistics became available. However, he recognized that ICCAT still has a lot of work to be done as regards the fishing activities of non-Contracting Parties fishing in ICCAT Convention waters. ICCAT has only fragmental information on their actual fishing activities. He therefore urged that the Resolution to Ensure Compliance with ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures, drafted by the Permanent Working Group, be adopted by the Commission, in order to have a mechanism to collect such information.

11.6 The Chairman shared the concerns expressed by several delegations and noted that it was most important that these non-Contracting Parties become participating members of ICCAT. He indicated that this would have an added economic benefit in that more funds would be available to assure that ICCAT has adequate, qualified staff and the financial resources to continue its important work. He requested that a resolution on this matter be adopted by the Commission.

11.7 The Delegate of France expressed full agreement that these fishing countries become full members of the Commission and hence be under an obligation to cooperate and comply with the regulatory measures.

Item 12. Presentation and contents of the national reports

12.1 A request was made by the Infractions Committee and then later expanded that the national reports presented to the Commission include all aspects of information, such as statistical data, implementation of ICCAT recommendations, monitoring of inspection and enforcement activities, etc.

12.2 The Chairman of the Infractions Committee, Mr. A. J. Penney (South Africa) noted that, although the contents to be included were not agreed upon, many of the national reports presented this year did indeed contain considerable information on several aspects which was of great value to the Infractions Committee and to the Commission.

12.3 The Secretariat informed the Commission that some of the national reports presented at the SCRS also included the information indicated in the guidelines developed by the Infractions Committee. These included Brazil, Canada, Japan, U.S., and Uruguay, while Spain had presented a complete report, separate from their national report submitted at the SCRS.

12.4 The Delegate of Spain indicated that his country had followed the guidelines presented last year for the national reports which included several sections: Description of the fisheries, application of measures on swordfish, ICCAT Port Inspection, updating of the list of ICCAT inspectors, and application of the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program. He encouraged the Contracting Parties to make available to ICCAT the information needed for the Commission to carry out its work.

FOURTH PLENARY SESSION
December 1, 1994

Item 10. Large-scale driftnet fishing and its effects on tuna stocks (Continued)

10.1 The Delegate of Spain had presented a proposed Resolution in favor of the immediate prohibition of driftnets. He did so considering that very strong reasons exist: the unnecessary cost to the environment, the lack of selectivity, the unnecessary mortality, the difficulties in effective control, the danger represented to navigation and the serious socio-economic consequences and problems of cohabitation derived from the incompatibility of driftnets with traditional, ecologically sound, fishing gears.

10.2 The Spanish Delegation noted, however, with sadness and disillusion, that the proposed Resolution did not have the necessary support to go forward. For this reason, it was withdrawn. However, he maintained that his country would continue to maintain its position in all fora, for reasons which are set out in the "Memorandum by Spain on Driftnets", which states the Spanish position and the reasons behind it (included as Attachment 4 to the Proceedings of the Fourth Plenary Session).

10.3 The Delegate of Spain hoped that ICCAT would fulfill the obligations which it had accepted, of intense monitoring and evaluation of the impact of driftnets, and that this topic would be raised at the 1995 Commission Meeting.

10.4 The U.S. Delegate appreciated the statement by the Spanish Delegate and shared the concerns expressed. He noted that the moratorium on large-scale driftnet fishing was a serious issue, and that enforcement of the U.N. Resolutions was very important. Supporting the Spanish concern, the U.S. Delegate proposed that the problem be studied by the Commission in great depth.

10.5 The U.S. Delegation presented a draft Resolution on Large Scale Pelagic Driftnet Fishing, in support of the U.N. Resolutions of 44/225, 45/197 and 46/215 on this matter, and stated that ICCAT should take the future action necessary.

10.6 The Delegate of France expressed support for the U.S. proposed draft Resolution. He pointed out that the discussions clearly showed, without any ambiguity, the French albacore fishery was not affected by the United Nations Resolutions.

10.7 The Delegate of Spain pointed out that he could not accept the interpretation given by the French delegate in relation to the discussions, since it was evident from these discussions that the driftnet fleets, including the French fleet, were using nets that were longer than 5 km which, in his opinion, contravene the United National Resolutions.

10.8 The Delegate of Canada also expressed strong support for the U.S. draft Resolution and for the U.N. Resolutions.

10.9 The Delegate of Japan also supported the draft Resolution proposed by the U.S. He stated that his country used to be one of the largest pelagic driftnet fishing nations on the high seas of the Pacific. However, Japan accepted the U.N. Resolutions and had prohibited all large-scale high seas driftnet fisheries, which have been banned since the end of 1992, at great sacrifice to the fishermen. He believed that if the impact of driftnets on the natural environment is found to be acceptable, he hoped that this fishery could be resumed as provided by the U.N. Resolution. At the same time he believed that all such restrictive actions should be taken on the basis of scientific evidence only.

10.10 The proposed Resolution was adopted by the Commission and is attached as Annex 5.

FINAL PLENARY SESSION*December 2, 1994***Item 11. Collaboration of Non-Contracting Parties in the Objectives of ICCAT**

11.1 The Commission noted that this Agenda item had been discussed in depth at the PWG meeting and concurred with all the Recommendations and Resolutions that were forwarded by the PWG to the Commission for adoption (see Agenda Item 14).

Item 13. Report of the Infractions Committee

13.1 The Report of the Infractions Committee was presented to the Commission by the Chairman, Mr. A. J. Penney (South Africa). The Commission reviewed the Report and thanked the Chairman and the members of the Committee for the progress made. The Commission adopted the Report and endorsed all the recommendations included therein (attached as Annex 6).

Item 14. Report of the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG)

14.1 The Acting Chairman of the Permanent Working Group (PWG), Mr. A. Donahue (Canada), presented the Report of the PWG. He stated that the report was the product of very hard work carried out by the members since its second meeting in Tokyo, in April 1994, and including the present session, which involved many late night meetings. The Group drafted many Recommendations and Resolutions concerning trade, the fishing activities of non-Contracting Parties, and improvements to the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program.

14.2 The PWG Chairman reported that the most important achievement was that the Working Group agreed on a Recommendation to allow Contracting Parties to take action against countries which did not comply with the regulations recommended by the ICCAT. This Resolution Concerning an Action Plan to Ensure Effectiveness of the Conservative Program for Atlantic Bluefin Tuna was reviewed by the Commission and formally adopted (attached as Annex 7).

14.3 The PWG Chairman further reported that there was a series of proposed resolutions concerning the interpretation of the terminology used previously both in the recommendations and in the procedural aspects of their application. (The Resolution adopted is attached as Annex 8).

14.4 Other Resolutions, such as that concerning the Effective Implementation of the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program (Annex 9), Coordination with non-Contracting Parties (Annex 10), Fishing in the Mediterranean during Spawning Months (Annex 11), the Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas (Annex 12), Compliance with the ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures (Annex 13), and Vessel Monitoring (Annex 14), were also adopted by the Commission.

14.5 The Acting Chairman of the PWG reported that the Group had examined the application for a full waiver of the Statistical Document Program from New Zealand and Australia. The Group's decision was that southern bluefin tuna, when exported by these countries, does not require an accompanying document, but that all northern bluefin tuna, even when caught in the Pacific, should be accompanied by a Statistical Document. It was recommended that government validation should be waived for these countries. The Commission endorsed these decisions.

14.6 The Delegate of the U.S. congratulated all the members of the PWG for achieving such a historic step towards the objective of solving the problems of non-compliance of ICCAT Regulations by non-Contracting parties, which undermines the effectiveness of the Commission's conservation measures.

14.7 The Delegate of Spain congratulated the Chairman, Rapporteurs and all the participants of the Working Group. At the same time he asked that the reservations expressed by Spain about holding PWG meetings on a bi-annual

basis be recorded. He noted that most of the issues referred to the Group have been reviewed in depth at the two recent meetings and that matters such as problems of data evaluation could wait until the 1995 Commission Meeting. The Spanish Delegate further commented that there would be some financial problems involved in participating in a meeting next spring. At the same time, he noted that as the issues were very complicated, the holding of the meeting in English only has caused many problems for the Spanish participants. Hence Spain requested that interpreters be available at the next session.

14.8 The Executive Secretary considered that the request by Spain was reasonable since the Commission's official languages are English, French and Spanish. At the same time he commented that holding an extra meeting during the next annual meeting would require renting another conference room and more funding for translation.

14.9 The Delegate of Portugal congratulated the participants for accomplishing such tremendous work, particularly the Chairman, Rapporteurs, Secretariat staff and the Assistant Executive Secretary. She noted that the Resolution on trade measures on a multi-lateral basis was a mile stone. She also concurred with the Spanish proposal of having only one PWG meeting per year.

14.10 The Delegate of France congratulated the Group and at the same time felt it would be most appropriate that the next meeting of the PWG be held at the time of the annual meeting.

14.11 There was a consensus that the next meeting of the PWG should be held a few days prior to, and at the same place, as the 1995 Commission meeting, with simultaneous translation.

14.12 The Reports of the Second Meeting of the Permanent Working Group (Tokyo, April 1994) and the Third Meeting of the PWG (Madrid, November 1994) were adopted by the Commission and are attached as Annexes 15 and 16, respectively.

Item 15. Reports of Panels 1 to 4, and possible new regulations to be considered

15.1 The Report of Panel 1 was presented to the Commission by its Chairman, Dr. L. Koffi (Cote d'Ivoire). The Commission thanked the Chairman and the members of the Panel for the excellent work carried out.

15.2 The Report of Panel 1 was reviewed and adopted by the Commission. It is attached as Annex 17 to the Proceedings.

15.3 Since the Draft Reports of Panels 2, 3 and 4 became available towards the end of the last Plenary Session, there was not enough time to reopen the Panels to study and adopt the reports before submitting them to the Commission Plenary. Therefore, the Commission decided to adopt Panels 2, 3 and 4 Reports through correspondence. On the other hand, the Commission noted that the Recommendations on various regulatory measures drafted by these Panels have already been agreed upon by the Panels and had been forwarded to the Commission for consideration. The Reports of Panels 2, 3 and 4 are attached as Annex 17.

15.4 The Commission studied and adopted two Recommendations on regulatory measures of Atlantic bluefin tuna which were submitted by Panel 2: (1) the Recommendation by ICCAT for the Management of Bluefin Tuna Fishing in the Eastern Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea (attached as Annex 18); and (2) the Recommendation by ICCAT for the Management of Bluefin Tuna Fishing in the Western Atlantic Ocean (attached as Annex 19).

15.5 The Commission also reviewed and adopted a Recommendation for the Management of South Atlantic Albacore, presented by Panel 3. This Recommendation is attached as Annex 20.

15.6 The Commission also studied and adopted a Recommendation for the Management of Atlantic Swordfish presented by Panel 4 (attached as Annex 21).

15.7 Since all these management Recommendations were reviewed and adopted by the Commission, it was decided that the Secretariat should forward these Recommendations to the Contracting Parties and to the non-Contracting Parties, for confirmation and information purposes, notwithstanding that the Proceedings of this Session have yet to be approved through correspondence, and since these Recommendations had been studied by the Panels and were available in three languages at the time they were adopted by the Commission Plenary.

Item 16. Matters relative to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES)

16.1 The Executive Secretary noted that since the Tentative Agenda was prepared, there had been a considerable number of changes in the situation with regard to CITES. The Commission's comments on the criteria for listing endangered species in the CITES Appendices, which were sent to the CITES General Secretary on December 31, 1993, are included as Annex 22. The Commission thanked Mr. J. S. Beckett (Canada) for taking the initiative to draft these comments, as well as the Secretariat and scientists who also worked on them.

16.2 The Commission also expressed its satisfaction that the Secretariat had kept the CITES Secretariat informed of all the scientific findings of the Commission concerning Atlantic bluefin tuna stock conditions, as well as all the management measures adopted by the Commission in relation to this species.

16.3 The Commission also received a Report on the results of the Ninth Conference of Contracting Parties of CITES (Fort Lauderdale, November, 1994) from Mr. J. S. Beckett, who attended the Conference as part of the Canadian Delegation and was authorized to represent ICCAT. The summarized report received from Mr. Beckett is attached as Annex 23.

16.4 The Executive Secretary, summarizing the report received from Mr. Beckett, commented that CITES is requesting, from FAO and other international regional agencies, including ICCAT, the results of shark research and trade data.

16.5 The Delegate of Japan noted that after the proposal made by Sweden during the Eighth Conference of the Parties to CITES (Kyoto, 1992) to list Atlantic bluefin tuna in the CITES Appendices, the ICCAT's interest in CITES has been increasing. The ICCAT Contracting Parties have endeavored for a number of years to conserve and manage Atlantic bluefin tuna on a scientific basis. Regarding the conservation and management of this species, Japan noted that the ICCAT position has been that it can be most effectively done by ICCAT, a body that has more scientific qualifications on the matter, therefore rejecting CITES possible regulations as unnecessary and inadequate. The Delegate of Japan noted that during the Ninth Conference of the Parties to CITES (Fort Lauderdale, 1994), no proposal to list bluefin tuna was presented, although there is a movement among a number of countries to include Atlantic bluefin tuna in the CITES Appendices. Therefore, Japan feels that it is necessary to watch closely any future developments on this matter.

16.6 The Delegate of Japan added that ICCAT's activities are not only restricted to bluefin tuna but to the conservation and management of other species for which it has competence. She added that ICCAT collects scientific information, and if necessary it has the obligation to establish conservation and management measures. Therefore, Japan is of the opinion that ICCAT must oppose any movement that arises to list any species of ICCAT competence in the CITES Appendices.

16.7 The Delegate of Japan informed the Commission that at the Ninth CITES Conference, new criteria for listing species in the Appendices were adopted. She indicated that several points of these new criteria should be appraised, in particular, that of a proposal for listing species under the jurisdiction of other intergovernmental organizations to consult on the proposal beforehand, and for the proponents to take account of organizations' views for submitting the proposal.

16.8 The Delegate of Japan further noted that, in principle, CITES is in charge of only one aspect of wildlife conservation, which is the regulation of trade. For the conservation and management of wildlife, including marine species, measures to control direct catch should be first designed and introduced. She added that those who have taken such measures should, if necessary, consider taking trade measures as complementary actions. The ICCAT bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program is a pioneering example of what fisheries management should be in the future. This is an instance of an international fisheries management organization that, while taking conservation and management measures, endeavors to supervise through trade monitoring the fishing activities of those that hinder ICCAT conservation measures. In this sense, it will be necessary to make all possible efforts in order that this system is effectively enforced.

16.9 The Delegate of the U.S.A. observed that shark research is a very delicate issue and should be treated with great care. He emphasized that the monitoring of shark statistics by regional agencies such as the ICCAT was very important as sharks were known to be a by-catch species, according to past ICCAT studies.

16.10 The Delegate of Japan stated that in the future, ICCAT should assure that, if any movement appears to try to list bluefin tuna, or other species that were under its competence, the points of the new criteria mentioned above are secured. She further stated that, in case such a proposal was put forward, Contracting Parties should make efforts in line with the two CITES related ICCAT Resolutions adopted at the Thirteenth Regular Meeting so that ICCAT's opinions are thoroughly reflected at CITES.

16.11 The delegate of Spain, noting the importance of shark research, stated that ICCAT had decided since last year to collect shark data, and suggested that the Commission collaborate with other organizations in this respect. As ICCAT's mandate is limited to the species listed in its Convention, the Commission's activities relating to sharks may be limited to the assembly of statistics available at the national level and in making these available to other international organizations.

16.12 The SCRS Chairman stated that this is exactly what the SCRS was doing. He hoped that the SCRS would be able to collect more specific data, including biological data, in collaboration with other organizations.

16.13 The U.S. Delegate believed that pelagic sharks are taken as a by-catch of tuna fisheries. He understood that the Commission had not addressed its role in the management of Atlantic sharks, but believed that the SCRS could be the most competent body for stock assessment of sharks but if the proper data were collected. It is logical, since pelagic shark catches occur in the other fisheries that ICCAT manages, that the next stage would be to evaluate the stock conditions of pelagic sharks. He emphasized that stock assessment and management of pelagic sharks would have to be carried out internationally in the near future and hence the Commission should address this problem, as there was an urgent need for the collection of data and management of sharks.

16.14 The Delegate of Spain felt that there would be a problem of competence. He observed that the International Council for Exploration of the Sea (ICES) has recently established a committee to study sharks. Therefore, he requested that ICCAT obtain information on the terms of reference of this group, as well as its objectives and procedures. When more was known about the new ICES group, ICCAT would be able to decide how to proceed as regards this issue.

16.15 The Delegate of the U.S. referred to the SCRS discussion concerning the establishment of a Working Group on by-Catches and welcomed the increase in the SCRS efforts to collect data on sharks, and suggested that the Commission discuss shark management at its next meeting.

16.16 With regard to shark management and data collection, the Delegate of Japan noted that to set forth ICCAT's competence as an international fisheries management organization, and to avoid being exposed to negative criticism regarding the management of shark resources, it was necessary to respond properly to these requests.

16.17 The Delegate of Japan indicated that shark species are distributed not only in the Atlantic Ocean, but also throughout the world's oceans. Because of this, it is highly desirable that considerations on conservation and management should be undertaken globally by an organization, such as FAO, with the support of other international bodies, such as ICCAT. Therefore, ICCAT should keep close contact with FAO in addition to CITES. Also, since shark species are many (about 350 different species) and the ecology of those species is different, many things remain unknown concerning the basic knowledge of each species' ecology, the status of their resources and the need to establish measures for their conservation. Therefore, ICCAT may deem it necessary to determine which species are of concern. ICCAT should not forget that CITES seeks information on all sharks, not only pelagic, but also coastal and in-shore shark species.

16.18 The Delegate of Japan further noted that if ICCAT limits itself to respond to CITES' request by providing data, the possibility exists that those data may be used inappropriately by those who advocate listing sharks in the CITES Appendices. Therefore, it is necessary to prepare to be able to respond appropriately in case the listing of sharks is proposed, by starting research on the situation of the shark resource, etc., and consider, as necessary, the establishment of management programs, etc.

16.19 After hearing all these comments, the Commission endorsed the policy previously presented by the SCRS on the collection of data on tuna by-catches, and agreed that a discussion of ICCAT's role in the management of pelagic sharks should be on the Agenda for the 1995 meeting.

16.20 The Commission requested that the Secretariat contact ICES regarding this newly-formed sharks committee and report its findings before the next Commission meeting.

Item 17. Recommendations concerning research and statistics

17.1 The Commission noted that several recommendations concerning research and statistics had been forwarded by the SCRS Chairman, Dr. Z. Suzuki, during his presentation of the Committee's Report. The Commission also noted that the Recommendations concerning stock management had been carefully studied and reiterated by the Panels, whereas the STACFAD reviewed those recommendations that have financial implications. The Commission endorsed all the recommendations made by the SCRS.

17.2 The SCRS Chairman, while indicating his appreciation to the Commission for its support to the Committee, expressed concern that the precautionary approach which the SCRS proposed for the management of various tuna stocks had regrettably not been followed by the Commission.

17.3 The SCRS Chairman then referred to the relationship between non-Contracting Parties and Contracting Parties. He noted that the fishing activities of non-Contracting Parties had been blamed for the failure of regulatory measures, but pointed out that the Contracting Parties should be the first to observe the rules.

17.4 The SCRS Chairman proposed to the Commission the SCRS plan to simplify the method of reporting to the Commission next year. He proposed that the SCRS and Commission meetings be held separately, rather than consecutively, with a certain amount of time between both meetings to allow the Commission more time to study and understand the results of the scientific research carried out by the SCRS.

17.5 The Delegate of Spain expressed full support for the separation of the SCRS and Commission meetings.

17.6 The SCRS Chairman noted that the proposed Tuna Symposium had been presented and studied in depth by the Committee. The proposal received the full support of scientists although it was felt that there was too little time to organize such an event for 1995. He stated that the Committee, in order to maximize the effectiveness of the Symposium, had established a Steering Committee to study the proposal carefully and develop a final plan and budget, including the invitation of non-Atlantic scientists. Dr Suzuki commented that the provisional cost of the meeting estimated by the Committee was twice the amount tentatively estimated by the Executive Secretary. The Committee also decided to seek external funding, including from the private sector (industry, etc.)

17.7 The Commission Chairman expressed his full support for the Symposium. He understood the difficulties in holding the Symposium in 1995, due to logistical and financial difficulties. He requested that the SCRS prepare a detailed budget to be presented at the 1995 Commission Meeting. He assured the SCRS that sufficient funds would be made available to hold the Symposium in 1996.

17.8 The 1994 SCRS Report was adopted by the Commission together with the recommendations contained therein and is attached as Annex 25.

Item 18. Report of the Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD)

18.1 Since the STACFAD session had only been concluded the previous evening, and the Committee had had no chance to adopt the report, it was agreed that the STACFAD Report would be adopted through correspondence. However, one copy (in English) of the draft version of the report was distributed to the Head Delegate of each of the participating countries. The Secretariat was requested to make the translations available as soon as possible, for distribution to the respective countries for approval. The STACFAD Report is attached as Annex 24.

Item 19. Adoption of the 1995 budget and member country contributions

19.1 Although the STACFAD did not adopt its entire Report, it did review and recommend the budget for 1995 and the calculations of the member country contributions for adoption by the Commission. The Commission formally adopted the 1995 Budget as well as the 1995 member country Contributions (Table 1 and 2 to Annex 24).

19.2 Thus, the Commission instructed the Secretariat to consider the Budget and contribution tables formally adopted and could, therefore, proceed to request the contributions, notwithstanding the final adoption of the STACFAD Report in its entirety by the Commission through correspondence.

Item 20. Confirmation of Staff Regulations and Rules

20.1 The adopted STACFAD Report was not available at the time of the Plenary. However, the Commission duly noted the discussions which had taken place concerning the Staff Regulations and Rules, proposed by the Executive Secretary. It also noted that the Committee recommended that the Staff Regulations and Rules be applied on a provisional basis for another year, until the STACFAD had an opportunity to review these fully in 1995. The Commission also endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that Article 33 of these Staff Regulations and Rules not be applied to the Secretariat staff in 1995.

Item 21. Vessel tracking and catch reporting system

21.1 The Delegate of the U.S. reported that this subject had been discussed by the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures and it was agreed to hold a meeting on this subject during the inter-sessional period. The U.S. offered to host this meeting in Seattle.

21.2 The Delegate of Japan welcomed the agreement reached by the Permanent Working Group and thanked the U.S. for its offer to host the meeting.

21.3 The Executive Secretary confirmed that the 1995 Commission Budget proposed by him did not include funds to cover such a meeting nor for Secretariat staff participation. Hence, the host government would have to assume the meeting expenses, as well as the expenses of the Secretariat staff to attend such a meeting, should it be necessary.

Item 22. Reports of subsidiary bodies appointed by the Commission for the meeting

22.1 There were no special subsidiary bodies appointed by the Commission for this year's meeting.

Item 23. Date and place of the next regular meeting of the Commission

23.1 The Delegate of Spain indicated that the work of the Commission was getting out of hand and that the SCRS Report had become so large that it required some time to review and analyze each and every proposal, instead of the very limited time available at present, which makes it very difficult for the Commission participants to reach rigorous decisions based on the scientific conclusions. Therefore, he proposed that there be an interval of at least a week to 10 days between the SCRS Meeting and the Commission Meeting.

23.2 Agreeing with this, the Chairman further proposed that meetings of subsidiary bodies of the Commission be held on Friday and Saturday of the week preceding the Opening of the Commission Meeting (e.g. the Infractions Committee, the PWG and perhaps STACFAD). He added that simultaneous translation should be provided for these meetings.

23.3 The SCRS Chairman mentioned that the scientific committee was planning to prepare two separate reports, an executive summary to be presented to the Commission, and a scientific record (background document) as a reference of the assessment methods applied. He noted that the Committee had established an advisory group to the SCRS Chairman whose terms of reference were to establish a new format for a better reporting system. He also felt that a one-week separation between the Commission and SCRS meetings was insufficient.

23.4 The Delegate of France fully agreed with the proposals made by the Delegate of Spain and the Commission Chairman, and supported the SCRS Chairman's view that one week was not enough time between the two meetings. He further suggested the use of communication systems (such as E-mail, fax, etc.) to transmit to the Commission during this period any proposed drafts of resolutions and recommendations.

23.5 The Delegate of Canada agreed to separate the two meetings but also noted that one week was not sufficient time to analyze the scientific findings and discuss solutions with industry people. He preferred at least a three-week interval between the two meetings, particularly considering the time needed for the distribution of the Report by mail. He also agreed to extend the Commission's meeting period by two extra working days.

23.6 The Delegate of Japan, agreeing with Canada, stated that given the problems of distance and language, it would definitely require more than a week to review the SCRS Report, and suggested a period of at least two, and possibly three, weeks between meetings.

23.7 The Delegate of the U.S. has also expressed the view that the separation of the two meetings would not cause any problem for his country and that he fully supported the extension of the Commission meeting by two days.

23.8 The Delegates of Portugal and South Africa were also in favor of these proposals.

23.9 The Delegate of Venezuela proposed a minimum of six weeks between the two meetings. He stated that for developing countries, two weeks were not enough, due to the difficulties in sending a scientist to the SCRS, and the possibility of delay in receiving the SCRS Report by correspondence.

23.10 The Delegate of Morocco commented that the separation of the two meetings would pose an extra financial burden on developing countries, as participants had to make two trips.

23.11 The U.S. Delegate suggested the possibility of transmitting the SCRS Report to the Contracting Parties by electronic mail. The Executive Secretary noted that while sending the SCRS Report by airmail was very expensive, the electronic mail system may not be able to accommodate the entire Report and also there were many countries where such a system was not available.

23.12 The Executive Secretary further stated that although the additional cost for the two extra days could cause some financial problem, since this was not included in the budget, there would be no difficulty in renting the meeting room for two more days, as the conference room is even now booked for a least two days before the meeting starts. Since the budgetary repercussions would not be very great in relation to the total budget, he further noted that there are generally extra-budgetary income from observer fees, and voluntary contributions, such as the US\$10,000 received from Taiwan this year that could be applied to cover the expenses for the two extra meeting days.

23.13 The Chairman concluded that there was a consensus on separating the meetings of Commission and SCRS as well as on extending the Commission meeting by two days.

23.14 The Delegate of South Africa stated that at the 1993 Commission Meeting his country had extended a tentative invitation to the Commission to hold its 1995 meeting in South Africa. He regretted that at present, his country was obliged to withdraw this invitation due to various internal difficulties. He hoped that his country would be in the position to extend the invitation again some time in the future.

23.15 Finally it was agreed that the SCRS would hold its 1995 meeting in Madrid, Spain, from October 9 through 13, 1995, and following an approximate four-week time lapse, the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission will be held in Madrid on November 10 and 11, 1995. It was also agreed that November 12 would be set aside to celebrate ICCAT's 25th anniversary. The Plenary Sessions of the Fourteenth Regular Meeting of the Commission will be held from November 13 through 17, 1995, also in Madrid.

Item 24. Other matters

24.1 The observer from New Zealand, representing the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) addressed the Commission, and referred to a document circulated earlier, which explains the function of this new Commission. He expressed his wish to collaborate fully with ICCAT. He pointed out that Japan was also a member of the CCSBT and a member of ICCAT and that any technical questions might be best answered by the Japanese Delegate.

24.2 The Delegate of Japan referred to Document COM/94/28 on the relation between ICCAT and CCSBT. He considered that as southern bluefin tuna was distributed throughout the three oceans, it was desirable to manage the whole stock as a unit. Also he stressed that the CCSBT was completely open to new members. He reaffirmed the invitation extended to ICCAT to attend, in an observer capacity, the next meeting of CCSBT, scheduled to be held in Tokyo, in July or August, 1995.

24.3 The Delegate of Japan further noted that both organizations should be encouraged to exchange relevant information on fishery data and results of stock management. He added that the CCSBT was considering the introduction of a Statistical Document Program in the future, but for the time being the Commission was pleased to have this program started by ICCAT. The CCSBT asked for the collaboration of ICCAT by providing information from the experience gained through the Statistical Document Program.

24.4 The Delegate of Spain reported that the annual meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) had taken place recently and that longline by-catch had been critically reviewed. He reported that the CCAMLR requested the other international organizations to take account of this problem and take some actions. As the Delegate of Spain was also representing CCAMLR at this ICCAT Meeting, he felt it was his duty to report on this subject and hence provided the document prepared by CCAMLR to the Commission. He noted with pleasure that this document had already been presented and studied by the SCRS Sub-Committee on Environment and that the scientists had already given considerable attention to it.

24.5 The Delegate of Japan stated the stance and philosophy of the Japanese implementation of the Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program. The statement by Japan on the implementation of this Program for fresh products is included as **Attachment 5** to the Proceedings of the Final Plenary Session.

Item 25. Adoption of Report *

25.1 The Proceedings of the First, Second and Third Plenary Sessions of the Commission, the Report of the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG), the Report of the Infractions Committee, the Report of Panel 1, all the Resolutions and Management Recommendations, as well as the 1995 Budget and member country contributions, were presented in the three official languages, and after introducing some minor corrections, these were adopted by the Commission. The Commission agreed to adopt the Proceedings of the Fourth and Final Plenary Session through correspondence.

25.2 It was noted that the adoption of the text of the STACFAD Report and the Reports of Panels 2, 3 and 4 were also pending final approval by the Commission through correspondence. It was reiterated that all the Resolutions and Recommendations presented by these groups have been adopted by the Commission and can be put into effect.

Item 26. Adjournment

26.1 The Chairman of the Commission stated that in the 25 years of ICCAT meeting, he had been involved in the last 14. He noted that this was probably the most difficult and most complex session he had ever experienced. He believed that the Commission plays, and must continue to play, a very important role on the international stage. He thanked all the participants, interpreters and ICCAT Secretariat.

26.2 The Delegate of U.S. thanked the Commission Chairman and the Secretariat and also congratulated the delegates on the historic progress made.

26.3 The Delegate of Japan agreed with U.S. and commended the Chairman and the Secretariat for the remarkable progress made in the work of ICCAT.

26.4 The Delegates of South Africa, France and Spain all supported these comments and expressed their gratitude to the Chairman, Delegates, Interpreters and the Secretariat staff.

26.5 The 1994 Meeting of the Commission was adjourned on December 2.

* As of November 13, 1995, the Proceedings of the Ninth Special Meeting of the Commission were adopted in their entirety.

ATTACHMENT 1-A

**OPENING ADDRESS
BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION,
DR. A. RIBEIRO LIMA
(attached to Proceedings of the First Plenary Session)**

Mr. Secretary General of Maritime Fisheries of Spain,
Delegates,
Good morning all,

Once again it is my great pleasure to declare open the sessions of this Ninth Special Meeting of ICCAT. I appreciate the presence of so many qualified members of the Delegations of the Contracting Parties and should like to reiterate my intention of proving myself worthy of the trust which you have placed in me, by having reelected me as Chairman of this Commission for a further two years.

I should also like to thank the observers from other countries and organizations for attending and thus renewing their interest in ICCAT activities.

Delegates: For the past year, the activities carried out by ICCAT have been particularly positive, as a result of the Resolutions and Recommendations which we have adopted at meetings over the last two years.

The ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program is being fully implemented, and is already providing useful information and, which is perhaps even more noteworthy, arousing the curiosity and interest of some non-member countries in relation to the whole issue of tuna conservation in the Convention Area. Furthermore, the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures, established in 1992 as an instrument to monitor that Program, has held two important meetings during the year, one of them only yesterday, the results and proposals of which will be examined by the Commission with great interest.

ICCAT scientific activities have also been intense. In addition to the normal meetings to assess the stocks of species under our mandate, several inter-sessional meetings took place:

- in Sukarrieta (Spain) on Albacore
- in Brest (France) on age/growth relations
- in Tamandaré (Brazil) on abundance indices
- and in Fuengirola (Spain) on large pelagic fish, together with the General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean.

During the first three months of this year, the group of scientists led by Mr. James Beckett, updated the report on bluefin tuna stocks in the Atlantic and the initiatives adopted for their conservation. This report was sent to the CITES Secretariat (Geneva) and to the US Fish and Wildlife Service in Washington, and I understand that its contents have helped to counter opinions in favor of including bluefin tuna in the CITES Appendices. I should also like to congratulate the ICCAT Secretariat for their efficiency and timeliness with which they have handled this delicate matter.

At the beginning of last July, when the Agenda for the current sessions was being prepared, I submitted to the Head Delegates a series of reflections on our activities, which I will briefly recall here.

Firstly, I recognized that we are not all satisfied with the state of the fisheries under our mandate. We have certainly adopted some good Recommendations during the last quarter of a century, but there is something which does not seem to work properly, when theory is put into practice. Historically, during the 1980s, ICCAT activities underwent a phase of stagnation, or even regression in some aspects, although some revival has been observed during the first third of the 1990s, with the adoption of several important Recommendations and Resolutions. It seems clear to me that this situation will have to become more dynamic between now and the year 2000, if we

wish to really face up to the responsibilities of an intergovernmental organization such as ours. It is sufficient to consider the founded expectations which led to the sessions of the United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks which were held this year in New York, about which the Executive Secretary will inform us. It is obvious that multi-lateralism is the ideal principle on which to tackle jointly the problems of conservation and marine resource management. If ICCAT is to assume its responsibilities -some without precedent- to solve the many problems which have arisen in its area of competence, the principle of indiscriminate participation of all countries involved seems to be highly advisable.

At the same time, it is becoming more and more evident that topics related to the conservation and management of tunas and related species are questions which are also issues concerning international public opinion, which closely follows, and critically evaluates, our operations. To be successful in our conservation and management tasks, the scope and projection of our efforts should become more international, as both the fish and the markets are international. In this sense, the need for coherence by our Governments should be repeated, by managing stocks of large migratory fish throughout the whole area of their migration.

We also need to fulfil our obligations as Contracting Parties: To provide the Secretariat with complete, up to date yearly information regarding the implementation, at the national level, of the ICCAT Regulations, as well as other aspects of our fisheries of tuna and related species. The Infractions Committee has presented some initiatives in this respect, which the Commission will discuss, as it is essential for ICCAT to assure a reasonable consistency and comparability among the different national systems of conservation and management of those resources.

Similarly, our capacity as an intergovernmental organization must be strengthened in order to monitor, inspect and enforce the content of all our management measures throughout Convention Area. Only in this way will we have the necessary moral strength, individually and collectively, to insist that non-Contracting Parties and countries that fly flags of convenience do what they must and cooperate to achieve our objectives. For example, on the issue of large pelagic driftnets the Commission adopted, in 1991 and 1993, Resolutions supporting the United Nations Resolutions, prohibiting the use of this gear from the 31 December 1992, and I trust that the terms of these Resolutions will be adhered to by all interested parties.

Allow me to make a further observation, in relation to the scientific foundations on which we base our decisions. We are still committed to making the evaluation needed to maintain viable fisheries and sustainable ecosystems. From its beginnings, the Commission has had eminent scientists on the SCRS, who, year after year, have been constructing a basis on which to assess the status of the stocks under our mandate. The collection and compilation of statistical and biological data has also been fundamental to this process. The extraordinary progress in fishing technology in recent years calls for an urgent updating of the traditional methods of obtaining and communicating statistical data. For example, the parameters needed to calculate catch per unit of effective fishing effort should be determined with greater precision, with the contribution of all the means available to our respective national Administrations. The advice of the SCRS should be increasingly more precise, progressively eliminating the inaccuracies which exist.

Facing this considerably increased demand for ICCAT action in the coming years, we find that our executive organ, the Secretariat of the Commission, continually lacks the resources necessary to face the responsibilities which we ourselves place upon it. Here again we must be consistent. If we accept the recommendations of our subsidiary bodies, as is the custom, we ought to provide the personnel and material resources for them to be carried out properly. For example, we have, for several years, approved the hiring of a high-level Biostatistician as a permanent member of the Secretariat staff, but until now we have not authorized the corresponding funds, with a clear loss of desirable efficiency. I trust that this inconsistency will be eliminated on the approval of the 1995 budget.

Regarding the financing of the Budget, which is always less than that agreed, I am worried that the majority of the governments which signed the 1992 Final Act instituting the Madrid Protocol, to allow a better distribution of the financial obligation among the Contracting Parties of the Convention, have not yet signed, accepted or ratified said Protocol, despite that at the Thirteenth Regular Meeting we adopted a Resolution urging them to do so as soon as possible.

Delegates: We await, then, new and important challenges to achieve a more rational and efficient management of the resources of tunas and related species, which bear in mind the interrelations which exist between environmental factors, socio-economic conditions and the size and accessibility of the stocks. Reality

shows us that the correct management of the fisheries translates into good business, in economic and social terms, as achieving a sustainable level of marine resources leads to the creation of equally sustainable jobs.

In a few days, ICCAT will have completed 25 long years of activity. I think that, in addition to other possible forms of commemoration, a fitting way to celebrate the event would be to organize the Tuna Symposium, proposed by Dr. Fonteneau, the scope and content of which we can discuss in depth. Also on this 25th Anniversary of ICCAT, I should like to thank the Spanish Authorities, and especially the Secretary General of Marine Fisheries, for the effective measures taken during the year to make possible the relocation of the ICCAT Headquarters to more modern and functional offices than those presently occupied.

Before closing this introduction to the topics on our Agenda, I should like to make special reference to a person who, for the first time in many years, will not be accompanying us in our debates. May I ask the United States Delegation to convey our most affectionate greeting to Mr. Carmen Blondin, who this year finished a brilliant career serving his country, and who knew how to gain the respect and consideration of all the members of the Commission.

Thank you very much for your attention.

**OPENING ADDRESS BY
THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF MARITIME FISHERIES OF SPAIN,
MR. J. LOIRA**

(attached to Proceedings of the First Plenary Session)

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Executive Secretary, Distinguished Delegates, Mr. Representative of the European Union, Observers:

Once again I have the honor of welcoming you to Madrid. On this occasion, it is to participate in the work to be carried out during the Ninth Special Meeting of the Commission. Our periodic annual encounters, combined with the speed of time, tempts me to initiate these words as if no lapse of time has occurred.

Thus, "as we said yesterday" and yesterday is for us the Thirteenth Regular Meeting, held in November of last year, let me go back to my closing remarks at the time of adjournment. At that time, I made the commitment, in the name of the Government of Spain, to study with the maximum interest the change in the offices of the Commission Headquarters and to do everything in my power to make such a change possible.

Today, it gives me great satisfaction to inform you that the Spanish Government took real interest in our initiative and in spite of budgetary difficulties, our Commission now has new offices.

In selecting offices, we took into account the space necessary for all the staff that make up the ICCAT Secretariat and the necessary logistics their work requires, such as holding meetings of experts and scientific meetings at the Headquarters.

The Executive Secretary as well as the Spanish Administration hoped to move to the new offices before the meetings, to be able to celebrate the ICCAT's 25th anniversary in the new offices.

Because of the meetings held during the months of September, October and November, with all work involved for the Secretariat, and the proximity of the current Headquarters to the hotel where diverse sessions of the meeting are being held, made it advisable to delay the move to the new offices until these meetings were finalized.

Next year we will have the opportunity to meeting at the new Headquarters and to celebrate adequately such a happy occasion.

Within the framework of important procedures, initiated in previous years, which will have considerable repercussion on the fishing sector on a world level and which ICCAT has supported with different Resolutions, we should congratulate ourselves for the adoption, at the 27th Conference of FAO, of the first binding instrument which will form part of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing, i.e., the Agreement to promote compliance of the management and conservation measures by vessels fishing on high seas

Another motive for satisfaction is the adoption of the development of a Code of Conduct, via the "fast track". During this year, various Groups of Experts and a Technical Consultation were held to accelerate this work.

The position of some countries has prevented advancing as much as was hoped, but we hope and we are confident that these differences in criteria will be resolved and that the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing will be a reality in the near future.

In the Cancun Declaration, which required so much effort on everyone's part for its adoption, lies the base of the Code of Conduct and it would not be to our benefit if, for individual interests, we try to distort it.

The U.N. Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks held two sessions during this year and proposed, if the General Assembly so approves, to hold two more sessions in 1995, in order to conclude its work. Although the different positions are coming together, a consensus still has not been reached.

Convinced of the need for having these two instruments for the exercise of Responsible Fishing in all areas and in all the fisheries, not only in specific small areas when a country may have a special interest, I make from here, in the name of my Government, a call for international cooperation so that, with due respect to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 1993 and the Cancun Declaration, both processes are concluded.

In the same way, I encourage all the members of ICCAT to ratify the two Protocols of Amendment of the Convention, i.e. the Paris Protocol of 1984 which will make it possible for the European Union to become a Contracting Party of the Commission, and the Madrid Protocol of 1992. The latter will permit less favored nations to assume their responsibilities as regards contributions to the Organization, which is the only way possible to stabilize and reinforce the financial status of the Commission, so that it is assured of adequate resources to attain its objectives, which are also our objectives.

As concerns the status of the tuna and tuna-like resources in the Atlantic, we await with great interest the results of the meetings of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics.

The work of this Committee constitutes the fundamental basis of ICCAT's work and its conclusions and recommendations should orient the national fisheries policies on tunas in the Atlantic Ocean.

The almost general state on a worldwide level of full exploitation and in some cases of over-exploitation of the resources is also clearly reflected in some stocks of tunas in the area regulated by ICCAT.

I cannot conceal the concern of our Government over this situation. Spain has been adopting each and every one of the Recommendations adopted by ICCAT. To apply the measures agreed, many times it has been necessary to make great effort and sacrifice, for the socio-economic repercussions which these represent for a sector, such as the fishing sector, which has grave problems.

Such costly efforts have not always reached the objectives proposed, because of the irresponsible behavior of some Contracting Parties. Their attitude has not only harmed a stock in decline, but has minimized the beneficial effects that would have been obtained by the responsible behavior that other Contracting Parties have assumed.

I do not want to end without urging you to continue fighting so that the United Nations Resolutions on driftnets are applied in the Atlantic Ocean. It seems, and according to the report by the Secretary General of the United Nations, this is the last stronghold, together with the Baltic Sea and the Mediterranean Sea, where this type of gears, which are so harmful for the conservation of the resources, are used.

I appeal to the spirit of cooperation of all of you, since it will be an essential element to attain success in the work you have to carry out during these sessions and I wish you all a pleasant stay in Madrid.

Thank you.

**STATEMENT BY THE NEW ZEALAND MEMBER OF THE CCSBT OBSERVER
DELEGATION ON BEHALF OF THE CCSBT**

(attached to Proceedings of the First Plenary Session)

ICCAT has been aware of issues surrounding the conservation of southern bluefin tuna for some years. At the 1993 meeting of ICCAT, Australia, New Zealand and Japan's signature of the Convention for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna was discussed. ICCAT members noted that there might be some overlap of competence with respect to the conservation of southern bluefin tuna within the Atlantic Ocean. They suggested that ICCAT and CCSBT were interested in achieving similar ends and that the two organizations should coordinate their activities to avoid overlapping responsibilities. They urged representatives of CCSBT to establish contact with ICCAT to clarify these aspects.

I am happy to inform you that the presence of a CCSBT delegation to this meeting as observers as well as the countries represents a positive response to this call. The members of CCSBT have agreed to a paper on the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna and possible collaboration with ICCAT which we are pleased to present to your meeting. This task has fallen to the New Zealand member of the CCSBT delegation as New Zealand is the current chair of CCSBT.

The CCSBT developed from the informal management arrangement that began in the early eighties between Japan, Australia and New Zealand - the parties taking virtually the entire southern bluefin tuna catch at that time. Southern bluefin tuna is a unique species which migrates through the Pacific, Indian and Atlantic Oceans. Coordinated management across the entire range of southern bluefin tuna is needed to manage this considerably depleted stock.

CCSBT does not intend to intervene in the activities of other international organizations but rather to manage the entire southern bluefin tuna stock. In doing this, it is recognized that communication with other organizations, particularly ICCAT, will be necessary to avoid duplication of management effort and research.

ATTACHMENT 3

**STATEMENT BY THE UNITED STATES ON
THE U.N. CONFERENCE ON STRADDLING FISH STOCKS AND
HIGHLY MIGRATORY FISH STOCKS**
(attached to Proceedings of the Third Plenary Session)

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The United States is optimistic about the direction the U.N. Conference on Straddling Stocks and Highly Migratory Species is going. It has achieved considerable momentum, and we hope there will be a successful conclusion next year.

The work of the U.N. Conference is highly relevant to what we are doing at ICCAT. The Conference will set a new standard for international management of pelagic species, one which ICCAT should strive now to achieve.

I would like, if I may, to take a moment to remind the Commission of a number of the general principles which the Conference has developed and which are embodied in the Chairman's draft Agreement for the implementation of the provisions of the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea relating to the conservation and management of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory species.

The draft Agreement calls upon both coastal states and states fishing on the high seas to:

- a) adopt conservation and management measures to ensure long-term sustainability and promote utilization of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks;
- b) ensure that such measures are based on the best scientific evidence available and are designed to maintain or restore stocks at levels capable of producing the maximum sustainable yield,;
- c) apply the precautionary approach;
- d) promote the development and use of selective, environmentally safe and cost-effective fishing gear and techniques in order to minimize pollution, waste, discards, catch by lost or abandoned gear, catch of non-target species;
- e) take into account the need to protect biodiversity;
- f) take measures to eliminate over-fishing and excess fishing capacity and to ensure levels of fishing effort do not exceed those commensurate with the sustainable utilization of fisheries resources;
- g) collect and share, in a timely manner, complete and accurate data concerning fishing activities, *inter alia*, on position, catch of target and non-target species and fishing effort, as well as information from national, regional and international research programs;
- h) promote and conduct scientific research in support of fishery conservation and management; and
- j) promote the implementation of conservation and management measures and effective monitoring, control and surveillance.

Mr. Chairman, these principles are the standards by which the outcome of this meeting will be judged. We must strive this week to abide by these basic principles. We should measure our decisions by whether they can be defended as being consistent with these principles, because this is how the world at large will judge us.

MEMORANDUM BY SPAIN ON DRIFTNETS
(attached to Proceedings of the Fourth Plenary Session)

1. Historical background

1.1 Albacore fishing in the northeast Atlantic

The so called "Bonito Coast" has developed traditionally with the following circumstances:

- Fishing season: From May to September
- Area: Northeast Atlantic, from 30°W to the Bay of Biscay
- Fleets: French and Spanish, and later the fleets of Ireland and the United Kingdom
- Gear & equipment: Baitboat and troll (both hook gears). Since 1990, the use of driftnets started.

Development of the fleet (in number of vessels), according to the gear used:

Year	Traditional fleet (No. of hook vessels)	Driftnet fleet		
		No. of vessels	No. of days	Kms. of net
1988	750	20		
1989	730	37		
1990	720	41		
1991	720	46	2,601	13,005
1992	720	59	3,472	17,360
1993	720	90	6,149	30,745
1994	720	106	?	?

Since no freeze on driftnet fishing effort was established, a progressive increase in the use of this type of gear is expected. The increase in driftnet fishing has come about since this is a gear which has a large catch capacity and produces high yield. On the other hand, it permits a reduction in operating costs since the vessels operate with a crew that is slightly less than that utilized in traditional hook fishing operations. Besides the contrary factor of the incidental catches and the incompatibility with other fishing methods, it should also be pointed out that the products taken by the driftnet fishery are of low quality.

It should also be pointed out that in recent years some vessels have practiced albacore fishing using pelagic drift gears, with irregular results.

In contrast to that pointed out above, hook gears are ecological, they respect the marine environment, are highly selective, they do not produce incidental catches and they catch high-quality products.

1.2 Fishery for salmon and salmon-like fishes in the Baltic Sea

Driftnet fishing in the Baltic Sea is directed at salmon and marine trout and is regulated by the International Commission of Fishing in the Baltic Sea.

1.3 Swordfish and tuna fishery in the Mediterranean Sea

In the Mediterranean, driftnet fishing is directed mainly at the catch of swordfish and secondly at albacore and other small-sized tunas.

This fishery is reporting considerable development as regards swordfish, and it is estimated that in 1988 and 1989 catches reached 10,000 MT.

2. Incompatibility of gears

Driftnets present a high degree of incompatibility with other types of gears and, in particular, with the hook gears. The main problems are discussed below.

2.1 Incompatibility with trolling gears

The concentration of driftnets in the schools of the target species obstruct the troll fishing operations. This fishing type requires considerable mobility of the vessels that tow lines or trolls from which the hooks are suspended. The driftnets obstruct the fishing operations of the troll vessels in two ways: on the one hand they do not permit navigation and on the other hand the hooks become caught in the nets. For this reason, fishing in the same marine area is incompatible for these two gear types.

2.2 Risk for the safety of human life at sea

Driftnets set on the surface of the sea or at minor distance from the surface constitute an authentic "wall" which makes free navigation impossible for merchant vessels as well as for fishing vessels. Often the propellers of the vessels get caught in the net mesh, which damages the propulsive system. Proof of the large number of accidents is that logistical support vessels with divers on board have to be present in the fishing areas in order to solve the problems with these entanglements.

The circumstances described herein are a danger to the vessels, as well as to the crews, bearing in mind two fundamental factors. First of all, this fishery takes place on the high seas where adverse meteorological conditions are frequent. Secondly, the distance of the fishing grounds from the coasts considerably aggravates the risk involved.

2.3 Effects of the dispersion of the schools

The driftnet "walls" set at sea have the effect of dispersing the schools which, evidently, makes it difficult to fish with hook gear, particularly baitboat fishing, which requires the concentration of fish.

2.4 Seasonality of the fisheries

The difficulties described above are accentuated by the fact that since it involves highly migratory species, fishing takes place in concrete zones and time/areas which, in fact, makes cohabiting of the different gears impossible. As a result, there are continuous incidents and serious confrontations among the fishermen.

2.5 Additional fishing mortality on albacore

Independently of the high catch capacity of driftnets, this fishing gear causes significant additional fishing mortality on albacore, which is difficult to quantify. This is because the fish get caught in the nets and are able to break loose wounded from their fight with the nets while others break loose from the nets at the time the nets are lifted.

3. Incidental catches

Contrary to the traditional fishing methods with hook gears which are highly selective both as regards species as well as sizes of fish, driftnets show a high index of incidental catches, which has an ecological risk of undoubted significance.

Particularly grave is that among these incidental catches are numerous catches of marine mammals, of which two types are distinguishable:

- Catches of dolphins and other cetaceans which can be assessed with a certain degree of precision, since they get entangled in the nets.

- Catches of sperm whales and whales that normally due to their considerable size and strength, are able to escape by breaking the nets and dragging part of them, which necessarily ends up causing their deaths.

These catches are difficult to assess. Notwithstanding that mentioned above, as regards the driftnet fishery in the northeast Atlantic, estimates indicate annual catches on the order of 1,600 dolphins and a hundred of other cetaceans, although the figures could be higher due to the circumstances explained.

On the other hand, there is also a by-catch of turtles and marine birds, as well as fish, mainly sharks and swordfish.

Lastly, the driftnets also catch considerable quantities of bluefin tuna (about 1,000 MT in 1993) and also causes concern about the development of this fishing gear, given the current state of exploitation of the bluefin tuna stock.

4. Difficulties of control

With the exception of the special case of the salmon and salmon-like fishery in the Baltic Sea, driftnet fishing is carried out on the high seas.

On the other hand, in order to assure the profitability of the fishery it is necessary to set more than 2.5 Kms. of net by vessel. Studies carried out on this matter indicate that, at least a kilometer of net per crew member is needed for the fishing operation. Taking into account that the average number of crew members per vessel is on the order of 7, the probabilities of incompletion are evident.

Proof of that indicated above is the extremely high percentage of infractions detected in the recent fishing cruises. The major part, if not all, of these are related to the length of the gears.

The difficulties of control are aggravated by that explained earlier, in the sense that the fishery generally operates in international waters and at great distances from the coast. Under these circumstances only patrol vessels flying the same flag as the fishing vessels are authorized to carry out inspections. On the other hand, the cost of such control is quite high.

The deployment of means of control carried out in recent years has been incapable of preventing the infractions and avoiding incidents among the fishermen. The cost/benefit analysis alone would justify the prohibition of driftnets.

5. Conclusions

In view of all that has been explained, it is considered that the prohibition of driftnets should proceed immediately. At any rate, the possibility, of an exceptional nature, could be contemplated, of permitting the use of driftnets within the coastal limit of 12 miles of territorial waters, and with a limited length of 2.5 Kms.

These conclusions coincide with those expressed in two consecutive reports of the European Parliament.

On the contrary, the demonstrated incompatibility of the driftnets with the traditional fleets, during the fishing season, could force the latter, with about 700 vessels, to adopt the use of this conflictive fishing gear, which would have a negative effect on the stock of albacore and by-catch species, and very probably causing irreparable ecological damage.

ATTACHMENT 5

**STATEMENT BY JAPAN ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ICCAT'S
BLUEFIN TUNA STATISTICAL DOCUMENT PROGRAM
ON FRESH PRODUCTS**

(attached to Proceedings of the Final Plenary Session)

On behalf of the Japanese Trade Administration, I would like to explain the stance and philosophy toward the Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program (BTSDP) from the biggest bluefin tuna importing country in the world.

We believe that observance of ICCAT recommendations is Japan's international obligation. The Recommendation adopted at last year's annual meeting of ICCAT requires from the first day of December validation by the flag country's government or accredited institution on the Statistical Documents attached to bluefin tuna when it imported into a Contracting Party. We, the Government of Japan, started enforcement of the BTSDP on fresh and chilled bluefin tuna from the 1st of December, that is, yesterday.

In order to identify the attached Statistical Documents to know if the bluefin tuna was appropriately validated by the exporting country, Japan needs information, including the exporting country's name of organizations, title of officials which validate the document, and sample imprints of the stamp or seal of those organizations.

In order to avoid confusion at customs, please submit this information as soon as possible if your country has not yet done so.

We strongly believe that the BTSDP will become a model program to resolve the difficult conflicts between trade and environment. Therefore, it is essential for all the countries and areas exporting bluefin tuna to Contracting Parties to cooperate in implementing this Program to maintain its validity. We request that you, as exporting countries, instruct your country's exporters not to fail to attach the Statistical Document with validation.

COMMISSION AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of Agenda, arrangements for the meeting and appointment of subsidiary bodies
3. Introduction of delegations
4. Admission of observers (non-member countries, intergovernmental organizations, and non-governmental organizations)
5. Review of Commission membership
6. Ratification or acceptance of the Protocol of amendment to the Convention (adopted in Paris in 1984)
7. Ratification or acceptance of the Protocol of amendment to the Convention (adopted in Madrid in 1992)
8. Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS)
9. United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks
10. Large-scale driftnet fishing and its effects on tuna stocks
11. Collaboration of Non-Contracting Parties in the objectives of ICCAT
12. Presentation and contents of the National Reports
13. Report of the Infractions Committee
14. Report of the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures
15. Reports of Panels 1 to 4, and possible new regulations to be considered
16. Matters relative to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES)
 - a) ICCAT position regarding the development of new criteria for listing species in the CITES Appendices
 - b) Communication with CITES on bluefin stock conditions and ICCAT management measures
 - c) Action to be taken by ICCAT in relation to any proposal concerning the listing by CITES of a species which is under ICCAT competence
17. Recommendations concerning research and statistics - Proposal for an ICCAT Tuna Symposium
18. Report of the Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD)
19. Adoption of the 1995 budget and member country contributions
20. Confirmation of Staff Regulations and Rules
21. Vessel tracking and catch reporting system
22. Reports of subsidiary bodies appointed by the Commission for the meeting
23. Date and place of the next regular meeting of the Commission
24. Other matters
25. Adoption of Report
26. Adjournment

ANNEX 2

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M. E. Carel
J. Cayol
J. Cheatle
M. A. F. de Bobadilla

J. L. Gallego
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T. Oyarzua
J. Scoleri

Temporary Staff

F. Bellemain
B. F. de Bobadilla
P. Jordán

LIST OF COMMISSION DOCUMENTS

- COM/94/** 1 1994 Tentative Commission Agenda
- 2 Annotated Tentative Commission Agenda
- 3 Tentative Agenda of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) (SCRS/94/1)
- 4 Tentative Agenda of the Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD)
- 5 Tentative Agenda for Panels 1-4
- 6 Tentative Agenda of the Infractions Committee
- 7 Tentative Agenda of the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures
- 8 Panels-Mandate and Membership
- 9 1994 Administrative Report
- 10 1994 Financial Report
- 11 1995 Revised Budget and Member Country Contributions
- 12 Report on Statistics and Coordination of Research in 1994 (SCRS/94/12)
- 13 1994 Meeting Report of the Standing Committee on Research & Statistics (SCRS) (SCRS/94/13)
- 14 Report of the Contributions-Expenditures of the ICCAT Enhanced Billfish Research Program in 1994 (SCRS/94/14)
- 15 Review of the Progress made in the Bluefin Year Program (BYP) in 1994 (SCRS/94/15)
- 16 Report of the Final Meeting of the ICCAT Albacore Research Program (*Sukarrieta, Vizcaya, Spain, June 1-8, 1994*) (SCRS/94/16)
- 17 Second ICCAT Workshop on the Technical Aspects of Methodologies which Account for Individual Growth Variability by Age (*Brest, France, June 27-29, 1994*) (SCRS/94/17)
- 18 United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (SCRS/94/18)
- 19 Second Meeting of the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (*Tokyo, Japan, April 19-21, 1994*) (SCRS/94/19)
- 20 Information relative to High Seas Driftnet Fishing (SCRS/94/20)
- 21 Report of the First Meeting of the *Ad Hoc* GFCM/ICCAT Working Group on Stocks of Large Pelagic Fishes in the Mediterranean Sea (*Fuengirola, Malaga, Spain, September 19-24, 1994*) (SCRS/94/21)

- 22 Redesigning of the Secretarial computer system (SCRS/94/22)
- 23 Review of the possibilities of access to data bases on the environment (SCRS/94/23)
- 24 Report of the Data Preparatory Meeting for the South Atlantic Abundance Indices (*Tamandare, Pernambuco, Brazil, August 3-9, 1994*) (SCRS/94/24)
- 25 ICCAT Tuna Symposium (SCRS/94/25)
- 26 Status of the Regulatory Measures recommended by ICCAT for the Conservation of Yellowfin Tuna, Bigeye Tuna, Bluefin Tuna and Swordfish
- 27 ICCAT Port Inspection
- 28 Cooperation of Non-Contracting Parties with ICCAT Objectives
- 29 Degree of compliance of the ICCAT Management Recommendations
- 30 ICCAT Staff Regulations and Rules
- 31 Implementation of the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program
- 32 Tracking and catch reporting system
- 33 Implementation of Swordfish Regulations
- 34 Infractions Committee
- 35 Report of the *Ad Hoc* Consultation on the Role of Regional Fishery Agencies in relation to High Seas Fishery Statistics (*La Jolla, California, USA, December 13-16, 1993*) (SCRS/94/26)
- 36 Report of the *Ad Hoc* Inter-Agency Consultation on Atlantic Fishery Statistics (*Madrid, Spain, July 11-15, 1994*) (SCRS/94/27)

ANNEX 4

**RESOLUTION BY ICCAT
IN SUPPORT OF THE RATIFICATION OR ACCEPTANCE OF
THE PARIS PROTOCOL OF AMENDMENT TO THE CONVENTION
(ADOPTED IN PARIS IN 1984)**

CONSIDERING the time elapsed since the approval, by all the ICCAT Contracting Parties, of the Protocol of Amendment to the Convention, adopted in Paris in 1984,

CONSIDERING that the Member States of the European Union have transferred competence in matters of conservation and management of fishery resources to the European Union,

RECOGNIZING the benefit to the Commission that will result from the incorporation of the European Union,

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

That Parties which have not accepted or ratified the Paris Protocol do so as soon as possible, with the aim of allowing this Protocol to enter into force.

RESOLUTION BY ICCAT ON LARGE-SCALE PELAGIC DRIFTNET FISHING

WHEREAS ICCAT adopted a Resolution in November 1993 endorsing U.N. General Assembly Resolutions 44/225, 45/197, and 46/215 regarding large-scale high seas pelagic driftnet fishing and its impacts on the living marine resources of the world's oceans and seas, and calling upon all of its member nations to support these Resolutions; and

WHEREAS reports have come to the attention of members of the Commission that large scale pelagic driftnet fishing has persisted in areas under the purview of ICCAT, during 1994;

WHEREAS the Commission has expressed its concern over the possibility that certain stocks of fish under the purview of ICCAT and other marine resources could be adversely affected by such fishing; and

WHEREAS the Commission continues to be concerned over the possibility that large-scale pelagic driftnet fishing contrary to the intent of U. N. Resolutions 44/225, 45/197 and 46/215 could take place in the future in waters under the purview of ICCAT;

WHEREAS the Commission reaffirms its commitment to the concept of responsible fishing, as developed in the framework of the FAO Code of Conduct;

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

REAFFIRMS the importance it attaches to compliance with the U.N. General Assembly Resolutions 44/225, 45/197 and 46/215;

EXPRESSES its appreciation for the measures taken individually and collectively by its members to implement these Resolutions.

EXPRESSES its continued concern over the potential negative impacts that large-scale pelagic driftnet fishing could have on the marine resources of the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea, and its intention to closely monitor the effect of driftnet fishing on these resources.

CALLS UPON all of its member nations to fully implement these Resolutions and to report to the Commission and to the U.N. Secretary General the regulatory measures taken in order to assure such implementation, per U.N. Decisions 47/443 and 48/445.

CALLS UPON all of its member nations to take greater enforcement responsibility to ensure that their nationals and fishing vessels comply with Resolution 46/215, and to impose the appropriate sanctions against their nationals and fishing vessels that act contrary to the terms of Resolution 46/215.

ANNEX 6

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE INFRACTIONS COMMITTEE**1. Opening of the Meeting**

1.1 The meeting of the Infractions Committee was opened by the Chairman of the Committee, Mr. A. J. Penney of South Africa. He noted that the image of ICCAT had improved during 1994 as a result of efforts by the Secretariat and the Contracting Parties. However, he also noted that many problems continued to exist with practical implementation of a number of the ICCAT management measures. He reminded the Committee that it should be the role of the Infractions Committee to evaluate such problems, and make recommendations to the Commission for their resolution. However, it appeared that the Infractions Committee was not fulfilling this role, and that many of the other bodies were, in fact, assuming this responsibility.

2. Adoption of Agenda

2.1 The Chairman proposed that item 4 of the Agenda be divided into two sections: (a) Status of the application of the regulations recommended by the Commission on yellowfin, bigeye, bluefin, and swordfish; and, (b) Matters arising from the SCRS Report and the National Reports. He also suggested that Agenda item 8 on mandate and name of the Committee be discussed under item 9, future work of the Committee. The Delegates agreed to the proposed changes in the Agenda.

2.2 The Agenda was adopted with the recommended change, and is attached as Appendix 1 to Annex 6.

3. Nomination of Rapporteur

3.1 The Chairman asked whether the U.S.A. would be willing to provide a rapporteur for the meeting and Ms. A. Santin (U.S.A.) offered to serve in this capacity.

4a. Status of the application of the Regulations recommended by the Commission on yellowfin, bigeye, bluefin, and swordfish

4a.1 The Executive Secretary presented and summarized document COM/94/26, which contained information concerning the status of regulatory measures recommended by ICCAT for the conservation of bluefin tuna, yellowfin tuna, bigeye tuna, and swordfish. The Executive Secretary indicated that reactions and suggestions concerning the accuracy of the information contained in the tables of COM/94/26 were welcome, and requested that these be submitted in the form of official written notifications. He noted that Angola had submitted additional information for their country for Table 3B and that the table would be updated to reflect this.

4a.2 The Chairman thanked the Executive Secretary for his work and noted the comments and information on the implementation of the recommendations, particularly for swordfish, had improved since the previous year. He then asked if any of the Contracting Parties had statements.

4a.3 The Delegate of Spain acknowledged a positive improvement in the implementation of the Commission's recommendations, but noted a need for more improvement. He noted that a contradiction exists whereby the Commission attempts to get non-Contracting Parties to comply better with its conservation and management measures, while they have been inadequately implemented by the Contracting Parties.

4a.4 The Delegate of Uruguay notified the Committee that her country had specifically initiated a process to implement relevant ICCAT management measures, and would inform the Secretariat accordingly.

4a.5 The Executive Secretary called upon the Contracting Parties to provide the Secretariat with the official regulations or text adopted at the government level concerning the implementation of the Commission's regulations.

4a.6 The Delegate from Korea stated that the National Report from Korea contains only the catch record for bluefin tuna. He expressed an intention to submit the statistics for bluefin exportation soon.

4a.7 The Chairman noted that document COM/94/26 provided a useful summary of efforts taken by ICCAT members to comply with the regulations of the Commission. He asked that Contracting Parties notify the Secretariat, in writing, of any efforts they may have taken that are not yet reflected in the tables.

4a.8 The Delegate of the United States thanked the Chairman for his work, and agreed with the Delegate of Spain on the need for improvement in the implementation of the Commission's recommendations.

4a.9 The tables showing the status of the implementation of ICCAT Regulatory Measures are attached as Tables 1 to 5.

4b. Matters arising from the SCRS Report and the National Reports

4b.1 The Chairman noted that the purpose of this item of the Agenda was to discuss matters arising from the SCRS Report pertaining to the implementation of ICCAT recommendations. In addition to the SCRS Report, the Chairman asked the Delegates to consider matters arising from the information contained in the national reports, and from document COM/94/33, which contained information from the Contracting parties on Panel 4 concerning the measures adopted by those countries to implement the recommendations adopted by the Commission for the regulation of the swordfish fisheries.

4b.2 The U.S. Delegate presented a statement expressing the on-going concerns the U.S. has with the implementation of existing recommendations (attached as Appendix 2 to Annex 6). The Delegate expressed concern that those fishing for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean have exhibited little evidence of compliance with the 1974 Commission Recommendations to implement a minimum size of 6.4 kg and to limit fishing mortality to then-recent levels. He noted the SCRS recommendations that every effort be made to adhere to the current measures on the size limit of 6.4 kg, that steps be taken so that no age 0 fish are caught, and that efforts be made to reduce the current level of fishing mortality. He concluded that the logical assumption is for the level to be set at that which was recommended in 1974. He pointed out a need to clarify and define the level of fishing mortality intended in the 1974 recommendation.

4b.3 The Delegate of the U.S. expressed the belief that it would be irresponsible for the Commission to ignore these infractions. The Delegate further pointed out that the same concerns apply to swordfish and the other species where compliance is being ignored.

4b.4 The Delegate of Spain noted that the while U.S. was correct in many of its statements, its proposals concerning improvement of regulatory measures and the definition of fishing mortality levels should be put forward at the panel discussion on eastern bluefin, not before the Infractions Committee. He addressed the problem of fishing of juveniles in the Mediterranean and suggested that it is a socio-economic and cultural problem related to the types of vessels and gear employed in the small-scale coastal fishery. He stated that steps were being taken in Spain to regulate more strictly the minor gear of small-scale fishermen. Further, new legislation is being developed to govern sport fishing, an activity which contributes to the catch of juvenile bluefin.

4b.5 The Chairman suggested the Committee recognize the problems associated with the continued catch of juveniles and acknowledge support for the Panels' recommendations concerning these problems. He also noted Spain's efforts to reduce its catch of juveniles in some of its fisheries.

4b.6 The Delegate of Canada presented a statement focusing attention on the eastern Atlantic bluefin tuna stock (attached as Appendix 3 to Annex 6). He mentioned both the 1974 recommendation that the Contracting Parties prohibit any taking and landing of bluefin weighing less than 6.4 kg, and the tolerance granted allowing an incidental catch of smaller bluefin providing it not exceed 15% of the number of fish per landing of each fishing vessel. He noted that this recommendation has been regularly ignored in the east Atlantic bluefin fishery. The Delegate went on to point out that the growing scientific evidence regarding mixing of eastern and western stocks is causing Canada to have more concern that fishing activities in the east may have an effect on the west. For this reason, he stated, it is becoming more important

that countries immediately implement the necessary measures to ensure that they are abiding by the measures adopted in 1974.

4b.7 The Delegate of the U.S. indicated a need for recommendations to be clarified and defined so that this Committee can proceed with its responsibility for determining compliance by Contracting Parties. He stated that the U.S. was working on a draft recommendation that would more clearly define certain terms in the recommendations.

4b.8 The Chair informed the Contracting Parties that the expression of their concerns regarding compliance issues is useful, but it does not give the Committee specific guidelines with which to work. He requested member countries to discuss specific proposals for recommendations the Infractions Committee can give to ICCAT on improvement in the implementation of ICCAT recommendations.

4b.9 No specific proposed recommendations were offered by Committee members.

5. Guidelines for National Reports to the Infractions Committee on the implementation of ICCAT conservation measures

5.1 The Chairman recalled that in 1993 there had been a discussion whether guidelines for national reports to the Infractions Committee on the implementation of ICCAT management recommendations should be revised. The Chairman noted that during last year's meeting he offered to revise the guidelines based on comments from Contracting Parties, and that the Committee had suggested that the guidelines not be further delineated at that time, so long as all relevant information was being included in the reports.

5.2 The Chairman noted the length of the reports and opened the floor for discussion on whether the current system of single reports submitted to the Commission for use by all Committees should be continued, or whether a system should be adopted whereby separate reports are submitted to the various Committees. There were no responses from delegates, and the Chair concluded that the Contracting Parties were satisfied with the present system.

5.3 Having received no input on revisions to the guidelines from Contracting Parties, the Chairman asked the Contracting Parties to indicate whether they intended to submit such revisions, or whether they were satisfied with the current guidelines.

5.4 The Delegate of Spain expressed his preference for national reports to be submitted as a single document. The Delegate further noted that an addendum would be added to the National Report of Spain with information concerning inspections carried out by Spanish vessels fishing in the Mediterranean.

5.5 The Chairman asked the Contracting Parties whether they wished to propose revisions to the draft guidelines for National Reports, or adopt the draft guidelines for recommendation to the Commission.

5.6 The Delegates from Portugal, Canada, Venezuela, and the United States expressed their support that the National Reports be drafted based on the 1993 proposed draft guidelines.

5.7 The Delegate of Uruguay expressed some concern over the possibility that the reports may be voluminous and asked whether the Secretariat shared the same concern.

5.8 The Executive Secretary, responding to Uruguay's concern, stated that the Secretariat viewed such information to be beneficial to the Contracting Parties, and expressed his gratitude for the improvements in National Reports.

5.9 The Chairman suggested that the Infractions Committee propose to the Commission that the draft guidelines for National Reports be adopted. This proposal was accepted. The Guidelines for National Reports agreed upon by the Committee for adoption by the Commission are attached as **Appendix 4 to Annex 6**.

5.10 The Chairman concluded by noting that, although substantial useful information on management implementation had been included in National Reports this year, the Infractions Committee had not actually made any use of these reports.

6. Port Inspection

6.1 In reference to document COM/94/27 on the Port Inspection Scheme the Executive Secretary stated that little had changed from last year's report. He noted that the participating countries remain the same and that Angola and

Uruguay had indicated their intention to participate by designating inspectors. He noted further that no inspection reports had been submitted for 1993.

6.2 The Chairman noted that the Port Inspection Scheme was the original motivation for establishing the Infractions Committee. He went on to ask the Contracting Parties to comment on whether the Port Inspection Scheme continues to serve a purpose, or whether it has been replaced by domestic inspection and other management efforts.

6.3 The Delegate of France indicated that his country continued to support the Port Inspection scheme. He went on to state France will submit a list of new inspectors.

6.4 The Delegate of Venezuela stated that a decree will be in force soon concerning the Port Inspection Scheme and that the names of the port inspectors will be submitted at that time.

6.5 The Delegate of Japan noted that his country's position regarding Port Inspection has not changed. He noted that Japan has fundamental legal difficulties with accepting the Scheme, and with possible effects on fish quality resulting from port inspections. Japanese fishermen had, however, been instructed to cooperate with inspection efforts on a voluntary basis. The Delegate of Japan called the attention of Committee to paragraph 3 of the Port Inspection Scheme, which requires minimum interference during inspections, to avoid degradation of the quality of fish inspected.

6.6 The Delegate of Spain indicated that his country supported and applied the ICCAT Port Inspection Scheme.

6.7 The Chairman noted the lack of inspection reports in the past year, that there were no major changes in the already limited participation, and that the initial ideas resulting in the Scheme have been taken over largely by domestic inspection and other management efforts. He then asked the Delegates to consider whether there is still a role for the Port Inspection Scheme in ICCAT and whether the Infractions Committee should continue attempting to improve the Scheme.

6.8 The U.S. Delegate stated that while the U.S. thinks the Port Inspection concept is important, they have little opportunity to inspect foreign vessels. He indicated that the U.S. had, however, conducted extensive domestic inspections, and would continue to do so.

6.9 The Delegate of Spain expressed support for the Port Inspection Scheme as it currently functioned, and noted that his country would continue to conduct inspections under the Scheme. He indicated that the Scheme served a useful purpose, and that it should continue.

6.10 The U.S. Delegate apologized for the lack of input by the U.S. on suggested Terms of Reference, and called upon all Committee members to note the request for input on this issue, and to make such input before the next meeting.

6.11 The Chairman concluded by expressing concern over the lack of results of the Port Inspection Scheme and asked the Delegates to consider the relevance of the Scheme, with a view to making recommendations on its future at the next Commission meeting.

7. Collaboration of non-Contracting Parties in the objectives of the Commission

7.1 The Chairman noted that the issue of non-Contracting Parties had been discussed at length during other sessions and suggested that it is was not appropriate for the Infractions Committee to discuss this matter further. There were no objections from the Committee.

8. Mandate and future name of the Committee, and

9. Future work of the Committee and plans for improvement

9.1 The Chairman referred the Delegates to documents COM/94/34, on the original creation of the Infractions Committee, and his 1993 draft guidelines and objectives for the Committee.

9.2 The Chairman reminded the Delegates that he had undertaken to produce a draft set of Terms of Reference for the Infractions Committee from proposals by member countries. He indicated that no proposals had been submitted during the year, and only Japan had submitted proposed Terms of Reference at this meeting (see Appendix 5 to Annex 6). The Chairman offered to merge his original ideas on the Terms of Reference of the future Committee with those of

Japan, and circulate a new draft to the member countries for comment. However, he again repeated his request for input from the Committee on this matter. The Committee accepted this proposal.

9.3 The Chairman noted that dissatisfaction had been expressed with the Committee's name at the 1993 meeting, and asked for suggestions for a new name.

9.4 The Delegate of the U.S. suggested "Compliance Committee" as the new name and Portugal and Canada supported this proposal. In response to the Delegate of Japan as to whether the Chair was aware of the names of similar committees in other international fisheries management commissions, the Chairman indicated that he did not know the names, and suggested that such names be ascertained during the coming year.

9.5 The Delegate of Japan suggested that the name of the Committee not be changed until the new Terms of Reference are determined, after which a suitable name could be chosen to reflect these.

9.6 After some further discussion, the Committee agreed that various possible names be circulated for comment, together with the draft Terms of Reference, during 1995.

9.7 The Delegate of the U.S. promised to send his comments on the Terms of Reference.

10. Date and place of the next meeting of the Infractions Committee

10.1 It was agreed to hold the next meeting of the Infractions Committee to coincide with the next Commission meeting.

11. Other Matters

11.1 No other matters were discussed.

12. Adoption of Report

12.1 The Report was adopted by the Committee after incorporating minor additional comments by Japan, U.S.A. and Spain under the section on the Port Inspection Scheme, and recommended to the Commission for adoption.

13. Adjournment

13.1 The 1994 Meeting of the Infractions Committee was adjourned after adoption of the report.

Status of implementation of ICCAT Recommendations by ICCAT Member Countries.

Table 1. YELLOWFIN TUNA.

<i>Commission recommendation</i>	<i>3.2 kgs minimum size limit</i>	<i>Effective effort limited to 1992 levels</i>
<i>Recommendation made in</i>	<i>1972</i>	<i>1993</i>
<i>Area of application</i>	<i>Entire Atlantic</i>	<i>Entire Atlantic</i>
<i>Date of entry into effect</i>	<i>July 1, 1973</i>	<i>May 31, 1994</i>
<i>Date of expiration</i>	<i>Indefinite period</i>	<i>Indefinite period</i>
ANGOLA	June 17, 1979	
BENIN		
BRAZIL	Feb. 23, 1973	
CANADA	Sept. 4, 1973	
CAPE VERDE	Sept. 5, 1987	
COTE D'IVOIRE	March 2, 1970	
EQUATORIAL GUINEA	no fishing	
FRANCE	June 29, 1973	
GABON	no fish./land.	
GHANA	June 19, 1976	
GUINEA, Rep. of		
JAPAN	June 14, 1973	
KOREA, Rep. of	Jan. 21, 1973	
MOROCCO	no fishing	
PORTUGAL	Nov. 26, 1973	
RUSSIA	Sept. 28, 1978	
SAO TOME & PRINCIPE		
SOUTH AFRICA	May 1973	
SPAIN	May 29, 1974	March 22, 1994
URUGUAY		
USA	Nov. 5, 1975	
VENEZUELA	Nov. 19, 1981	

NOTE: For more details on national regulations, please request information from the country's administration.

Status of implementation of ICCAT Recommendations by ICCAT Member Countries.

Table 2. BIGEYE TUNA.

<i>Commission recommendation</i>	<i>3.2 kgs minimum size limit</i>	<i>3.2 kgs minimum size limit</i>
<i>Recommendation made in</i>	<i>1979</i>	<i>1984</i>
<i>Area of application</i>	<i>Entire Atlantic</i>	<i>Entire Atlantic</i>
<i>Date of entry into effect</i>	<i>September 7, 1980</i>	<i>July 17, 1985</i>
<i>Date of expiration</i>	<i>December 31, 1984</i>	<i>Indefinite period</i>
ANGOLA		
BENIN		
BRAZIL	March 1981	
CANADA	no fishing	
CAPE VERDE		Sept. 5, 1987
COTE D'IVOIRE	March 2, 1970	
EQUATORIAL GUINEA	no fishing	
FRANCE	March 3, 1981	
GABON	being considered	
GHANA		
GUINEA, Rep. of		
JAPAN	Sept. 7, 1980	Sept. 7, 1980
KOREA, Rep. of	Sept. 15, 1980	
MOROCCO		
PORTUGAL	July 17, 1981	Aug. 10, 1984
RUSSIA	Sept. 28, 1978	
SAO TOME & PRINCIPE		
SOUTH AFRICA	Dec. 5, 1980	Dec. 5, 1980
SPAIN		Aug. 14, 1987
URUGUAY		
USA	March 30, 1981	April 9, 1986
VENEZUELA	Nov. 19, 1981	Nov. 19, 1981

NOTE: For more details on national regulations, please request information from the country's administration.

Status of implementation of ICCAT Recommendations by ICCAT Member Countries.

Table 3-A. BLUEFIN TUNA - ATLANTIC OCEAN (including MEDITERRANEAN SEA) - GENERAL.

Recommendation made in	Minimum size 6.4 kgs 1974	Limiting fishing mortality to recent levels				
		1974	1st Extension 1975	2nd Extension 1977	3rd Extension 1979	4th Extension 1981
Area of application	Entire Atlantic	Entire Atlantic	Entire Atlantic	Entire Atlantic	Entire Atlantic	East Atlantic only
Entry into effect	August 10, 1975	August 10, 1975	August 10, 1976	October 10, 1978	September 4, 1980	
Date of expiration	Indefinite period	August 10, 1976	August 10, 1978	August 10, 1980	August 10, 1982	(see Table 3-B)
ANGOLA	no fishing	no fishing				
BENIN						
BRAZIL						
CANADA	Feb. 17, 1973	Aug. 10, 1977	Aug. 18, 1977	March 2, 1979	Nov. 17, 1980*	
CAPE VERDE						
COTE D'IVOIRE						
EQUATORIAL GUINEA						
FRANCE	Aug. 8, 1975	Feb. 17, 1976	Feb. 15, 1979	Feb. 15, 1979	Feb. 15, 1979	
GABON	no fish./land.	no fishing				
GHANA						
GUINEA, Rep. of						
JAPAN	April 16, 1975	Aug. 10, 1974	Dec. 27, 1974	Dec. 27, 1974	Dec. 27, 1974	
KOREA, Rep. of	Dec. 17, 1975	April 16, 1975	April 16, 1975	April 16, 1975	April 16, 1975	
MOROCCO		Dec. 17, 1975	Dec. 17, 1975	Oct. 14, 1978	Sept. 15, 1980	
PORTUGAL	Nov. 27, 1976	Nov. 27, 1976	**	**	**	
RUSSIA	Sept. 28, 1978					
SAO TOME & PRINCIPE						
SOUTH AFRICA	June 27, 1975	June 27, 1975	Oct. 19, 1976	Feb. 9, 1979	Jan. 11, 1980	
SPAIN	March 3, 1975	Feb. 19, 1976	Feb. 19, 1976	Feb. 19, 1976	Jan. 24, 1980	
URUGUAY						
USA	Aug. 13, 1975	Aug. 13, 1975	May 18, 1976	June 15, 1979	June 13, 1980	
VENEZUELA	Nov. 19, 1981					

* In process.

** Objections presented and ratified on November 16, 1978, March 19, 1980, and July 21, 1982.

NOTE: For more details on national regulations, please request information from the country's administration.

Status of implementation of ICCAT Recommendations by ICCAT Member Countries.

Table 3-B. BLUEFIN TUNA - EAST ATLANTIC (including CENTRAL NORTH ATLANTIC and MEDITERRANEAN SEA).

<i>Commission recommendation</i>	<i>Limiting fishing mortality to recent levels</i>	<i>Catch limit 1,300 MT</i>	<i>Fishing by large LL pelagic vessels prohibited (June-July)</i>
<i>Recommendation made in</i>	<i>1981 (see Table 3-A)</i>	<i>1993</i>	<i>1993</i>
<i>Area of application</i>	<i>East Atlantic</i>	<i>Central North Atlantic (north of 40°N and between 35°W and 45°W)</i>	<i>Mediterranean Sea</i>
<i>Date entry into effect</i>	<i>July 21, 1982</i>	<i>September 2, 1994</i>	<i>June 1, 1994</i>
<i>Date of expiration</i>	<i>Indefinite period</i>	<i>December 31, 1995</i>	<i>Indefinite period</i>
ANGOLA	no fishing	no fishing	
BENIN			
BRAZIL			
CANADA	Feb. 15, 1979		
CAPE VERDE			
COTE D'IVOIRE			
EQUATORIAL GUINEA			
FRANCE			
GABON	no fishing		
GHANA			
GUINEA, Rep. of			
JAPAN	March 3, 1982	Aug. 1, 1994	March 25, 1994
KOREA, Rep. of			
MOROCCO			
PORTUGAL			
RUSSIA			
SAO TOME & PRINCIPE			
SOUTH AFRICA			
SPAIN	July 21, 1982	Feb. 28, 1994	May 31, 1994
URUGUAY			
USA			
VENEZUELA			

NOTE: For more details on national regulations, please request information from the country's administration.

Status of implementation of ICCAT recommendations by ICCAT Member Countries.
 Table 3-C. BLUEFIN TUNA - WEST ATLANTIC.*

Recommendation made in	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985**	1991***	1993****
Catch prohibited except for monitoring purposes	1,160 MT	2,660 MT	2,660 MT	2,660 MT	2,660 MT	1992-93: 4,788 MT (1992 max. 2,660) 1994-95: 3,990 MT (1994 max. 2,261)	1994: 1,995 MT 1995: 1,200 MT
Minimum size limit	no	120 cm	120 cm	120 cm	120 cm	115 cm/30 kg	115 cm/30 kg
Catch prohibited Gulf of Mexico spawning stock	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Date entry into effect	February 15, 1982	January 1983	January 1984	January 1985	January 1986	January 1992	May 31, 1994
Date of expiration	December 1982	December 1983	December 1994	December 1985	December 1991	December 1995	December 1995
ANGOLA	no fishing.....						
BENIN	developing fishery not subject to limitation.....						
BRAZIL	developing fishery not subject to limitation.....						
CANADA	June 14, 1982	June 21, 1983	June 21, 1983	Sept. 16, 1985	Sept. 16, 1985		
CAPE VERDE	developing fishery not subject to limitation.....						
COTE D'IVOIRE	developing fishery not subject to limitation.....						
EQUATORIAL GUINEA	developing fishery not subject to limitation.....						
FRANCE	developing fishery not subject to limitation.....						
GABON	no fishing or landings.....						
GHANA	developing fishery not subject to limitation.....						
GUINEA, Rep. of	developing fishery not subject to limitation.....						
JAPAN	March 3, 1982	March 7, 1983	March 7, 1983	March 7, 1983	March 7, 1983	Aug. 1, 1992	Aug. 1, 1994
KOREA, Rep. of	developing fishery not subject to limitation.....						
MOROCCO	developing fishery not subject to limitation.....						
PORTUGAL	no fishing.....						
RUSSIA	Feb. 15, 1984						
SAO TOME & PRINCIPE	developing fishery not subject to limitation.....						
SOUTH AFRICA	no fishing or landings.....						
SPAIN	no fishing or landings.....						
URUGUAY	developing fishery not subject to limitation.....						
USA	June 11, 1982	June 17, 1983	July 24, 1984	Nov. 25, 1985	Nov. 25, 1985		
VENEZUELA	developing fishery not subject to limitation.....						

* Details on the ICCAT recommendations are given in each Biennial Report of the Commission, starting with the "Report for Biennial Period 1982-83, Part I".

** This recommendation was extended each year since 1986; it was in force until the end of 1991.

*** For the period 1992-95, unless the SCRS analysis in 1993 or 1995 indicates otherwise.

**** For the period 1994-95, unless the SCRS scientific information in 1994 indicates otherwise.

NOTE: For more details on national regulations, please request information from the country's administration.

Status of implementation of ICCAT Recommendations by ICCAT Member Countries.

Table 4. SWORDFISH.

<i>Commission recommendations</i>	<i>Fishing mortality of fish > 25 kgs to be 15 % less than recent levels</i>	<i>25 kgs minimum size limit (125 cm fork length)</i>	<i>Limiting directed fishing mortality to 1988 levels</i>	<i>Limiting incidental catch of SWO to 10 % of the total weight of the entire catch</i>
<i>Recommendations made in</i>	<i>1990</i>	<i>1990</i>	<i>1990</i>	<i>1990</i>
<i>Area of application</i>	<i>North of 5°N</i>	<i>Entire Atlantic</i>	<i>Entire Atlantic</i>	<i>North Atlantic</i>
<i>Date of entry into effect</i>	<i>July 1, 1991</i>	<i>July 1, 1991</i>	<i>July 1, 1991</i>	<i>July 1, 1991</i>
<i>Date of expiration</i>	<i>Indefinite period</i>	<i>Indefinite period</i>	<i>Indefinite period</i>	<i>Indefinite period</i>
ANGOLA				
BENIN				
BRAZIL				
CANADA	yes	yes	yes	yes
CAPE VERDE				
COTE D'IVOIRE				
EQUATORIAL GUINEA				
FRANCE				
GABON				
GHANA				
GUINEA, Rep. of				
JAPAN		Jan. 1, 1992		Jan. 1, 1992
KOREA, Rep. of				
MOROCCO				
PORTUGAL				
RUSSIA				
SAO TOME & PRINCIPE				
SOUTH AFRICA	Oct. 23, 1992	Oct. 23, 1992	Oct. 23, 1992	Oct. 23, 1992
SPAIN	Feb. 25, 1991	Feb. 25, 1991	Feb. 25, 1991	Feb. 25, 1991
URUGUAY				
USA	June 12, 1991	June 12, 1991	June 12, 1991	June 12, 1991
VENEZUELA				

NOTE: For more details on national regulations, please request information from the country's administration.

Status of implementation of ICCAT Recommendations by ICCAT Member Countries.

Table 5. BLUEFIN TUNA - BLUEFIN STATISTICAL DOCUMENT PROGRAM.

<i>Commission recommendation</i>	<i>FROZEN PRODUCTS*</i> All imported bluefin tuna to be accompanied by an ICCAT Bluefin Statistical Document***, no later than September 1, 1993	<i>FRESH PRODUCTS**</i> All imported bluefin tuna to be accompanied by an ICCAT Bluefin Statistical document***, no later than June 1, 1994
<i>Recommendation made in</i>	<i>1992</i>	<i>1993</i>
<i>Area of application</i>	<i>Entire Atlantic</i>	<i>Entire Atlantic</i>
<i>Date of entry into effect</i>	<i>July 25, 1993</i>	<i>May 31, 1994</i>
<i>Date of expiration</i>	<i>Indefinite period</i>	<i>Indefinite period</i>
ANGOLA		
BENIN		
BRAZIL		
CANADA		
CAPE VERDE		
COTE D'IVOIRE		
EQUATORIAL GUINEA		
FRANCE		
GABON		
GHANA		
GUINEA, Rep. of		
JAPAN	Sept. 1, 1993	June 1, 1994
KOREA, Rep. of		
MOROCCO		
PORTUGAL		
RUSSIA		
SAO TOME & PRINCIPE		
SOUTH AFRICA		
SPAIN	Sept. 1, 1993	
URUGUAY		
USA		
VENEZUELA		

* Annex 6 to the 1992 Commission Proceedings, Biennial Report 1992-93, Part I.

** Annex 10 to the 1992 Commission Proceedings, Biennial Report 1992-93, Part II.

*** See also the Resolution in Annex 9 to the 1993 Commission Proceedings, Biennial Report 1992-93, Part II.

NOTE: For more details on national regulations, please request information from the country's administration.

AGENDA OF THE INFRACTIONS COMMITTEE

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Nomination of Rapporteur
4.
 - a) Status of the application of the regulations recommended by the Commission on yellowfin, bigeye, bluefin, and swordfish
 - b) Matters arising from the SCRS Report and the National Reports
5. Guidelines for national reports to the Infractions Committee on the implementation of ICCAT conservation measures
6. Port inspection:
 - a) Acceptance of the Scheme by the Contracting Parties
 - b) Review of the reports of inspections carried out
 - c) Updating of the list of authorized inspectors
 - d) Updating of the list of national correspondents
7. Collaboration of non-Contracting Parties in the objectives of the Commission
8. Mandate and future name of the Committee
9. Future work of the Committee and plans for improvement
10. Date and place of the next meeting of the Infractions Committee
11. Other matters
12. Adoption of Report
13. Adjournment

**STATEMENT BY THE UNITED STATES TO THE INFRACTIONS COMMITTEE
ON COMPLIANCE WITH ICCAT MEASURES (1994)**

The U.S. wishes to acknowledge the continued diligence and dedication of the Chairman of the Infractions Committee in his efforts to ensure compliance by the member countries to recommendations and requests from ICCAT. However, the U.S. notes that disregard for the important Commission recommendations limiting fishing mortality and minimum size for bluefin (recommended at the 1974 Meeting) continues to be a significant problem in the eastern Atlantic (although we may have heard some positive statements earlier in Panel 2). Unfortunately though, we have to add North Atlantic swordfish to the list, which already includes the lack of regard for minimum size for yellowfin and bigeye. The failure, year after year, of countries to comply with ICCAT recommendations, reduces the Commission's credibility, provides ammunition for NGO's and fishermen to criticize our work, and makes negotiations with non-Contracting Parties on issues of concern to the Commission more difficult.

Compliance with ICCAT recommendations has been particularly poor for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic (I hope that we are seeing a willingness to change that this year) and may be significantly affecting recovery in the western Atlantic. We are extremely concerned that those fishing for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic, particularly in the Mediterranean, have exhibited little evidence of conformance to the 1974 recommendations to implement a minimum size of 6.4 kg and to limit fishing mortality to then-recent levels.

The SCRS assessment of east Atlantic-Mediterranean bluefin tuna conducted in 1994 indicates that fishing mortality rates have increased substantially on all age groups since 1974. Although there is considerable uncertainty about trends in stock size in recent years, the assessment suggests that the numbers of ages 4 and older has declined substantially since the 1970's, and that the rate of decline may have accelerated since the mid-late 1980's.

We can see the situation continues to get worse. Do we continue to talk until the stock collapses? SCRS has expressed its grave concern about the status of east Atlantic bluefin tuna. Shouldn't we be equally as concerned? SCRS recommends that every effort be made to adhere to the current measures on the size limit of 6.4 kg, and it expressly recommends that steps be taken so that no age 0 fish are caught. They also recommend that efforts be made to reduce the current level of fishing mortality, and since the 1974 recommendation was referenced earlier in this paragraph, I think the logical assumption is to the level recommended in 1974. There needs to be clarification of the level of fishing mortality intended by the 1974 recommendation. (I recognize that is a task that needs to be pursued in Panel 2, but) what is ICCAT going to do to see that countries meet those recommendations?

To eliminate any confusion and ensure future compliance, it is very important that the 1974 recommendation to limit fishing mortality to "recent" levels be defined specifically. Last year in this Committee, we discussed using the recorded averages of 1973 and 1974 landings as a proxy for "recent" levels.

In addition, the minimum size limit of 6.4 kg has not been respected and there have been large catches of age 0 fish (well in excess of the 15% tolerance). One way to address the high catch level of bluefin tuna less than the minimum size would be to eliminate the 15% tolerance, which exists for the entire Convention Area, for bluefin tuna less than 6.4 kg and not allow sale in any markets of bluefin tuna less than this size. The U.S. already disallows any landings of bluefin tuna less than 6.4 kg and prohibits the sale of bluefin tuna less than 70 inches (178 cm).

The U.S. continues to believe, as we have stated for the last two years, that it would be irresponsible for the Commission to ignore these infractions and I believe it is one of the responsibilities of this Committee to make that point. We believe this Committee should insist that countries adhere to the current (1974) management recommendations limiting the catch of small fish (or implement the more stringent scenario suggested above) and abide by the 1974 recommendation to limit fishing mortality. If countries do not take responsible actions to enforce ICCAT recommendations, the U.S. believes that ICCAT should consider other measures to ensure compliance.

I have focussed on bluefin tuna since this has been an issue for much too long, but the same concerns apply to swordfish and the other species where compliance is being ignored. Are the Committee and the Commission going to address their responsibilities? If not, we wonder how long ICCAT can last.

Appendix 3 to Annex 6

**STATEMENT BY CANADA
TO THE INFRACTIONS COMMITTEE**

Mr. Chairman:

I would like to first congratulate you on the work you have done in the last couple of years in trying to get this Committee involved in a more meaningful way in the work of the Commission. Canada, as in the past, is committed to assisting you in this regard in any way we can.

I think it is important for this Committee to focus some attention on the eastern Atlantic bluefin stock.

In 1974, a recommendation was made that Contracting Parties take the necessary measures to prohibit any taking and landing of bluefin weighing less than 6.4 kg. There was also a tolerance granted allowing an incidental catch of smaller bluefin providing it not exceed 15% of the number of fish per landing of each fishing vessel. It is unfortunate for us to note that this recommendation has been regularly ignored in the east Atlantic bluefin fishery.

As you may recall, Mr. Chairman, Canada made a statement at the 1993 meeting regarding this issue. At that time we referred to the effect on ICCAT's credibility that this lack of compliance is causing. This year, Canada is even more concerned with the fishing activities in the east because of growing scientific evidence regarding mixing of the stocks. We are finding it increasingly difficult to accept that those of us in the west must adhere to very stringent management measures for bluefin, while many of those countries fishing west of 45 degrees seem to completely ignore the measures in place there.

I can understand how it is sometimes difficult for countries to control their fishing fleets in any one year, particularly in distant water fisheries.

However, to allow this type of disregard for the ICCAT management measures year after year calls into question the ability of the organization to effectively manage the stocks.

With the increasing possibility that activities on one side of the Atlantic may indeed have an affect on the other side, it is becoming much more important that countries immediately implement the necessary measures to ensure that they are abiding by the measures adopted in 1974.

Appendix 4 to Annex 6

**GUIDELINES FOR REPORTS TO THE INFRACTIONS COMMITTEE
ON IMPLEMENTATION OF ICCAT MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS**

In order to provide a mechanism for the annual reporting of all information relevant to the implementation of ICCAT recommended tuna management measures, member countries are requested to include specific information on the following aspects in their annual National Reports to the Commission.

- Description of the statistical data collection systems used by member countries to monitor their tuna fisheries, emphasizing the degree of coverage of own-flag and cooperative ventures in local and distant waters. An indication should be given of the statistical coverage of retained and discarded catches.
- Details of implementation of ICCAT Statistical Document Systems (where applicable), and the collection and reporting of tuna trade statistics.

- Detailed information on practical steps taken to implement ICCAT tuna management measures, such as minimum size limits, total catch and effort limitations and restrictions on re-flagging of vessels, in addition to the general details included in the Secretariat Report.
- Details of inspection of own, and other country's tuna catches, both under the auspices of the ICCAT Port Inspection Scheme and under domestic inspection programs, presenting results on undersized fish or excess catches observed.

Appendix 5 to Annex 6

**PROPOSAL BY JAPAN
TO THE INFRACTIONS COMMITTEE**

Enforcement Committee

Terms of Reference

- a. Review compliance to the Commission's measures by:
 - i) Reviewing fishing activities of the Contracting Parties in the Convention Area through national reports to the SCRS, available catch and trade statistics;
 - ii) Exchanging and reviewing information on domestic measures for the implementation of the Commission's recommendations through national reports to the Enforcement Committee;
- b. Reviewing enforcement activities of the Contracting Parties in the Convention Area through national reports to the Enforcement Committee;
- c. Considering and developing suitable and effective measures to ensure the application of the provisions of the Convention and, in particular, to consider the desirability of setting up a system of international enforcement; and
- d. Making recommendations for enhanced enforcement of the Commission's recommendations, as appropriate, to the Commission.

ANNEX 7

**RESOLUTION BY ICCAT
CONCERNING AN ACTION PLAN TO ENSURE EFFECTIVENESS
OF THE CONSERVATION PROGRAM FOR ATLANTIC BLUEFIN TUNA**

RECOGNIZING that the goal of ICCAT is to maintain populations of tuna and tuna-like fishes in the Atlantic at levels which will permit harvesting maximum sustainable yield;

BEING AWARE that the link between trade and environment is being addressed in other international fora;

RECALLING that the 1992 Recommendation Concerning the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program, which requires that all bluefin tuna, when imported into the territory of a Contracting Party or at the first entry into a Regional Economic Organization, be accompanied by an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document;

CONSIDERING the continuing need for action to ensure the effectiveness of the ICCAT conservation program for Atlantic bluefin tuna;

RECOGNIZING that a significant number of vessels registered to nations which are not Contracting Parties to ICCAT are catching Atlantic bluefin tuna;

BEING AWARE of the strenuous efforts by Contracting Parties to ensure enforcement of ICCAT's conservation and management measures and to encourage non-Contracting Parties to abide by these measures;

NOTING that the ICCAT's ability to manage Atlantic bluefin tuna on a sustainable basis is diminished by harvesting contrary to ICCAT recommendations and recognizing the need to take further strenuous measures to ensure the effectiveness of the ICCAT bluefin tuna conservation program;

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

a. The Infractions Committee shall review, during the 1994 meeting and annually thereafter, the implementation by each Contracting Party of accepted Commission Recommendations. The Commission shall decide, by the end of 1994 and annually thereafter, any necessary new measures to be taken to ensure compliance by Contracting Parties.

b. The Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures shall identify, during the 1994 meeting and annually thereafter, those non-Contracting Parties whose vessels have been fishing for Atlantic bluefin tuna in a manner which diminishes the effectiveness of the relevant conservation recommendations of the Commission on Atlantic bluefin tuna, based on the catch data compiled by the Commission, the trade information obtained through national statistics and the Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program, and other relevant information obtained in ports and at the fishing grounds.

c. The Commission shall request those Parties identified in paragraph (b) to rectify their fishing activities so as not to diminish the effectiveness of the ICCAT bluefin tuna conservation program and to advise the Commission of actions taken in that regard.

d. The Contracting Parties shall jointly and individually request that non-Contracting Parties fishing Atlantic bluefin tuna in the Convention Area cooperate fully with the Commission in implementing the ICCAT bluefin tuna conservation program.

e. The Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures shall review, by the end of 1995 and annually thereafter, the actions taken by those Parties identified and requested in paragraphs (b), (c), and (d), and identify the Parties which have not rectified their fishing activities.

f. To ensure the effectiveness of the ICCAT bluefin tuna conservation program, the Commission will recommend the Contracting Parties to take non-discriminatory trade restrictive measures, consistent with their international obligations, on bluefin tuna products in any form, from the Parties identified in paragraph (e).

**RESOLUTION ON INTERPRETATION AND APPLICATION OF THE
ICCAT BLUEFIN TUNA STATISTICAL DOCUMENT PROGRAM**

BEARING in mind the Recommendation Concerning the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program adopted at the Eighth Special Meeting of the Commission (Madrid, November 1992);

RECALLING the Recommendation Concerning the Implementation of the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program on Fresh Products adopted at the Thirteenth Regular Meeting (Madrid, November 1993);

RECALLING FURTHER the Resolution Concerning Validation by a Government Official of the Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document adopted at the Thirteenth Regular Meeting (Madrid, November 1993);

STRESSING the necessity of preparing complete documents in exporting countries to provide adequate statistics to ICCAT;

AND RECOGNIZING the need to clarify the requirements regarding validation of statistical documents;

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

1. The Recommendation Concerning the ICCAT Bluefin tuna Statistical Document Program adopted at the Eighth Special Meeting of the Commission (Madrid 1992) shall apply to all bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*).
2. Upon importation into the territory of a Contracting Party or first entry into a regional economic organization, all bluefin tuna shall be accompanied by an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document. There is no waiver of this requirement.
3. Each Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document shall be validated by a government official unless all bluefin tuna available for sale:
 - (a) are tagged by the exporting state or entity;
 - (b) are recorded in an ICCAT-accepted logbook; or
 - (c) are recorded in an ICCAT-accepted information retrieval system.

In the case of (b) and (c), validation by an institution accredited by the government is required.
4. Summary of catch statistics of bluefin tuna other than Atlantic bluefin tuna need not be provided to ICCAT in order to receive an acceptance of logbook or information retrieval systems.
5. The Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG) is authorized by the Commission to grant acceptance of the logbook or information retrieval system of non-Contracting Parties. The criteria for acceptance of these logbooks and information retrieval systems are set out in the Appendix to this Resolution. No interim waivers will be granted.
6. The Commission hereby adopts the criteria for acceptance of logbook and information retrieval systems as set out in the Appendix to this Resolution.

Criteria for ICCAT Acceptance of Logbooks and Information Retrieval Systems

PURPOSE

Provide a mechanism for ICCAT to determine if a flag state has a logbook system or statistical information retrieval system that is consistent with the needs of the Commission.

CRITERIA

Any flag state applying for acceptance of its logbook or statistical information retrieval system must provide to ICCAT the following information for all fish harvested by vessels flying its flag. All of the following criteria must be met before ICCAT can accept either system.

A. Information Retrieval System

The following must be provided:

- I. Copies of all pertinent government regulations requiring routine provision to the competent government authority of accurate information related to all bluefin tuna harvests. At a minimum this information must include the weight of fish harvested, the date of harvesting, the area of harvest, the gear and the name of vessel or trap. Such regulations are essential to a statistical information retrieval system.
- II. Copies of all pertinent regulations respecting penalties for non-compliance with the regulations referred to in Paragraph A.I. Penalties should be sufficient to deter non-compliance.
- III. Copies of all policies and procedures respecting enforcement of the regulations referred to in paragraph A.I and examples of sales slips or other similar tracking documents.
- IV. Penalties that have been imposed in cases of non-compliance.
- V. An outline of means the flag state would use to provide evidence of the origin of exported fish if requested to do so by authorities at the final point of import.
- VI. The name, address and fax number of each accredited institution plus a copy of the official imprint of stamps and seals.

B. Logbooks

The following must be provided:

- I. Copies of all pertinent government regulations requiring all fishermen to complete and submit logbooks. Such regulations are essential to a logbook system which must include requirements to provide the weight of fish harvested, the data of harvesting, the area of harvest, the gear and the name of vessel or trap.
- II. Copies of all pertinent regulations respecting penalties of sufficient gravity to deter non-compliance with the regulations referred to in Paragraph B.I.
- III. Copies of all policies and procedures respecting enforcement of the regulations referred to in Paragraph B.I and samples of logbooks and any other relevant documentation.
- IV. Penalties that have been levied in cases of non-compliance.

- V. An outline of how the flag state would use the logbook system to determine the origin of exported fish if requested to do so by authorities at the final point of import.
- VI. The name, address and fax number of each accredited institution plus a copy of the official imprint of stamps and seals.

PROCEDURES

Requests for acceptance of a statistical information retrieval system or logbook system should be directed to the Executive Secretary. The Executive Secretary will review the documentation submitted in support of the request and, if satisfied that the documentation is complete, will send the documentation as soon as possible to the Contracting Parties for review by the PWG.

The members of the Permanent Working Group will review the application and communicate to the Executive Secretary whether to grant acceptance. Five members of the Permanent Working Group shall constitute a quorum. The decision will be taken by simple majority. A mail vote may be taken.

Acceptance granted by ICCAT will become effective on the 60th day following the date that the ICCAT Executive Secretary mails the letter notifying of such acceptance. The Executive Secretary shall circulate copies of the letter to all the Contracting Parties.

The PWG shall from time to time review the acceptance and may rescind any such acceptance if it determines that the relevant state or entity failed to maintain ICCAT accepted logbook or information retrieval systems.

ANNEX 9

**RESOLUTION BY ICCAT
CONCERNING THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE ICCAT BLUEFIN TUNA STATISTICAL DOCUMENT PROGRAM**

RECALLING that the Resolution concerning the Validation by a Government Official of the Bluefin Statistical Document and the Recommendation Concerning the Implementation of the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Program on Fresh Products were adopted by ICCAT at its 13th Regular Meeting held in November 1993;

RECOGNIZING that timely provision of information on validation from flag countries is essential for importing countries to implement the Program smoothly and effectively;

CALLING ON non-Contracting Parties which have major bluefin tuna import markets to join in the implementation of the Program as importing countries;

BEING AWARE of the need to establish a mechanism for comparing export and import data to enhance credibility of the statistical data obtained by the Program; and

STRESSING THE IMPORTANCE of collecting data on fresh/chilled bluefin tuna without deteriorating product quality;

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

- a. Each Contracting Party shall provide to the Executive Secretary a sample of its statistical document form required with bluefin tuna imports and information on validation (e.g. type of validation, name of the organization which validates the documents, title of officials who validate the documents, sample impression of stamp or seal, tag samples), and inform him of any change in a timely fashion;
- b. The Executive Secretary shall request information on validation from all the non-Contracting Parties fishing and exporting bluefin tuna to Contracting Parties, and request them to inform him in a timely fashion of any changes in the information provided;
- c. The Executive Secretary shall maintain and update information specified in paragraphs a and b and provide it to all the Contracting Parties and promptly circulate any changes;
- d. The Commission shall request the non-Contracting Parties which are major importing countries of bluefin tuna to cooperate with implementation of the Program and to provide to the Commission data obtained from such implementation;
- e. The Contracting Parties which export or import bluefin tuna shall compile data from the Documents;
- f. The Contracting Parties which import bluefin tuna shall report the data collected by the Program to the Executive Secretary each year by April 1 for the period of July 1 - December 31 of the preceding year and October 1 for the period of January 1 - June 30 of the current year, which shall be circulated to all the Contracting Parties by the Executive Secretary. The format of the report is attached as an Addendum;
- g. The Contracting Parties which export bluefin tuna shall examine export data upon receiving the import data mentioned in paragraph f above from the Executive Secretary, and report the results to the Commission.
- h. The Contracting Parties should exchange copies of statistical documents to facilitate the examination mentioned in paragraph g.

ANNEX 10

**RESOLUTION BY ICCAT ON
COORDINATION WITH NON-CONTRACTING PARTIES**

RECOGNIZING that the international community has an important responsibility to conserve the tuna and tuna-like resources of the Atlantic for present and future generations;

RECOGNIZING that the problem of ensuring such sustainability cannot be resolved properly unless all nations fishing these species work together cooperating through the Commission, which is the accredited international body with jurisdiction regarding these species in the Convention Area;

RECALLING that the on-going United Nations Conference on Straddling Stocks and Highly Migratory Species has emphasized the importance of ensuring the conservation of highly migratory species through international fisheries organizations such as the Commission;

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

1. The Executive Secretary of ICCAT shall contact all non-Contracting Parties known to be fishing in the Convention Area for species under the competence of the Convention to urge them to become Contracting Parties or "Cooperating Parties". A Cooperating Party shall be defined as a non-Contracting Party that does not hold membership in ICCAT as a Contracting Party but voluntarily fishes in conformity with the Conservation decisions of ICCAT.
2. Non-Contracting Parties that continue to fish for bluefin tuna and that do not become Cooperating Parties shall be advised that their continued fishing outside ICCAT's conservation measures will diminish the effectiveness of those measures.
3. Cooperating Parties may attend the meetings of ICCAT as observers.
4. The Executive Secretary shall provide to non-Contracting Parties referred to in paragraph 1 above a copy of all relevant ICCAT Resolutions and Recommendations adopted by ICCAT.

**RESOLUTION BY ICCAT ON FISHING IN THE MEDITERRANEAN
DURING SPAWNING MONTHS**

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

1. The Executive Secretary shall advise all Non-Contracting Parties known to have fished for bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean (as determined from Contracting Party reports supplied to the Secretariat), that fishing for bluefin in said area during the period 1 June to 31 July using large pelagic longline fishing vessels greater than 24 meters in length is prohibited by ICCAT and that non-conformity with this recommendation undermines the effectiveness of ICCAT.
2. The Executive Secretary shall furnish said Non-Contracting Parties with a copy of the relevant ICCAT recommendations and inform these Non-Contracting Parties that such fishing activities are within the scope of the "Resolution by ICCAT Concerning an Action Plan to Ensure the Effectiveness of the Conservation Program for Atlantic Bluefin Tuna" adopted by ICCAT at its Ninth Special Meeting in 1994.

ANNEX 12

**RESOLUTION BY ICCAT
REGARDING THE AGREEMENT TO PROMOTE COMPLIANCE WITH
INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES
BY FISHING VESSELS ON THE HIGH SEAS**

RECOGNIZING that all States have a right to fish on the high seas, subject to the rules of international law as embodied in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea;

RECOGNIZING that States should conduct responsible fisheries, as recognized in international fora, and evidenced by the recommendation of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to create a Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing;

OBSERVING that among the objectives of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna is the effective conservation and rational management of tunas and tuna-like species in the Atlantic Ocean and adjacent seas;

CONSIDERING that the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations approved, at its 27th Session, held in November 1993, and opened for acceptance the Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas;

CONSIDERING that this Agreement forms an integral part of the International Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing mentioned in the Cancun Declaration of May 1992;

BEARING IN MIND that the ICCAT Resolution in Support of the Elaboration of an International Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing, adopted in November 1993, encourages the acceptance of this "Agreement" as soon as possible by all ICCAT Contracting Parties;

CONSIDERING that this Agreement requires each Contracting Party to maintain a register of high seas fishing vessels entitled to fly its flag;

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

That ICCAT Contracting Parties should take the necessary measures as soon as possible to maintain a register of all high seas fishing vessels of more than 24 meters in length, authorized to fly their flag in the Convention Area of the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas. Contracting Parties should provide ICCAT with the names of vessels entered on this register and annually of any changes thereto.

Once the length of vessels to which the FAO Agreement is applicable in the Mediterranean is established, relevant Contracting Parties should include such information in their registers.

ICCAT shall encourage non-Contracting Parties to provide the same information as requested above.

**RESOLUTION BY ICCAT
ON COMPLIANCE WITH THE ICCAT CONSERVATION
AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES**

RECALLING that the Commission has taken various conservation and management measures on tuna and tuna-like species in the Convention Area;

NOTING the Recommendation on Supplemental Regulatory Measures for the Management of Eastern Atlantic Bluefin Tuna adopted at the Thirteenth Regular Meeting in 1993, which prohibits the fishing for bluefin tuna using longline fishing vessels greater than 24m in length in the Mediterranean during the period from June 1 to July 31;

FURTHER NOTING the Recommendation on the Management of Bluefin Tuna Fishing in the Central North Atlantic Ocean adopted at the Thirteenth Regular Meeting in 1993, which limits the bluefin tuna catch in this area and prohibits the initiation of a new fishery targeting bluefin tuna for a period of two years;

BEING AWARE of the need to obtain and monitor cooperation from the non-Contracting Parties with ICCAT conservation and management measures to ensure the effectiveness of the Commission's recommendations;

RECOGNIZING the need to develop a mechanism to monitor fishing activities by non-Contracting Parties in the Convention Area and to take possible ways and means based on the collected information to deter fishing activities of non-Contracting Parties which undermine conservation and management measures of the Commission;

ALSO RECOGNIZING the need to improve compliance by Contracting Parties in the Convention Area;

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

1. The Contracting Parties should collect any information on the sighting of vessels of Contracting and non-Contracting Parties, as set out below, through their enforcement and surveillance operations in the Convention Area. Such information should be transmitted promptly to the Executive Secretary (a sighting information sheet is attached as an Addendum):

- a) Large pelagic tuna longline fishing vessels greater than 24m in length operating in the Mediterranean during the period from June 1 to July 31,
- b) Vessels that appear to be:
 - i) fishing bluefin tuna in the north Atlantic without regard to the scientific monitoring quota in the western Atlantic;
 - ii) directing a fishery on bluefin tuna spawning stocks in the Gulf of Mexico; or,
 - iii) fishing bluefin tuna in the central North Atlantic (north of 40°N, between 35°W and 45°W) contrary to the relevant Commission recommendation.
 - iv) fishing tuna and tuna-like species contrary to the relevant Commission Recommendations other than i, ii, and iii.

2. The Contracting Parties should encourage those of their fishermen who operate in the Convention Area to collect the information on the vessels set out in paragraph 1.

3. When a vessel described in paragraph 1 is sighted and:

- a) flies the flag of a Contracting Party, the Executive Secretary shall, upon receiving the information from the Contracting Party which sighted the vessel, immediately transmit it to the relevant Contracting Party which

shall immediately take appropriate action with respect to the vessel in question. Such Contracting Party shall promptly inform the Commission of the actions taken,

- b) flies the flag of a non-Contracting Party, the Executive Secretary shall, upon receiving the information from the Contracting Party which sighted the vessel, immediately transmit it to the relevant non-Contracting Party and request that it promptly take appropriate action to ensure that the effectiveness of the ICCAT conservation measures are not undermined and inform the Commission of the results of such action. The Executive Secretary shall compile the information and provide it to the Commission,
- c) the flag state cannot be identified, the Executive Secretary shall compile the information received from the Contracting Parties which sight such vessels and provide it to the Commission.

4. Appropriate authorities of Contracting Parties are encouraged, upon the consent of the master, to board and collect information on pelagic fishing vessels of non-Contracting Parties fishing in the Convention Area. Information collected from such courtesy boardings shall be compiled and reported to the Commission.

5. Any Contracting Party in whose ports bluefin tuna fishing or transport vessels enter and any Contracting Party which has ports identified by the Statistical Document Program as a point of export of bluefin tuna should make every effort to collect the following information on the tuna vessels of non-Contracting Parties in its ports (the appended sighting information sheet should be used for this purpose) and report the information collected to the Commission:

- a) Vessel Type and Name
- b) Flag and Port of Registry
- c) International Radio Call Sign
- d) Registration Number
- e) Length and Gross Tonnage
- f) Fishing Gear Description (e.g. type, amount)
- g) Nationality of master, officers and crew
- h) Date of Entry and Departure
- i) Activities at port (supply, landing, transshipment, etc.)
- j) Other relevant information

6. Such Contracting Party should make every effort to photograph the vessels and collect the following information through interviews with vessel masters, officers or crew:

- a) Name and Address of the Owner
- b) Name and Address of the Operator
- c) Amount of catch, landing or transshipment by species
- d) Area, Target Species and Period of Fishing

7. Each Contracting Party shall make every effort to ensure that bluefin tuna harvested by its vessels and described in each Statistical Document has not been taken contrary to the Commission's conservation and management measures.

8. Each Contracting Party should seek to discourage, in accordance with its law, its nationals from associating with the activities of non-Contracting Parties which undermine the effectiveness of the ICCAT conservation and management measures.

9. The Contracting Parties should review the ICCAT Scheme of Port Inspection with a view to developing an effective enforcement scheme to enhance compliance with the ICCAT Recommendations.

10. The Executive Secretary shall transmit this Resolution to all non-Contracting Parties and request their cooperation for the effective implementation of this Resolution.

SIGHTING INFORMATION SHEET				
1. Date of Sighting: Month Day Year				
2. Position of Vessel Sighted:				
At Sea:	Latitude	Longitude		
At Port:	Name of Port	Country		
3. Name of the Vessel Sighted:				
4. Flag Country:				
5. Port (and Country) of Registry:				
6. Type of Vessel:				
7. International Radio Call Sign:				
8. Registration Number:				
9. Estimated Length and Gross Tonnage: m MT				
10. Fishing Gear Description:				
Type: Estimated quantity (units)				
11. Nationality of Captain: Officer: Crew:				
12. Vessel Situation When Sighted at Sea (Please check):				
Fishing	Cruising	Drifting	Transshipping	Other
13. Type of Activities of the Vessel Sighted at Sea (Please check):				
<input type="checkbox"/> 1) Large pelagic tuna longline fishing vessels greater than 24m in length operating in the Mediterranean during the period from June 1 to July 31 <input type="checkbox"/> 2) Vessels actually or possible engaged in bluefin tuna fishing that is contrary to the quota established by the Commission for scientific monitoring purposes in the western Atlantic <input type="checkbox"/> 3) Vessels actually or possible engaged in a directed fishery on bluefin tuna spawning stocks in the Gulf of Mexico <input type="checkbox"/> 4) Vessels actually or possible engaged in fishing bluefin tuna contrary to the Commission's regulation in the central north Atlantic (north of 40°N, between 35°W and 45°W). <input type="checkbox"/> 5) Vessels actually or possible engaged in fishing bluefin tuna contrary to the Commission Regulations other than above (Specify) _____				
14. Date of Entry and Departure (Port Sighting Only)				
Entry: M , D , Y Departure: M , D , Y				

15. Activities at Port (Port Sighting Only) (Please check):					
Supply	Landing	Transshipment	Other (Specify)		
16. Other Relative Information:					
<p>NOTE: THE SECTIONS BELOW ARE FOR NON-CONTRACTING PARTIES' VESSELS SIGHTED AT PORT ONLY. Fill out the following when information is obtained by interviewing the vessel master, officers and/or crew:</p>					
17. Name and Address of the Owner:					
18. Name and Address of the Operator:					
19. Estimated Amount of Catch, Landing, or Transshipment (when possible, by species) in metric tons (MT):					
TOTAL	MT	BLUEFIN	MT	BIGEYE	MT
ALBACORE	MT	SWORDFISH	MT	BILLFISHES	MT
				YELLOWFIN	MT
				OTHERS	MT
20. Fishing Area, Target Species, and Period of Fishing:					
Fishing Area:		Target Species:		Fishing Period: From to	
21. Other Information:					
THE ABOVE INFORMATION WAS COLLECTED BY:					
OFFICER'S NAME:			TITLE:		
NAME OF VESSEL:		AIRCRAFT:		OR PORT:	
DATE: (Month)	(Day)	(Year)			
SIGNATURE:					

**RESOLUTION BY ICCAT
ON VESSEL MONITORING.**

FIRST: For better monitoring of fishing activities and catches of fishing vessels operating in the Convention Area,

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

To establish a working group consisting of representatives of Contracting Parties with the following terms of reference:

To study the establishment of satellite tracking and catch reporting systems or equivalent systems for vessels of Contracting Parties fishing for tunas or tuna-like species in the Convention Area;

SECOND: The Commission calls on all non-Contracting Parties whose vessels fish for tunas or tuna-like species in the Convention Area to participate as observers in the work of the working group with a view to voluntary compliance with the system(s) to be adopted.

ANNEX 15

**REPORT OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE
PERMANENT WORKING GROUP FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF
ICCAT STATISTICS AND CONSERVATION MEASURES**

(Tokyo, Japan - April 19-21, 1994)

1. Opening of the meeting

1.1 The Second Meeting of the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures was held at the Diamond Hotel, Tokyo, Japan, at the invitation of the Government of Japan, from April 19 to 21, 1994. The meeting was convened by Mr. B. Hallman (U.S.A.), Chairman of the Permanent Working Group. Delegates from the following ICCAT Contracting Parties attended: Canada, France, Japan, Portugal, Spain, and the U.S.A. The ICCAT Secretariat was also present.

1.2 After a brief welcome address by Mr. Hallman, the meeting was opened, and Mr. K. Shima, the Deputy Director of the Japan Fisheries Agency, and Head Delegate of Japan to ICCAT, gave the opening address. He welcomed all the participants, and expressed his appreciation to all those present for their part in helping to carry on the important work of the Permanent Working Group. Mr. Shima referred to ICCAT's achievements in bluefin tuna conservation and management (e.g., a 50% reduction in the quota for the west Atlantic, regulating the catch in the central north Atlantic, and banning large scale longline operations in the Mediterranean Sea in June and July). He noted that in spite of these conservation efforts, certain sectors still attempt to go ahead with trade monitoring at CITES. However, he considered that such action would not supplement the comprehensive measures being implemented by the ICCAT. He noted that ICCAT already had a trade monitoring mechanism. He felt that the goal of conservation and management of bluefin tuna can only be achieved by controlling both harvest and commerce by ICCAT in a coordinated fashion. Mr. Shima noted that the Working Group is entering new fields of discussion, such as trade and environment, and facing new challenges, which may require bold decisions. In closing, Mr Shima wished all the participants a successful meeting and a pleasant stay in Japan.

1.3 Dr. P. M. Miyake (ICCAT Secretariat) welcomed all the participants on behalf of the ICCAT Executive Secretary, and noted that the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program has, since it started in 1992, drawn considerable attention from many non-Contracting Parties to ICCAT's conservation efforts. He thanked the Government of Japan for providing sufficient funding to host this meeting and to assume the expenses of two members of the Secretariat staff, particularly since there was no ICCAT budgetary provision for holding this meeting.

1.4 The Head Delegates introduced their respective delegations. The List of Participants is attached as Appendix 2 to this Report.

1.5 While thanking the Government of Japan for hosting this important meeting, Mr. W. Martin, Head of the U.S. Delegation, referred to the sacrifices made by Canada, Japan and the U.S.A. in implementing the regulations on western Atlantic bluefin tuna. Mr. Martin referred to the World Trade Organization (WTO), recently established at the conclusion of the Uruguay Round trade agreement, and looked forward to working within this new scheme. He referred to the various problems associated with bluefin tuna stock status, and mentioned that his Government is in the process of considering the listing of Atlantic bluefin tuna in Appendix II of CITES. He pointed out that his agency was opposed to this proposal but that the decision would be made by the Fish and Wildlife Service of the U.S. Department of the Interior. He considered that the conclusions of this Working Group would be very important in the decision by the U.S. Government on this issue. He indicated that the use of trade measures would be the last resort to take any action against the countries which undermine the effectiveness of the ICCAT management recommendations.

1.6 Mr. R. Conde, representing Spain, also thanked the Japanese Government for its hospitality in hosting this meeting. He observed that the Working Group should not lose sight that it is working within the framework of ICCAT, which has an intrinsically valid management mandate. He emphasized the importance of ensuring in our discussions that there are benefits derived in being a Contracting Party to ICCAT and advantages in practicing responsible fishing. Mr.

Conde remarked that another basic premise was to see how far the Commission can work in establishing maximum thresholds for Contracting Parties and minimum thresholds for non-Contracting Parties. He hoped that the Working Group can reach a consensus on a maximum threshold and not lose sight of working within the ICCAT. He also emphasized the importance of reaching some type of conclusions that are GATT compatible. Any external pressure, from other fora, have to be taken into account, but he emphasized that the ICCAT itself is an effective conservation body as regards bluefin tuna and that the relative importance of external pressures should be carefully evaluated.

2. Election of Rapporteur

2.1 The Chairman asked the ICCAT Secretariat to serve as Rapporteur. The Secretariat accepted this responsibility.

3. Adoption of Agenda

3.1 The Tentative Agenda was adopted without change, with the understanding that several items on the Agenda are interrelated and hence completing discussion under one item would not preclude returning to that item for further discussion at a later time.

3.2 The Agenda, as adopted, is attached as Appendix 1 to this Report.

4. Review of the implementation of the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program

a) Actions by member countries and the Secretariat

4a.1 The Delegate of Japan presented a report concerning information on validation of the Statistical Document, collected through actions taken by Japan (Document JAPAN/11), since the ICCAT Statistical Document Program started in September, 1993, for frozen products. He indicated that Japan had requested the Secretariat to make inquiries among the Contracting Parties as to the agency responsible for the validation of the Statistical Documents. Japan also provided the Secretariat with a list of countries which have exported bluefin tuna to the Japanese market. On and after March 4, 1994, Japan contacted 33 non-Contracting Parties, through diplomatic channels, and informed them that fresh bluefin tuna products will be included in the Program after June 1, 1994. Japan also mentioned that it had contacted all the Contracting and Non-Contracting Parties that export bluefin tuna to the Japanese market, asking how the validations would be carried out, the title of officials who can validate, etc.

4a.2 The Delegate of Spain regretted the absence of a Representative from the European Union (EU) and pointed out that several items on the Agenda could come under Community competence and that the Group should take due note of this fact. In the absence of an EU Representative, the Delegate of Spain informed the Working Group that the Fisheries Council of the EU had, on April, 12, 1994, approved a Community Regulation which established statistical monitoring of the trade of bluefin tuna. Mr. Conde indicated that this Community Regulation will allow the European Union to set up an internal system of data collection to be forwarded to ICCAT. Since only three members of the EU are currently members of ICCAT (France, Portugal and Spain), this would ensure data collection for ICCAT from other EU Member States, particularly for one major bluefin producing country which is not currently a member of ICCAT.

4a.3 Mr. Conde also informed the Working Group on the form which the EU Fisheries Council has agreed to use for the import of bluefin tuna into the EU market and indicated that it could serve as a model for the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document. He proposed that the three EU members jointly request, via fax, that a copy of the Regulation recently adopted by the Council be forwarded immediately to ICCAT for review. The Group agreed with this proposal and a fax was sent to the EU.

4a.4 Mr. Conde noted that his country had managed to achieve some good results in gathering data on the trade of bluefin tuna, especially since introducing modifications in the tariff nomenclature to distinguish fresh and frozen bluefin products and implementing the Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document on a national level.

4a.5 As regards exports of bluefin tuna, Mr. Conde informed the Group that his country had established a system whereby copies of the documents accompanying the exported tunas (mostly from the trap fisheries) are requested by and sent to the Administration. He indicated that there have been some difficulties in introducing the new system, but that the new EU regulations would help to correct some of these. Through such an approach, Mr. Conde noted, recent trade flows have become more transparent and this has proven useful.

4a.6 The U.S. Delegation distributed, among the participants, its proposed rules regarding the import and export of bluefin tuna, as well as a draft Certificate of Origin and ICCAT Bluefin Statistical Document that includes information required by U.S. law for "dolphin safe" fish. Mr. Stone noted that the U.S. will accept forms from other countries, as long as the forms are approved by the U.S. prior to their use. He indicated that the U.S. expected to implement the recommendation on fresh fish on June 1, 1994.

4a.7 The Delegate of Spain expressed concern about the draft Statistical Document form presented by the U.S. He pointed out that this form included two totally different documents: a Certificate of Origin and the Bluefin Statistical Document. Understanding that reasons of economy motivated this decision, he felt that it was inappropriate and contrary to the essential nature of the Bluefin Statistical Document itself. Furthermore, Mr. Conde expressed concern with the possibility that this integration in the same form could eventually be used as justification for extending the Bluefin Statistical Document to other species or an multilateral backing to national certificate of origin requirements.

4a.8 The Delegate of Spain also stressed the fact that the Statistical Document Program was a major breakthrough by ICCAT after very difficult discussions and negotiations since the meeting held in Tokyo in 1992 and he felt that this should be respected.

4a.9 The U.S. Delegate appreciated the comments made by Mr. Conde and promised that such comments will be delivered to his Government.

4a.10 Mr. Conde reminded the Group that there should be no hidden surprises by additional information required in the form, which were not agreed upon by the Commission.

4a.11 The Delegate of France shared the view expressed by Mr. Conde.

4a.12 The Delegate of Portugal, in supporting the previous interventions made by the Delegate of Spain, reported to the Group that the greatest difficulty for her country was the lack of a legal obligation to implement this Statistical Document Program. Ms. Figueiredo indicated that while there were no major problems to implement the Program in Madeira and Azores, there were some initial difficulties for Mainland Portugal to implement this. However, since the approval by the Fisheries Council of a Community Regulation, she anticipated that within a few months the system would be completely accurate and in place.

4a.13 The Delegate of Canada noted there would be no problem to implement the Program in the domestic system, since Canada does not import bluefin tuna. In cases of exports to Japan, the Canadian buyers have been duly informed that the statistical document form must be used. Mr. Allen also indicated that Canada would have no difficulty in implementing the program on fresh products by June 1, 1994.

4a.14 Dr. P. M. Miyake, Assistant Executive Secretary of ICCAT, presented document PWG-TKY/7, prepared by the Secretariat, and summarized the actions taken by the Secretariat in transmitting all the pertinent ICCAT Recommendations and Resolutions in a timely fashion to the Contracting Parties and non-Contracting Parties and international fisheries organizations. He also reported to the Group that the Head Commissioner of Japan had requested the Secretariat to inquire about validation procedures adopted by the Contracting Parties for the Statistical Document and that as a result, five (5) Contracting Parties have responded.

b) Review of statistics

4b.1 The Delegate of Japan referred to Document JAPAN/7 and gave a brief summary of the results of the data collected by the implementation of the Statistical Document Program. He noted that a total of 1,193 MT (product weight), were imported to Japan in the September through December, 1993, period and that 302 MT were imported during the period of January to March, 1994. The non-Contracting Parties identified as the exporters were: Honduras, Italy, Malta, Panama and Taiwan. All the fish imported from these countries, except Honduras, were reported to have been caught in the Mediterranean Sea.

4b.2 The Delegate of Japan also presented import statistics (Documents JAPAN/8, 9 and 10), which did not come from the Statistical Document Program. He noted that Honduras, Panama and Taiwan had reported no bluefin tuna catches to ICCAT, but that they had exported bluefin tuna to Japan. Mr. Hanafusa pointed out that Japanese estimated Atlantic bluefin tuna imports from non-member nations had increased from 154 MT in 1981 to 3,677 MT in 1993.

4b.3 Dr. Miyake of the ICCAT Secretariat referred to the Table attached to the Document PWG-TKY/7. He also referred to the SCRS criteria for the submission of statistical data to ICCAT.

c) Unification of the format for the Statistical Document

4c.1 The Working Group studied the possibility of unification of the format of the ICCAT Statistical Document. The Delegate of Spain, Mr. Conde, stressed the importance that the criteria specified in the 1992 Recommendation be observed by Contracting Parties and that the Contracting Parties should not be required to provide additional information which might make completion of the form more difficult.

4c.2 It was recognized that there have already been several forms prepared by various Contracting Parties and by the EU. Therefore, the Group decided to review these forms and compare them. Document PWG-TKY/7, presented by the Secretariat, includes some prototypes of forms that have been proposed by various groups. A first draft of a U.S. form was also made available to the Group.

4c.3 The draft form prepared by Japan was presented (attached as **Appendix 8**), which is a modification of the form agreed upon by the U.S., Canada and Japan in 1993. As reported earlier, the Fisheries Council of the EU recently adopted a new form, which will be made available to the participants as soon as it is received by the Secretariat.

4c.4 An initial comparison of the form recently approved by the EU and that presented by Japan seems to indicate that both forms are essentially the same.

4c.5 Taking into account that Japan is the principal importer of bluefin tuna, the Working Group considered that other countries could adopt the Japanese form as the base form. It was agreed that the ICCAT Secretariat would provide non-Contracting Parties requesting information regarding the Statistical Document form with a copy of the Japanese model. At the next meeting of the Permanent Working Group it may be possible to evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of further unification of forms.

4c.6 The Permanent Working Group agreed that the information requested in the Japanese form would be the maximum that the Contracting Parties could legally request from another Contracting Party.

5. Finalization of the criteria for ICCAT acceptance of logbooks and information retrieval systems

5.1 The Group discussed the necessity of finalizing the criteria for acceptance of logbooks and information retrieval systems. It was confirmed that this criteria concerns application by non-Contracting Parties for a waiver of the requirement of Government validation of Statistical Documents, and does not refer to a waiver of the submission of the Document. It was also confirmed that the requirement for validation of the Statistical Document by a government official with respect to Contracting Parties may be met by validation by a recognized institution accredited by it for such validation, at least at the initial stage of the Program.

5.2 The Group believed that the tagging system referred to in the Addendum to the "ICCAT Resolution Concerning Validation by a Government Official of the Bluefin Statistical Document" was perhaps not well defined. Since the use of a tagging system would also allow non-Contracting Parties to apply for a waiver of Government validation of the Statistical Document, it was felt that the minimum requirements for information associated with a tagging scheme, as well as its basic mechanism, should be well documented and made available to any country that intends to adopt such a system. Currently, the U.S. and Canada are applying such a tagging system and these two countries will provide the basic standards for minimum requirements for this mechanism, for consideration at the next meeting of the Permanent Working Group.

5.3 As regards the minimum requirements of associated scientific information which should also be required from tagging, it was noted that the Statistical Document will provide only the estimates of catch in weight associated with only a general area and time. Therefore, the Document will, in itself, not provide enough information needed for stock assessment purposes. In this regard, Dr. Miyake explained that there is no real established criteria for an ICCAT-accepted logbook or data retrieval system, except for the guidelines established by the SCRS for data submission requirements (see **Appendix 4** attached to this Report). He further explained that these guidelines for data have been in effect since 1972 and are occasionally revised by the SCRS as new stock assessment methodologies and techniques warrant.

5.4 The Working Group felt that non-Contracting Parties seeking a waiver of government validation should provide the same data to ICCAT as Contracting Parties are required to provide.

6. Recommendations for the improvement of ICCAT statistics

6.1 The Permanent Working Group noted that the Terms of Reference given to the Group include the review of statistical information on bluefin tuna as well as recommending any necessary corrective measures to improve such information.

6.2 In this context, the Group requested the ICCAT Assistant Executive Secretary to provide information concerning any recent improvements in data collection and his opinion on the remaining problems concerning statistics of the member and non-member countries.

6.3 The ICCAT Assistant Executive Secretary informed the Group that there have been some general improvements noted in statistics, particularly on total catch data, attributed mainly to the following:

- 1) Those countries that have been reporting bluefin statistics now seem to be more keen on improving the data they submit, and as a result, more accurate data are recently becoming available. Such data mostly comes from the ICCAT Contracting Parties;
- 2) Since the Statistical Document Program started, many non-Contracting Parties countries have become more aware of the statistical problems. Most likely, in expectation of applying for a waiver of Government validation of the Document, some of these countries have started to report statistics for the first time; and
- 3) Many unreported bluefin tuna catches have been revealed and estimates of such catches have become available to the SCRS, either through the Statistical Document Program, or through the efforts of Japan in providing their trade statistics (even before the Program went into effect).

6.4 Dr. Miyake further informed the Permanent Working Group that other, more detailed statistics (e.g., geographical distribution of catches and associated size and effort information) for those catches are still not available. He indicated that the Secretariat has been taking every possible measure to pressure the non-Contracting Parties which do not provide information, through communication with high-level officials and administrators and often through diplomatic channels.

6.5 The Group was further informed that even among the Contracting Parties, data are not complete for all fisheries. The Group requested the Executive Secretary to inform Commissioners with respect to the level of information made available to ICCAT and, where appropriate, suggest that corrective measures be taken. The Secretariat would further inform that unless otherwise indicated by Commissioners a data adequacy table would be made available and that the SCRS should be instructed, before its next meeting, to compile an update on the existing information gaps.

6.6 The Group recommended that the ICCAT Executive Secretary communicate, through diplomatic channels or other appropriate means, with those non-Contracting Parties that do not provide sufficient data on their national fisheries, to point out the statistical problems, and to urge them to take corrective measures. As a result of any feedback from these communications, the Secretariat is asked to present the new information at the November 1994 meeting, for review by the SCRS and the Commission. The Group also requested the SCRS to identify any gaps in these data and report to the Permanent Working Group systematically and periodically. The Permanent Working Group would then review such information at the coming meeting, and consider recommendations for the improvement of ICCAT statistics and conservation measures. The Working Group may then recommend that the Commission consider any such measures at its 1994 meeting.

6.7 In view of the above situation of data submission by Contracting Parties, the Delegate of Japan expressed concern about granting an automatic waiver of validation of the Statistical Document to all the Contracting Parties, regardless of the status of their submission of statistical data. He stressed the need to reconsider, in the future, automatic waiver treatment with the information to be obtained in a process to improve the submission of statistics.

6.8 Another issue discussed by the Working Group concerned how to make the data collected through the Statistical Document Program available to the exporting countries. In this respect, Japan presented a draft proposal for the successful implementation of the Statistical Document (see Document JAPAN/2). Japan stated that it was trying its best to collect information through the Program, but that since this is an ICCAT Program, there should be a mechanism on validation through which information collected on validation (e.g., the name of the organization which validates the documents, title of officials who validate the documents, copy of the government seal) is circulated to all the Contracting Parties. He also proposed to establish a feedback mechanism by cross-referencing the import and export data.

6.9 The Delegate of Spain indicated that the draft proposal prepared by Japan on trade data was an interesting one. He indicated that as far as Spain was concerned, there could be some initial difficulties in implementing the cross referencing, but that his country was requesting all the exporters to provide photocopies of the documents when products are exported. However, he suspected that there could be some problems with other countries.

6.10 The Delegate of Portugal, in recognizing the merit of the proposal and sharing the views expressed by the Delegate of Spain, suggested that the periodicity of reporting the status of data collection should be on a biannual, rather than on a quarterly basis.

6.11 The Delegate of Japan noted that there was no intent to cause difficulties to any country, but to ensure the accuracy of documents by some feedback system.

6.12 The Permanent Working Group basically agreed on the proposal and also agreed the draft should be reviewed again by the Working Group at its next meeting before forwarding it to the Commission for consideration. The draft recommendation by Japan is attached as Appendix 6 to this Report.

6.13 The Working Group considered it essential that Contracting Parties examine, between June 1 and August 31, the technical problems associated with the implementation of the Program on fresh/chilled bluefin tuna and report the results to the Commission by September 30, 1994, which shall be circulated to all the Contracting Parties. The Group requested that the aforementioned should be specifically highlighted in the cover letter when the Executive Secretary sends the Report of this meeting to all the Contracting Parties.

6.14 The Delegate of Canada suggested that bluefin importing countries and, more importantly, the exporting countries be encouraged to start a reporting and cross checking of records system, along the lines of the draft recommendation, even though this recommendation has not yet been formally adopted by the Commission nor is legally binding on the Contracting Party.

7. Fishing by non-Contracting Parties

7.1 The Delegate of Japan presented photographs that were taken at various ports, of longline fishing vessels, as well as a list of the boat names and flags for 1992 through 1994. Mr. Miyahara pointed out that 27 fishing boats from non-Contracting Parties were observed in 1993.

7.2 Mr. Conde of Spain observed that many of these photos were taken while the boats were in Spanish ports (in the Canary Islands). He questioned whether it had indeed been ascertained that they exported bluefin tuna to Japan. He noted the special status of Canary Island ports and pointed out that often catches are transshipped to freighters at ports outside of Spanish territory, from a customs point of view. Therefore, monitoring of these catches and transshipments is very difficult for the Spanish authorities to carry out.

7.3 Mr. Hanafusa of Japan recognized that most of the transshipments take place at the port. He indicated that Japan requires that all these transshipments to the Japanese market be accompanied by Statistical Documents. Document JAPAN/7 provided an example of some Panamanian landings at the Canary Islands which were accompanied by the Documents duly signed by the Panamanian Consulate. Imports of bluefin tuna from Taiwan that are transshipped at the Canary Islands are also accompanied by Documents validated by the Office of Fisheries in Kaosiung, Taiwan, since most of the Taiwanese longliners are based at that port and report their catches to the local authorities. Since the Documents have no provision for vessel names, it is difficult to cross check.

7.4 The ICCAT Assistant Executive Secretary explained various actions taken by the Secretariat in communicating with non-Contracting Parties that fish bluefin tuna and do not provide any statistical information nor comply with the ICCAT management measures. He also noted that the presence of fishing vessels at ports does not necessarily mean that such boats have been or will be involved in bluefin tuna fishing. On the other hand, Dr. Miyake indicated that information was obtained from various sources to the effect that more longliners than those photographed by Japan were actually fishing for bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean Sea in 1993, and many operations were still on going to fish bluefin tuna in the same area.

8. Measures to ensure compliance with ICCAT conservation measures

a) Trade measures

8a.1 The Group reviewed with satisfaction the important measures adopted in the last two years by ICCAT to ensure better conservation and management of bluefin tuna. These include significant quota reductions, improvements in the tagging system made by Contracting Parties subject to such quota restriction, the ICCAT Statistical Document Program, the seasonal closure of the Mediterranean to Contracting Party longliners over 24 meters, the catch and access limitations in the central north Atlantic, etc.

8a.2 However, fishing activities of certain non-contracting Parties' vessels contrary to these measures represented a clear risk of loss of effectiveness of these measures. In this respect, special attention was given to the possible recourse to trade measures consistent with international obligations, as a final resort to ensure the effectiveness of those measures.

8a.3 Discussion was held with respect to on-going discussions on trade and environment issues underway in other relevant international fora, and the need for ICCAT to closely interact and complement resulting developments.

8a.4 To facilitate further discussion at the 1994 annual meeting, and to fully illustrate the result of the Group's deliberations, a Draft Resolution was drawn up, which received broad support from the Group (see Appendix 5).

b) Other measures

8b.1 The Delegate of Japan presented Document JAPAN/5 (Rev.), which provides a Draft Resolution to Ensure Compliance with the ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures, which includes various actions concerning fishing boats that operate in contravention to ICCAT management measures. The Commission has, up to now, very limited information on the fishing activities of the non-Contracting Parties and therefore Items a through g of the Draft Resolution were included with the intention to establish a mechanism to systematically collect information at sea and at ports. Items h through k offer some measures other than trade to enhance compliance with the ICCAT conservation program.

8b.2 Mr. Allen of the Canadian Delegation expressed full agreement with the concepts presented in the Japanese draft proposal. He noted that the problem is not unique to ICCAT and that Canada had considerable experience of such difficulties with non-Contracting Parties in the NAFO Convention area, which is relatively small. In such cases, a patrol boat can be dispatched to the area and surveillance is easily carried out. On the other hand, the ICCAT Convention Area covers the entire Atlantic and thus it would be difficult to carry out any surveillance. Canada proposed that the Commission provide as much information as possible, before taking any action.

8b.3 The U.S. also fully supported the Japanese proposal.

8b.4 The Delegate of Spain also expressed support for the proposal, but felt that further discussion was necessary and that there should be a clear distinction between Contracting and non-Contracting Parties of the Commission.

8b.5 Mr. Conde also observed that surveillance and control should normally be carried out by each country's national authorities, and raised the question of courtesy visits by patrol boats to the fishing vessels of other countries. He believed that such visits would be more effective if previous agreement were reached with the authorities of the flag states.

8b.6 The Delegate of Spain referred to Item k of the Draft Resolution concerning the prohibition of entry to port and considered that such actions were contrary to GATT.

8b.7 The Delegate of France fully supported the view expressed by Spain. He asked for a precise definition of what the courtesy visits by the surveillance vessels consisted of.

8b.8 The Delegate of Portugal observed that the diplomatic demarche approach has had some positive responses in the past. She supported the views expressed by the Delegates of Spain and France, particularly relative to that expressed concerning the courtesy visits, which she believed are called as such because the vessel captain's permission is required. The Delegate of Portugal also emphasized that she couldn't accept as a possible measure the refusal of entry to port contained in Item k of the Draft Resolution by Japan, which is inconsistent with the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) as well as GATT. This practice has been constantly contested by Portugal.

8b.9 In responding to comments made by a number of delegates, the Delegate of Canada informed the Working Group that friendly or so-called courtesy visits have been made on many occasions in the NAFO area, and many reports have been made and proved to be effective as tools against non-Contracting Parties. Mr. Allen further stated that European patrol vessels have been exercising this practice and there have not been any complaints received. He further observed that, in Canada's view, Item k of the Draft Resolution by Japan, referring to port access, is not in conflict with GATT, and that Canada supported the inclusion of this Item.

8b.10 Mr. Allen stated that, unlike NAFO, ICCAT has no system to monitor the conduct of its member-countries and it is sometimes very difficult for a country to monitor all its national fishing vessels, particularly when the boats fish very far from the home country. He also suggested some minor changes in the draft as to how the information can be transmitted to the Contracting Party (e.g. through bilateral agreement or a Commission mechanism) and that this be handled by a drafting group to save time.

8b.11 The U.S. thanked Japan for preparing the draft Resolution and expressed its willingness to accept it as is. He questioned the reason why Item k has a relation with GATT.

8b.12 The Delegate of Spain commented that unilateral action on this issue is related to the problem of GATT, whereas multilateral action is not. He also pointed out that countries belonging to a multilateral organization should have specific considerations with respect to those that are not part of a multilateral organization. Mr. Conde noted that any friendly visits would not be effective, if the captain refuses the visit, as would diplomatic demarches be ineffective if the countries refuse to follow them.

8b.13 The Delegate of Japan explained that the real intent of these items was not to make the actions mandatory but only to encourage the members to take action, and hence the Japanese attitude is very flexible. He also stated that actions described in Item k were acceptable to Japan. Mr. Miyahara emphasized that the wording was still indefinite and does not oblige any country. He further explained that the his country's intention was to explore every possible resource to discourage fishing activities by non-Contracting Parties which do not comply with the management measures of ICCAT.

8b.14 The Draft Resolution proposed by Japan, and modified by the Working Group, is attached to this Report as Appendix 7. The Working Group will consider this Draft again at the time of its next meeting in November.

8b.15 The Delegate of Japan also stressed the importance of making joint diplomatic demarches to non-Contracting Parties before June 1, 1994, the date when the closure of the Mediterranean to large longliners and the Statistical Document Program on fresh bluefin tuna takes effect. He introduced a model *aide memoire* (see JAPAN/3) for this purpose.

9. Discussion of a vessel tracking and catch reporting system

9.1 The original proposal presented by Japan in 1993 concerning a vessel tracking and catch reporting system (see Appendix 4 to Annex 11 to the Proceedings of the 1993 Commission Meeting) was distributed to the participants for their review.

9.2 The Delegate of Japan noted that due to time constraints and the very technical nature of this matter, very little discussion had taken place on this proposal at the 1993 November meeting of the Commission. Japan hoped that the participants would take this proposal back to their respective countries for further study with the experts in this material. Mr. Miyahara informed the Working Group that his country was starting to implement such a system of vessel tracking and catch reporting through satellite surveillance.

9.3 Document JAPAN/6 refers to the basic principles and requirements for application of a satellite tracking system. The Delegate of Japan commented that the concept was easy to understand but technical implications required some expert review. An explanation of the Japanese system is provided in Document JAPAN/12.

9.4 Mr. Stone of the U.S. Delegation expressed appreciation for the advanced thinking on ways to improve data collection and monitoring for ICCAT. He indicated that the U.S. finds this concept very interesting and in that context distributed material on efforts that the U.S. is considering. He also indicated a willingness to work on this concept with the other delegates.

9.5 The Delegate of Portugal informed the Working Group that her country had developed a system for tracking and monitoring vessels and that the pilot plan was working very well.

9.6 The Delegate of Spain informed the Permanent Working Group that a financial regulation had recently been adopted by the EU to start a pilot program for such a system. After the pilot program is completed, it will be evaluated from a standpoint of cost effectiveness and a decision will be made by the EU with respect to mandatory installation.

9.7 The Delegate of Spain further informed the Working Group of his country's national program on satellite surveillance. Presently, several different systems are under consideration, but Spain was more interested in the mutual two-way communication system. There are two systems under consideration, EUTELSAT and IMMARSAT. Of the two, the EUTELSAT system is less costly to install, but less "intelligent" in individual terms, and lacks the capacity to record information. Hence, it requires more frequent transmission through satellite and therefore its operational costs are foreseeably higher. After carrying out some feasibility studies of the pilot program, the cost effectiveness and justification will be evaluated. Mr. Conde noted, on the other hand, that catch information has nothing to do with satellite tracking except in the sense that such information can be transmitted via satellite at a relatively low cost.

9.8 Mr. Conde further commented on the draft Resolution presented by Japan in 1993 and indicated that he had no problem with paragraphs I-IV, but felt it was premature to recommend any mandatory installation of such a system under the ICCAT scheme. He also pointed out the problem of over-confidence in a satellite system. The system does report the position of the ship accurately, and therefore if a limitation is set on the fishery in terms of access to an area, it may justify the installation of the system on fishing vessels. As regards the ICCAT tuna fisheries, only the vessels operating in the Mediterranean bluefin tuna fishery, in the central north Atlantic bluefin fishery, and the swordfish fishery in relation to the northern swordfish regulation, would have limited access to an area. On the other hand, the installation cost of satellite equipment is very high. Regulation of the Mediterranean longline fishery will be in effect in 1994 and only one Spanish boat falls into the category of over 24 m in length. Therefore, only Japanese, Korean and maybe French boats are in this category. Regulation of the central north Atlantic area has also been implemented this year. Swordfish fishing effort has already been reduced and in any of these fisheries, it is difficult to find justification for installing the expensive system. On the other hand, Spain has 1200 small longline vessels fishing in the coastal areas and it would be very difficult to install this expensive equipment on all these boats.

9.9 The Delegate of Canada agreed with Spain on most of the points raised in his intervention. He noted that there are few Canadian longline vessels fishing for swordfish that are over 24 m in length, and therefore the adoption of such a system would be hard to justify domestically. He also pointed out that there are nearly 900 small boats and the application of the system to these boats would not be practical.

9.10 The U.S. was pleased that the Japanese proposal regarding satellite tracking had stimulated the discussions. The U.S. Delegate indicated that his country has over 10,000 small boats and pointed out the difficulties to place tracking systems on all of them. He noted, however, that in spite of the difficulties involved, the Commission should not ignore such advanced technological methods to improve statistics.

9.11 The Delegate of Portugal wished to align herself with the opinions expressed by the previous speakers and recognized that the Japanese proposal has the merit of bringing in new technology, but the inherent difficulties in its application should also be kept in mind.

9.12 This Delegate of Japan stated that this system would have considerable benefit in transmitting catch data. He noted that at present all the catch data are extracted from logbooks submitted at the end of each trip, which results in considerable delay and has a high cost of manual data entry. Satellite data transmission, on the other hand, will make it possible to monitor catches on a real time bases and enter them directly into a computer. The Delegate of Japan stated that his country does not expect such a system to become mandatory, but hoped that due consideration could be given to this matter. The Delegate of Japan also stated that while he does not expect this system to become mandatory for small fishing vessels, the system should be required at least for large pelagic type of fishing vessels within an approximate time frame.

9.13 Mr. Conde stated that catch reporting can be done by satellite, but there were also other ways of transmission. He indicated that Spain had started activities of reporting by means other than satellite. He also noted that, particularly in the case of highly migratory species, the location of boats could reveal the fishing grounds and would violate commercial confidentiality.

9.14 The Delegate of Canada recognized some convenience of a satellite system for Japan and other long-distant fleets. However, he noted that most Canadian boats make only one- or two-day trips and all the catch data are controlled almost on a real time basis.

9.15 The Working Group recognized that this subject is an interesting one, with possibilities, and merits further study at the next meeting of the Permanent Working Group.

10. Other matters

10.1 No other matters were discussed.

11. Future work and meetings of the Permanent Working Group

11.1 The Working Group recognized that it had achieved remarkable progress during this short session. However, it was also recognized that there still remains a lot to be discussed at the Group's November, 1994, meeting, particularly a more in-depth review of papers that were submitted at this session, as well as other matters referred to the Permanent Working Group by the Commission. Consequently, the Group tentatively proposed to meet on the Sunday immediately prior to the Commission meeting (i.e., November 27, 1994), and without simultaneous translation. The Chairman of the Working Group was requested to prepare a draft agenda for the next meeting and distribute to the members of the Group as soon as possible.

11.2 The Group felt that it would be most beneficial for the Group if all the members could consult with their respective trade experts for advice as regards the legality of various subjects dealt with by the Working Group. It was further suggested that the experts of one Contracting Party might contact with those from other Contracting Parties to exchange views and for consultation purposes.

12. Adoption of Report

12.1 It was decided that all the papers submitted to the Permanent Working Group should be considered as working papers, in their original language, and should accompany the Report when it is transmitted to the Contracting Parties, since there are several references to these papers in the text. The decision as to the eventual translation of these papers and whether they will be attached to the Report for formal publication will be made by the Working Group at its November meeting. The Working Group requested that the Report be translated and distributed as soon as possible and the distribution should include the Commissioners as well as advisors, Working Group members and the participants at this meeting.

12.2 After a thorough review of the report and the introduction of modifications to the text, the Report was adopted by the Permanent Working Group.

13. Adjournment

13.1 The Chairman thanked Japan for hosting this meeting in such a pleasant atmosphere and for providing excellent facilities and logistical support. All the delegations present joined him in expressing their appreciation to Japan for hosting the meeting and for their kind hospitality.

13.2 Mr. Hallman also thanked the Working Group for its spirit of collaboration which made it possible to accomplish so much in such a short time. He expressed his appreciation to the Secretariat staff present here for their invaluable assistance in providing information and in reporting and summarizing so concisely the complicated discussions of this meeting, as well as the support staff provided by the Fisheries Agency of Japan and the interpreters. This was reiterated by all the members of the Working Group.

13.3 The Second Meeting of the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures adjourned on Thursday, April 21, 1994.

**AGENDA OF THE
SECOND MEETING OF THE PERMANENT WORKING GROUP FOR THE
IMPROVEMENT OF ICCAT STATISTICS AND CONSERVATION MEASURES**

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Election of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Review of the Implementation of the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program
 - a) Actions by member countries and the Secretariat
 - b) Review of statistics
 - c) Unification of the format for the Statistical Document
5. Finalization of the criteria for ICCAT Acceptance of Logbooks and Information Retrieval Systems
6. Recommendations for the improvement of ICCAT statistics
7. Fishing by non-Contracting Parties
8. Measures to ensure compliance with ICCAT conservation measures
 - a) Trade measures
 - b) Other measures
9. Discussion of a vessel tracking and catch reporting system
10. Other matters
11. Future work and meetings of the Permanent Working Group
12. Adoption of Report
13. Adjournment

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LIST OF DOCUMENTS

PWG-TKY/1	Tentative Agenda (attached as Appendix 1 to this Report)
PWG-TKY/2	List of Participants (attached as Appendix 2 to this Report)
PWG-TKY/3	List of Documents (attached as Appendix 3 to this Report)
PWG-TKY/4	1993 Report of the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures
PWG-TKY/5	Summary of Recommendations by ICCAT for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas and Tuna-like Species
PWG-TKY/6	Compendium of responses received by the Secretariat, from ICCAT Contracting Parties, to the "Questionnaire Concerning Validation of the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document"
PWG-TKY/7	Report by the Secretariat to the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures
JAPAN/1	Model ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document and Instructions for Completion of Same (Agenda Item 4) (Revised and attached as Appendix 8 to this Report)
JAPAN/2	Draft Resolution by ICCAT Concerning the Effective Implementation of the Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program (Agenda Item 6) (Revised and attached as Appendix 6 to this Report)
JAPAN/3	Draft Aide Memoire (Agenda Item 7-b)
JAPAN/4	Draft Resolution by ICCAT Concerning an Action Plan Against Fishing Activities on Non-contracting Parties in the Convention Area (Agenda Item 8-a) (Revised and attached as Appendix 5 to this Report)
JAPAN/5	Draft Resolution by ICCAT to Ensure Compliance with the ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures (Agenda Item 8-b) (Revised and attached as Appendix 7 to this Report)
JAPAN/6	Basic Functional Requirements for the Vessel Tracking and Catch Reporting System (Agenda Item 9)
JAPAN/7	Report on the Implementation of the Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program
JAPAN/8	Comparison of Catch and Trade Data for Certain Non-Contracting Parties
JAPAN/9	Preliminary Estimated Atlantic Bluefin Imports From Non-Member Countries
JAPAN/10	Catch and Estimated Imports of Atlantic Bluefin Tuna to Japan, by Countries
JAPAN/11	Information on Validation Collected by Japan, by April 15, 1994 (Agenda Item 4-a)
JAPAN/12	Outline of a Vessel Tracking and Catch Reporting System
USA/1	Draft Resolution by ICCAT Concerning the Use of Trade Measures to Enforce ICCAT Objectives

GUIDELINES ESTABLISHED BY THE SCRS FOR DATA SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Data	Forms to be used	Description	Breakdown	Areas
1. Task I catch & effort	1-1	Total annual (nominal) catch in live round weight	By flag, species, gear. If possible, by EEZ & high seas	General regions
2. Task I fishing power (fleet)	1-2	Number of fishing vessels	By flag, type of fishery, size classes. If possible, by EEZ & high seas	Entire Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea
3. Task II catch and effort				
i) Surface fisheries	2	Catch (in weight) and effort (in number of days fished)	By flag, gear, species, & month	1° Lat. x 1° Long. area
ii) Longline fisheries	2	Catch (in weight &/or # fish) and effort (in # of hooks)	By flag, conventional & deep longline, species, month (or quarters). For BIL & SWO, by sex	5° Lat. x 5° Long. area
4. Task II size (sample)	3-4	Sample size frequencies in fork length (except BIL & SWO), or LJ-FL (BIL & SWO)	By flag, species, gear, month (quarters acceptable for LL, conventional and deep longline), and sex (for BIL & SWO)	In smallest area breakdown as available and not larger than ICCAT sampling areas
5. Catch by size	3-5	Catches divided into sizes (size frequencies raised to catches)	By flag, major species (ALB, BFT, SWO, YFT), major gears, month (or quarter)	ICCAT sampling areas
Raising & substitutions	3-6	Data substitutions & raising carried out by creating catch at size, incl. sample sizes	By flag, major species, gear	Basic time-area stratum on which substitution and raising were made
6. Quick estimates	1-1	Quick estimated catch of first half of the year	By flag, major species, and gears	Entire Atlantic & Mediterranean Sea
7. Projected total catch	1-1	Projected total catch (weight) to the end of the year	By flag, major species and gears	Entire Atlantic & Mediterranean Sea

**DRAFT RESOLUTION BY ICCAT
CONCERNING AN ACTION PLAN TO ENSURE EFFECTIVENESS
OF THE CONSERVATION PROGRAM FOR ATLANTIC BLUEFIN TUNA**

RECOGNIZING that the goal of ICCAT is to maintain populations of tuna and tuna-like fishes in the Atlantic at levels which will permit harvesting maximum sustainable yield;

BEING AWARE that the link between trade and environment is being addressed in other international fora;

RECALLING that the 1992 Recommendation Concerning the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program, which requires that all bluefin tuna, when imported into the territory of a Contracting Party or at the first entry into a Regional Economic Organization, be accompanied by an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document;

CONSIDERING the continuing need for action to ensure the effectiveness of the ICCAT conservation program for Atlantic bluefin tuna;

RECOGNIZING that a significant number of vessels registered to nations which are not Contracting Parties to ICCAT are catching Atlantic bluefin tuna;

BEING AWARE of the strenuous efforts by Contracting Parties to ensure enforcement of ICCAT's conservation and management measures and to encourage non-Contracting Parties to abide by these measures;

NOTING that the ICCAT's ability to manage Atlantic bluefin tuna on a sustainable basis is diminished by harvesting contrary to ICCAT recommendations and recognizing the need to take further strenuous measures to ensure the effectiveness of the ICCAT bluefin tuna conservation program;

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

a. The Infractions Committee shall review, during the 1994 meeting and annually thereafter, the implementation by each Contracting Party of accepted Commission recommendations. The Commission shall decide, by the end of 1994 and annually thereafter, upon any necessary new measures to be taken to ensure compliance by Contracting Parties.

b. The Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures shall identify, during the 1994 meeting and annually thereafter, those non-Contracting Parties whose vessels have been fishing for Atlantic bluefin tuna in a manner which diminishes the effectiveness of the relevant conservation recommendations of the Commission on Atlantic bluefin tuna, based on the catch data compiled by the Commission, the trade information obtained through national statistics and the Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program, and other relevant information obtained in ports and at the fishing grounds.

c. The Commission shall request those Parties identified in paragraph (b) to rectify their fishing activities so as not to diminish the effectiveness of the ICCAT bluefin tuna conservation program and to advise the Commission of actions taken in that regard.

d. The Contracting Parties shall jointly and individually request that non-Contracting Parties fishing Atlantic bluefin tuna in the Convention Area cooperate fully with the Commission in implementing the ICCAT bluefin tuna conservation program.

e. The Permanent Working Group for the Improvement ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures shall review, by the end of 1995 and annually thereafter, the actions taken by those Parties identified and requested in paragraphs (b), (c), and (d), and identify the Parties which have not rectified their fishing activities.

f. To ensure the effectiveness of the ICCAT bluefin tuna conservation program, the Commission will recommend the Contracting Parties to take non-discriminatory trade restrictive measures, consistent with their international obligations, on bluefin tuna products in any form, from the Parties identified in paragraph (e).

* U.S. alternative paragraph (f):

To ensure the effectiveness of the ICCAT bluefin tuna conservation program, the Commission supports Contracting Parties taking non-discriminatory trade restrictive measures, consistent with their international obligations, on bluefin tuna products in any form, from the Parties identified in paragraph (e).

**DRAFT RESOLUTION BY ICCAT
CONCERNING THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE BLUEFIN TUNA STATISTICAL DOCUMENT PROGRAM**

RECALLING that the Resolution concerning the Validation by a Government Official of the Bluefin Statistical Document and the Recommendation Concerning the Implementation of the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program on Fresh Products were adopted by ICCAT at its 13th Regular Meeting held in November, 1993;

RECOGNIZING that timely providing of information on validation from flag countries is essential for importing countries to implement the Program smoothly and effectively;

HOPEFUL that the non-Contracting Parties which have major bluefin tuna import markets will join implementing the Program as importing countries;

BEING AWARE of the need to establish a mechanism to compare export and import data to enhance credibility of the statistical data obtained by the Program;

STRESSING THE IMPORTANCE of collecting data on fresh/chilled bluefin tuna without deteriorating product quality; and

RECOGNIZING the need to study further the technical aspects of validating the Documents on fresh/chilled bluefin tuna products at exporting and importing countries;

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

a. Contracting Parties which have not responded to the inquiry from the Executive Secretary on November 23, 1993, entitled "Questionnaire Concerning Validation of the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document" are urged to do so, as soon as possible;

b. Contracting Parties shall inform the Executive Secretary in a timely fashion of any changes in information on validation (e.g. name of the organization which validates the documents, title of officials who validate the documents, sample impression of seal, tag samples);

c. The Executive Secretary should obtain information on validation from all the non-Contracting Parties fishing and exporting bluefin tuna, and request them to inform him in a timely fashion of any changes in the information provided;

d. The Executive Secretary shall retain and update a list of the information on validation, and circulate it to all the Contracting Parties and inform them in a timely fashion of any changes on the list;

e. The Commission shall request the non-Contracting Parties which are major importing countries of bluefin tuna to cooperate with implementation of the Program and to provide data obtained from such implementation to the Commission;

f. The Contracting Parties which export and/or import bluefin tuna shall compile data from the Documents;

g. The Contracting Parties which import bluefin tuna shall report the data collected to the Executive Secretary by April 1 and October 1 of each year, which shall be circulated to all the Contracting Parties. The format of the report is attached as an Addendum;

h. The Contracting Parties which export bluefin tuna shall inspect export data upon receiving the import data mentioned in g. above from the Executive Secretary, and report results of the review to the Commission.

i. The Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures shall review the reports during the annual meeting of the Commission with a view to solving the problems.

BIANNUAL REPORT OF THE ICCAT BLUEFIN TUNA STATISTICAL DOCUMENT

Period _____ to _____ Import Country _____
 MONTH MONTH YEAR

Flag Country	Area Code	Point of Export	Gear Code	Product Type F/FR/RD/GG/DR/FL/OT	Product Wt. (kg)

GEAR CODE

GEAR TYPE

- | | |
|------|---|
| BB | BAITBOAT |
| GILL | GILLNET |
| HAND | HAND-LINE |
| HARP | HARPOON |
| LL | LONGLINE |
| MWT | MID-WATER TRAWL |
| PS | PURSE SEINE |
| RR | ROD & REEL |
| SPHL | SPORT HAND-LINE |
| SPOR | SPORT FISHERIES UNCLASSIFIED |
| SURF | SURFACE FISHERIES UNCLASSIFIED |
| TL | TENDED LINE |
| TRAP | TRAP |
| TROL | TROLL |
| UNCL | UNSPECIFIED METHODS |
| OT | OTHER TYPE Indicate the type of gear: _____ |

PRODUCT TYPE

AREA CODE

- | | | | |
|----|-----------------|-----|---------------|
| F | FRESH | WA | WEST ATLANTIC |
| FR | FROZEN | EA | EAST ATLANTIC |
| RD | ROUND | MED | MEDITERRANEAN |
| GG | GILLED & GUTTED | PAC | PACIFIC |
| DR | DRESSED | | |
| FL | FILLET | | |
| OT | OTHER TYPE | | |

**DRAFT RESOLUTION BY ICCAT
TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH ICCAT
CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES**

RECALLING that the Commission has taken various conservation and management measures on tuna and tuna-like species in the Convention Area;

NOTING the Recommendation on Supplemental Regulatory Measures for the Management of Eastern Atlantic Bluefin Tuna adopted at the 13th Regular Meeting of the Commission in 1993, which prohibits the fishing for bluefin tuna using large pelagic longline fishing vessels greater than 24m in length in the Mediterranean during the period from June 1 to July 31;

FURTHER NOTING the Recommendation on the Management of Bluefin Tuna Fishing in the Central North Atlantic Ocean adopted at the 13th Regular Meeting of the Commission in 1993, which limits the bluefin tuna catch in this area and prohibits the initiation of a new fishery targeting bluefin tuna for a period of two years;

BEING AWARE of the need to obtain and monitor cooperation from the non-Contracting Parties with ICCAT conservation and management measures to ensure the effectiveness of the Commission's recommendations;

RECOGNIZING the need to develop a mechanism to monitor fishing activities by non-Contracting Parties in the Convention Area and to take possible ways and means based on the collected information to deter fishing activities of non-Contracting Parties which undermine the conservation and management measures of the Commission;

ALSO RECOGNIZING the need to improve compliance by Contracting Parties in the Convention Area;

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

a. The Contracting Parties shall make necessary arrangements to collect any information on sighting vessels, as defined below, of both the Contracting and non-Contracting Parties, through their respective enforcement and surveillance activities in the Convention Area and transmit it promptly to the Executive Secretary (a sighting information sheet is attached as an Addendum):

- 1) Large pelagic tuna longline fishing vessels greater than 24m in length operating in the Mediterranean during the period from June 1 to July 31,
- 2) Vessels actually or possibly engaged in bluefin tuna fishing that is contrary to the quota established by the Commission for scientific monitoring purposes in the western Atlantic,
- 3) Vessels actually or possibly engaged in a directed fishery on bluefin tuna spawning stocks in the Gulf of Mexico,
- 4) Vessels actually or possibly engaged in fishing bluefin tuna contrary to the Commission's regulation in the central north Atlantic (north of 40°N, between 35°W and 45°W).

b. The Contracting Parties should encourage their respective fishermen whose vessels operate in the Convention Area to collect the information mentioned in paragraph a. above.

c. When the vessels sighted, as defined in paragraph a. above, are of flags of the Contracting Parties, the Executive Secretary shall immediately transmit the information to those Contracting Parties so that they can take corrective actions against the vessels in question. Those Contracting Parties shall report to the Commission the actions taken.

d. When the vessels sighted, as defined in paragraph a. above, are of flags of non-Contracting Parties, the Executive Secretary shall transmit immediately the information to those non-Contracting Parties and request them to take appropriate and prompt actions to ensure the effectiveness of the ICCAT conservation programs. The results of such actions shall be provided to the Executive Secretary. The Executive Secretary shall compile the information and the results provided by the non-Contracting Parties and report them to the Commission.

e. When the vessels sighted, as defined in paragraph a. above, are from an unknown flag country, the Executive Secretary shall compile and report the information to the Commission.

f. When a patrol boat of a Contracting Party sights vessels of non-Contracting Parties, courtesy visits to them and collection of information on the vessel operations are encouraged. The information collected by such courtesy visits shall be compiled and reported to the Commission.

g. The Contracting Parties which have ports where vessels that catch and/or transship bluefin tuna enter and the Contracting Parties, that have ports identified by the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document as the point of export, shall make the necessary arrangements to collect the following information on the vessels of non-Contracting Parties at the ports (the appended sighting information sheet should be used for this purpose), and report the information collected to the Commission:

- 1) Vessel Type and Name
- 2) Flag and Port of Registry
- 3) International Radio Call Sign
- 4) Registration Number
- 5) Length and Gross Tonnage
- 6) Fishing Gear Description (e.g. type, amount)
- 7) Nationalities of captain and crew on board
- 8) Date of Entry and Departure
- 9) Activities at port (supply, landing, transshipment, etc.)
- 10) Other relevant information

and when possible, take photos of the vessels and collect the following information through interviews with vessel masters, officers and/or crew:

- 11) Name and Address of the Owner
- 12) Name and Address of the Operator
- 13) Amount of catch, landing or transshipment by species
- 14) Area, Target Species and Period of Fishing

h. The Contracting Parties shall, at the time of validating the Statistical Document, ensure that the bluefin tuna in the shipment has not been taken contrary to the Commission's conservation and management measures. In particular, due attention shall be paid to the validation of the Statistical Document on bluefin tuna caught by the vessel identified by the paragraph a. above;

i. The Contracting Parties should take appropriate actions to discourage their nationals from associating with activities of non-Contracting Parties which undermine ICCAT conservation and management measures,

j. The Contracting Parties should review the ICCAT Scheme of Port Inspection to develop a better enforcement scheme to enhance compliance of ICCAT Recommendations by Contracting Parties,

k. After the reviewing process stipulated in the "Resolution by ICCAT Concerning an Action Plan to Ensure Effectiveness of the Conservation Program for Atlantic Bluefin Tuna", the Contracting Parties should refuse fishing access to the fishery zones by the fishing vessels of such Parties as identified in paragraph e. of said Resolution, and

l) The Executive Secretary shall transmit this Resolution to all non-Contracting Parties, and request them to cooperate with the Commission for effective implementation of this Resolution.

SIGHTING INFORMATION SHEET

1. Date of Sighting:			
Month	Day	Year	
2. Position of Vessel Sighted:			
At Sea:	Latitude	Longitude	
At Port:	Name of Port	Country	
3. Name of the Vessel Sighted:			
4. Flag Country:			
5. Port (and Country) of Registry:			
6. Type of Vessel:			
7. International Radio Call Sign:			
8. Registration Number:			
9. Estimated Length and Gross Tonnage:		m	MT
10. Fishing Gear Description:			
Type:	Estimated quantity (units)		
11. Nationality of Captain:		Crew:	
12. Vessel Situation When Sighted at Sea (Please check):			
Fishing	Cruising	Drifting	Transshipping Other
13. Type of Activities of the Vessel Sighted at Sea (Please check):			
1) Large pelagic tuna longline fishing vessels greater than 24m in length operating in the Mediterranean during the period from June 1 to July 31 2) Vessels actually or possible engaged in bluefin tuna fishing that is contrary to the quota established by the Commission for scientific monitoring purposes in the western Atlantic 3) Vessels actually or possible engaged in a directed fishery on bluefin tuna spawning stocks in the Gulf of Mexico 4) Vessels actually or possible engaged in fishing bluefin tuna contrary to the Commission's regulation in the central north Atlantic (north of 40°N, between 35°W and 45°W).			
14. Date of Entry and Departure (Port Sighting Only)			
Entry: M	, D	, Y	Departure: M , D , Y
15. Activities at Port (Port Sighting Only) (Please check):			
Supply	Landing	Transshipment	Other (Specify)
16. Other Relative Information:			
NOTE: THE SECTIONS BELOW ARE FOR NON-CONTRACTING PARTIES' VESSELS SIGHTED AT PORT ONLY. Fill out the following when information is obtained by interviewing the vessel master, officers and/or crew:			

17. Name and Address of the Owner:						
18. Name and Address of the Operator:						
19. Estimated Amount of Catch, Landing, or Transshipment (when possible, by species) in metric tons (MT):						
TOTAL	MT	BLUEFIN	MT	BIGEYE	MT	YELLOWFIN
ALBACORE	MT	SWORDFISH	MT	BILLFISHES	MT	OTHERS
						MT
20. Fishing Area, Target Species, and Period of Fishing:						
Fishing Area:	Target Species:	Fishing Period: From	to			
21. Other Information:						
THE ABOVE INFORMATION WAS COLLECTED BY:						
OFFICER'S NAME:			TITLE:			
NAME OF VESSEL:		AIRCRAFT:		OR PORT:		
DATE: (Month)	(Day)	(Year)				
SIGNATURE:						

BLUEFIN TUNA STATISTICAL DOCUMENT INSTRUCTION SHEET

Pursuant to the 1992 ICCAT Recommendations, bluefin tuna dealers who import bluefin tuna into the territory of an ICCAT Contracting Party or at the first entry into a regional economic organization, will be required to complete the appropriate sections of the Document. Only complete and valid documents will guarantee that shipments of bluefin tuna will be allowed to enter the territory of Contracting Parties. Shipments of bluefin tuna that are accompanied by improperly documented Bluefin Tuna Statistical Documents (i.e., improperly documented means that the Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document is either missing from the shipment, incomplete, invalid or falsified) will be considered illegitimate shipments of bluefin tuna, that are contrary to ICCAT conservation efforts, and their entry will be suspended (PENDING RECEIPT OF A PROPERLY COMPLETED DOCUMENT) into the territory of a Contracting Party or subject to administrative or other sanction.

Please use this Instruction Sheet as a guideline to complete that section of the Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document that applies to Exporters, Importers, and Government Validation. If a language other than English is used in completing the form, please add the English translation on the Document. **NOTE: IF A BLUEFIN TUNA PRODUCT IS EXPORTED DIRECTLY TO JAPAN, WITHOUT FIRST GOING THROUGH AN INTERMEDIATE COUNTRY, ALL FISH CAN BE IDENTIFIED ON ONE DOCUMENT. HOWEVER, IF THE BLUEFIN TUNA PRODUCT IS EXPORTED THROUGH AN INTERMEDIATE COUNTRY (i.e. A COUNTRY OTHER THAN THE COUNTRY WHICH IS THE FINAL DESTINATION OF THE PRODUCT), SEPARATE DOCUMENTS MUST BE PREPARED FOR DIFFERENT FINAL DESTINATIONS OR EACH FISH MAY BE ACCOMPANIED BY A SEPARATE DOCUMENT TO IDENTIFY ANY POSSIBLE SEPARATION OF SHIPMENTS BY AN INTERMEDIATE COUNTRY. THE IMPORT OF FISH PARTS OTHER THAN THE MEAT, i.e., HEAD, EYES, ROE, GUTS, TAILS MAY BE ALLOWED WITHOUT THE DOCUMENT.**

INSTRUCTIONS

DOCUMENT NUMBER: Blank for the issuing Country to designate a country coded Document Number.

- (1) **FLAG COUNTRY:** Fill in the name of the country of the vessel that harvested the bluefin tuna in the shipment and issued this Document. According to the ICCAT Recommendation, only the flag state of the vessel that harvested the bluefin tuna in the shipment can issue this Document.
- (2) **NAME OF VESSEL AND REGISTRATION NUMBER (when available):** Fill in the name and registration number of the vessel that harvested the bluefin tuna in the shipment. When log numbers are provided in section 5, this section need not be filled in.
- (3) **TRAPS (if applicable):** Fill in the name of the trap that harvested the bluefin tuna in the shipment.
- (4) **POINT OF EXPORT:** Identify the City, State or Province, and Country from which the bluefin tuna was exported.
- (5) **DESCRIPTION OF FISH:** The exporter must provide, to the highest degree of accuracy, the following information. **NOTE:** One row should describe one product type.

(1) *Product Type:* Identify the type of product being shipped as either **FRESH** or **FROZEN**, and in **ROUND, GILLED AND GUTTED, DRESSED, FILLET** or **OTHER** form. For **OTHER**, describe the type of products in the shipment.

(2) *Gear Code:* Identify the gear type which was used to harvest the bluefin tuna using the list below. For **OTHER TYPE**, describe the type of gear.

(3) *Area of Catch:* Identify the general area of the ocean in which the bluefin tuna product was harvested (i.e. east, west Atlantic, Mediterranean (see the map below), Pacific).

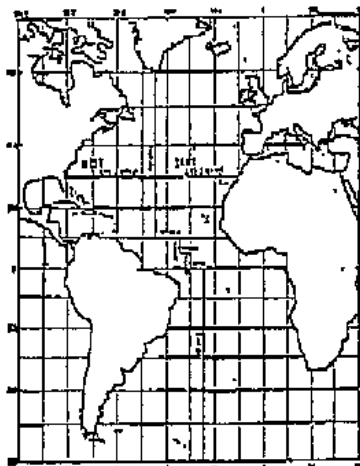
(4) *Net product weight in kilograms.*

(5) *Country Coded Tag Number (if applicable).*

- (6) **EXPORTER CERTIFICATION:** The person or company exporting the bluefin tuna shipment must provide his/her name, address, signature, date the shipment was exported, and dealer license number (if applicable).
- (7) **GOVERNMENT VALIDATION:** Fill in the name and full title of the official signing the Document. The official must be in the employment of the competent government authority of the flag state of the vessel that harvested the bluefin tuna appearing on the Document. This requirement may be waived according to the ICCAT RESOLUTION CONCERNING VALIDATION BY A GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL OF THE BLUEFIN-TUNA STATISTICAL DOCUMENT.
- (8) **IMPORTER CERTIFICATION:** The person or company that imports bluefin tuna must provide his/her name, address, signature, date the bluefin was imported, license number (if applicable), and final point of import. This includes imports into intermediate countries. For fresh and chilled products, the signature of the importer may be substituted by a person of a customs clearance company when the authority for signature is properly accredited to it by the importer.

GEAR CODE:

GEAR CODE	GEAR TYPE
BB	BAITBOAT
GILL	GILLNET
HAND	HANDLINE
HARP	HARPOON
LL	LOONGLINE
MWT	MID-WATER TRAWL
PS	PURSE SEINE
RR	ROD AND REEL
SPHL	SPORT HANDLINE
SPOR	SPORT FISHERIES UNCLASSIFIED
SURF	SURFACE FISHERIES UNCLASSIFIED
TL	TENDED LINE
TRAP	TRAP
TROL	TROLL
UNCL	UNSPECIFIED METHODS
OT	OTHER TYPE



RETURN A COPY OF COMPLETED DOCUMENT TO: (the name of the office of the competent authority of the flag state).

**REPORT OF THE THIRD MEETING OF THE
PERMANENT WORKING GROUP FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF
ICCAT STATISTICS AND CONSERVATION MEASURES**
(Madrid, Spain - November 27, 30, 1994)

1. Opening of the meeting

1.1 The Third Meeting of the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG) was held at the Hotel Pintor, Madrid, Spain, on November 27 and November 30, 1994. The meeting was opened by Mr. B. S. Hallman (U.S.A.), Chairman of the PWG. Delegates from the following ICCAT Contracting Parties attended: Canada, France, Japan, Korea, Portugal, Spain, South Africa, and the United States. Libya, Bermuda, Taiwan, and the EU attended the meeting in an observer capacity. The ICCAT Secretariat also was in attendance.

2. Election of Rapporteur

2.1 The United States offered to provide the Rapporteur for the PWG and Mr. C. Carr was designated Rapporteur for the meeting.

3. Adoption of Agenda

3.1 After discussion on the manner of proceeding, the Agenda (attached as **Appendix 1 to Annex 16**) was adopted with the understanding that early consideration would be given to fishing by non-Contracting Parties (Agenda item 7) and to measures to ensure compliance with ICCAT conservation measures (Agenda item 8). In this regard, it was agreed that Agenda items 4 and 7 be considered together, since the information considered in item 4 would be necessary for a useful discussion of item 7. It was also agreed to consider item 9 after items 7 and 8 before going on to the earlier part of the Agenda.

4. Review of the implementation of the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program

4.1 The ICCAT Executive Secretary summarized the report prepared on "Implementation of the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document" (COM/94/31).

4.2 The Delegate of Canada noted that its response was missing from Annex 1 to the aforementioned report, to which the Secretariat responded that Annex 1 contained only responses to the questionnaire which the Secretariat had sent to Contracting Parties. Since Canada did not respond to the questionnaire because it had a tagging system in place, its response was not included this Annex.

4.3 The representative of Japan summarized the major findings of its report on its implementation of the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program (BTSDP) (attached as **Appendix 2**). He explained the methodology employed and noted some difficulties encountered with regard to the accuracy and completeness of data.

4.4 It was agreed that at this point during the discussion the group should focus on country experience with implementation of the BTSDP and any other information gathered regarding fishing by non-Contracting Parties, rather than on ways to improve the system, which would be addressed at another point on the Agenda.

4.5 The Chairman thanked the Delegate of Japan for its very complete report and noted that the report had spotlighted the problem of continued catches by non-Contracting Parties and the phenomenon of vessels re-flagging to ICCAT Contracting Parties to avoid being designated a vessel of a non-Contracting Party.

4.6 The Delegate of Spain thanked Japan for its detailed report, and expressed satisfaction that the system is working so well in terms of monitoring tuna exports, especially from the Spanish port of Las Palmas. He further noted that the system appeared to have overcome the traditional difficulties that attend the monitoring of custom-free areas, without disturbing the practices of such areas. The Delegate of Spain made three additional points. First, he observed that since Spanish rod and reel data are the same as baitboat data, the export figures would need to be double-checked. Second, he noted the need to compare the statistical documents with reported catches, since the catch figures for 1994 have yet to be reported. Third, he related that Spain would be submitting a report on the BTSDP implementation, and that discrepancies with the Japanese report could perhaps be accounted for by virtue of the fact that the Spanish data starts in January, 1994, while the Japanese data covers from June to November. Further in regard to the BTSDP, the Delegate of Spain noted that his country had collected data on landings by French and Italian vessels at Spanish ports, and that this allowed monitoring despite the fact that the European Union has no exports or imports *per se* within its common market. He concluded that Spain had solved a number of problems in developing an effective monitoring program.

4.7 The Delegate of France recognized the efforts of Spain in implementing the BTSDP and noted his country's satisfaction with the Program. He observed, however, that a minor technical problem was presented by the fact that a large portion of the bluefin tuna caught by France in the Mediterranean is landed in Spain, which, not being the flag state, is unable to validate the catch. He thought that this difficulty could be addressed by consultation among Spain, France, and Japan.

4.8 The Delegate of Japan acknowledged Spain's point regarding data covering different time periods and offered to provide further information on "free-port" tuna, which Spain had noted with interest.

4.9 The Delegate of the United States thanked Spain for the information it had provided and stated its support for elaborating a mechanism to ensure that export figures can be checked against import figures.

4.10 The Delegate of Portugal expressed satisfaction with the implementation of the BTSDP, and indicated that Portugal shared the reporting problem presented by its vessels landing bluefin at ports of other countries. She also expressed the view that at least some of the vessels attributed in Japan's report to Portugal are not in fact Portuguese vessels, and expressed doubts about the catch figure attributed to Portugal in the Japanese report.

4.11 The Delegate of Spain reiterated that it would be providing a more detailed report and noted three areas of concern in the implementation of the BTSDP. First, that the EU, given its unique status as a common market, presents special problems. Second, that there needed to be coordination of catch data between the SCRS and the BTSDP. Third, that the problem of "third generation" flags of convenience, noted by the Chair, runs contrary to recent international action on the problem of re-flagging, and must be addressed.

4.12 The Chairman concurred with Spain's view on the gravity of the problem presented by re-flagging, and noted that, since part of the PWG mandate is to develop ways to improve the effectiveness of conservation measures, the matter of re-flagging should perhaps be taken up later under a separate agenda item.

4.13 The Secretariat noted that discrepancies in the reported catches of Contracting as well as non-Contracting Parties was evidenced by a comparison of the Japanese report with Table 1 of COM/94/31.

4.14 Noting the difficulty in comparing catch data (only available for 1993) with BTSDP data as reported by Japan and Spain, the Delegate of Spain suggested that the FAO Flagging Agreement might be considered for how it could be used to secure for ICCAT additional information on vessels, especially those that have recently re-flagged.

4.15 The Chair concurred, noting that the Flagging Agreement was quite relevant to the problem, and suggested that perhaps the matter would be considered by the Commission at its plenary session.

4.16 The Delegate of Japan also provided information on vessels fishing in the Mediterranean that was obtained from vessel patrols.

4.17 The Secretariat referred the Working Group to the SCRS Report noting that more than 100 longline vessels were fishing in the Mediterranean between June and July. It also noted that the SCRS had recommended a feasibility study for an aerial survey of such fishing activity.

4.18 The Delegate of Japan expressed concern about the source of the information on which SCRS based its finding. The Secretariat acknowledged that the information was provided by fishermen and was not independently verifiable, and went on to stress that this need for verifiability motivated the SCRS recommendation for an aerial survey feasibility study.

4.19 The Delegate of the United States expressed the view that such vessels were likely from non-Contracting Parties, and that this could serve as a basis for a proposal to be presented by the United States to address this problem.

4.20 Several countries expressed further interest in the frequency and area of Japan's patrolling activities. In response, the Delegate of Japan explained that in 1992 and 1993 a vessel patrolled the Mediterranean from May 21 to June 30, but in 1994 it had only been able to patrol from May 25 to June 15, less than the entire spawning ground closure period. The Delegate of Japan noted, however, that a Japanese patrol vessel in the Mediterranean had spotted 21 radio buoys (a much smaller number than in previous years) believed to be used by vessels fishing flying flags of convenience, and had intercepted communications from several vessels leaving the Mediterranean just before June 1, but had also sighted several vessels of unidentified flags fishing during the closure period. One Panamanian longline fishing vessel was sighted on June 12, 1994, in the Mediterranean.

5. Measures to improve the Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program

5.1 The Delegate of Japan made two proposals under this Agenda item. The first was a revised draft of the resolution contained in Appendix 6 of the April PWG meeting report. The second was a "Resolution on Interpretation and Application of the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program". The Delegate of Japan also explained that the point of the revised resolution contained in Appendix 6 of the April PWG meeting report was to allow the comparing of export and import data.

5.2 Several members of the PWG expressed the view that while they supported the revised resolution in principle, they needed more time to review it carefully and consider possible drafting changes, including such matters as the fact that there is no distinction between imports and exports in the EU.

5.3 With regard to the proposed "Resolution on Interpretation and Application of the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program", there was substantial discussion of whether the resolution intended that the 1992 recommendation concerning the BTSDP apply to all bluefin tuna, or only to Atlantic bluefin tuna.

5.4 The Secretariat clarified that while ICCAT does not collect catch data on Pacific bluefin tuna, a number of countries export Pacific bluefin tuna to Japan, and that distinguishing between Atlantic and Pacific bluefin tuna presented difficulties. Australia and New Zealand have applied to ICCAT for a full waiver of the BTSDP, with regard to Pacific bluefin tuna.

5.5 The Chair clarified that the BTSDP applies to all bluefin tuna, regardless of where it is caught. He noted that the Contracting Parties had agreed on procedures for waiving the requirement of government validation of the document, but had declined to provide for the waiver of the requirement that the document itself be completed for all bluefin tunas. He acknowledged the matters raised by Japan presented complicated questions, noted that three countries had applied for waiver of the government validation requirement, and observed that more such applications would likely be made. He stated that it was the task of the PWG to deal with these waiver requests and to give the Secretariat some guidance on how to handle requests for interim waivers.

5.6 The Delegate of Japan clarified that it was decided in 1992 to require a statistical document for all bluefin imported into an ICCAT Contracting Party, otherwise there would be insurmountable problems of implementation. He stated that Japan's intention was not to change this requirement, but rather was to have the Commission no longer require countries to provide catch data on Pacific bluefin tuna as a condition for granting the country a waiver of the government validation requirement, since ICCAT does not need such catch information and cannot compel its submission.

5.7 The Chair urged that bilateral consultations be undertaken to clarify the points discussed on this Agenda item. It was agreed that the PWG would again meet on Wednesday at 9 a.m. The first session of the Permanent Working Group meeting was adjourned.

5.8 The PWG resumed meeting at 11:00 a.m. on November 30 and took up consideration of a revised draft of Japan's "Resolution on Interpretation and Application of the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program".

5.9 The Delegate of Spain voiced his concern that those points of the resolution concerning acceptance of logbooks and information retrieval systems should clearly apply only to non-Contracting Parties, and that the resolution should not supersede prior recommendations regarding the BTSDP.

5.10 The Delegate of Japan stated that it was not the intention of the resolution to replace previous recommendations, but rather was proposed only to clarify the interpretation and application of the BTSDP.

5.11 Following considerable discussion, it was agreed to amend the resolution to make it clear that the acceptance of logbooks and information retrieval systems as noted in the resolution only applied to non-Contracting Parties.

5.12 It was also noted by the Group that it had been previously agreed by the Commission that any Contracting Party which over the preceding 36-months regularly provided to ICCAT statistical information consistent with ICCAT SCRS requirements, would not need to apply for acceptance of its logbook and the same time that the Commission could rescind this status for any Contracting Party that ceases to provide statistical information required by ICCAT for a period of 12 months. Thus, the requirements relating to logbooks and information retrieval systems were equally stringent for Contracting and non-Contracting Parties.

5.13 The matter of the type of bluefin tuna to which the 1992 recommendation concerning the BTSDP applied, referenced in paragraph 1 of the resolution, was also discussed. It was agreed that the 1992 recommendation applies only to northern bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) with the understanding that: (1) Japan noted that northern bluefin tuna and southern bluefin tuna are easily distinguishable; (2) Japan will monitor the level of imports of southern bluefin tuna to ensure that trade in southern bluefin tuna is not used to "launder" northern bluefin tuna; and (3) the PWG will keep the matter under review.

5.14 The PWG recommended the "Resolution by ICCAT on Interpretation and Application of the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program" to the Commission for adoption (attached as Annex 8).

5.15 Lengthy discussion was also had on the procedures for acceptance by ICCAT of a statistical information retrieval system or logbook system, and agreement was reached that the PWG would review such applications and decide whether acceptance was appropriate. In so agreeing the group understood that while conducting a vote on the question by mail was possible, such vote might be postponed, at the discretion of the Executive Secretary, if the imminence of a bi-annual meeting of the PWG so warrants. With some minor technical amendments, the "Resolution by ICCAT Concerning the Effective Implementation of the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program" was recommended by the PWG to the Commission for adoption (attached as Annex 9)^b.

5.16 The PWG also discussed consideration of the applications of Australia, New Zealand, and Mexico for full or partial waiver of ICCAT BTSDP requirements.

5.17 The Chair recalled the decisions taken earlier by the group on the conditions for waiver of the government validation requirement and the conditions for not requiring the submission of a BTSDP at all for southern bluefin tuna. He noted that the applications before the PWG should be informed by these decisions.

5.18 The Delegate of Portugal noted that Australia and New Zealand applied for a full waiver of the BTSDP and she expressed concerns about the importance of not exceeding ICCAT competence or mandate with respect to its conservation and management.

5.19 The Delegate of Spain supported the point just expressed by the Delegate of Portugal.

5.20 The Delegate of France expressed its view that the BTSD should not apply to countries that do not fish in the ICCAT Convention Area.

5.21 Following considerable discussion, it was agreed that the Executive Secretary should communicate to Australia and New Zealand that their catches of southern bluefin tuna were exempted from the requirements of the BTSDP altogether, including the requirement for a statistical document itself, but that a statistical document, which could be validated by a non-governmental entity (i.e., the government validation requirement was waived), would still be required for northern bluefin tuna. The Executive Secretary was further directed to inform Australia and New Zealand that the

a Formerly Appendix 3 to the PWG Report when the Report was adopted in November, 1994.

b Formerly Appendix 4 to the PWG Report when the Report was adopted in November, 1994.

adoption of a different approach to their satisfying the requirements of the BTSDP might be possible if a statistical document program was developed among member countries of the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT). It was further agreed that the Executive Secretary inform Mexico of ICCAT's decision for granting waivers of the government validation requirement and inquire if, in light of this, Mexico wishes to pursue its application.

5.22 In so deciding and directing the Executive Secretary how to respond to these applications, full account was taken by the PWG members of the importance of not exceeding ICCAT's jurisdiction with respect to its conservation and management responsibilities.

6. Measures to improve ICCAT-required fishery statistics

6.1 It was agreed that time limitations precluded consideration of this Agenda item, but the Group agreed that the existing statistical reporting obligations of the Contracting Parties should be fulfilled and that the PWG would undertake at its next meeting a review of Contracting Party logbook and information retrieval systems. In this regard, it was agreed that an inter-sessional meeting of the PWG may be desirable for such review.

7. Fishing by non-Contracting Parties

7.1 The subject matter of this Agenda item was discussed under Agenda item 4.

8. Measures to ensure compliance with ICCAT conservation measures

a) Trade Measures

8.a.1 The Chair noted that measures to ensure compliance with ICCAT conservation measures were important to the PWG and to ICCAT as a whole. He observed that the issue had been discussed at length at the April 1994 meeting of the PWG in Tokyo, where it had nearly reached consensus on a trade measures resolution, with the exception of one delegation.

8.a.2 The Delegate of the United States thanked the permanent Working Group for the work it had done in Tokyo in developing a tool to ensure compliance with ICCAT measures. He then stated that the United States had held a slightly different view from other members while sharing the same goal. He noted that while U.S. law authorizes and in some cases requires the government of the United States to take trade measures, the United States would like to collaborate with other countries in taking a multilateral approach to trade measures in regard to the actions of non-Contracting Parties to ICCAT. To this end the United States withdrew the alternative language for paragraph f of the resolution and joined the consensus of the Group that had been reached at the Tokyo meeting.

8.a.3 Several of the other parties expressed gratitude to the United States for its flexibility and having joined the consensus.

8.a.4 Based on the statements of the parties, the Chair found that the Permanent Working Group had reached a consensus to recommend that the Commission adopt the Resolution. He noted that, subject to the approval of the Commission, it appeared that ICCAT had taken an historic step for international fishery organizations by adopting a procedure for dealing with a problem that affects fishery organizations the world over. The "Resolution by ICCAT Concerning an Action Plan to Ensure Effectiveness of the Conservation Program for Atlantic Bluefin Tuna", recommended to the Commission for adoption, is attached as Annex 7^c.

b) Other measures

8.b.1 The Delegate of the United States made two additional proposals to ensure compliance with ICCAT conservation measures. The first proposal concerned inviting non-Contracting Parties to participate in the efforts of ICCAT while continuing their present fishing levels, provided they do so under a regulated format. The Delegate of the United

^c Formerly Appendix 5 to the PWG Report when the Report was adopted in November, 1994.

States stated that whether the failure of non-Contracting Parties to join ICCAT under such conditions constituted an undermining of ICCAT conservation measures was a matter that would have to be considered in light of the action taken earlier regarding trade measures. He observed that the proposal was consistent with the consensus which has developed at the United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks that States whose vessels fish in areas that are now governed by fishery organizations should cooperate in the conservation and management efforts of such organizations.

8.b.2 The Delegate of France noted that Contracting Parties must as well be required to comply with ICCAT conservation recommendations.

8.b.3 The Delegate of Spain expressed support, in principle, for the proposal, but expressed concern about the specifics of implementing it. He noted that it made good sense in providing that a country could continue fishing and did not contemplate a quota allocation, but voiced concern that backing up the invitation to cooperate with a threat of trade measures might present some difficulties which could perhaps be obviated by addressing the matter in a more nuanced way.

8.b.4 The Delegate of Canada expressed his country's wholehearted support for the proposal, noting that the international community is moving to a position of no longer tolerating the undermining of fishery organizations by the actions of non-Contracting Parties.

8.b.5 The United States Delegation presented a draft resolution on this matter that, *inter alia*, recognized the class of non-Contracting Parties that cooperate with ICCAT as "Cooperating Parties."

8.b.6 The Delegates of Spain, France, and Portugal expressed concern that the resolution as drafted went too far in pressuring non-Contracting Parties to become parties to ICCAT, rather than simply cooperate with ICCAT and would not be consistent with the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. They also expressed the view that since ICCAT does not have the legal power to prevent non-Contracting Parties from fishing in the Convention Area, no implication of such authority should be made in a resolution that seeks coordination between ICCAT and non-Contracting Parties.

8.b.7 The PWG agreed that a resolution inviting the cooperation of non-Contracting Parties that took into account the concerns noted above would be of some value because it would give positive recognition to "Cooperating Parties", would contribute to a growing body of international legal authority urging non-Contracting Parties to cooperate with regional fishery organizations, and would provide an encouragement and opportunity for non-Contracting Parties to become familiar with ICCAT. The "Resolution by ICCAT on Coordination with Non-Contracting Parties, recommended by the Group to the Commission for adoption is attached as Annex 10^d.

8.b.8 The second proposal of the United States to ensure compliance with ICCAT conservation measures concerned fishing activity in the Mediterranean during the spawning season by non-Contracting Parties. The representative of the United States proposed sending a note to such parties asking that they prevent vessels flying their flag from fishing in the closed area and informing them that they may be subject to measures, including trade measures, if they allow such fishing activity to continue.

8.b.9 The Delegate of France expressed concern that the proposal might involve establishing quotas for the Mediterranean, which he viewed as impossible to put into practice.

8.b.10 The Delegate of Spain stated that any action taken with regard to violations of the closed season in the Mediterranean would have to be taken on a non-discriminatory basis and that clearer ideas for sanctions for non-compliance need to be developed.

8.b.11 The Delegate of Canada supported the U.S. proposal.

8.b.12 The PWG recommended a "Resolution on Fishing in the Mediterranean During Spawning Months" to the Commission for adoption (attached as Annex 11)^e.

8.b.13 The Delegate of Spain offered a resolution drawing on and supporting the FAO "Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas" by requiring

d Formerly Appendix 6 to the PWG Report when the Report was adopted in November, 1994.

e Formerly Appendix 7 to the PWG Report when the Report was adopted in November, 1994.

ICCAT Contracting Parties to develop a registry of vessels more than 24 meters in length authorized to fly their flag on the high seas of the Convention Area. He noted that the resolution would increase the transparency of fishing operations, enhance flag-state responsibility, and, as a practical matter, ensure a certain capping of fishing vessel capacity in the Convention Area.

8.b.14 It was agreed that the data collected as a result of maintenance of such registries should not be used for enforcement purposes, at least until the requirement for a registry applies as well to vessels less than 24 meters in length fishing on the high seas in the Convention Area.

8.b.15 The U.S. Delegation voiced its support for the FAO Agreement, but noted that because it had not passed implementation, it could at this time only support a non-binding resolution in support of the Flagging Agreement.

8.b.16 Associating itself with the views of the U.S., the Delegate of Japan stated that his country could provide the information required by the Flagging Agreement upon completing its internal process to accept the Agreement.

8.b.17 The Delegates of Spain and Japan expressed the view that next year the PWG should consider the applicability of the requirement to maintain a vessel registry to vessels less than 24 meters long and to vessels fishing in EEZs in the Convention Area, not only the high seas.

8.b.18 The Delegate of Canada noted his agreement that the applicability of the requirement to vessels smaller than 24 meters should be considered by the PWG next year, but strongly objected to the PWG's considering the applicability of the requirement to vessels within EEZs.

8.b.19 Following several technical amendments, the "Resolution by ICCAT Regarding the Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas" was recommended by the Group to the Commission for adoption (attached as Annex 12).

8.b.20 The PWG then discussed consideration of the draft resolution contained in Appendix 7 of the Report of the Second Meeting of the PWG (Tokyo, April 1994), which Japan stated was designed to establish a mechanism to collect data on vessel activity because the Commission currently has only fragmental information. The Chair noted that the resolution, which was proposed by Japan at the Tokyo meeting, was not accepted at the time and it was agreed to discuss it at the present meeting.

8.b.21 The Delegate of Canada expressed support for the resolution in its entirety and recommended that it be strengthened to require Contracting Parties to deny validation to the catches of their own vessels where they are made contrary to ICCAT conservation recommendations.

8.b.22 The Delegate of Spain noted that while he supported the motivation behind the resolution, it contained many interesting and difficult points that would probably not be useful as compulsory obligations because of difficulties in implementation. He suggested the resolution be amended to take account of the fact that Parties could not with certainty ensure 100% compliance with ICCAT conservation measures, and noted that the resolution required more precision in its specification of the areas to which fishing access was to be denied to vessels fishing in violation of ICCAT conservation measures as well as to whether access would be denied to individual vessels or countries altogether.

8.b.23 Several Delegations expressed their understanding that the resolution referred only to access to EEZs, and meant that vessels of countries whose vessels undermined ICCAT conservation measures should not be licensed to fish for EEZ resources.

8.b.24 The Delegate of Spain stated such an expression would be superfluous if it only referred to EEZs since States already have the power to deny fishing access to their EEZ surplus stocks.

8.b.25 The Delegates of France, Portugal and Spain stated that requiring Contracting Parties to act to discourage their nationals from associating with activities of non-Contracting Parties which undermine ICCAT conservation and management measures conflicted with their countries' constitutional requirements regarding restricting the activities of their citizens.

f Formerly Appendix 8 to the PWG Report when the Report was adopted in November, 1994.

8.b.26 The "Resolution on Compliance with the ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures" resolution was redrafted to take account of these concerns and with some minor technical amendments and was recommended by the PWG to the Commission for adoption (attached as Annex 13)^g.

9. Vessel tracking and catch reporting system

9.1 The Chair noted that there had been lengthy discussion of vessel tracking and catch reporting systems at the April, 1994, Meeting of the PWG in Tokyo. The PWG then considered a draft resolution on the subject which Japan had introduced in 1993 and was given consideration at the April Tokyo meeting.

9.2 The Delegate of Spain stated that his country could not accept the draft resolution as the terms of reference for the PWG since it was too ambitious and impractical in requiring the implementation of tracking and catch reporting systems within a specified time frame.

9.3 The Delegates of Portugal and France concurred with the points just made by the Delegate of Spain.

9.4 The Delegate of the United States offered support for initiating a pilot program and noted that the United States was more concerned with real-time data reporting than with vessel tracking. He suggested that the matter could be discussed further during a special working group meeting in Seattle.

9.5 The Chair identified a consensus that there should be a working group to consider vessel tracking and catch reporting systems, and noted that the PWG was in agreement that such a working group should have broad terms of reference.

9.6 The Chair confirmed Japan's understanding that under broad terms of reference the working group would be able to discuss, *inter alia*, the effectiveness of existing satellite and equivalent systems, minimum requirements for systems, and the matter of a time frame for implementation.

9.7 The Delegates of France, Portugal and Spain stated that the word "nationals" should be replaced by "vessels" in order to take into account flag-state responsibility.

9.8 Broad terms of reference were agreed upon, and it was further agreed that the working group should be open to all Contracting Parties, and relevant non-Contracting Parties should also be invited. The "Resolution on Vessel Monitoring", recommended by the PWG to the Commission for adoption, and which embodies these agreed points is attached as Annex 14^h.

10. Other matters

10.1 The Delegate of Japan called attention to the PWG that from this date (i.e., December 1, 1994), his country started collected validated statistical documents for all fresh/chilled bluefin tuna according to the ICCAT Recommendation adopted in 1993.

11. Future work and meetings of the PWG

11.1 Discussion was held on the question of the need for an inter-sessional meeting. It was agreed that it may be advisable to hold an inter-sessional meeting, and that this would be decided by communication among the members.

12. Adoption of Report

12.1 The Report of the Third Meeting of the PWG was adopted by the Group and recommended to the Commission for adoption.

13. Adjournment

13.1 The Chairman adjourned the meeting.

^g Formerly Appendix 9 to the PWG Report when the Report was adopted in November, 1994.

^h Formerly Appendix 10 to the PWG Report when the Report was adopted in November, 1994.

**AGENDA OF THE
THIRD MEETING OF THE PERMANENT WORKING GROUP FOR THE
IMPROVEMENT OF ICCAT STATISTICS AND CONSERVATION MEASURES**

1. Opening of the session
2. Election of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Review of the implementation of the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program (BTSDP)
 - a) Secretariat actions
 - b) Member country actions
5. Measures to improve the Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program
6. Measures to improve ICCAT-required fishery statistics
7. Fishing by non-Contracting Parties
 - a) Review of information
 - b) Identification of countries fishing contrary to ICCAT conservation measures
8. Measures to ensure compliance with ICCAT Conservation Measures
 - a) Trade measures
 - b) Other measures
9. Vessel tracking and catch reporting system
10. Other matters
11. Future work and meetings of the Permanent Working Group
12. Adoption of Report
13. Adjournment

**REPORT BY JAPAN
ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ICCAT BLUEFIN TUNA STATISTICAL
DOCUMENT PROGRAM (BTSDP)
(FROZEN AND FRESH/CHILLED PRODUCTS)**

1. Introduction

ICCAT adopted the Recommendation Concerning the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program at its Eighth Special Meeting in November, 1992. Following this Recommendation, Japan introduced its domestic regulation to implement the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program on September 1, 1993, for frozen bluefin products.

In 1993, ICCAT adopted the Recommendation Concerning the Implementation of the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program on Fresh Products at its Thirteen Regular Meeting. Following this Recommendation, Japan has introduced its domestic regulations to implement the Program for fresh/chilled bluefin products beginning June 1, 1994.

With respect to the implementation of the BTSDP on fresh/chilled products, ICCAT provided a special period for the initial six months, and allowed acceptance of documents properly prepared by the exporter from June 1 to November 30, 1994, if, whenever required, a government official is unable to validate the document. This special period will be terminated as of November 30 and on and after December 1, a Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document validated by a government official or an official of an accredited institution is required to be accompanied with the shipment.

2. Preparation for the implementation of the domestic regulation for the Program

a. Frozen products

Before introducing the regulation on September 1, 1993, Japan made an announcement and explanation of its regulation, through diplomatic and other available channels, to 32 countries and areas including non-Contracting Parties which had records of exporting bluefin tuna to Japan during the past three years.

b. Fresh/chilled products

Before introducing the regulation for fresh/chilled products on June 1, 1994, Japan made an announcement and explanation of its regulation in early March, 1994, through diplomatic and other available channels, to the above 32 countries and areas. Japan requested these 32 countries and areas in late March, 1994, to provide the ICCAT Secretariat and Japan with the names of organizations and titles of officials which are responsible for the validation of the statistical documents. Also, sample impressions of the seals of validating organizations were requested.

In the middle of November, 1994, Japan informed through diplomatic and other available channels 37 countries and areas, which have records of exporting fresh/chilled bluefin tuna to Japan during the past ten years, that the special period provided by ICCAT is no longer effective beginning December 1, 1994, and only Statistical Documents validated by a government official will be accepted at customs.

3. Data compilation

During the initial stage of the implementation of the Program, i.e. from September, 1993, through May, 1994, all data collected was manually compiled and tabulated.

In June, 1994, a new computerized compilation and tabulation system was introduced and all data collected was entered into the computer system. This system appears to be effective but it still in the developing stage and needs further improvement and input data checking.

In many cases, hand written data are difficult to decipher. Some documents were submitted with complete ignorance of the instruction (incomprehensible gear code, area code, or product type code).

Due to these errors, there is a tremendous work load in checking data input information. Documents not clearly written may lead to errors in the compilation of data. Exporting countries are strongly requested to instruct exporters to prepare legible documents.

The information provided by this report for 1994 is preliminary and may be subject to further change at a later stage.

4. Results

a. Frozen bluefin products

-- September - December, 1993

A total of 1,364 MT (product weight) of bluefin tuna products was imported by Japan from September 1 to December 31, 1993. This amount is estimated to correspond to 2,185 MT of live weight. Out of this, 901 MT (live weight), 41.2% was imported from non-Contracting Parties. These non-Contracting Parties were Honduras, Italy, Panama and Taiwan. Bluefin tuna from the non-Contracting Parties was reported to be caught in the Mediterranean Sea and eastern Atlantic. Import figures by country/area and detailed information are shown in Tables 1 and 2.

-- January 1 - November 22, 1994

1) Total amount

A total of 5,168 MT (product weight) was imported to Japan from January 1 to November 22, 1994. This amount is estimated to correspond to 7,432 MT of live weight. Out of this total figure, 2,654 MT (live weight), 35.7%, was imported from non-Contracting Parties. These non-Contracting Parties were Belize, Italy, Panama and Taiwan. Bluefin tuna from Belize, Italy and Taiwan were reported to be caught in the Mediterranean Sea. Panama reported to catch bluefin tuna products in the Mediterranean and eastern Atlantic. Import figures by country/area and detailed information are shown in Table 3.

2) By area

-- Western Atlantic

No frozen bluefin products were imported from the western Atlantic.

-- Eastern Atlantic

A total of 1,936 MT (product weight) (2,669 MT live weight) was reported to be caught in the eastern Atlantic. Out of this, 1,935 MT (product weight), 99.9 % was from the Contracting Parties. Panama reported to catch 1 MT of bluefin tuna by a longline vessel.

-- Mediterranean

A total of 3,232 MT (product weight) (4,763 MT live weight) was reported to be caught in the Mediterranean. Out of this figure, 1,347 MT (product weight), 41.7 %, was from the Contracting Parties and 1,884 MT (58.3 %) was from the non-Contracting Parties. Some longline vessels larger than 24 m in length were reported to have fished during June-July in the Mediterranean. However, many of the Statistical Documents accompanied with bluefin taken by longline vessels were attached with voluntary catch reports indicating that the fish had been caught before May 31.

3) By gear type

Fish caught by trap dominated (79.1 %) the total imports from the eastern Atlantic. In the Mediterranean, fish caught by longline (50.7 %) and purse seine (46.3 %) dominated the imports (Table 4).

-- Name of vessels

A list of names of vessels by countries and areas obtained by the Statistical Documents accompanied with the bluefin tuna product shipments is shown in Table 5.

The following are findings based on the data obtained from the implementation of the BTSDP on frozen products and vessel sightings obtained a ports and by Japanese patrol boats.

Belize: A total of 164 MT (live weight) was imported for the first time from Belize in June, 1994. The Statistical Documents were validated by government officials (Deputy Registrar International Merchant Marine Registry of Belize). No information on validation has been provided to ICCAT or Japan to date. According to the ICCAT catch statistics, this is the first record of bluefin catch by vessels of Belize. The fish were caught in the Mediterranean by a longline vessel and exported through Las Palmas, Spain.

Guinea: A total of 305 MT (live weight) was imported for the first time from Guinea during May-August, 1994. The Statistical Documents were validated by government officials (Directeur National des Pêches et de l'Aquaculture). This was the organization informed to ICCAT. According to the ICCAT catch statistics, this is the first record of bluefin catch by vessels of Guinea. Five longline vessels caught 304 MT of bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean and one longline vessel caught 1 MT of bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic. All bluefin was exported through Las Palmas, Spain. Of these vessels, one was flying a Panamanian flag when it was sighted at port in Las Palmas on April 7, 1994, and two were flying the flag of Honduras when they were either sighted by Japanese patrol vessel on June 10, 1993, or identified by a record of port call application to Japan on January 10, 1992.

Honduras: After September, 1993, there were few imports from Honduras. A Honduran high level official mentioned during the bilateral contact in 1993 that they would not provide government validation for bluefin products caught by vessels flying Honduran flags of convenience.

Korea: A total of 89 MT (live weight) was imported from Korea during June-August, 1994. The fish were caught in the Mediterranean and the eastern Atlantic by two longline vessels and exported through Las Palmas, Spain and Pusan, Korea. According to the ICCAT catch statistics, this is the first record of bluefin catches by Korean vessels in the Mediterranean and the first record since 1985 in the eastern Atlantic.

Panama: A total of 1,172 MT (live weight) was imported from Panama during September, 1993-August, 1994. Of this amount, 1,171 MT were caught in the Mediterranean by 6 longline vessels and all the products were exported through Las Palmas, Spain. According to the ICCAT catch statistics, no Panamanian catch has been recorded in the Mediterranean since 1977 and in the eastern Atlantic since 1987.

Portugal: A total of 456 MT (live weight) was imported from Portugal during July-August, 1994. The fish were caught in the eastern Atlantic by 5 longline vessels and exported through Las Palmas, Spain. The ICCAT catch statistics show that the recent longline catch by Portugal in the eastern Atlantic is 99 MT in 1991, 4 MT in 1992, and 4 MT in 1993. Four vessels were previously flying the flag of Honduras when they were sighted in 1992 and 1993.

Spain: A total of 3,350 MT (live weight) was imported from Spain during June-August, 1994. Of this amount, 105 MT were reported to be caught by rod and reel and 234 MT were reported to be caught by longline. The ICCAT catch statistics show that the Spanish rod and reel catch was 0 MT in 1992 and 1993, and the longline catch was 28 MT in 1992 and 40 MT in 1993.

Some information papers attached to the Statistical Documents indicated that bluefin caught by purse seine and trap fisheries were processed and frozen by freezer-processing vessels of Honduran flag then exported to Japan. According to the sighting information by the Japanese patrol boats, these vessels were longliners operating in the Mediterranean in 1993, flying flags of Honduras and Malta.

Taiwan: A total of 630 MT (live weight) was imported from Taiwan during July–November, 1994. The Statistical Documents were validated by the government officials (Fisheries Department Bureau of Reconstruction). This was the organization informed to ICCAT. The fish were caught in the Mediterranean by longline vessels and exported through Las Palmas. The ICCAT catch statistics show that the Taiwanese longline catch was 0 MT in 1992 and 333 MT in 1993.

5. General observation

The above findings may suggest that some non-Contracting Parties' vessels have started changing their flags to flags of Contracting Parties.

Contracting Parties have an obligation to manage their fisheries, including fishing operations conducted by reflagged vessels. The current Commission regulation on bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic is to limit fishing mortality to 1974-recent levels.

Although years are different, some discrepancy was observed between catch trends in the previous years and catch in 1994.

6. Fresh/chilled products

During the period of June 1 to August 31, 1994, a total of 1,497 MT of fresh/chilled bluefin products was imported to Japan. The total number of cases of import was 1,515.

	<i>No. of cases of import</i>	<i>Product weight (Kg)</i>
June	494	719,579
July	455	334,677
August	566	442,307
TOTAL	1,515	1,496,563

For detailed information, please refer to the Japanese "Report on the Implementation of the Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program from Fresh/Chilled Bluefin Products (June 1–August 31)", which was submitted separately to the Secretariat as of November 7, 1994.

Table 1. Imports of bluefin tuna to Japan, by country (data obtained from the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program (September 1 - December 31, 1993))

<i>Country/area</i>	<i>Product weight (Kg)</i>	<i>Live weight (Kg)</i>
Non-Contracting Party	607,636	901,189
Mediterranean	539,716	782,933
Italy	45,810	88,573
Panama	407,819	568,188
Taiwan	86,087	126,172
East Atlantic		
Honduras	67,920	118,256
Contracting Party	756,350	1,283,395
Mediterranean	491,990	843,573
Spain	491,990	843,573
East Atlantic	264,360	430,822
Morocco	163,630	307,155
Portugal	10,450	12,294
Spain	90,280	120,373
GRAND TOTAL	1,363,986	2,184,584

NOTE: Live weight is converted by the following factors:
RD: 0.85
DW: 0.75
FL: 0.50

Table 2. Frozen bluefin tuna imports in Japan (September 1 - December 31, 1993); Data collected by the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program

<i>No.</i>	<i>Date of Entry</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Area of Harvest</i>	<i>Fishing Gear</i>	<i>Point of Export</i>	<i>Product type</i>	<i>Actual weight (Kg)</i>
1	1993-9-17	Italy	Medit.	PS	Italy Palermo	FL	40,212
2	1993-10-1	Taiwan	Medit.	LL	Spain Las Palmas	RD FL	55,859 30,228
3	1993-10-4	Italy	Medit.	PS	Italy Palermo	DW	4,570
4	1993-10-4	Italy	Medit.	PS	Italy Palermo	FL	1,028
5	1993-10-13	Spain	Medit.	TRAP	Spain Barbate	DW FL	99,760 281,380
6	1993-11-5	Panama	Medit.	LL	Spain Las Palmas	RD FL	107,445 34,341
7	1993-11-5	Panama	Medit.	LL	Spain Las Palmas	RD FL	68,060 27,573
8	1993-11-7	Panama	Medit.	LL	Spain Las Palmas	RD FL	93,243 45,430
9	1993-11-12	Morocco	E. Atl.	TRAP	Morocco Larache	RD FL	4,290 89,602
10	1993-11-19	Morocco	E. Atl.	TRAP	Morocco Larache	FL	4,328
11	1993-11-19	Morocco	E. Atl.	TRAP	Morocco Larache	RD FL	112 17,938
12	1993-11-19	Morocco	E. Atl.	TRAP	Morocco Larache	RD FL	298 20,405
13	1993-11-22	Spain	Medit.	PS	Spain Cartagena	DW	110,850
14	1993-12-2	Morocco	E. Atl.	TRAP	Morocco Larache	DW FL RD	21,816 660 134
15	1993-12-3	Morocco	E. Atl.	TRAP	Morocco Larache	DW FL RD	2,311 1,688 48
16	1993-12-13	Portugal	Medit.	LL	Spain Las Palmas	RD	10,000
17	1993-12-13	Panama	Medit.	LL	Spain Las Palmas	RD	3,507
18	1993-12-13	Panama	Medit.	LL	Spain Las Palmas	RD	3,320
19	1993-12-13	Panama	Medit.	LL	Spain Las Palmas	RD	12,450

<i>No.</i>	<i>Date of Entry</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Area of Harvest</i>	<i>Fishing Gear</i>	<i>Point of Export</i>	<i>Product type</i>	<i>Actual weight (Kg)</i>
20	1993-12-27	Portugal	E. Atl.	LL	Spain Las Palmas	RD	225
21	199. .	Panama	Medit.	LL	Spain Las Palmas	RD	12,450
22	199. .	Spain	E. Atl.	RR	Spain Las Palmas	DW	90,280
23	199. .	Portugal	E. Atl.	LL	Spain Las Palmas	RD	225
24	199. .	Honduras	E. Atl.	LL	Morocco Larache	RD FL	21,352 46,568
						DW	329,587
						RD	393,018
						FL	641,381
						TOTAL WEIGHT	1,363,986
						ITALY	45,810
						TAIWAN	86,087
						SPAIN	582,270
						PANAMA	407,819
						MOROCCO	163,630
						PORTUGAL	10,450
						HONDURAS	67,920
						TOTAL WEIGHT	1,363,986

Table 3. Monthly report of the Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document

Period: 1994 Import Country: JAPAN

Flag Country	Area Code	Gear Code	Product type		Point of Export	Product Weight (Kg)	Live Weight (Kg)
			F / FR	RD/GG/DRF L/OT			
Belize	MED	LL	FR	GG	Las Palmas, Spain	75,000	93,750
				OT	Las Palmas, Spain	35,000	70,000
France	MED	PS	FR	DR	Port Vendres, France	3,000	3,480
				GG	Port Vendres, France	53,000	66,250
				OT	Port Vendres, France	106,000	212,000
Guinea	EA	LL	FR	GG	Las Palmas, Spain	364	455
	MED	LL	FR	GG	Las Palmas, Spain	243,527	304,409
Italy	MED	PS	FR	FL	Palermo, Italy	256,576	428,482
				OT	Palermo, Italy	2,586	5,172
		TRAP	FR	FL	Trapani, Italy	53,458	89,275
				OT	Trapani, Italy	309	618
Korea	EA	LL	FR	GG	Las Palmas, Spain	485	606
	MED	LL	FR	GG	Pusan, Korea	389	486
				GG	Las Palmas, Spain	35,950	44,938
				GG	Pusan, Korea	34,479	43,099
Morocco	EA	TRAP	FR	DR	Asilah, Morocco	43,200	
				FL	Asilah, Morocco	2,970	3,445
				OT	Asilah, Morocco	28,004	46,767
	MED	TRAP	FR	DR	Larache, Morocco	4,000	4,640
				GG	Larache, Morocco	3,326	4,158
				OT	Larache, Morocco	21,000	42,000
Panama	EA	LL	FR	GG	Las Palmas, Spain	905	1,131
	MED	LL	FR	FL	Las Palmas, Spain	157,460	262,958
				GG	Las Palmas, Spain	83,090	103,863
				OT	Las Palmas, Spain	960	1,920
				RD	Las Palmas, Spain	457,742	572,178
Portugal	EA	LL	FR	DR	Aveiro, Portugal	101	117
				FL	Aveiro, Portugal	21,268	35,518
				GG	Las Palmas, Spain	67,000	111,890
				GG	Aveiro, Portugal	1,341	1,676
				RD	Las Palmas, Spain	237,000	296,250
				RD	Aveiro, Portugal	8,180	10,225
Spain	EA	RR	FR	DR	Bermeo, Spain	90,647	105,150
		TRAP	FR	DR	Barbate, Spain	90,611	105,109
				FL	Tarifa, Spain	15,172	17,600
				FL	Barbate, Spain	534,871	893,235
				FL	Tarifa, Spain	158,313	264,383
				GG	Barbate, Spain	2,030	2,538
				OT	Barbate, Spain	21,210	42,420
				OT	Tarifa, Spain	6,500	13,000
				RD	Barbate, Spain	526,198	657,748
				RD	Barbate, Spain		

Flag Country	Area Code	Gear Code	Product type		Point of Export	Product Weight (Kg)	Live Weight (Kg)
			F / FR	RD/GG/DRF L/OT			
Spain (Cont)	MED	LL	FR	FL	Cartagena, Spain	134,267	224,226
				OT	Cartagena, Spain	7,921	15,842
		PS	FR	DR	Barbate, Spain	10,873	12,613
					Barcelona, Spain	441	512
					Madrid, Spain	3,267	3,790
					Tarragona, Spain	971	1,126
				FL	Cartagena, Spain	230,206	384,444
					Madrid, Spain	2,220	3,707
				GG	Cartagena, Spain	18,961	23,701
				OT	Barbate, Spain	3,696	7,392
					Barcelona, Spain	6,861	13,722
					Cartagena, Spain	209,458	418,916
					Madrid, Spain	10,785	21,570
				RD	Barbate, Spain	162,423	203,029
					Cartagena, Spain	278,103	347,629
					Madrid, Spain	4,446	5,558
	FR	RD	Tarragona, Spain	1,458	1,823		
Taiwan	MED	LL	FR	FL	Las Palmas, Spain	116,451	194,473
				GG	Las Palmas, Spain	285,381	356,726
				RD	Las Palmas, Spain	63,150	78,938
TOTAL	EA					1,856,780	2,609,753
	MED					3,177,872	4,672,954

Table 4. Annual imports (live weight in metric tons) of bluefin tuna, by gear, area and country, 1994

EAST ATLANTIC		
LL		
Guinea		
Korea		1
Panama		1
Portugal		456
TOTAL		458
RR		
Spain		105
TOTAL		105
TRAP		
Morocco		50
Spain		1,996
TOTAL		2,046
EAST ATLANTIC TOTAL		2,609
MEDITERRANEAN		
LL		
Belize		164
Guinea		304
Korea		88
Panama		941
Spain		240
Taiwan		630
TOTAL		2,367
PS		
France		282
Italy		434
Spain		1,450
TOTAL		2,166
TRAP		
Italy		90
Morocco		51
TOTAL		141
MEDITERRANEAN TOTAL		4,674
TOTAL (E.ATL + MED)		7,283

Table 5. Names of vessels, by country and area, obtained from the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program (BTSDP)

<i>Area</i>	<i>Flag country</i>	<i>Name of vessel & Registration number</i>	<i>Gear code</i>
EA	Guinea	Golden Lake No. 23	LL
	Korea	Dong Won 615	LL
		Dong Won 618 BS02-A2599	LL
	Panama	La Paz No. 103	LL
	Portugal	Daniel No. 2 L-1923084	LL
		Daniel No. 3 L-1923082	LL
		Daniel No. 5 L-1923383	LL
		N/Cygnus Matricula: A-3391-N	LL
	Oriente No. 7 L-1923449	LL	
MED	Belize	FV Bob No. 227	LL
	France	Gerard Luc II and Others	PS
	Guinea	Coracamar No. 5	LL
		Golden Lake No. 23	LL
		M/P Pascon	LL
		M/P Satem Tuna	LL
		M/P Suma Tuna	LL
		Star No. 707	LL
	Italy	Gaetano Valeria Salvatore	PS
	Korea	Dong Won 615	LL
		Dong Won 618	LL
	Panama	Al Nasim	LL
		Al Shappq	LL
		Alnajma Albaidha	LL
		La Paz No. 103	LL
		Neptune 90	LL
		Zapqa Al Yamama	LL
	Spain	Alicia Mari	LL
		Antonia Angles	LL
		Astarlon	LL
		El Brull	PS
		El Chorroll	PS
		Elorz	PS
		Freiremar	PS
		Gonzalez Lopez	LL
		Kalima	LL
		La Frau	PS
		La Vitera	PS
		Marcall II	PS
		Menestec	LL
		Monchito	LL
		Ntra. Sra. del Pilar	LL
		Panchilleta	PS
		Paredes Gil	LL
		San Francisco	PS
		Tio Gall	PS
		Virgen del Carmen	LL
	Xorroll	PS	
	Taiwan	Hung Yao CT6-1233	LL
		Shin Lung No. 202 CT7-0350	LL
		Shin Lung No. 216 CT7-0296	LL
		Shin Yeou No. 3 CT6-1028	LL
Shin Yeou No. 6 CT7-0248		LL	
Te Sheng No. 12 CT7-0418		LL	
Ying Jen No. 168 CT7-0318		LL	
Ying Jen No. 339 CT7-0253		LL	
Yuh Yeou No. 236 CT7-0295		LL	
Yuh Yeou No. 31 CT7-0158		LL	
Yuh Yeou No. 66 CT7-0429		LL	
Yui Hsiang No. 132 CT7-0159		LL	

REPORT OF THE MEETINGS OF PANEL 1 TO 4***Report of the Meeting of Panel 1 ******1. Opening**

1.1 The meeting of Panel 1 was opened by the Chairman Dr. L. Koffi (Côte d'Ivoire).

2. Adoption of Agenda

2.1 The Agenda was reviewed and adopted and is attached as **Appendix 1 to Annex 17**.

3. Election of Rapporteur

3.1 Dr. J. L. Cort (Spain) was designated rapporteur.

4. Review of Panel Membership

4.1 Of the members of the Panel (Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, France, Gabon, Ghana, Japan, Korea, Morocco, Portugal, Russia, Sao Tomé e Príncipe, Spain, Venezuela, and the United States) two, Cape Verde and Ghana, were absent. Canada had previously expressed interest in forming part of this Panel and was admitted as a full member.

5. Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS)***5.a Yellowfin Tuna***

5.a.1 The Chairman of the SCRS, Dr. Z. Suzuki (Japan), reported on the state of the stocks of yellowfin. He noted that in 1993 and 1994 there were again recoveries in the eastern Atlantic of large yellowfin tagged in the northwest Atlantic (5 in 1993 and 2 in 1994). The systematic recovery of transatlantic tags, since the initiation of the United States tagging program for large size yellowfin (+100 cm), was one of the main points which the Working Group to Evaluate Atlantic Yellowfin Tuna (Tenerife, 1993) bore in mind when rejecting the hypotheses of two independent stocks of yellowfin in the Atlantic separated at 30°W. The Group developed a migration model which includes the possible interchange between the existing fisheries on both side of the Atlantic. The Committee considered that with the models in use, the assessment ought to be carried out based on the hypothesis of one stock in the entire Atlantic.

5.a.2 An assessment of the stock was carried out using a generalized production model (PRODFIT). The fit was carried out for the period 1969-1993 on the total Atlantic catches and the abundance indices of the main purse seine fisheries in the east Atlantic, estimated from the catches of the French and Spanish fleets, and nominal effort, in fishing days standardized to category 5 French purse seiners, assuming a constant increase in effective effort of 3% annually since 1980.

*The tables and figures cited in this Panel Report refer to those in the 1994 SCRS Report (Annex 25), published in the "Report for Biennial Period, 1994-95, Part I (1994), Vol. 2".

5.a.3 YFT-Table 4 shows the results obtained. For the two trials, the estimated maximum sustainable yields (149,900 and 153,700 MT) are similar to, and consistent with, results obtained in previous years. The catches corresponding to 1993 are very close to MSY while the level of effort would be slightly below the effort corresponding to MSY (YFT-Figure 12).

5.a.4 It should be stressed that the stock has shown stability in recent years (1985-93) with effort being maintained at around 40,000 fishing days.

5.a.5 A non-equilibrium production model (ASPIC) was fit to the east Atlantic surface abundance index and the total yield of the Atlantic. Results of the production model fits are summarized in YFT-Table 3. The total Atlantic model estimates that the stock is close to full exploitation and that the present fishing mortality rate is very close to F_{MSY} . The fit of this run is shown in YFT-Fig. 14. The relative biomass and the trajectories of fishing-mortality under the single-stock hypothesis are presented with approximate 80% confidence intervals in YFT-Fig. 15 and YFT-Fig 16.

5.a.6 The results of this year's analysis are slightly more optimistic than those of last year. Nonetheless, the stock is still estimated to be almost fully exploited.

5.a.7 The backward VPA without calibration was applied assuming, for the last year, the fishing pattern which estimated the fishing mortality rates most fit to the effort series and an F value of .6 for the reference age, coherent with the estimates of fishing mortality in previous years and with the development of effort in 1993.

5.a.8 YFT-Table 7 and YFT-Figures 17, 18, and 19 show recruitment, total biomass, spawning biomass and average fishing mortality, estimated by VPA. Variable recruitment is observed as in previous years, without trend, and a recuperated spawning biomass since 1985, owing to the decline in effort and the high recruitment of the early 1980s. YFT-Figure 20 shows the fishing mortality estimated by different methods (ASPIC, backward and forward VPA), where a similar development can be observed for the years 1975-88, and the three analyses show an increasing trend in fishing mortality since 1985, although with differences in the absolute values estimated, and a clear discrepancy in the last four years between the VPA and ASPIC results.

5.a.9 YFT-Figure 24 shows the production curves as a function of fishing mortality and the size at first capture of the Atlantic stock. It is noted that current fishing mortality is very close to F_{max} , where increasing the effort would reduce yield. On the other hand, if the size at first capture is increased, yield could increase. If the size at first capture is referred to weight, it could be considered that if yellowfin of less than the minimum size adopted by the Committee, of 3.2 kg, are not fished, an increase of 11% in yield per recruit would result.

5.b Skipjack

5.b.1 Up to now, studies carried out on skipjack stock structure in the Atlantic have not provided definitive information to make it possible to divide the resource into smaller units. Two management units have been assumed: in the eastern Atlantic and in the western Atlantic, due to the absence of transatlantic tag recoveries.

5.b.2 The last detailed skipjack assessment of the eastern Atlantic stock was carried out in 1984 by the Working Group on Juvenile Tropical Tunas. For these analyses, data and parameters obtained mainly during the International Skipjack Year Program were used. The results of this evaluation showed that the stock was under-exploited, just as the Group, and later the SCRS, had assumed.

5.b.3 As regards parameters such as CPUE, it is advisable not to interpret their changes as an index of skipjack stock abundance, since it can be considered an index of stock biomass, only if the catchability is maintained constant from year to year. Also, it should be taken into account that skipjack is not the main target species of the purse seine and baitboat fisheries.

5.b.4 The Spanish fleet (since the last quarter of 1990) and the FIS fleet (since early 1991) have started the massive use of artificial flotsam to aggregate the schools, mainly in the equatorial area (6°N-5°S and 3°W-20°W). This activity continues at present. This change in fishing strategy has not changed the size distribution of skipjack catches (SKJ-Figures 9 and 10), but it has changed the fishing area, which has extended towards the west and south, following the drift of floating objects (SKJ-Figures 10, 11, and 13).

5.b.5 In the baitboat fishery of the Azores Islands, which is the northern limit of the skipjack fisheries, the fluctuation of CPUE, with no trend, is much more marked, although in the last four years it has remained at lower levels than normal (SKJ-Figure 12). This is probably due to the influence of environmental changes, which in other areas have had a favorable effect. Such is the case of the Madeira Islands, where after various years of practically null catches, the fishery has again developed. However, in the Canary Islands there was a notable decline in catches.

5.b.6 No definitive conclusion can be reached on the state of the eastern Atlantic stock, since the important increase in the catches could be due to various reasons: an increase in the available biomass, an increase in fishing mortality, an increase in catchability, changes in fishing strategy, etc.

5.b.7 Skipjack catches in the western Atlantic remain stable, for the various Venezuelan fleets (although standardized CPUE data are not available for the last three years) (SKJ-Figure 13) as well as for the baitboat fleet of Brazil (SKJ-Figure 14), in which the CPUE series does not represent the biomass of the stock since it has not been standardized. The low variability of the CPUE's, compared with the large fluctuations that are normally found in the catches of this species, would confirm the local character of these indices.

6. Measures for the Conservation of Stocks

6.a Yellowfin

6.a.1 The Chairman of the SCRS noted that in 1973, the Commission had adopted a minimum size of 3.2 kg. for yellowfin, with a 15% tolerance in number of fish landed. YFT-Fig. 26 shows the percentage, in number, of age 0 yellowfin caught during the 1975-1993 period, which assumes a minimum estimate of the number of individuals caught weighing less than 3.2 kg, bearing in mind that the upper limit of age 0 fish is less than that weight. It is noted that during the period, the percentage of fish less than the minimum weight was far above that established by the Commission.

6.a.2 The coincidence of yellowfin, skipjack and bigeye in the Tropical Species Groups has usually caused the group to concentrate on yellowfin, to the detriment of the other species and it is, therefore, recommended that in future, the assessment of yellowfin be alternated with that of the other two species, so that there will be sufficient time available to make progress towards a better understanding of these species.

6.a.3 The SCRS Chairman referred to the other recommendations, concerning statistics and research, which are set out in the SCRS report.

6.a.4 The two production models (PRODFIT and ASPIC), to which the catch and effort data for the east Atlantic were fit, show a stock status close to full exploitation, even though it offers a more optimistic view of the status of the stock in relation to the last assessment, with a decline in 1993 in the overall level of effort. According to the ASPIC model, the 1993 catch would be close to MSY (147,000 MT), while the two trials carried out using the PRODFIT model shows that the catch is slightly below 153,700 and 149,900 MT. The 1993 effort is very close to the effort corresponding to MSY, according to the ASPIC model, and somewhat below this level when the PRODFIT model is fit.

6.a.5 Despite the occurrence of a decline in the overall level of effort, the results of the analyses carried out show that there is no reason to expect sustainable increases in the catches if effort were increased. Thus, the Committee maintained the recommendation not to increase fishing mortality, or its equivalent in effort, on (USA) Atlantic yellowfin.

6.a.6 Regarding the yield-per-recruit analysis, the results are very similar to those of recent years, and hence the conclusions of previous years on size at first capture continue to be valid.

6.a.7 After Dr. Suzuki's presentation, the Chairman of the Panel asked the Panel members for comments.

6.a.8 The Delegate of Japan expressed his concern over the increase in the catches of juvenile yellowfin as a result of the increase in fishing using floating objects in the Atlantic. This has also occurred in the Pacific. Furthermore, the Delegate of Japan referred to the yellowfin regulation currently in force but which has not been

observed, and asked the SCRS Chairman how the catches of small-sized yellowfin could be reduced. He requested the SCRS to examine the effect of using floating objects on fishery operations in the Convention Area.

6.a.9 The SCRS Chairman pointed out that fisheries using floating objects had less repercussions on yellowfin than on other species, such as skipjack and bigeye, although the problem lay in regulating one species which is taken as by-catch.

6.a.10 The Delegate of Japan asked about the difference in species composition of the catches of this fishery between school fishing and fishing operations using floating objects.

6.a.11 The SCRS Chairman responded that he did not have the data at hand and promised to inform the Japanese delegate after the meeting. He did say, however, that there was a significant change in size composition. School fish are larger than raft fish tend to be; hence young fish mortality will increase using log/raft sets.

6.a.12 The Delegate of the United States also expressed concern that the ICCAT Regulation was not put into practice. In addition, he wished that the various terms which appear in the report, such as effort, effective fishing effort, etc., could be clarified and the SCRS Chairman explained the meaning of these terms. The Delegate of the United States insisted on the need for the SCRS to form a group which would develop a glossary of terminology such as "effort" "effective effort", "recent period" and "fishing mortality". These terms, he believed, should be defined in macro-economic terms.

6.a.13 The SCRS Chairman agreed with this proposal and said such a glossary would be prepared. The delegate of the United States expressed his satisfaction and thanked the Chairman.

6.a.14 After these interventions, the Chairman of the Panel moved on to the next item of the Panel Agenda.

6.b *Skipjack*

6.b.1 There are no regulations at present relating to skipjack.

6.b.2 The SCRS Chairman referred to all the recommendations which appear in the report on research and statistics. It is not known if the high catches of 1991 and 1993 can be maintained, but due to the lack of conclusive analysis, no management measures are presented.

7. Necessary Research

7.1 The Chairman of the Panel proposed to the members that they accept the statistical and research recommendations as set out in the SCRS report. As there were no objections, these recommendations were adopted.

8. Date and Place of Next Meeting

8.1 As usual, it was agreed that the next meeting would take place at the same time and place as the Commission meeting.

9. Other matters

9.1 There were no other matters for discussion

10. Adoption of Report

10.1 The Report of the Meeting of Panel 1 was adopted at the last session of the Panel.

11. Adjournment

11.1 The 1994 Meeting of Panel 1 was adjourned.

*Report of the Meeting of Panel 2 **

1. Opening

1.1 The meeting was opened by Mr. A. Labiou (Morocco), Panel Chairman.

2. Adoption of Agenda

2.1 The Agenda was adopted with no changes and is attached as **Appendix 1 to Annex 17**.

3. Nomination of Rapporteur

3.1 Dr. J. M. Dean (United States) was designated rapporteur.

4. Review of Panel Membership

4.1 All the Panel members, Canada, France, Japan, Republic of Korea, Morocco, Portugal, Spain and the United States, were present.

5. Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS)

and

6. Measures for the conservation of stocks (These two Agenda Items were discussed together)

5.a Bluefin Tuna

- East Atlantic (including Mediterranean)

BFTE-5.a.1 The Chairman of the SCRS, Dr. Z. Suzuki, summarized the conclusions of the Committee regarding east Atlantic bluefin tuna.

BFTE-5.a.2 The Committee decided to carry out an assessment based on the assumption of an isolated stock on the east, and to investigate the implications of mixing on the results, if time permitted.

BFTE-5.a.3 The SCRS considered that the VPA and production models based on the abundance indices should be used.

BFTE-5.a.4 For juvenile fish, three abundance indices were used: French purse seiners in the Mediterranean (age-classes 2 and 3), and Spanish baitboats (age-class 2) of the Bay of Biscay.

BFTE-5.a.5 For adult fish, the Committee discussed the indices for the trap (age-classes 7-10+) and Japanese longline (age-classes 8-10+).

BFTE-5.a.6 The trap index represents only one trap and showed a distinctive trend in the residuals for the VPA fits before and after 1981. As regards the analysis of the trends of the trap index, a positive trend was observed in the 1970-93 period, while there was a negative trend if the 1982-93 period is analyzed, although it should be noted that the associated standard error is large. For all these reasons, the Committee did not consider taking this index into account in the base case analysis.

*The tables and figures quoted in this Report refer to those in the 1994 SCRS Report (**Annex 25**), published in the "Report for Biennial Period, 1994-95, Part I (1994), Vol. 2".

BFTE-5.a.7 The indices of Mediterranean purse seine for ages 2 and 3 show no trend. The two Atlantic baitboat series show an upward trend, while the adult fish index of Japanese longliners show a downward trend throughout the series. These indices were used for the calibration of the VPA and for the ASPM model.

BFTE-5.a.8 The assessment model chosen was a tuned Virtual Population Analysis (VPA). In general, the assessment portrays a declining resource, except for the youngest age groups, as shown in BFTE-Figure 9. The number of fish in the age 2 through 4 group seems to be stable or increasing slightly in the 1970 through 1994 period. However, the other age groups (4+, 5-9 and 8+) appear to be declining markedly. In particular, the number of the age 8+ group is estimated to have decreased by about 87% between 1970 and 1993, and by about 83% between 1983 and 1993.

BFTE-5.a.9 Several results are evident from BFTE-Figures 13, 14 and BFTE-Table 10: (1) The potential gains in yield per recruit are somewhat lower if the retrospective adjustment is applied. (2) Even with the adjustment, large increases in yield per recruit and total yield from each cohort are to be expected from reducing the overall F or the F of the smallest fish.

BFTE-5.a.10 If future recruitment remains at recent levels, current yields (27,000 MT or more per year) are probably not sustainable unless the rate of fishing mortality is reduced markedly. Even in that case, a period of lower yields would occur before the expected increase in yield could be achieved.

BFTE-5.a.11 The First ICCAT recommendations concerning the east Atlantic bluefin tuna stock entered into force in August, 1975. There is a recommendation aimed at limiting fishing mortality of bluefin tuna in the entire Atlantic and the Mediterranean. If this is interpreted as a limit on catches, the efficiency of the recommendation could be considered by studying the catch trends after that time as compared to the previous period. The reference year is considered to be 1975. From 1982 onwards, landings have been almost always higher than the 1975 level (20,500 MT).

BFTE-5.a.12 The second regulation prohibits the catching and landing of bluefin tuna weighing less than 6.4 kgs in the entire Atlantic, with a tolerance level of 15% (in number) for by-catches. BFTE-Table 11 and BFTE-Figure 15 show the estimated number and percentage of fish under 6.4 kg in the total catch of the Mediterranean and east Atlantic for the period 1971 through 1993. A part of the variability observed in BFTE-Table 11 could be due to the gaps in sampling, as well as to changes in the fisheries. Following the entry into force of this regulation, the percentage of fish less than 6.4 kg in the catch is still high in the east Atlantic and in the Mediterranean, with about 47% and 36%, respectively, for the 1972-1993 period.

BFTE-5.a.13 Another recommendation entered into force on June 1, 1994, which prohibits fishing by large pelagic longliners greater than 24 m in length in the Mediterranean during the months of June and July. This regulation is aimed at limiting fishing mortality. However, many large longliners were seen fishing bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean during this period in 1994.

BFTE-5.a.14 The *Ad Hoc* GFCM/ICCAT Working Group on Stocks of Large Pelagic Fishes in the Mediterranean Sea (Fuengirola, Spain, September 1994), held concurrently with the ICCAT SCRS East Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Stock Assessment Session, formulated recommendations concerning future meetings to be held. The main objectives of these meetings are to collect the maximum amount of data on the national fisheries from the coastal Mediterranean countries and to encourage the participation of scientists from these countries in the ICCAT stock assessments. These countries are requested to submit their information according to the ICCAT format for statistical data.

BFTE-5.a.15 The progress attained in the knowledge of the stock structure, feeding and spawning migration is still insufficient. The Committee noted the on-going studies in many research areas (growth, fecundity, genetics, egg and larval surveys). These research items are being studied within the ICCAT Bluefin Year Program (BYP) or in other international research programs financed by the European Union (EU).

BFTE-5.a.16 The SCRS noted that in 1974 it was recommended that mortality on bluefin tuna in the entire Atlantic and Mediterranean be limited to recent levels. This recommendation came into force in 1975. Based on estimated F levels for youngest and oldest fishes, it is apparent that this recommendation has not been followed, and estimates of current fishing mortality are considerably higher than this level (see BFTE-Figure 10), though this result is heavily dependent on the use of a large-fish index that shows a declining trend throughout the years. The yield-per-recruit analysis shows that substantial gains in terms of yield per recruit, catch and biomass could be obtained by reducing the overall fishing mortality rate. The Committee recommended that efforts be made to reduce the current level of fishing mortality.

BFTE-5.a.17 The Delegate of Canada complimented the presentation and the work of the Committee and posed several questions to the SCRS Chairman. He pointed out that the SCRS Report states that the quality of the data are, in general, very low and that in assessing the stock of a species targeted by diverse fisheries, it is essential that the ICCAT Contracting Parties as well as the non-Contracting Parties fishing this species submit their catch and effort and size composition data in the most detailed time/area breakdown as possible.

BFTE-5.a.18 The Delegate of Canada noted that there were also tables in the SCRS Report referring to uncertainty in the data and a reference to uncertainty in the catch at size of Contracting Parties and non-Contracting Parties. The specific question is: What can the Commission do to improve the quality of data for the east Atlantic, and particularly in the Mediterranean, to reduce uncertainty?

BFTE-5.a.19 The SCRS Chairman responded that, in general, uncertainty in catch-at-age information is more problematic with regard to non-Contracting Parties than to Member Countries. Conducting joint meetings, such as those held with the GFCM in recent years, has proven effective.

BFTE-5.a.20 The United States Delegation expressed its thanks to the Chairman, the Committee and those involved in the stock assessment work and indicated that it was evident that the scientists' message to the Commission was clear: that there are problems with the eastern bluefin stock as fishing is greatly in excess of replacement yield by 25%.

BFTE-5.a.21 The United States noted that during the Panel 1 discussions it had called attention to the problem of confusing and inconsistent terminology in ICCAT recommendations that resulted in inconsistencies in implementing those recommendations and conflict in subsequent Commission meetings. The U.S. further stated that previously it had called specific attention to problems with implementing ICCAT's management measures for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean.

BFTE-5.a.22 The U.S. Delegate further stated that spawning stock biomass has decreased while catches have increased, concluding that the Commission should return to the 1974 recommendations, and should focus on the problems highlighted by the conclusions of the SCRS. He wondered how ICCAT could correct the situation and how it should proceed with the implementation of the necessary solutions.

BFTE-5.a.23 The Delegate of the United States further noted that fishing effort could be restrained by compliance with minimum size and prohibiting the sale of age 0 fish, as the SCRS recommended. He pointed out that the reported catch in the east Atlantic and Mediterranean in 1974 was about 19,000 MT and that in 1993 it had increased to about 28,000 MT, while the spawning stock biomass had fallen.

BFTE-5.a.24 The U.S. Delegate said that it is difficult to implement quotas without sacrifice, but that enforced minimum size and quota restrictions have yielded results in the west Atlantic. He urged the delegates to use this meeting to move towards new conservation measures.

BFTE-5.a.25 The Delegate of France agreed on the whole with these comments, but was not as pessimistic. He concurred that minimum size and the prohibition of sale of age 0 fish seemed reasonable.

BFTE-5.a.26 The Delegate of Spain remarked that his country was interested in correctly managing and conserving the stock. He stated that the problems of management of west bluefin and east bluefin were sufficiently different as to require different approaches. Those applied to the west are obviously yielding results, but he pointed out that care should be taken when shifting conservation mechanisms, as custom-made measures for each stock and fishery are required.

BFTE-5.a.27 In answer to a question posed by the Delegate of Spain concerning conservation measures, the SCRS Chairman stated that the measures recommended by the SCRS were clearly noted in the management section (BFT-4E.c) of the 1994 SCRS Report. "The yield per recruit analysis shows that substantial gains in terms of yield per recruit, catch and biomass could be obtained by reducing the overall fishing mortality rate. The Committee recommended that efforts be made to reduce the current level of fishing mortality."

BFTE-5.a.28 The Delegate of France emphasized the need for clarification of the roles of non-Contracting Parties. Local fishermen would not accept the measures adopted if other fleets can move into the fishery. He suggested that it was very important that talks with non-Contracting Parties be held, in order to encourage them to join ICCAT. He emphasized that the implementation of national regulations was difficult when these are not implemented by non-Contracting Parties. He informed the Panel that no additional licenses for fishing bluefin had been issued this year by France, but that local fishermen were very resentful.

BFTE-5.a.29 The United States Delegate concurred with the stated problems of non-Contracting Parties functioning in an unregulated fashion. He suggested three steps to be taken by the Commission: (1) Encourage countries to ratify the Paris Protocol, thereby allowing the EU to become a member, which would represent many current non-Contracting Parties which are members of EU; (2) Encourage the concept of voluntary participation in ICCAT conservation programs by non-Contracting Parties; and (3) Utilize trade measures.

BFTE-5.a.30 The U.S. Delegate further stated that there have been significant increases in effort and landings, not only by the non-Contracting Parties but also by the Contracting Parties. He stressed that the SCRS recommendation must be supported, and that the Commission also refer to the 1974 recommendation.

BFTE-5.a.31 The Delegate of Japan emphasized the need for leadership by Spain and France in implementing these regulations, as the major fishing nations for eastern Atlantic bluefin tuna, and concurred with the Delegates of France and the U.S. in supporting the recommendation of the SCRS. The Delegate of Japan reminded the Panel that those Contracting Parties fishing west Atlantic bluefin tuna had been working hard to respond to the issues raised by Sweden in 1992 and the concerns of CITES. If no action is taken for east bluefin tuna, the same experience with CITES could be expected.

BFTE-5.a.32 The Delegate of Spain fully supported the statement made by the Delegate of France and agreed with the U.S. approach. He noted that in the Mediterranean, non-Contracting Parties were very active, while the Spanish catch represented only 6-8% of the total bluefin catches. He asked that the Commission try to show strength and act firmly regarding the adoption of the trade resolution.

BFTE-5.a.33 The Chairman noted that ICCAT was seriously concerned about non-Contracting Parties and needed to take action, and that the Panel could utilize the framework of other Commission activities. Also it was noted that the problem of the non-Contracting Parties had been discussed under various Agenda Items of the Commission and a Resolution was being drafted. Therefore, the Panel decided to reiterate the Commission Resolution on this subject.

BFTE-5.a.34 The Panel supported the SCRS recommendations under section BFTE.4c (Management Recommendations) of the 1994 SCRS Report concerning eastern bluefin tuna and recommended them to the Commission for adoption.

BFTE-5.a.35 The Delegate of the United States asked about the SCRS recommendation relative to the return of catch levels to those of 1974, as cited in the SCRS Report and requested the SCRS to recommend how to proceed.

BFTE-5.a.36 The SCRS Chairman concluded that for eastern bluefin tuna, current fishing mortality should be reduced if a further decline in the stocks was to be halted.

BFTE-5.a.37 The United States Delegate asked for quantitative guidance.

BFTE-5.a.38 The Delegate of Spain also pointed out that the word "try" in "try to reduce" did not fix the actual level.

BFTE-5.a.39 The Delegate of France expressed concern about recommendations and mechanisms for implementation.

BFTE-5.a.40 The Chairman asked if the Panel could supply a quantification measure to reduce fishing mortality on east Atlantic bluefin tuna.

BFTE-5.a.41 The United States Delegation considered quantification essential because of the documented changes in the fishery, specifically the landings of 27,000 MT for 1993 and the estimated replacement yield of 20,000 MT. The U.S. Delegation felt that this suggested a serious crisis in the future, similar to that which the swordfish stock was suffering. While recognizing the social, political and economic problems, the U.S. Delegation required clear advice from the SCRS on the necessary reduction in landings, suggesting a reduction of 7,000 MT.

BFTE-5.a.42 Dr. Suzuki discussed the difficulty in developing such an estimate and stated that a substantial reduction in fishing mortality should be achieved, to stem the decline and move as close as possible towards the level 20,000 MT.

BFTE-5.a.43 The United States Delegate asked whether 20,000 MT would only yield stabilization, or also recovery. He indicated the U.S. had held discussions with major fishing parties in the east and realized that immediate reductions would create severe social and economic problems. The U.S. Delegation tabled a Draft Proposal which recommended a

reduction in fishing effort, a time frame for implementation of reductions in fishing effort on eastern bluefin, compliance with minimum size and taking measures to reduce the catch of age 0 fish. This plan would phase in stabilization and recovery.

BFTE-5.a.44 The Delegates of Spain and France reiterated their concern for compliance by non-Contracting Parties, especially in the Mediterranean, where most of the catch is taken.

BFTE-5.a.45 The United States Delegate shared that concern and called for the cooperation of those countries fishing eastern bluefin.

BFTE-5.a.46 The Delegate of Spain suggested that it was important to work in a cooperative efficient manner to adopt the measure proposed by the United States. He noted it was imperative that the report reflect the opinions of all concerned. The decisions of the Commission should be conveyed to the non-Contracting Parties, and the measures taken by ICCAT together with the consequences of their implementation. He added that the lack of attention of the non-Contracting Parties to the objectives of ICCAT was counter to the conservation objectives.

BFTE-5.a.47 The United States Delegation agreed with the points just raised by the Spanish Delegation.

BFTE-5.a.48 The Delegate of Canada spoke in favor of the U.S. initiative and expressed Canada's high degree of interest in what took place in the eastern Atlantic. He strongly supported the proposal and encouraged others to do the same.

BFTE-5.a.49 The Delegate of France supported the comments on the role of non-Contracting Parties, and expressed some technical concerns that required his seeing the French translation of the proposal.

BFTE-5.a.50 The Delegate of Japan also requested that the text include specific language about non-Contracting Parties and cooperation with the GFCM.

BFTE-5.a.51 The remarks were graciously accepted by Spain and the U.S. accepted the modifications.

BFTE-5.a.52 The Chairman suggested that the modified text be submitted for translation and be considered upon its distribution, together with the allocation of quotas for western bluefin tuna.

BFTE-5.a.53 The revised proposal was distributed and available for discussion. The U.S. Delegation suggested some typographical changes which were acceptable to the Panel.

BFTE-5.a.54 The Panel recommended the Commission's adoption of the Recommendation for the Management of Bluefin Tuna Fishing in the Eastern Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea (attached as Annex 18).

West Atlantic

BFTW-5.a.1 The SCRS Chairman summarized the conclusions of the Committee regarding bluefin tuna in the west Atlantic.

BFTW-5.a.2 The results of the stock assessment generally show trends similar to those of previous assessments. Recruitment was generally higher from 1970 to 1976 than it has been since, although there is an indication of slightly increasing average recruitment in the 1980s. Ages 2 to 5 abundance reached a low in 1982, but it has increased thereafter, although the 1993 and 1994 values are lower than in previous years. This decrease is influenced by the assumption made about the strength of the 1990-93 year-class. The abundance of Age 6-7 fish increased steadily since 1983, and it has been above the 1970 to 1994 average since 1992, while the abundance of ages 8+ declined steadily until 1993, with a slight increase in 1994.

BFTW-5.a.3 The results of yield per recruit and spawning biomass per recruit are given in BFTW-Figure 8a, b and BFTW-Table 8 of the 1994 SCRS Report. Current fishing mortality is also larger than $F_{0.1}$ but approximately equal to F_{max} , while reductions in current F would not lead to gains in yield per recruit (YPR), substantial gains in spawner per recruit (SPR) could accrue.

BFTW-5.a.4 The scenarios under which the projections were made were: (i) no catch for the years 1995-2003; (ii) 1,200 MT for 1995-2003; (iii) 1,995 MT for 1995-2003; (iv) 2,660 MT for 1995-2003 and (v) a constant fishing mortality

rate of $F=0.14$ (the same as the assumed natural mortality rate) for the years 1995-2003. All scenarios assumed that the catch in 1994 will be 1,995 MT.

BFTW-5.a.5 A regulation prohibiting the catching and landing of bluefin tuna less than 6.4 kg for the entire Atlantic came into effect in August, 1975; an exemption allowed incidental catches of 15% (by number).

BFTW-5.a.6 The catch limit for 1992-93 was reduced to an average 2,394 MT for each of the two years. Preliminary estimates of the catch in 1993 are 2,310 MT.

BFTW-5.a.7 A third regulation for the west Atlantic limited catches of bluefin tuna of less than 120 cm fork length (FL) to no more than 15% of the catch (by weight) after 1983. The overall catch of such fish in the total is estimated to have been 5% in 1992 and 6% in 1993.

BFTW-5.a.8 As indicated earlier, alternate assumptions about the error structure in CPUE standardization or exclusion of possible outliers would result in lower estimates of the year-classes since 1983. The relative merits of various error structures in CPUE standardization, as well as the implications of mixing, will be investigated further during 1995. It would therefore be advisable to be cautious while awaiting these results as well as those of the 1995 assessment, should one be conducted. In addition, despite the positive signs estimated in the current assessment, the 8+ biomass remains close to the lowest levels observed while the estimated fishing mortality is higher than $F_{0.1}$ and close to F_{max} . BFTW-Table 10 describes the results of various constant catch scenarios for 1995 to 2003.

BFTW-5.a.9 The SCRS concluded, on the basis of the 1994 stock assessment, that it is not necessary to reduce catches to 1,200 MT in 1995.

BFTW-5.a.10 The Committee believed that the highest priority should be given to resolving important questions concerning mixing rates, population structure and the management of bluefin tuna. The goal is to have the capability to assign unknown individuals to their geographical origin with known probability. Carefully designed and executed field and laboratory studies aimed at contrasting micro-elemental structure of hard parts as well as rigorous morphometric analyses of hard parts and/or genetic markers taken from geographically isolated samples at ages which preclude prior mixing currently hold the most promise. These studies should be designed to quantify both spatial and temporal variability.

BFTW-5.a.11 Alternative error distributions and weighting schemes for CPUEs and model fitting in the calibration of VPA should be further explored. Sensitivity analyses of alternate methods for standardizing CPUEs need to be evaluated with simulated data of known characteristics.

BFTW-5.a.12 The efficient and coordinated delivery of these recommendations related to statistics and research will probably only occur if a truly international large-scale program with a specific budget is implemented. The Bluefin Year Program should be planned thematically, geographically and temporally and it should be realized efficiently. To be efficient, such a program should be coordinated by a member of the ICCAT staff recruited to that effect. The SCRS asked the Commission's opinion on the opportunity of programming and budgeting such an ambitious program. A detailed program, including budgeting, could be prepared at an inter-sessional BYP meeting if the Commission wishes the SCRS to do so. Hence, east and west bluefin tuna stock assessments must be conducted jointly. Such Atlantic bluefin stock assessments should be held during an inter-sessional meeting.

BFTW-5.a.13 The Delegate of Japan asked the SCRS Chairman for the estimate of the replacement stock for this year.

BFTW-5.a.14 The SCRS Chairman, Dr. Suzuki, citing BFTW-Figure 10b of the SCRS Report, stated that although not directly calculated, there are several trajectories with several possibilities for 0-2,660 MT for the scientific monitoring quota. Therefore the replacement yield could be about 2,660 MT. However, he noted that he had repeatedly and explicitly stated that there were many uncertainties with several key parameters, e.g. different error structures for calculating CPUE and the removal of points of error, which can affect the results significantly. He suggested that the Commission not select specific observation data directly, although they could be technically correct, and that the interpretation of the results should be made with the utmost caution.

BFTW-5.a.15 In responding to the inquiry made by the Chairman of the Panel, the SCRS Chairman referred the Panel to Section BFTW-4c (Management Recommendations), of the 1994 SCRS Report.

BFTW-5.a.16 The Delegate of Canada asked for clarification from Dr. Suzuki on whether the management options by the SCRS could be more precise concerning its recommendations, i.e. bearing in mind the 1993 objective of rebuilding the west bluefin stock, the option which the SCRS was emphasizing.

BFTW-5.a.17 Dr. Suzuki responded that the range of options is presented in **BFTW-Table 10** of the 1994 SCRS Report with the maximum of 2,200 MT. This represents the maximum and should be interpreted with upper and lower confidence limits. He expressed the concern of the Committee that they would not feel comfortable with the higher catch limit, and asserted that the SCRS would feel more positive about a 2,000 MT limit.

BFTW-5.a.18 The Delegate of Japan noted that the replacement yield was calculated at 2,660 MT, and last year's recommendation of 1,200 MT was based on the replacement yield. He asked why the SCRS only presented 1,200-2,200 MT as possibilities. He also understood that the target of rebuilding the stock, i.e. the spawning stocks will be increased by 20% could be reached by 1998 with this replacement yield, and asked why the limit of 2,000 MT was emphasized.

BFTW-5.a.19 The SCRS Chairman stated that his Committee's view was to adopt a lower level as a precautionary approach.

BFTW-5.a.20 Responding to the question by the U.S. Delegate as to the possibility of taking the option of 2,200 MT, Dr. Suzuki commented that this could be one of the options.

BFTW-5.a.21 The Delegate of Canada extended his thanks to the SCRS scientists for their efforts and their responses to the request for the new assessment. Canada, he continued, had always recognized the mixing of the stocks, the potential impact of the mixing and the implications on management. The Delegate of Canada emphasized the need for the credibility of ICCAT. Canada expressed its concern over increases in fishing mortality in the east and noted that conservation measures in the west have been effective. He reiterated the SCRS recommendation to exercise caution and the need for better data and more basic research and stated that his country is interested in management measures that would insure the health of both the east and west bluefin tuna fisheries. The statement by the Canadian delegation is attached as **Appendix 2 to Annex 17**.

BFTW-5.a.22 The U.S. Delegate joined the Canadian delegation in their remarks and made the following points. The United States accepted its share of the blame for the international failure to manage bluefin tuna in the western Atlantic during the early years of ICCAT. The U.S. and the other countries fishing in the western Atlantic did not proceed with caution and allowed the stock to become dangerously depleted, as a result of over-fishing, especially of small fish. This resulted in the imposition of stringent quotas on the nations fishing in the western Atlantic. The U.S. fishermen have paid the price. However, he continued, as a result of these quotas and the sacrifices of the fisherman, the decline has halted and there may be the first signs of a recovery. In 1993, ICCAT decided that the scientific monitoring level for the western Atlantic bluefin should again be reduced in 1995, this time by 40%, unless the SCRS provided information which would indicate otherwise. Based on the results of an independent peer review conducted by the U.S. National Academy of Science (NAS), the United States requested the SCRS to consider the assessment of western Atlantic bluefin tuna again this year...

BFTW-5.a.23 The U.S. Delegate expressed his gratitude for the extraordinary effort of the SCRS, which had convened a special meeting of the west Atlantic bluefin stock assessment group in order to accommodate the request. The United States was pleased to see that the new assessment was much more optimistic and that the SCRS had stated that the scheduled 1995 reduction in the western Atlantic quota is not necessary. Therefore, he concluded, a quota level for the western Atlantic based on this new scientific evidence should be sought. In 1993, ICCAT agreed to a recovery schedule of 50% over the current spawning stock biomass by the year 2008. The 1994 SCRS Report indicated that the possibility now existed to make rapid progress towards this goal, even with a modest increase in catch. But the SCRS indicated that an increase in the quotas from the 1994 level should be approached with caution, and the U.S. took this warning seriously.

BFTW-5.a.24 The Delegate of Spain felt that there were reasons to be optimistic because the measures in the west had had a demonstrated effect, and recognized that the U.S. had been frank about over-fishing in the past. His country was concerned about the opinions and stances taken on the mixing of the two stocks, east and west, because his country's view is that fishing effort for bluefin in the east has been fairly constant, with the exception of the Mediterranean, and that was caused by non-Contracting Party activities. Common sense, he felt, showed that east bluefin did not face the same risks as the western stock. He felt that mixing rates were very unclear. He questioned the assumptions on which the mixing rates were calculated and how they could be used to increase or establish quotas.

BFTW-5.a.25 The Panel Chairman stated that his understanding was that ICCAT had assumed two stocks which were to be treated separately. The Panel had considered east bluefin tuna earlier and was now considering just west bluefin tuna.

BFTW-5.a.26 The United States Delegate commented that the mixing rate had been discussed in the past but without quantification. The Report of the National Academy of Science (NAS) report concluded that mixing was at a high enough rate to be considered, while the 1994 SCRS assessment discussed the problem of mixing but did not include the assessment results with a fixed rate of mixing. Therefore, mixing is not a direct consideration in the analysis for the quota deliberations. The NAS did conclude that there were two appropriate management units and management could continue on that basis, but that mixing should be a part of future stock assessments.

BFTW-5.a.27 The French Delegation supported the statements made by the Delegates of Spain and the United States.

BFTW-5.a.28 The Delegate of Canada made specific reference to the question of the level of mixing. He noted that there had always been an understanding that some mixing does occur, but that it was not necessarily the case that what happened on one side of the ocean had an impact on the other side.

BFTW-5.a.29 The Delegate of Japan expressed his continuing belief that only one stock existed and pointed out that this had been discussed at the 1983, 1984 and 1985 meetings and that the SCRS recognized that there had been some mixing. The Delegate of Japan also noted that the size of the east stock is 20-30 times larger than the west stock; hence, it was possible to have an hypothesis that the west stock is a sub-stock of a single Atlantic stock and that the NAS Report endorsed that. He felt however that further study was necessary since quantification of mixing would take time.

BFTW-5.a.30 The Delegate of Japan again questioned the SCRS estimate of replacement yield which was 1,200 MT in 1993 and was now more than double. He indicated that the Panel could accept a catch level of 2,200 MT, which was the highest scenario put forward in the 1994 SCRS Report. The SCRS Report clearly showed that the basis for Japan's unfairly large reduction in its scientific monitoring quota in 1994 was no longer valid for 1995. He pointed out that Japan had acceded to the reduction in 1994 to maintain the integrity of ICCAT by setting a catch limit below 1,200 MT responding to the scientific recommendation, while other members shows their inflexibility. If Japan had not been flexible, ICCAT would have to be considered an irresponsible manager of the fishery. Japanese fishermen were forced to make sacrifices that others were not willing to accept. He stated that now such a reduction was not necessary and in a spirit of cooperation, other countries now should assist the fishermen of Japan. Japan recommended a scientific monitoring level of 2,200 MT, which was lower than the 2,660 MT replacement yield, and insisted that Japan's national allocation share return to those levels prior to 1993, as was agreed in 1993 and Japan expected this agreement to be honored. The statement by Japan is attached as Appendix 3 to Annex 17.

BFTW-5.a.31 The Delegate of Spain stated that there was no question of mixing and that this could not be extrapolated to use reflected measures and assumptions, with specific reference to Appendix 1 of the BFTW Section of the 1994 SCRS Report. In point 3 of the aforementioned Appendix concerning tagging data, a 2% westward and a 1% eastward emigration of bluefin tuna is discussed. The SCRS made a similar point in its response. The Delegate of Spain believed that the separation was sufficient to warrant separate management units.

BFTW-5.a.32 The Chairman reiterated a series of remarks and proposals on conservation, management and recommendations put forth by the Panel. Such concerns, he noted, had emerged in the past and the ideas expressed would not be possible to resolve in the current debate.

BFTW-5.a.33 In view of the references in the discussions on western bluefin tuna to fishing effort relating to eastern bluefin tuna, Dr. Suzuki distributed a draft table showing the trend of the eastern bluefin catch by Contracting and non-Contracting Parties, including the Mediterranean, to compare the catches in the east Atlantic and the Mediterranean areas, between 1971 and 1975 and those for the period 1978 to 1993.

BFTW-5.a.34 The Delegate of the United States made several specific comments regarding the quota for western bluefin.

1. Concerning the timing of these development, the U.S. considered it premature to come to a conclusion and suggested there be informal discussion that could yield results rather than the continuation of this formal discussion.
2. There was no recommendation by the SCRS for "2,000" MT and it was clear it was not necessary to reduce the levels to 1,200 MT. He suggested that 2,200 MT was one option.

3. Specifically addressing Japan's concerns, the United States Delegate agreed that Japan had made a sacrifice and that the U.S. respected and honored the commitment that Japan made for 1994 with the reduction in quota. However, the U.S. also noted another element which affected that decision, i.e. the developing fisheries in the central north Atlantic at that time, and the decision taken by the Commission to eliminate growth and limit the catches to 1,300 MT per two-years period. Since there was no other fishing nation harvesting bluefin in that area, Japan would get this quota in the central Atlantic.

BFTW-5.a.35 The Chairman confirmed that the SCRS had recommended not to reduce the limit to 1,200 MT, but had suggested other possibilities including that of 2,200 MT, and those issues should be explored further in informal discussions.

BFTW-5.a.36 The Delegate of Japan wished to clarify his country's position concerning the eastern central Atlantic and establish that there was no relationship between the east and west for management. He stated that east bluefin tuna and west bluefin tuna should be managed separately. He indicated that Japan had accepted the compromise although there was no scientific reason to set a limit in this area. He anticipated that Japanese catch data in this area would provide useful information to help make migration and mixing of bluefin tuna clearer.

BFTW-5.a.37 The Spanish delegation indicated that the bluefin tuna quota in the central north Atlantic granted to Japan finalized in 1995 and recalled that Spain had only agreed not to fish in that area during the 1994-1995 period, such as is included in the Resolution itself. Thus, it will be at the next meeting where this matter will be settled and perhaps it can be determined if this stock is part of the eastern stock or the western stock, both of which are regulated, and whether or not there is a scientific basis for establishing a limit on fishing in this area.

BFTW-5.a.38 The Panel Chairman asked if there was an agreement on the allocation of the scientific monitoring quota on western bluefin tuna according to the SCRS options.

BFTW-5.a.39 The U.S. Delegate responded that the pertinent parties had been successful in reaching an agreement on the management measures to be taken in 1995 and 1996. He presented the draft recommendation for the management of west Atlantic bluefin tuna for 1995-1996. He asked whether Canada and Japan were in agreement as to the division of the quota.

BFTW-5.a.40 The Delegate of Canada confirmed his country's agreement with the Recommendation and the Japanese Delegation concurred.

BFTW-5.a.41 The Panel agreed to recommend these measures to the Commission for adoption (Annex 19).

BFTW-5.a.42 The Spanish Delegation congratulated the parties on their tri-lateral agreement of 2,200 MT and expressed concern over the lack of the translated text. Notwithstanding that, it was pointed out that 2,200 MT is the maximum scientific quota and although reassessment had provided the increased value, it was necessary to examine future levels closely in order to achieve ICCAT's conservation objectives.

BFTW-5.a.43 The Chairman agreed that the Panel would wait for the French and Spanish translations before taking any final action in relation to this item.

BFTW-5.a.44 Regarding Annex 19, the Spanish Delegation called attention to points 1a and 10 of the Recommendation. They were particularly concerned that the SCRS should be required to do another western bluefin tuna assessment in 1995, as stated in point 1a. Their concern was focused on the staff work load and resources and that western bluefin tuna assessments would in the future be scheduled on annual rather than biannual basis.

BFTW-5.a.45 The Japanese Delegation expressed general satisfaction with the agreement (Annex 19) and thanked Canada and the United States for their cooperation. The Japanese Delegate was not particularly pleased with points 1 and 2 of this Recommendation. He indicated that this type of sharing of the scientific monitoring quota may improperly imply that Japan was being penalized in some way. He stressed that Japan had done more in the 1994 fishing year for the conservation of western Atlantic bluefin tuna than any of the three fishing nations. He added that in 1995 and 1996, Japan would again be taking the biggest steps toward conservation and again their fishermen would be shouldering the greatest burden. The statement by Japan is attached as Appendix 4 to Annex 17.

BFTW-5.a.46 The U.S. Delegation concurred with the understanding that the next west Atlantic bluefin tuna assessment would take place in 1996.

BFTW-5.a.47 After a lengthy discussion of the semantics of the use of the term "nationals" in paragraph 1a of the west Atlantic bluefin Recommendation, there was concurrence with the use of the term "vessels", rather than "nationals". That change was accepted by all parties. The final text of the Recommendation for the Management of Bluefin Tuna in the Western Atlantic Ocean, which the Panel recommended for adoption, is attached as Annex 19.

5.b Albacore (North)

ALB-5.b.1 The SCRS Chairman summarized the conclusions of the SCRS regarding northern albacore.

ALB-5.b.2 The SCRS Chairman noted that the analyses carried out on north Atlantic longline indicated that the state of the stock showed a stable trend, with fluctuations, between 1968 and 1989, followed by a decline between 1990 and 1993.

ALB-5.b.3 Dr. Suzuki informed the Panel that the status of the northern stock was investigated using the ADAPT methodology for sequential population analyses. The base case VPA results with equal weighting for all indices included in the analysis are given in ALB-Table 6 and summarized in ALB-Figure 13. The estimated recruitment trend suggests somewhat higher recruitment levels in the 1970s than during the last decade, and the abundance of fish caught mainly by the surface and longline fisheries (ages 2-3 and 5+, respectively) appear to be about 25%-30% lower than in the 1970s. However, this is difficult to ascertain precisely because of variability in recruitment estimates for recent years. Fishing mortality on young albacore appears to have decreased in recent years after an increase in the late 1980s. Fishing mortality of adults (ages 5+) declined sharply after a peak in 1986 and is estimated to have been increasing again in recent years.

ALB-5.b.4 The SCRS Chairman referred the Panel to ALB-Figure 15 which shows the resulting curve of the yield-per-recruit modeling, and which indicates that the northern albacore stock is near full exploitation.

ALB-5.b.5 Dr. Suzuki indicated that updated analyses using the standard ASPM model fitted to the Spanish troll, the French troll, Japanese and Taiwanese longline indices also provided highly imprecise estimates of MSY (point estimate of 55,700 MT). However, the indication of a decline in the age 5+ biomass since 1975 was more precisely determined.

ALB-5.b.6 The SCRS Chairman noted that the Committee endorsed the recommendations of the Final Albacore Meeting (Sukarietta, Spain, June 1994) (SCRS/94/16) and also noted, with pleasure, that most of the short-term recommendations have been fulfilled. Consequently, the Committee's assessment is that the northern albacore stock is probably not over-exploited, but that the stock appears to be close to full exploitation. The Committee recommended that fishing mortality not be allowed to increase from its current level.

ALB-5.b.7 The Spanish Delegation referred to specific questions that had been communicated to the SCRS Chairman for distribution to the Committee in a letter dated October 31, 1994, and asked for clarification of the answers to these questions, which did not appear in the Report.

ALB-5.b.8 In response to the first of these questions, the SCRS Chairman referred to the section of the SCRS Report, where nominal effort of drift gill nets is discussed, with specific reference to the French and Irish fisheries.

ALB-5.b.9 The Delegate of Spain stated that his country had interpreted this to mean that most vessels are using nets longer than 5 km and therefore this signified an increase of 136% in effort from 1991 to 1993, and he asked the Chairman to confirm this.

ALB-5.b.10 The SCRS Chairman agreed that this was the case, and pointed out that the 5 km figure was used as a standardized value.

ALB-5.b.11 The Delegate of Spain explored the difference in actual value and values used in the Report which the Chairman explained were approximations because exact data were lacking in some cases.

ALB-5.b.12 The Spanish Delegation explained that it was posing these questions in order to gain an understanding of the impact of this gear on the fishery. He cited Annex 5 of the 1993 Commission Proceedings and discussed the change in the nature of the fishery. The Spanish Delegate felt that more analysis was necessary and that this was not a satisfactory assessment.

ALB-5.b.13 The Delegate of France explained the difficulty in getting the necessary data and briefly outlined his country's perception of the fishery.

ALB-5.b.14 The Delegate of Spain presented a thorough and detailed critique of the transformation in the fishery and the impact of drift gill nets. This is included as Attachment 4 to the Proceedings of the Fourth Plenary Session.

ALB-5.b.15 The Delegate of Spain concluded that the best action would be to immediately ban drift gill nets as the fishery would not be sustainable if this gear continued to be used.

ALB-5.b.16 The Delegate of France did not share the view expressed by the Spanish Delegation and presented an extended discussion of their rationale for the utilization of drift gill nets. He cited a joint IFREMER and IEO report, a summary of which the Secretariat had circulated to delegates. He indicated that France interpreted the fishery to have been under-fished but was now close to full exploitation. He expressed his country's intention to operate the fishery at reasonable levels, and that it was the responsibility of ICCAT to provide management steps.

ALB-5.b.17 The Delegate of Spain replied in detail to the points made by the French Delegation, with a request to carry out an in-depth evaluation. He indicated that he did not share the opinion that the objectives of the program had been achieved. He voiced strong reservations about the quality and amount of data and the interaction of gears.

ALB-5.b.18 The Delegate of Portugal shared the concerns and opinions of the Spanish Delegate, and also called for in-depth studies on the subject emphasizing that ICCAT should hold a scientific debate on this issue. She presented her reasons for this, and suggested the EU should revise the Common Fisheries Policy.

ALB-5.b.19 The Delegate of France responded with an expanded statement on the French position, attached as Appendix 5 to Annex 17.

ALB-5.b.20 The Delegate of Portugal was of the opinion that management should be carried out zone by zone and fishery by fishery and studies should be carried out over a six- year period, with publication of the results.

ALB-5.b.21 The panel Chairman agreed that more studies should be carried out by the SCRS and the results reported next year concerning the question of the impact of driftnets on albacore and other species. Since no objections were received, the Panel accepted the recommendations of the SCRS on albacore.

7. Research

7.1 The U.S. Delegation supported the statement made by the Delegate of Canada on research needs for bluefin; a more detailed statement from the U.S. is attached as Appendix 6 to Annex 17.

8. Date and place of next Panel meeting

8.1 The Panel agreed to hold its next meeting at the same time and place as the 1995 Commission meeting.

9. Other Matters

9.1 There were no other matters discussed.

10. Adoption of the report

10.1 The Report of Panel 2 did not become available in the three official languages early enough to allow the Panel members sufficient time to review it carefully. Hence, it was agreed that any comments on the draft text could be sent to the Secretariat later by mail. The Panel also agreed to adopt the Report in its entirety through correspondence.

11. Adjournment

11.1 The 1994 Meeting of Panel 2 was adjourned.

Report of the Meeting of Panel 3

1. Opening

1.1 The meeting of Panel 3 was opened by the Panel Chairman, Mr L.J. Weddig of the U.S.A.

2. Adoption of Agenda

2.1 The tentative agenda was adopted without change and is attached as **Appendix 1 to Annex 17**.

3. Nomination of Rapporteur

3.1 Mr A. J. Penney (South Africa) volunteered to act as Rapporteur for the Panel meeting.

4. Review of Panel Membership

4.1 The Chairman noted that there were only four members of Panel 3 (Japan, South Africa, Spain and the U.S.A.), and that all members were present. It was noted that Brazil announced in 1993 its intention to withdraw from Panel 3 in 1994. There were no requests for further changes to Panel membership.

5. Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS)

5.a Southern bluefin tuna

5.a.1 In summarizing the relevant section on the state of the stocks for southern bluefin tuna from the 1994 SCRS Report, the SCRS Chairman, Dr Z. Suzuki, noted that the southern bluefin tuna resource, fished principally by Japan, Australia and New Zealand, is considered to be strongly over-exploited. Recent VPA assessments indicate a continued low abundance of the parental stock compared to the 1980 reference level. CPUE indices indicate a gradual re-building of juvenile fish abundance over the past two years and projections indicate an increase in parental biomass over the next 4 to 5 years.

5.a.2 Dr. Suzuki noted the observed re-building of juvenile abundance appears to have resulted from a combination of good recruitment in the late 1980s, and a reduction in overall catch as a result of the quotas adopted by Japan, Australia and New Zealand since 1986.

5.b Albacore (South)

5.b.1 The SCRS Chairman informed the Panel that the south Atlantic albacore stock was assessed using dynamic production models, fitted to standardized CPUE indices for the South African baitboat fishery and the Taiwanese and Japanese longline fisheries. The South African CPUE index shows a moderate decrease through the history of the fishery, while the longline indices, representing adult fish, show a continuous decline since the mid 1980s. Assessment results indicate the MSY to be 24,700 MT and the current replacement yield to be approximately 25,600 MT. Current B/B_{MSY} was estimated as 0.87 and F/F_{MSY} as 127%.

5.b.2 Projections were made under four future catch strategies: (1) current catch (approximately 28,000 MT); (2) annual replacement yield; (3) 20% reduction over current catch; and (4) 40% reduction over current catch. These projections showed that current catches were not sustainable, and would lead to further stock decline.

6. Measures for the Conservation of Stocks

6.a Southern bluefin tuna

6.a.1 The Panel did not propose any ICCAT management measures for southern bluefin tuna, noting that various management measures for this species were implemented by the Convention for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT).

6.b Albacore (South)

6.b.1 It was noted that the SCRS Report recommended that: "All analyses conducted indicate that recent catches are not sustainable, and that they are larger than MSY. The Committee concluded that catches should be appropriately reduced if the apparent decline in the southern albacore resource is to be stopped."

6.b.2 The Delegate of Japan noted the poor condition of this stock, and stressed that ICCAT must act to rebuild the stock, and maintain it in a healthy condition (see statement by Japan attached as **Appendix 7 to Annex 17**). However, he noted that 70% of the catch of this stock was taken by a non-ICCAT Contracting Party. The Commission should therefore seek ways to ensure the cooperation of that country. The Delegate of Japan also noted that shift of effort from albacore to bigeye tuna, or substantial increases in new fisheries for albacore, should be avoided.

6.b.3 The Delegate of South Africa referred delegates to a draft proposal on limiting catches of southern albacore. He noted that his country had a particular interest in this fishery, demonstrated by its substantial research efforts since 1991 and the statement by South Africa to the 1993 meeting of Panel 3. He asked the Commission to avoid the common mistake of doing too little, too late, and noted that there was now an excellent opportunity to introduce a modest, but effective, management measure for southern albacore. The Delegate of South Africa stressed the fact that any delay would only worsen the situation. He also took note of the comments in other Panels, calling for management proposals to avoid ambiguous terminology. For that reason, the proposal by South Africa was specific in recommending a 10% reduction in catches compared to the 1989 to 1993 average. This would achieve a reduction to approximately 25,000 MT, which was close to the recommended replacement yield (RY).

6.b.4 The Delegate of South Africa finally noted that his country was fully aware of the importance of non-Contracting Parties in this fishery, and that South Africa had already had informal discussion with Taiwan on the matter, in which Taiwan had indicated that they were willing to enter into bilateral discussions on methods for best achieving the desired catch reduction.

6.b.5 The Delegate of Japan expressed concern that the South African proposal, as drafted, also covered albacore by-catches by countries not targeting that species. He proposed that the main recommendation specifically be made for countries "actively fishing for albacore". He also proposed new recommendations to call for the cooperation of non-Contracting Parties, and to prevent a shift in effort from albacore to other tuna species.

6.b.6 The Delegate of Spain noted that this fishery provided the clearest example of the problems related to fishing activities of ICCAT non-Contracting Parties. He expressed support for the proposal by Japan to insert a recommendation calling for the cooperation of non-Contracting Parties with these measures. He also noted that it was impractical to apply specific catch reduction measures to non-target by-catch fisheries, and recommended that the proposals be re-worded to apply specifically to targeted fisheries. The Delegate of Spain also shared Japan's concern at the possible shift in effort to other tuna species.

6.b.7 In response to these comments, the Delegate of South Africa offered to revise the draft proposal, in cooperation with the other Panel members. The Panel adjourned to allow this to be done.

6.b.8 At the next session of Panel 3, the Delegate of South Africa presented a revised proposal, incorporating the concept of "active fishing" countries, and adding a recommendation calling upon non-Contracting Parties to cooperate in implementation of measures to reduce catches, and to avoid shifting effort to other fully exploited Atlantic tuna resources.

6.b.9 The U.S. Delegation supported the proposal as presented.

6.b.10 The Delegate of Spain suggested that a further recommendation be added to also prevent an increase in albacore by-catches by non-target fisheries.

6.b.11 The Delegate of Japan stated that the Japanese catch was only 400 MT and he could not accept the concept of introducing a regulation which indirectly regulates other target species on which no regulation was established. He also stated that it was not appropriate to create arbitrary guidelines which separate by-catch from the target fishery.

6.b.12. Some discussion also ensued on the merits of including a recommendation against the development or increase of new fisheries for southern albacore, but this was not generally supported.

6.b.13 The Delegate of Spain then proposed that the revised proposal be accepted with just the three recommendations shown. This was supported by the other Panel members, and the recommendation was then accepted by the Panel and recommended to the Commission for adoption. The recommendation on southern albacore is attached as Annex 20 to the Commission Proceedings.

7. Research

7.a Southern bluefin tuna

7.a.1 It was noted that the relevant section in the SCRS Report recommended that CPUE indices for this resource be refined, and that recent quota restrictions had resulted in CPUE indices being confined to relatively small time/area strata. No further recommendations for research were made.

7.b Albacore (South)

7.b.1 The Panel supported all the research recommendations concerning southern albacore included in the 1994 SCRS Report. No further recommendations for research were made.

8. Date and Place of Next Panel Meeting

8.1 The Panel agreed to hold its next meeting to coincide with the next Commission meeting.

9. Other Matters

9.1 No other matters were discussed.

10. Adoption of Report

10.1 The draft Report of Panel 3 was distributed at the Panel's last session and it was agreed to adopt it later through correspondence.

11. Adjournment

11.1 The 1994 meeting of Panel 3 was adjourned.

Report of the Meeting of Panel 4

1. Opening

1.1 The meeting of Panel 4 was opened by Dr. M. Morimoto (Japan), Chairman of the Panel.

2. Adoption of Agenda

2.1 The Panel reviewed and adopted the Agenda, which is attached as **Appendix 1 to Annex 17**.

3. Election of Rapporteur

3.1 Mr. D. Gaertner (France) was designated Rapporteur.

4. Review of Panel membership

4.1 Panel 4 is currently comprised of 9 members: Angola, Canada, France, Japan, Korea, Portugal, Spain, United States and Venezuela.

BIGEYE TUNA (BET)

BET-5. Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS)

BET-5.1 Dr. Z. Suzuki, Chairman of the SCRS, noted that the most plausible hypothesis is that of a single Atlantic bigeye stock. The only indices of abundance used in the stock assessment are those of longline, which targets this species. The increase in fishing mortality on juveniles, observed in 1992, continued in 1993 due to the increase in tropical purse seine catches. Fishing mortality on adults of age 4 and over caught by longline, continued to be higher than that of the historical period.

BET-5.2 As regards the analytical models, it was concluded that the reduction in fishing mortality on juveniles and the simultaneous increase in the fishing mortality rate of adults, could increase the bigeye yield per recruit. The analysis of the yield per recruit of multi-gears suggests that, with the current exploitation rate, benefits could be obtained if the increase in fishing mortality of adults were accompanied by a simultaneous decline in mortality on juveniles. The inverse situation would logically result in a decline in yield per recruit.

BET-5.3 Bigeye catches in 1993 would be slightly higher than the MSY estimated by the equilibrium production model (PRODFIT) updated with data for 1961-93, which are 79,100 MT (exponential Fox model $m=1$ and $k=4$) and 72,300 MT (logistic model, $m=2$ and $k=4$). The analysis of the global production model also indicates that the current fishing effort is at a lower level or at a higher level than that of the estimated optimum fishing effort F_{MSY} , depending on the m values assumed correspond to the MSY; this has always occurred in previous analyses.

BET-5.4 Two fits were tried by means of non-equilibrium production models. In the first case and under the hypothesis of a constant catchability between 1961 and 1993, the ASPIC (equivalent to the logistic model, $m=2$), gives an estimate of MSY that is lower than the values obtained previously (66,800 MT) and a 1993 F that is above F_{MSY} . In this model, the annual catches obtained since 1989 would exceed the MSY. The IFOX model that is also a non-equilibrium model but in this case equivalent to the $m=1$ model, gives an MSY of 75,200 MT, closer to the previous estimates. On the other hand, current fishing effort would be below F_{MSY} . The SCRS discussed the possibility of an over-estimation of the MSY in the case that a part of the biomass were cryptic, and in the case of a change in selectivity of the juvenile individuals. It is likely, however, that the bigeye stock is being fully exploited.

BET-5.5 The Delegate of Japan expressed concern that the purse seine catch had increased substantially since 1991. He noted that this fishery targeted multi-species, i.e., bigeye and yellowfin tunas, and questioned that the bigeye juvenile catch had increased while the juvenile yellowfin catch remained stable in this fishery. He further noted that catch at age for purse seine and longline in 1992 showed that purse seine catches dominated with fish at ages 0, 1 and 2, and he stated that Japan was seriously concerned about that.

BET-5.6 The Delegate of Japan also noted that the Chairman of the SCRS had stated that juvenile bigeye represent 30-50% by weight in combined catches of juvenile yellowfin and juvenile bigeye of purse seine catches using floating objects and there was limited information available only from the Spanish fleet. It suggested that yellowfin tuna greater than 10 kg were dominant in a free school and that the proportion of small bigeye to small yellowfin caught with floating objects was larger than that caught with a free school.

BET-5.7 The Delegate of Japan further noted that an unidentified source reported that 60 Taiwanese longline vessels had shifted from the Indian Ocean to the Atlantic in 1994. He urged that Taiwan should refrain from engaging in such a new fishery in the Convention Area since almost all tuna and tuna-like stocks in the Area were being caught at MSY levels.

BET-5.8 An observer from Taiwan provided information that the number of vessels which operated in the Convention Area had increased from 44 in 1993 to 54 in 1994, of which 14 operated in the Mediterranean.

BET-6. Measures for the conservation of stocks

BET-6.1 Taking into account the results of the production models and the uncertainties on the amount of non-reported catches by vessels flying flags of convenience, the SCRS recommended that bigeye catches be limited to those of recent years (1989-1992). The 3.2 kg minimum size regulation for bigeye has been in force since 1980. This regulation was imposed in order to reinforce the regulation on yellowfin. On the other hand, taking into account the current high exploitation rate of bigeye, the limit on the catches of juveniles is a useful objective.

BET-6.2 It is noted that in spite of this regulation, the surface fisheries continue to land juvenile fish. This trend increased in 1993.

BET-6.3 The Delegate of Japan stated that Japan noted with concern the marked increase in the bigeye tuna catch by the purse seine fishery, while the catch by baitboats and longliners had remained stable. A large amount of small bigeye tuna were caught by the introduction of floating objects for purse seine operations. He referred to the SCRS statement that catches in 1989 and 1990 appeared to have been larger than MSY and stated that the rapid increase in purse seine catches and their large catch of small bigeye tuna must be taken into account when introducing a management measure based on the SCRS recommendation. He also stressed the need for further scientific research on the effect of fishing with floating objects on purse seine catches. He added that the fishing activities by non-Contracting Parties had to be taken care of at the same time when a management measure is introduced. The statement by Japan is attached as Appendix 8 to Annex 17.

BET-6.4 The Delegate of Portugal expressed his support for the issues put forward by Japan regarding the large amount of small bigeye tuna caught by purse seiners in association with floating objects and that the large catch of small bigeye tuna caught by purse seiners must be taken into account by the SCRS when making management recommendations, and stated that he recognized there were foundations for the SCRS recommendations.

BET-6.5 The Delegate of Spain mentioned the difficulty in implementing the recommendation of 3.2 kg, as juvenile bigeye were fished together with skipjack and yellowfin and there was a lack of scientific studies on the multi-species nature of this fishery.

BET-7. Research

BET-7.1 The SCRS Chairman briefly introduced the Committee's recommendations. He indicated that the Japanese Delegation had asked the SCRS to study in detail, from 1995, the problem of juveniles-caught using flotsam. He also noted that the Delegations of France and Spain had asked the SCRS to analyze the multi-species nature of these fisheries before new management measures were undertaken.

SWORDFISH (SWO)

SWO-5. Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS)

SWO-5.1 The Chairman of the SCRS recalled that the scientific committee had reviewed all the available information which could improve knowledge about the structure of the stock, such as size frequency, tagging data, sex ratio by size, genetic studies, and other biological or oceanographic data. The Committee recommended that a detailed global examination be made and that the available historic information be submitted before the next SCRS meeting.

-- Mediterranean

SWO-5.2 There were insufficient data to study the Mediterranean swordfish stock.

-- North Atlantic

SWO-5.3 The SCRS Chairman informed the Panel that the Committee used the global non-equilibrium production model (ASPIC, equivalent to the logistic model $m=2$) based on the standardized CPUE data of the fleets of the United States, Canada, Japan and Spain for the period 1950-93. The model calculates that the MSY is 12,800 MT and as a result the stock in 1994 was very much below the optimum level ($B_{1994} = 0.68 \times B_{MSY}$); fishing effort being almost double the optimum effort ($F_{1994} = 1.8 \times F_{MSY}$). This year, eleven standardized abundance indices were used to calibrate the VPAs (ADAPT). The trends of each age class are: estimated recruitment (age 1) has increased in a rather stable manner between 1980 and 1989, decreasing from 1990 to 1993. The abundance estimates for classes 3 and 4 decreased in recent years, as has those of class 5+ which declined almost 50% between 1983 and 1993 (the precision of the estimates has diminished in recent years). At the same time, fishing mortality rates calculated by VPA increased to a maximum in 1988. After decreasing from 1988 to 1990, they appear to have increased over the last few years, but have not reached the 1988 maximum.

SWO-5.4 The yield per recruit model was constructed from several scenarios. From these analyses, it is inferred that, if catches of fish aged 1 and 2 can be avoided, there would be significant benefits for the yield per recruit. This option offers better opportunities to increase yield in the long-term than options which present moderate reductions in fishing mortality, while global reductions are necessary for this last parameter, if the reproductive stock is to be increased.

-- South Atlantic

SWO-5.5 The Committee noted the progress made at the ICCAT Preparatory Meeting on Abundance Indices in the South Atlantic (Tamandaré, Brazil, August 1994), in which the standardization of the CPUE data series was done. The Committee expressed its concern about the situation of exploitation of the swordfish stock in the South Atlantic, due to the large increases in catches, as well as the declining trends of the CPUE series of this sector.

SWO-6. Measures for the conservation of stocks

SWO-6.1 The Panel referred to the regulatory measures recommended by ICCAT for the conservation of swordfish stocks in the Atlantic which entered into force in July, 1991. The objective of these measures was the reduction in fishing mortality and the protection of juveniles of this species.

SWO-6.2 The United States Delegation noted with concern that the 1993 catch was greater than the estimated replacement yield (17,000 MT as opposed to 12,000 MT, the current replacement yield).

SWO-6.3 The Delegate of Japan expressed strong objections about some paragraphs of the SCRS Report. Several paragraphs stated that his country's fishery targeted swordfish and did not comply with the Commission's 1990 Recommendation, FIRST paragraph. However, Japan only had a longline by-catch of the bigeye fishery and his country's fishery was managed under the FIFTH paragraph of the Recommendation. The Delegate of Japan questioned the SCRS view that only the low level of catches by other countries adversely affect the stock condition, and not the large catches by major countries. Common sense suggested that it was impossible to achieve a workable conservation measure unless the major countries take further measures. He then requested the SCRS Report be rectified.

SWO-6.4 The proposal by Japan for the management of North Atlantic swordfish is attached as **Appendix 9 to Annex 17**.

SWO-6.5 The joint proposal drafted by the U.S. and Spain for the management of north Atlantic swordfish is attached as **Appendix 10 to Annex 17**.

SWO-6.6 The Delegate of Spain supported the work of the SCRS and pointed out that the efforts being made by the major fishing countries to reduce swordfish catches were not accompanied by a reduction in fishing mortality, due to a lack of cooperation on the part of certain countries. Besides, he pointed out that the SCRS should take a position concerning certain catches referred to as by-catches when they correspond to a species, such as swordfish, which is under various regulations. The statement made by Spain on swordfish is attached as **Appendix 11 to Annex 17**.

SWO-6.7 The U.S. Delegate contended that only Spain and the U.S. had voluntarily reduced their catches and said that he would oppose the SCRS modification to the SCRS Report requested by Japan.

SWO-6.8 The Canadian Delegation expressed appreciation to the SCRS and asked what the opinion of the Committee was regarding the separation of north and south stocks at 5° North latitude.

SWO-6.9 Dr. Suzuki replied that this separation is a somewhat arbitrary and had been established some 20 years ago, with the aim of facilitating the management of the stocks. He said that thanks to more detailed data, especially in relation to the sex ratio by size and area, as well as on south Atlantic CPUEs, the SCRS ought to improve its knowledge of the structure of swordfish stock in a time-period of 2-3 years.

SWO-6.10 The Delegate of Brazil referred to the success of the meeting of the SCRS on abundance indices that took place in his country in 1994. He regretted that despite the progress achieved by this meeting, it was still not possible to carry out an assessment of the south Atlantic swordfish stock and he hoped that such an assessment would be conducted in the near future. The Delegate of Brazil also stressed the importance of providing some sort of financial assistance for scientists from the south Atlantic countries to allow them to participate in the stock assessment meetings.

SWO-6.11 The Panel Observer from expressed her concern about the shift towards the south of effort directed at this species, and pointed out the importance of having the means to carry out an adequate monitoring of the landings at ports such as Montevideo.

SWO-6.12 The Delegate of Canada expressed his concern for the exploitation of the swordfish stock (north and south Atlantic) and said that he supported the recommendations of the SCRS. He also expressed his concern for the important juvenile fishing mortality and mentioned the problem of discards. He asked the SCRS Chairman what the benefits of yield per recruit would be if the ban on the fishing of juveniles (ages 1 and 2) were fully enforced (no catches). The SCRS Chairman estimated that it would be at least 10%.

SWO-6.13 The Delegate of Portugal recalled that in 1990, as a result of the volume of catches, two groups of countries were distinguished with the recommendation on catch reductions only affecting the major fishing countries. It was logical that management effort should be proportional to reported catches.

SWO-6.14 The proposal by Canada and Portugal for the management of Atlantic swordfish is attached as **Appendix 12 to Annex 17**.

SWO-6.15 The Delegate of Japan stressed that his country's fishery had observed the 1990 Recommendations. He stated that the Commission should consider the difference in character of the swordfish catch in fisheries when introducing new management measures and that the by-catch regulation in the 1990 Recommendation must be maintained. The statement by Japan is attached as **Appendix 13 to Annex 17**.

SWO-6.16 Given the seriousness of the situation described by the SCRS, the U.S., Spain, Canada and Japan supported the opinion expressed by the Delegate of Portugal regarding the need to find an equitable solution.

SWO-6.17 The Delegate of Canada presented a management proposal on behalf of a number of Contracting Parties.

SWO-6.18 The Delegate of Brazil stressed the importance of Paragraph 4 of the swordfish management measures proposed by Canada, particularly considering that the limitation imposed on catches from the south would prevent a shift in fishing effort to the south Atlantic as a means to decrease catches in the north Atlantic. He also commented on the catch limits imposed on countries with minor catches of swordfish, in relation to the major swordfish-fishing countries, and expressed the opinion that coastal developing countries should be given the opportunity to participate in the fishery for highly migratory species which occurs in the EEZs. The Delegate of Brazil also suggested that the possibility of exempting these countries from such catch limitations should be considered.

SWO-6.19 The Panel Observer from Uruguay expressed her country's disconformity that developing countries such as Uruguay are included in paragraph 4 of the Swordfish Management Recommendation.

SWO-6.20 The Delegate of Venezuela and the Panel observer from Uruguay also expressed their concern regarding the proposed limitation imposed on countries whose catches are still much lower than those of the main fishing countries, and and on the need to prevent a shift in fishing effort from the north Atlantic to the south Atlantic.

SWO-6.21 The Delegate of France, after recalling that his country supported developing countries in their desire to participate in the exploitation of a resource which straddles their EEZ's, posed the problem of a country which wanted to start a new fishery and therefore did not have historic catches.

SWO-6.22 A number of countries expressed concern that any nation would be contemplating entering the swordfish fishery at a time when drastic cutbacks are necessary.

SWO-6.23 The Canadian and U.S. Delegations, as well as other Contracting Parties, decided, by common consent, to include the amendments in the initial text, which the Panel recommended to the Commission for adoption. The Recommendation on swordfish management is attached as Annex 21 to the Proceedings.

BILLFISHES (BIL)

BIL-5. Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS)

BIL-5.1 Dr. Z. Suzuki, the SCRS Chairman, reviewed the 1993 SCRS Report, with particular reference to the pertinent section concerning the billfish stock assessment.

BIL-5.2 The SCRS Chairman indicated that production model assessments of Atlantic blue marlin presented to the SCRS in the early 1980's generally showed declines in the stock(s) biomass from the early 1960's to the mid-1970's, with some stabilization for the total Atlantic from the mid-1970's through 1980, but at values far below the 1965-1975 average. These results suggested that blue marlin were at least fully exploited and most likely over-exploited by about 1980. The updated assessments presented to the 1992 SCRS included an additional 10 years of data compared to assessments carried out in the early 1980's and used a non-equilibrium production model ASPIC (equivalent to the logistic model $m=2$). The general results from the analysis for each stock hypothesis suggest that biomass is below B_{msy} and in this respect the results are very similar to those of earlier stock assessments.

BIL-5.3 As was the case for blue marlin, the white marlin stock assessments presented to the SCRS in 1992 were the first since the early 1980's. Early assessments generally showed a sharp decline in the stock(s) biomass from the early 1960's through 1970, with continued but more moderate declines (with variation) to low levels through 1980. The stock(s) were considered to be at least fully exploited and likely over-exploited by the later part of this time series (mid to late 1970's). The general results from the analysis for each stock hypothesis illustrate declines in stock biomass to levels well below estimated B_{msy} , and corresponding increases in fishing mortality above estimated F_{msy} through 1990.

BIL-5.4 Previous production model assessments for western Atlantic sailfish (including spearfish) (1982 SCRS) indicated that this resource was moderately exploited. The updated assessment submitted to the 1993 SCRS included an additional 10 years' data compared to assessments carried out in the early 1980's and used a more flexible model (ASPIC), as discussed for blue and white marlins. Point estimates of maximum sustainable yield for west Atlantic sailfish ranged from 606 to 707 MT (east Atlantic sailfish MSY is about 2,700 MT) for several assessment approaches. The results suggest that the west Atlantic sailfish is fully exploited or over-exploited.

BIL-5.5 No new stock assessments for east Atlantic sailfish (including spearfish) were presented to the 1994 SCRS. The most recent equilibrium assumption production model results, i.e., those presented to the SCRS in 1988, suggest that the coastal east Atlantic stock of sailfish is not yet fully exploited.

BIL-6. Measures for the conservation of stocks

BIL-6.1 No ICCAT regulations are currently in effect for billfishes. However, two ICCAT Contracting Parties (the U.S. and Venezuela) and one Observer country (Mexico) established regulations to reduce billfish mortality. The SCRS Chairman also spoke of the practical difficulties with respect to the reduction of fishing mortality due to the catches of untargeted billfishes by longliners. However, because the survival rate seems to be quite high, returning these fish to the water could be contemplated.

BIL-6.2 The Delegate of Japan informed the Panel of the initiation of a tagging program carried out jointly by Japanese and U.S. commercial longline fishermen. He hoped that commercial longline fisheries of the ICCAT members and non-members would participate in this program. The statement by Japan on billfishes is attached as Appendix 14 to Annex 17.

BIL-6.3 A recommendation was presented by the United States Delegation, which expressed concern over the high fishing mortality levels of these species and asked for the release, and tag and release when possible, of live billfish taken in longline fisheries. The recommendation presented by the U.S. is attached as Appendix 15 to Annex 17. The U.S. Delegate further stated that the protocols for setting up a tagging program (of billfish discards of longline fisheries) are available to countries that are interested in the program.

BIL-6.4 The Chairman of Panel 4 asked the other delegations to follow up on this issue after the meeting.

BIL-7. Research

BIL-7.1 The Chairman of the SCRS reviewed the research priorities and noted, in particular, the need to improve knowledge of the age structure of billfishes as identified in the 1993 SCRS Report.

SMALL TUNAS

SMT-5. Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS)

SMT-5.1 The SCRS Chairman informed the Panel that the SCRS had no information on the study of the present structure of the small tuna stocks, and that information currently available did not permit the evaluation of the hypothetical stocks where the existence of these coastal pelagic species were mainly presumed. He recalled that the catches of this species were around 100,000 MT.

SMT-6. Measures for the conservation of stocks

SMT-6.1 Since 1983, a "U.S. Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for coastal pelagic species in the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Ocean Region" has been in effect. Under the FMP, fisheries management procedures were established for king mackerel (*Scomberomorus cavalla*) and Spanish mackerel (*Scomberomorus maculatus*) through implementation of catch quotas. The objective of the FMP is to maintain these stocks at abundance levels that could provide long-term yield as close to MSY as possible, while not allowing spawning biomass to fall so low as to have a negative impact on recruitment. Annual total allowable catches from these stocks are based on recommendations from a group of scientists who conduct the annual stock evaluation analyses.

SMT-7. Research

SMT-7.1 The Committee stressed the need to collect statistical and biological information on these species. This was supported by Dr. M. Morimoto, the Chairman of the Panel.

8. Date and place of next Panel meeting

8.1 The Panel agreed to hold its next meeting at the same time and place as the 1995 Commission Meeting.

9. Other matters

9.1 There were no other matters for discussion.

10. Adoption of Report

10.1 The draft Report of Panel 4 was distributed at the last session of the Panel and was it was agreed to adopt it later through correspondence.

11. Adjournment

11.1 The 1994 Meeting of Panel 4 was adjourned.

*Appendix 1 to Annex 17***AGENDA FOR PANELS 1 - 4**

Panel 1 (Tropical Tunas)
 Panel 2 (Temperate Tunas-North)
 Panel 3 (Temperate Tunas-South)
 Panel 4 (Other Species)

1. Opening
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Nomination of Rapporteur
4. Review of Panel membership
5. Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS)
6. Measures for the conservation of stocks:

<u>Panel 1</u>	<u>Panel 2</u>	<u>Panel 3</u>	<u>Panel 4</u>
a) Yellowfin	a) Bluefin (North)	a) Southern bluefin	a) Bigeye
b) Skipjack	b) Albacore (North)	b) Albacore (South)	b) Atlantic bonito
			c) Swordfish
			d) Billfishes
			e) Other species

7. Research
8. Date and place of next Panel meeting
9. Other matters
10. Adoption of Report
11. Adjournment

Appendix 2 to Annex 17

STATEMENT BY CANADA ON ATLANTIC BLUEFIN TUNA
 (attached to Report of Panel 2)

Mr. Chairman:

On behalf of Canada I would like to extend our thanks to the SCRS scientists who have, once again, spent considerable time and effort carrying out their assessment of bluefin tuna in the east and west Atlantic and the Mediterranean Sea. Assessment of the west Atlantic bluefin stock had not been planned for this year. However, Canada was one of the countries that requested the SCRS, on short notice, to carry out such an assessment. Canada would like to commend the group for the excellent report it has produced on such short notice.

It is clear from reading the SCRS Report that management of bluefin in the east Atlantic and Mediterranean must be improved. While we have always known that there is some mixing between the two stocks, recent indices have indicated that this mixing could have considerable impact on stock status, particularly in the west. Therefore, those of us fishing solely in the west Atlantic are clearly interested in what occurs in the east.

Another element that we cannot lose sight of is the credibility of ICCAT. In recent years the attention of many organizations not directly involved in the proceedings of ICCAT, and particularly the environmental community, has been focused on management of bluefin in the western Atlantic. We have taken many steps in the west to improve our

management of this stock and to show the world that we are responsible managers of the resource. If we want to ensure that the credibility of ICCAT we must also ensure that sound management measures be put in place throughout the whole Atlantic. Given the uncertainty associated with the stock boundary between east and west, it is appropriate to implement management measures which encompass alternate stock hypotheses.

There has been a size limit of 6.4 kg in place for bluefin in the eastern Atlantic since 1974. It is extremely important that measures be taken immediately to ensure that this recommendation be implemented. As well, in 1974, ICCAT recommended that countries take the necessary measures to limit the fishing mortality of bluefin to recent levels. The SCRS assessment conducted this year shows that fishing mortality rates have increased for all age groups since 1974 and that in the Mediterranean average catches have increased from around 5,700t in the four years previous to 1974 to over 18,000t in 1993 - this is a three-fold increase. A similar increase has occurred in the eastern Atlantic where catches have gone from about 5,000t prior to 1974 to 9,500t in 1993.

During the rest of this week we will continue to discuss various ideas with other delegations for improved management of this east Atlantic fishery.

As for bluefin tuna in the Western Atlantic, this stock has been under quota management since the early 1980s. While those of us fishing in the west have had to reduce our quotas in the past few years it is heartening to note that the status of the stock appears to be improving. Clearly the quota levels, and other management measures in place in the west, have had a beneficial effect on the stock.

We were scheduled to reduce our overall catches in 1995 to 1,200t. However, our scientists now tell us that it is not necessary to reduce catches to this level. As I have already said, I am heartened by this statement. However, I think it is important that we remember that our objective is still to rebuild that stock. In that sense, while we can take some comfort in the SCRS advice, we must also take note of their caution: (and I quote from page 7 of the SCRS document) "ICCAT Commissioners should be cautious in reacting to a single assessment that indicates a substantial change from previous assessments." Further, on page 14, the SCRS also says that it would be "advisable to be cautious" while awaiting the results of further assessments as well as the implications of mixing which will be further investigated in 1995.

The SCRS has also made a number of recommendations regarding research. The scientists believe that the highest priority should be to resolve important questions concerning mixing rates between the east and west Atlantic, population structure and management of bluefin tuna. There is the need for improved input data generally, including indices of abundance. Canada firmly supports these recommendations.

This leads to another important recommendation concerning the timing of assessments. The SCRS continues to assess the stocks while many questions regarding basic biology remain unresolved. What we need is more information on the basic biology of bluefin and a new assessment of these new data. We promote the theme that we must conduct more studies to enlighten ourselves on questions of basic biology. Scientists should be encouraged to conduct these studies without the pressure of annual assessments.

In the coming days we will be discussing these recommendations further with other delegations and Canada will continue to promote management measures that will ensure the continued health of both the east and west Atlantic tuna fisheries.

Appendix 3 to Annex 17

STATEMENT BY JAPAN ON WESTERN ATLANTIC BLUEFIN TUNA
(attached to Report of Panel 2)

I have always believed that bluefin tuna is one stock for many years. In the years 1983-85 I spoke to many scientists who have always recognized this. Dr. Beckett of Canada told me that he believed 10% mixing occurs.

It is difficult to see that the size of the eastern stock to be 20 to 30 times bigger than the west. It is my feeling there may be some sub-stocks. The U.S. National Academy of Science has endorsed my idea.

However, we still need further study that will take many years to quantify the mixing. For management purposes, we will treat it as two stocks.

I was very suspicious of the results of last year's SCRS Report. This has been a very severe experience for fishermen of U.S., Canada, and Japan.

We requested a re-examination and an error was found. The replacement yield has gone from 1200 MT to over 2,660 MT. As a Panel, we should accept a total catch of 2,200 MT.

The Japanese delegation would like to draw your attention to the fact that, given the results of the SCRS Report, clearly the basis for Japan's unfairly large reduction in its scientific monitoring quota is no longer valid.

Japan agreed to this reduction last year based on the spirit of compromise and to maintain the integrity of ICCAT as a responsible international organization. In other words, Japan agreed to cut its share based on the SCRS recommendation at the 1993 annual meeting of the Commission to set the catch limit below 1,200 MT. immediately, and also, due to the inflexibility of other delegations. Now we see this year that the SCRS recommends that it is not necessary to reduce catches to 1,200 MT in 1995.

If Japan had been inflexible and chose not to follow the scientific recommendations, ICCAT's ability to carry out its conservation and management responsibilities would have been questioned. Japanese fishermen were forced to make sacrifices that others were not willing to accept. In the spirit of cooperation, it should now be other countries' turn to assist the Japanese fishermen.

Therefore for 1995, it is Japan's position that 2,200 MT should be adopted for the scientific monitoring quota. This catch level is below the level of replacement yield (more than 2,660 MT).

Japan insists that the national share between three countries should be returned to the traditional one adopted before 1993. The U.S. and Canada made a commitment last year on this point. We expect this to be honored.

Appendix 4 to Annex 17

**STATEMENT BY JAPAN
ON THE RECOMMENDATION FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF
BLUEFIN TUNA IN THE WESTERN ATLANTIC
(attached to Report of Panel 2)**

Japan would like to express its general satisfaction with the agreement reached for a recommendation for management of western Atlantic bluefin tuna.

We want to thank the Delegations of Canada and the United States for their cooperation on this difficult and sensitive issue.

However, Japan is not happy with Part 1 and 2 of this agreement. This type of sharing of the scientific monitoring quota may improperly imply that Japan is being penalized in some way.

We want to note with great emphasis for all to see that Japan has done the most in the 1994 fishing year for the conservation of western Atlantic bluefin tuna than any of the three fishing nations. Now again, in 1995 and 1996, Japan will be taking the greatest steps toward conservation and again our fishermen will be shouldering the largest burden.

**DECLARATION BY FRANCE ON ALBACORE FISHING WITH
SMALL DRIFTNETS IN THE NORTHEAST ATLANTIC**

(attached to Report of Panel 2)

Albacore fishing by French fishermen was re-initiated since the introduction of small driftnets six years ago.

In decline since the early 1980s due to the progressive abandonment of troll fishing, today this fishery, thanks to the so-called "new" gears, attains catch levels comparable to those of the 1970s (6,390 MT in 1993, all gears combined).

However, these catches of albacore continue being inferior to those obtained, even today, by Spain, a country which using so-called "traditional" gears, obtains each year a total catch close to 18,000 MT.

Albacore fishing has acquired today crucial importance in numerous ports of the Atlantic coast.

It is certain that the crisis which is adversely affecting the fishing sector, induces in more or less degree than in times past, the artisanal fishery to undertake diversification of production or towards seasonal fishing activities.

In this perspective, albacore fishing constitutes a good example of a new deployment of activities.

The counterpart of this situation is, that from now on, the small number of boats which are dedicated to this type of fishing, depends considerably on albacore fishing and is based on the profitability of the small driftnets in order to maintain their activity throughout the year.

For this, this seasonal activity, due to its positive repercussions on employment and territorial management (while maintaining the socio-economic fabric of the coastal regions), is now of major importance for the French fishing sector.

BENEFICIAL DEPLOYMENT OF FISHING EFFORT

This fishery, which it carried out mostly on the high seas, has the considerable advantage of targeting on an abundant pelagic species fishing effort which otherwise would be directed throughout the year on demersal species of the continental platform of the Bay of Biscay and western Brittany.

From this perspective, the French albacore fishery using small driftnets contributes to the equilibrium management of the overall fishing resources of the northeastern Atlantic.

This consideration becomes very evident, so much so that the recent development of albacore driftnet fishing, in the current state of its exploitation pattern, does not affect the status of the stock of albacore in the north Atlantic.

It should be recalled that the north Atlantic albacore stock has supported catches during the 1960s that could have exceeded 60,000 MT and the recent catch levels now do not exceed 30,000 MT annually.

Albacore fishing with small driftnets is one of the most selective fishing types that exist. Scientific studies indicate a by-catch rate of 15%; of which from 3 to 7% is of other commercial species. These rates are, respectively, 60% of the swordfish longline fishery and from 80 to 90% of the shrimp fishery.

It has been clearly established that the different gears can cohabit in the fishing grounds without any problem.

A scientific report, requested by Mr. Manuel Marin, former European Commissioner for Fishing, from the research institutes of the two countries (the IFREMER of France and the IEO of Spain) and carried jointly by these organizations in 1991, clearly testifies that there are no interactions between surface fishing gears (net, pole and line) as concerns albacore fishing in the northeast Atlantic.

Besides, the driftnet, which is indicated by buoys and which is only used at night, contrary to other fishing techniques does not interrupt maritime navigation at all in the fishing zones which, it should be recalled, are situated almost always more than 600 km from any coast.

After the appearance of the driftnet, French albacore fishermen have confronted the problem of by-catches of marine mammals.

Due to an intense public campaign which was started in 1990, and which has been strongly supported by the media, the belief that the driftnet is a non-selective gear (the expression "wall of death" has had considerable echo), has little by little taken over public opinion.

In order to counteract these unfounded accusations, French fishermen have tried to maintain complete transparency with the responsible ecological organizations, and are concerned about verifying the reality on this matter. Some of them have gone on board tuna vessels (Robin Hood) since 1991; others, on the contrary, have refused to do so.

Sure of their affirmations, the French fishermen have also closely collaborated with the scientists of IFREMER, allowing them to act freely in their initiative to obtain better knowledge on the different species and populations of marine mammals in the northeastern Atlantic.

At the same time, immediately after the publication of the EEC decree no. 345/92, of January 27, 1992, regulating the length of the driftnets and introducing for the first time in a Community text on fishing the notion of "ecological risk", the French Government took the initiative of organizing a vast program of scientific research.

This scientific study was entrusted to IFREMER, based on the high-level collaboration between European scientists united within a scientific working group, under the auspices of the Commission of the European Communities.

During the summers of 1992 and 1993, observers with a scientific background were placed on board almost half of the French driftnet vessels, sharing life on board and faithfully taking note of all the catches and discards. Complementary to this, IFREMER chartered a research vessel in 1993, in order to try and carry out an evaluation of the populations of dolphins that might be found in the fishing area frequented by the French vessels.

The extraordinary extent of the scientific monitoring to which the French driftnet fleet has been subjected in the northeast Atlantic should be pointed out; until then, no experiment of this nature had been carried out in any other European fishery.

The results of these two years of research are convincing and constitute a categorical contradiction of the myth of non-selectivity of driftnets, and also of the myth, no less tenacious, of the massive destruction of dolphins, of which French fishermen have been unjustly accused by their detractors.

The definitive IFREMER report on the "Ecological Impact of the Tuna Fishery Using Driftnets in the Northeast Atlantic", clearly shows that the continuation of this activity does not present any serious ecological risk.

This recent study, since it dates from November 8, 1993, was presented by its authors on November 15, 16 and 17, 1993, to the Scientific and Technical Committee on Fisheries (CTSP) of the Commission of the European Communities in Brussels. Made up of the best scientific specialists of the twelve Member States, this important Committee recognized and applauded the scientific quality of the work carried out by IFREMER, thus conceding the report and the methodology applied a guarantee of undisputed scientific precision.

The IFREMER report synthesizes the observation cruises carried out within the framework of the French albacore driftnet fishing fleet, and clearly shows that the by-catches of marine mammals continue being totally reasonable from a quantitative point of view, since, in terms of additional annual mortality, they only represent 0.7% for the common dolphin and 1.6% for the blue and white dolphin, relative to their respective populations assessed in 1993 in the fishing area.

In any case, it remains perfectly clear that these by-catches in no way jeopardize the populations and the survival of the species concerned.

As pointed in the conclusion of the report: "... such low rates of additional mortality cannot really, by themselves, seriously compromise the survival and the presence of these species in the northeast Atlantic".

The absence of "all ecological risk", combined with the utilization of driftnets within the framework of the derogation granted by the Community regulation, remains perfectly clear from the scientific point of view.

Some people, for diverse reasons and, in the opinion of France, totally indifferent to a real defense of the environment, continue in effect to affirm that the driftnet is a non-selective gear that indistinctly catches all the marine species that are found in the environment.

The IFREMER report has presented proof to the contrary: without any doubt, the intrinsic selectivity of the driftnet for albacore fishing in the northeast Atlantic has been demonstrated.

Nowadays, it cannot again be questioned, more than with emotional arguments and beyond the economic and social logic characteristic and specific to the French fishing sector, which in no way ignores the need to preserve the biological diversity of the oceans, such as demonstrated the driftnet fishermen in accepting to put their vessels at the service of science, for better knowledge of the marine ecosystems.

This intelligent and responsible action should be recognized and encouraged by the international community, since it lies within the perspective of a cautious management of the fishery and at the same time, supports the basic principles of the Law of the Sea.

In particular, the conclusions of the Rio de Janeiro summit come to mind and Chapter 17 of the "Agenda 21" program of June 14, 1992, dedicated to the protection of the oceans and seas (...), as well as the rational utilization and appraisal of their biological resources, which at the same time introduces the concept of "lasting development", also puts scientific knowledge at the very core of the policies of management of the resources and marine species.

It is necessary to point out emphatically that the United Nations in the founding resolution of December 22, 1989, refers in its preamble only to the driftnets "that might reach or surpass 50 km in total length".

Neither albacore nor dolphins are in danger of extinction in the northeast Atlantic.

France does not oppose the implementation of regulations on exploitation, provided that these regulations do not question again the continual use of driftnets measuring 2.5 km.

The Preamble of the Convention which unites us all in the framework of this Commission says without ambiguity that our fundamental objective is ... "to maintain the populations (of tunas) at levels which will permit the maximum sustainable catch for food and other purposes ..." Concretely, this signifies that our objective is not to under-fish, and even less so, to carry out over-fishing, but to fish at the levels mentioned previously.

We congratulate ourselves that the conclusions of the SCRS show that the state of the north Atlantic albacore stock "probably is not over-exploited, but it seems that this stock is being fully exploited", that is, simply that this stock can support a more rational and responsible exploitation.

Appendix 6 to Annex 17

STATEMENT BY THE UNITED STATES ON RESEARCH NEEDS
(attached to Report of Panel 2)

The U.S. commends the SCRS on its hard work to assess the status of Atlantic bluefin tuna. We recognize that your task is very difficult and complicated by the lack of adequate resources and the unending demands of the commissioners. The information that you provide is essential to our work! There are many important tasks that are ongoing and new programs that are necessary. We must provide you with the support to accomplish these tasks. Specifically we recommend that the following research items be supported by the Commission:

1. Research employing genetic, microconstituent, and other techniques to identify stock structure, quantify mixing rates, and determine spawning fidelity. Cooperative efforts are needed to obtain samples for DNA and microconstituent analysis from throughout the Atlantic and other areas. Sensitivity analyses, and other techniques, should be used to evaluate implications of mixing rates and various assumptions about stock structure.
2. Development of standardized CPUEs for all fisheries operating in the Atlantic. Currently, such indices are limited in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean.
3. Development of comprehensive, cooperative tagging experiments by all nations to test hypotheses of growth and stock structure and provide information for stock assessments. Consideration should be given to a universal ICCAT tag that would be used by all countries; a standard data reporting system; and, designated facilities, one in Europe and one in the Americas, to receive and compile tag release/recovery data into an accessible data base. There should be a concerted effort to promote the program and inform fishermen of the value of tagging and recovery of tags.
4. Additional studies on spawning biomass, age at maturity, fecundity, larval abundance, sex ratio, and recruitment.
5. Determination of the suitability of additional fishery independent indices of abundance (such as aerial surveys).
6. Conducting workshops on specific research topics, including one on genetics, micro-constituent analysis, and other techniques to identify stock structure of bluefin tuna.
7. Support SCRS in the determination of the suitability of a U.S. longline fishing index utilizing existing dead discards.

Appendix 7 to Annex 17

STATEMENT BY JAPAN ON SOUTHERN ALBACORE
(attached to Report of Panel 3)

Japan notes that the SCRS stock assessment indicates the poor stock condition of south Atlantic albacore. The SCRS Report suggests that the current level of catch exceeds MSY and replacement yield level. As a responsible international organization, Japan believes that ICCAT must act as soon as possible to rebuild this stock in a short period of time and maintain it in a healthy condition.

When we look at the catch statistics for south Atlantic albacore, one non-Contracting Party, namely Taiwan, catches almost 70% of the total catch. This implies that, even though the Contracting Parties may take conservation measures, the stock condition cannot be improved unless the Commission obtains full cooperation from Taiwan in taking effective management measures for this stock. The Commission should inform Taiwan that shifting this effort from albacore to bigeye would cause additional problems.

Japan has also noted from the catch statistics, that the Brazil-Taiwan (BRAS-TAI) catch has increased from 0 MT in 1990 to 3,700 MT in 1993, and this fishery has operated only in the last three years. Under problematic stock conditions, such a substantial increase by a new fishery must be refrained.

STATEMENT BY JAPAN ON BIGEYE TUNA
(attached to Report of Panel 4)

Japan has noted with concern that the catch level of bigeye tuna in the Convention Area has increased substantially mainly due to a marked increase in the catch of the purse seine fishery in recent years, while catch levels of bigeye tuna in baitboat and longline fisheries remain stable. We are also concerned that small sized bigeye tuna are caught in a larger percentage of the total bigeye catch because of the introduction of floating objects, particularly taking into account the restriction on the catch of small fish weighing less than 3.2 kg.

We should also take into account that the SCRS Report mentioned two years ago that "recent catches, specifically in 1989 and 1990, appear to have been larger than MSY".

From these aspects, if the recommendation of the SCRS on bigeye tuna made this year is realized, the situations mentioned above must be duly taken into account.

However, it is a little bit strange to see with the use of floating objects, although juvenile bigeye are caught in mixed schools with skipjack and juvenile yellowfin, only the catch of bigeye tuna has increased in the purse seine fishery, while the levels of yellowfin and skipjack catches remain stable. We feel, therefore, that scientific investigation is necessary to study the effect of floating objects on fish species composition in the purse seine catch and the effect on bigeye stocks.

Lastly, since the activities by non-Contracting Parties whose catch levels account for 8% of the total catch of bigeye tuna in the Convention Area according to a table of the SCRS Report, if we consider the introduction of any restriction on bigeye catches, we have to ensure that non-Contracting Parties will take equivalent measures.

Appendix 9 to Annex 17

PROPOSAL BY JAPAN FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF NORTH ATLANTIC SWORDFISH
(attached to Report of Panel 4)

1. For the north Atlantic in 1995, Canada and Portugal shall manage a TAC of 2,500 MT. Spain and the U.S. shall manage a TAC of 9,000 MT. In 1996, Canada and Portugal shall manage the 2,500 MT TAC in the same manner as in 1995; Spain and the U.S. shall manage a TAC of 8,500 MT.
2. The Contracting Parties whose vessels do not target swordfish in the north Atlantic Ocean shall take the necessary measures to limit the incidental catch to no more than 8 percent of the total weight of the entire catch during 1995 and 1996.
3. Other Contracting Parties shall not increase their catches in the north Atlantic over their 1993 level during 1995 and 1996.
4. Contracting Parties shall take the necessary measures to prohibit the taking and landing of swordfish in the entire Atlantic Ocean weighing less than 25 Kg live weight; however, the Contracting Parties may grant tolerances to boats which have incidentally caught small fish, with the condition that this incidental catch shall not exceed 15% of their number of fish per landing of the total swordfish catch of said boats.
5. Contracting Parties are encouraged to take other appropriate measures to protect small swordfish, including but not limited to, the establishment of time and area closures, possibly determined by text fisheries. Contracting Parties will conduct the necessary studies to determine whether gear selectivity can reduce catches of undersized fish.
6. In 1995, the SCRS shall again review the status of swordfish in the Atlantic and provide further management advice.

Appendix 10 to Annex 17

**REGULATORY MEASURES PROPOSED
BY THE UNITED STATES AND SPAIN ON NORTH ATLANTIC SWORDFISH**
(attached to Report of Panel 4)

Taking into account that the SCRS has recommended that the Commission, if it desires to rebuild the north Atlantic swordfish stock, must reduce fishing mortality rates and only catch replacement yield of swordfish in the north Atlantic, i.e. approximately 12,000 MT,

The Commission recommends that:

FIRST: In 1995 and 1996, all nations whose catches of north Atlantic swordfish in 1988 were greater than 250 MT and whose catches have increased since that time (Canada, Portugal and Japan) shall reduce their combined catches in the north Atlantic to no more than 3,000 MT;

SECOND: In 1996, all nations whose catches of north Atlantic swordfish in 1988 were greater than 1,000 MT and whose catches have decreased since that time (Spain and the United States) shall reduce their combined catches in the north Atlantic to no more than 9,000 MT;

THIRD: In 1995 and 1996, all other countries with catches of swordfish greater than 250 MT in the north Atlantic shall reduce their catches by more than 20% below the level of catch reported in 1993;

FOURTH: In 1995, the SCRS shall again review the status of swordfish in the Atlantic and provide further management advice.

Appendix 11 to Annex 17

STATEMENT BY SPAIN ON SWORDFISH
(attached to Report of Panel 4)

Mr. Chairman:

Spain has accepted the proposed management for swordfish in the Atlantic, for the benefit of this species. This supposes additional sacrifice for my country, since other countries, Parties to this Commission, that catch this species, have not complied with the ICCAT Recommendations on Swordfish.

For this reason, we are urging strict compliance, since we believe, Mr. Chairman, that the limits of tolerance have been exhausted.

If it is already difficult to accept an increase in fishing effort by some countries, it is infinitely more difficult for other Parties such as Spain, that have already implemented an important reduction in fishing effort in compliance with the ICCAT Recommendations, to have to reduce effort even further, because other Parties have not complied with the regulations.

I would like to point out the paragraphs of the speech which the Canadian Minister of Fisheries delivered at the La Toja Council of Ministers (Spain), in September, 1991. Even if it referred to other waters and other species, I believe that it is highly convenient to recall these now.

"...prudent resource management and control of our fleet has led to others taking much of the benefit through overfishing of straddling stocks..."

"In order to achieve common benefits sustainable over the long-term, all states must yield some of their freedom of action to responsible international institutions. That is true for security under the U.N., that is

true for trade under the GATT and that is true for international fisheries in the Northwest Atlantic under NAFO."

Mr. Chairman, the Spanish Delegation would like to think that this is equally true for ICCAT.

Appendix 12 to Annex 17

PROPOSAL BY CANADA AND PORTUGAL FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF ATLANTIC SWORDFISH

(attached to Report of Panel 4)

1. For the north Atlantic in 1995 Canada and Portugal shall manage a TAC of 3,000t. Spain and the U.S. shall manage a TAC of 9,000t. In 1996, Canada and Portugal shall manage the 3,000t TAC in the same manner as in 1995; Spain and the U.S. shall manage a TAC of 8,000t. Japan, as a nation that does not target swordfish in the north Atlantic, shall take the necessary measures to limit the incidental catch in the north Atlantic to no more than 8% of the total weight of the entire catch. Other Contracting Parties shall not increase their catches in the north Atlantic over their 1993 level.
2. The SCRS advises that the north and south Atlantic should be managed with similar emphasis. Contracting Parties shall not increase their catches in the south Atlantic over their 1993 level.
3. Contracting Parties shall take the necessary measures to prohibit the taking and landing of swordfish in the entire Atlantic Ocean weighing less than 25 kg live weight; however, Contracting Parties may grant tolerances to boats which have incidentally caught small fish, with the condition that this incidental catch shall not exceed 15% of their number of fish per landing of the total swordfish catch of said boats.

Contracting Parties are encouraged to take other appropriate measures to protect small swordfish, include, but not limited to, the establishment of time and area closures, possibly determined by test fisheries. Contracting Parties will conduct the necessary studies to determine whether gear selectivity can reduce catches of undersized fish.

4. Contracting Parties will set up a Working Group, which will meet before the 1995 annual meeting, to discuss the long-term management approach for swordfish in the Atlantic.

Appendix 13 to Annex 17

STATEMENT BY JAPAN ON SWORDFISH

(attached to Report of Panel 4)

Japan objects to the description in the SCRS Report under "Effectiveness of Regulatory Measures, Measure #1" as inappropriate. The SCRS categorized Japan as an "actively fishing" country. However, the history of the negotiation in 1990 clearly showed that the United States and Spanish fisheries were managed under the FIRST paragraph of the Recommendation. The Canadian and Portuguese fisheries were managed under the FOURTH paragraph, and the Japanese fishery was managed under the FIFTH paragraph.

Japan further would like to express its strong opposition to the description in the same section, last paragraph, which indicates that Japan does not comply with the Recommendation by comparing Japanese recent catches with the 1988 catch. Japan would like to commend the U.S. and Spain's effort to reduce their catch more than 15% from the 1988 level. However, the year 1988 should only be applied as a reference year to the catch level for the countries whose fisheries in the north Atlantic were managed under the FIRST paragraph and should not be applied to the countries, including Japan, whose fisheries were managed under different paragraphs.

The SCRS Report implies that U.S. and Spanish catches do not affect the stock condition at all and only catches by other countries with lower levels adversely affect the stock condition. Japan cannot understand how the SCRS has scientifically proved that a smaller level of catches affects more than a larger level of catches on the stock. Based on common sense, a larger catch level affects the stock condition regardless of how much they have reduced. From 1989 to 1993, the two major countries caught a total of 56,803 MT of swordfish in five years while Canada, Portugal and Japan caught only a total of 16,237 MT during the same period. In other words, the U.S. and Spain caught 3.5 times more swordfish than the other three countries. This fact clearly tells that unless the major countries take further measures, it is impossible to achieve a workable conservation program by the Commission.

The Japanese Delegation would like to stress the fact that the Japanese longline fishery has observed the relevant provisions in the 1990 Recommendation on swordfish. The Japanese fishery does not target swordfish, but catches it as a by-catch of its own bigeye fishery. Our fishery has been managed under the SECOND and FIFTH paragraphs of the Recommendation. The catch of swordfish has been below the regulated by-catch level (10% of the total catch) and has met the requirement of restricting the small-sized fish catch every year.

In considering new management measures, the Commission must take into account the different character of the fisheries. Japan strongly believes that the Commission should not set a precedent to restrict one species by regulating another by-catch species. The by-catch regulation which was established in the 1990 Recommendation must be respected and maintained.

Appendix 14 to Annex 17

STATEMENT BY JAPAN ON BILLFISHES
(attached to Report of Panel 4)

Japan is happy to inform the Commission that the joint tag and release program of billfishes has just started between the Japanese and U.S. commercial longline fisheries, with the cooperation of the ICCAT Billfish Research Program. This was realized since our industry responded positively to the initiative of the U.S. industry which has been actively conducting tagging in the past several years.

Through such a joint program, we expect that pertinent information on the biological characteristics of the species could be obtained for improvement of the scientific knowledge on which management decisions can be based.

In the future, participation of commercial longline fisheries of other ICCAT member nations, such as Korea and Brazil, as well as non-Contracting Parties with considerable catches, such as Taiwan and other countries, should be encouraged to expand the scale of the program and enable it to be more successful.

Appendix 15 to Annex 17

**STATEMENT BY THE UNITED STATES RECOMMENDING THE
RELEASE OF LIVE ATLANTIC BILLFISH TAKEN IN LONGLINE FISHERIES**
(attached to Report of Panel 4)

The U.S. believes that an ICCAT recommendation to require the release of live billfish taken in longline fisheries would be a very important step towards recovery of the over-fished billfish stocks. We encourage all countries to participate in ICCAT's scientific tag and release programs which support the work of the Commission. We also encourage all countries to report recaptures of those tags.

- The most recent assessments for Atlantic billfish show that blue marlin are over-exploited relative to MSY and white marlin are severely over-exploited. In addition, western Atlantic sailfish/spearfish are at least fully exploited and could be over-exploited. At the last several meetings of ICCAT there have been discussions on ways to reduce fishing mortality. One suggestion, which appears to offer the largest, immediate reduction in fishing mortality for these species, is to require release (and tag and release when feasible) of all live billfish taken in longline fisheries. Based on data from at-sea observers on longline vessels, this approach could result in a 30% to 40%, or more, reduction in mortality. Such action, if implemented, could preclude further restrictive management measures.

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT
FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF BLUEFIN TUNA FISHING
IN THE EASTERN ATLANTIC OCEAN AND MEDITERRANEAN SEA**

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

That each Contracting Party fishing bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea shall take the following conservation measures regarding bluefin tuna:

1. Take the necessary measures to prevent any increase in the fishing mortality rate for the years 1995 and beyond;
2. Take the necessary measures to prevent any catch by vessels under their jurisdiction in 1995 in excess of the level of catch in 1993 or 1994 (whichever is higher);
3. Starting in 1996, take the necessary measures to reduce by 25 % (or such lower amount which may be specified by the SCRS) their catches from the catch level specified in point 2 above, such reduction to be accomplished by the end of 1998;
4. Cooperate in the development, by 1998, of a long-term recovery plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean;
5. Comply with the Contracting Parties' obligations to implement the 1974 recommendation to take the necessary measures to prohibit the taking and landing of any bluefin tuna weighing less than 6.4 kg.
6. Take all necessary measures to prevent catches of age 0 fish (less than 1.8 kg).
7. Report annually to ICCAT the steps taken to implement the above measures.
8. Provide sufficient data requested by the SCRS to improve stock assessment.
9. Inform all the non-Contracting Parties and the General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean (GFCM) of this Recommendation and request their cooperation.

ANNEX 19

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT
ON THE MANAGEMENT OF BLUEFIN TUNA FISHING
IN THE WESTERN ATLANTIC OCEAN**

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

1. a) That the Contracting Parties, whose vessels have been actively fishing for bluefin in the western Atlantic, will institute a scientific monitoring quota for 1995 and 1996 of 2,200 MT each year, unless the SCRS scientific information in 1995 indicates otherwise, which is divided annually into the following country quota shares:

Canada	535.6 MT
Japan	353.0 MT
United States	1,311.4 MT

- b) Unused quota or overage from the 1994 quotas for each Contracting Party, agreed to at the 1993 ICCAT meeting, will be added or subtracted as appropriate from the above 1995 quotas.
- c) Furthermore, a Contracting Party may carry over any unused quota in 1995 to 1996 and any overage by a Contracting Party in 1995 will be deducted from their 1996 quota.
2. a) If a scientific monitoring quota between 2,200 MT and 2,660 MT is established for 1997 and thereafter, the ratio of sharing among the three countries shall be according to the shares set forth in paragraph 1(a) above. If a scientific monitoring quota of 2,660 MT or above is established for 1997, or thereafter, the sharing of the annual quota shall return to the following traditional shares:

Canada	21.54 %
Japan	26.32 %
United States	52.14 %

- b) However, if a scientific monitoring quota between 2,200 MT and 2,660 MT is established, the quotas for Canada and the U.S. will not exceed the traditional quotas that have been applied to the scientific monitoring quota of 2,660 MT (573 MT for Canada, 1,387 MT for the U.S. Any amounts in excess of these countries' traditional quotas shall be added to Japan's quota.
- c) Notwithstanding paragraph 1(a), if a scientific monitoring quota greater than 2,660 MT is established for 1996, the traditional shares in paragraph 2(b) shall apply.
3. a) That the three Contracting Parties will prohibit the taking and landing of bluefin tuna weighing less than 30 kg, or in the alternative having a fork length of less than 115 cm.
- b) Notwithstanding the above measures, the Contracting Parties may grant tolerances to capture bluefin tuna either weighing less than 30 kg, or in the alternative having a fork length less than 115 cm, to limit the take of these fish to no more than 8% by weight of the total bluefin catch on a national basis and to institute measures to deny economic gain to the fishermen from such fish.

4. These three Contracting Parties will encourage their commercial and recreational fishermen to tag and release all fish less than 30 kg or in the alternative having a fork length less than 115 cm.
5. That the adoption of the above measures concerning the western Atlantic must not imply any modification in the ICCAT Recommendation adopted in 1974 concerning a minimum weight of 6.4 kg adopted for the entire Atlantic and fishing mortality limited to recent levels in the eastern Atlantic; this latter measure having been extended until a new decision is made at ICCAT.
6. In order to avoid increasing fishing mortality of bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic, the Contracting Parties will continue to take measures to prohibit any transfer of fishing effort from the western Atlantic to the eastern Atlantic.
7. That the developing bluefin tuna fishery in the western Atlantic of Brazil shall not be subject to the limitation addressed herein.
8. That there will be no directed fishery on the bluefin tuna spawning stocks in the western Atlantic in spawning areas such as the Gulf of Mexico.
9. That, notwithstanding the provisions of Article VIII, paragraph 2, of the Convention, with respect to paragraphs 1(a) and (b) above, the Contracting Parties whose Vessels have been actively fishing for bluefin tuna in the western Atlantic shall implement this recommendation as soon as possible in accordance with the regulatory procedures of each country.
10. That the assessment and determination of quota for western Atlantic bluefin tuna shall be made at the 1996 annual ICCAT meeting.

ANNEX 20

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT
ON LIMITATION OF CATCHES OF SOUTHERN ALBACORE**

NOTING that the southern albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*) resource is assessed to be exploited beyond maximum sustainable yield (MSY) and current replacement yield (RY) levels;

NOTING FURTHER that this assessment is consistent with annual assessments produced for this resource since 1991, all indicating exploitation beyond MSY;

RECOGNIZING THAT this continued exploitation beyond MSY and RY levels has resulted in a decline of the southern albacore resource to below B_{MSY} , and that current fishing mortality (F) exceeds F_{MSY} ;

RECOGNIZING ALSO the importance of introducing immediate measures to limit southern albacore catches to sustainable levels, thereby halting further declines in this resource;

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

1. Countries fishing actively for south Atlantic albacore should introduce appropriate domestic measures to limit their catch of southern albacore during 1995 to not more than 90% of their respective average annual catches over the period 1989 to 1993.
2. The Commission shall request ICCAT non-Contracting Parties which actively fish for southern Atlantic albacore to respect this Recommendation, to introduce similar measures to reduce their catches of southern Atlantic albacore and not to shift fishing effort so released onto other fully exploited Atlantic tuna resources.
3. During the 1995 Regular Commission Meeting, ICCAT should review the success of such domestic measures in reducing southern Atlantic albacore catches, with a view to introducing an appropriate Total Allowable Catch limit for south Atlantic albacore, with effect from 1 January 1996.

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT
FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF ATLANTIC SWORDFISH**

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

1. The following quotas for swordfish in the north Atlantic shall apply in 1995 and 1996:

	1995	1996
Canada	1,500 MT	1,400 MT
Portugal	1,500 MT	1,400 MT
Spain	6,230 MT	5,500 MT
United States	3,970 MT	3,500 MT

2. Japan shall take the necessary measures to limit the incidental catch of swordfish to no more than 8% of the total weight of its entire catch in the north Atlantic during 1995 and 1996.
3. Other Contracting Parties shall not increase their catches during 1995 and 1996 in the north Atlantic over their 1993 level.
4. Contracting Parties whose catches in the south Atlantic are greater than 250 MT shall not increase their catches during 1995 and 1996 beyond their 1993 or 1994 level, whichever is higher. Contracting Parties whose catches in the south Atlantic are less than 250 MT shall not increase their catch in 1995 and 1996 beyond 250 MT.
5. Existing recommendations, adopted at the 1990 ICCAT meeting, regarding minimum fish size remain in effect.
6. Contracting Parties are encouraged to take other appropriate measures to protect small swordfish, including, but not limited to, the establishment of time and area closures, possibly determined by test fisheries. Contracting Parties are further encouraged to conduct the necessary studies to determine whether gear selectivity can reduce catches of undersize fish.
7. Contracting Parties will exchange information through the Secretariat with respect to long term management approaches for swordfish in the Atlantic, and will decide whether or not to hold a Working Group to discuss these matters before the 1995 annual ICCAT meeting. The Working Group would also discuss the possibility of adopting multilateral trade measures, consistent with their trade obligations, to deal with non-Contracting Parties which undermine the ICCAT conservation measures regarding swordfish. Discussions of the Working Group would also focus on how ICCAT should deal with requests from Contracting Parties who wish to enter an ICCAT-managed fishery.
8. Notwithstanding Article VIII, paragraph 2, of the Convention, the Executive Secretary shall bring to the attention of non-Contracting Parties, whose vessels fish for swordfish in the Atlantic Ocean, the measures being taken by the Contracting Parties and seek their cooperation in taking similar conservation measures consistent with the recommendations of the Commission.

ANNEX 22

ICCAT EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S LETTER
TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF CITES

Madrid, December 31, 1993

Dr. Izgrev N. Topkov
Secretary General
CITES
6, rue du Maupas
Case postale 78
CH-1000 Lausanne 9
Chauderon, Switzerland

Dear Dr. Topkov:

In sending you comments from the Commission on the Draft Resolution concerning criteria for Amendment of Appendices I and II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), I would first acknowledge with gratitude the contribution to the 13th Regular Meeting of the Commission made by Mr. Jacques Berney. His participation facilitated the understanding of the CITES process and the current initiative to revise the criteria.

It is clear that ICCAT members endorse the CITES action, and are very supportive of the continuing refinement of the Draft Resolution, as well as the work of CITES. The Commission passed a Resolution (attached) which recognizes the responsibilities of both CITES and the Commission and calls upon the Parties of CITES to consult fully with the Commission. The Resolution reaffirms the intention to provide CITES with a report on the status of bluefin tuna and related conservation initiatives. The report is in preparation and I expect to provide it to you before the end of January.

In the meantime, I am providing you with the commentary on the Draft Criteria for Amendment of Appendices I and II (as appended to the letter from Mr. Murray Hoskins, Chairman of the Standing Committee, dated October 15, 1993) that has been prepared by the ICCAT Standing Committee on Research and Statistics.

The Commission hopes that the Secretariat of CITES as well as the Parties to the Convention take due note of these comments and the Resolution adopted by ICCAT, when developing such criteria. The ICCAT also would like to be kept informed of any further developments regarding this issue.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Antonio Fernandez
Executive Secretary

* The Resolution by ICCAT on Cooperation with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) is included in Annex 17 to the "Report for Biennial Period, 1992-93, Part II (1993)".

**COMMENTS BY ICCAT ON THE
DRAFT CRITERIA FOR LISTING SPECIES
ON THE APPENDICES OF THE COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE
IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA (CITES)**

The draft concerning Criteria for the Amendment of Appendices I and II that was the result of the Joint Meeting in Brussels of the Plants and Animals Committees with the Standing Committee, represents a significant improvement upon the drafts that have been circulated at earlier times in 1993. In particular, it is most encouraging to see references to the competence of International Resource Management Bodies, particularly those concerned with marine resources. The subparagraphs 10 and 11 in the Introduction to the Draft Resolution, as well as subparagraph J of the Resolution itself must be retained. The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) considered this matter at its Thirteenth Regular Meeting in November, 1993, and adopted a Resolution (attached) calling for cooperation between CITES and ICCAT.

It is appropriate to have dropped the earlier criteria referring to incidental take and ecological dependence because it would be impossible to restrict application to the specific situations where the concept might apply, an example being that, while squid are taken in certain gillnet fisheries, they are also taken in a very wide range of other fisheries. It is appropriate also that the criteria referring to quantitative estimates of population have been removed because the confidence limits about many population projections would invalidate the purpose. Should there be a strong move to re-introduce any of these criteria, it would likely make it very difficult to accept non-discriminatory criteria for all species groups, and hence would re-open the need to establish different sets of criteria for broad taxonomic groupings.

There was much discussion at the Brussels meeting about the term "catch-per-unit-of-effort" (CPUE). This is simply a form of abundance index and it is often not a particularly good way of measuring changes in abundance. As such, it should not be considered specifically.

The letter of October 15, from the Chairperson of the Standing Committee, asks specifically for comments on "decline", "marked decline" and "continuing decline". The present texts contain "marked continuing decline" for Appendix I, criterion E, which is not defined, and presumably, the "continuing" in this context should be deleted, and the criterion would then refer to "marked decline". The term "continuing decline" is used in criterion B proposed for Appendix II listings. It is most important to retain both "marked decline" and "continuing decline" since the definition of "marked decline" includes the important phrase "a rate that could be expected to lead to the extinction of the species". This is very significant in comparison with the definition of "continuing decline". The temptation to amalgamate the two must be resisted because, without maintaining both definitions, either the criteria for Appendix I merge with those of Appendix II or *vice versa*. Indeed, for marine populations, these definitions, together with that of "extended period" are fundamental to the appropriateness of the draft criteria to cover all taxonomic groups.

Also with respect to Appendix II, the last minute changes to the draft criteria, at the conclusion of the Brussels meeting, appear to have resulted in a serious loss of balance. Criterion A is not a precursor, in terms of population status, to criterion B which gives the conditions under which a population should be listed. It is, therefore, confusing to require a species to be listed on the grounds that unless trade is subject to strict regulation, the species would meet the criteria that justify listing. This appears to be the precautionary principle greatly overdone. Furthermore, there is within the suite of criteria no clear focus on the status of the populations under consideration. As it is at the moment, the debate as to whether a species or population meets the criterion in B would focus on whether the time period covered by the data is sufficiently "extended" to meet the requirement inherent in the definition, and also on the meaning of "significant detrimental impact".

The draft criterion submitted to the final plenary in Brussels addressed all of the above problems, in that current criterion A contained a different final phrase "it could become threatened with extinction" rather than "it would meet the criteria listed in B". The reference to "threatened with extinction" places a clear reference point on population status, so that the debate will focus on population status and the implication of any rate of change on that status, not on the rate of change in that status *per se*, irrespective of the size of the population and whether the population is still fully viable despite the change. It is, therefore, important that criterion A be re-phrased as indicated and that criteria A and B should both be met, rather than be "either/or".

As a final point, the "Definitions and Notes" are extremely important and it is recommended strongly that both Annex 1 and Annex 2 state, under the title heading "The following criteria are to be read in conjunction with the Definitions and Notes as contained in Annex 5". This recommendation is made following the failure of many reviewers to understand that Annex 5 is, to quote the draft resolution, "an integral part ...".

Madrid, Spain - December 1993

ANNEX 23

**REPORT PRESENTED TO THE COMMISSION BY MR. J.S. BECKETT
(ICCAT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE NINTH CONFERENCE
OF THE PARTIES TO CITES)**

November 24, 1994

Dr. A. Ribeiro Lima
Chairman
ICCAT
Principe de Vergara, 17
28001 Madrid, Spain

Dear Dr. Lima:

I have pleasure in enclosing a summary of items of interest to ICCAT that were discussed at the Ninth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). The main item was the development of the new criteria for evaluating the population status of a species. Such an evaluation being in terms of listing on one of the CITES appendices and hence whether international trade should be prohibited (Appendix I) or allowed subject to strict monitoring (Appendix II). You will recall that the development of the new criteria was discussed at last year's ICCAT meeting.

A new set of criteria was adopted for evaluating future proposals for listing, or downlisting, species are attached to my report. In the context of ICCAT, there has been considerable discussion on one of the criteria for listing taxa on Appendix I (no trade). This is the provision referring to a decline of 50 % in 5 years or 2 generations, whichever is longer. A large number of fish stocks show this rate of decline. However, "decline" itself if defined as not normally including natural fluctuations and as excluding the harvesting down of a population "to a planned level, not detrimental to the survival of the species". The concern over the numbers is an example, however, of the problems encountered when developing criteria to cover the whole range of plants and animals. For fish stocks it would have been much more appropriate to have a provision referring to "more than 50 % in 5 years or 2 generations whichever is shorter". Even that would have required the clarification that "harvesting down" and "natural fluctuations" had to be taken into account. The numerical criteria are accompanied by text to ensure that they are considered only as illustrative, and that they will not be appropriate in many cases.

I would be pleased to respond to any questions, including those by telephone or fax during the upcoming Commission meeting, as it is unlikely that I will attend.

Yours sincerely,

(signed) J. S. Beckett

REPORT TO ICCAT ON THE NINTH CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO CITES

The Ninth Conference of the Parties to the International Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) was held in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, U.S.A., November 7-18, 1994.

The meeting was attended by delegations from 116 countries and about 180 Intergovernmental Organizations and Non-Governmental Organizations. The Agenda (Doc 9.1 rev.) covered many issues, not only the 115 proposals from Parties with respect to the trade status of various species and hence to amend the CITES Appendices. Much attention was focused on a South African proposal to allow controlled international trade in elephant products other than ivory. The other major item was the discussion of a new set of criteria for judging whether the population of any species, or population of that species, should be included in one of the CITES appendices, i.e. whether international trade should be controlled or should be prohibited. The development of new criteria has been initiated at the Eighth Conference of the Parties (Kyoto, Japan, in March 1992) as a result of concerns that the existing "Berne" criteria were inadequate for objective evaluation of population status and the impact of international trade on that status. The two-year process included a number of drafts, with wide circulation of three versions for international comment.

Much criticism of the earlier versions of the draft criteria centered on the use of illustrative numbers for various criteria (e.g. "small" population, "fragmented" distribution, "rapid" decline, etc.), particularly as the criteria covered all taxa (plants, insects, etc.). The Ninth Conference of the Parties established a small working group that included Canada, Japan and the U.S.A., which was charged with refining further the new criteria. The resulting document (Com 9.18 rev.) was adopted unanimously. The numerical examples are still included, but are found in an annex of "Definitions, Notes and Guidelines" rather than as footnotes to the criteria themselves, and there is some rather repetitive text to emphasize that the values are intended as guidelines, and will not be applicable to many taxa. The new criteria will now be used for evaluating future proposals for amendments to the CITES appendices (i.e. change in status of species). They are to be reviewed at the time of the Twelfth Conference of the Parties (perhaps in 2002).

Other items of interest to ICCAT at the Ninth Conference of the Parties were:

- a) A proposal (Doc 9.40) by the U.S.A. to establish the types of documents that would be required to accompany international trade, should CITES place on Appendix II a marine species that is also regulated by a pre-existing international organization such as ICCAT. Article XIV 4 of the CITES Convention relieves member states of such an organization of some of the obligations for certification, provided the organization does have a certification system of its own. The U.S.A. proposal would have resulted in the ICCAT bluefin statistical document meeting most of the CITES requirements should bluefin ever be listed by CITES on its Appendix II. The proposal was withdrawn.
- b) Improvements on data on trade in shark products. The U.S.A. (Doc. 9.58) drew attention to the inadequate status of information on shark catches and international trade in shark products and proposed that CITES collect such data. A working group, which again included the U.S.A., Japan and Canada, produced a revised resolution (Com 9.18) that called on the Animals Committee of CITES to consult with FAO and other relevant international organizations on the biological status of shark stocks, and the extent of international trade. The resolution also seeks a review of the fisheries, and improvements in the collection of trade data. This was adopted and ICCAT can expect a formal transmission of the request. Submissions will likely be requested for mid 1996, since the next Conference of the Parties is scheduled for the spring of 1997.

* The CITES documents cited in Mr. Beckett's report are on file at the ICCAT Secretariat.

ANNEX 24

**REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION
(STACFAD)**

First Session - November 30, 1994

1. Opening of the meeting

1.1 The 1994 Meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD) was opened on Wednesday, November 30, 1994, by the Commission Chairman, in the absence of the STACFAD Chairman, Mr. J. Silvestre (France).

2. Adoption of Agenda

2.1 At the time of the adoption of the Agenda, the Delegate of the United States indicated that a request had been made to the Secretariat to include an item on the Agenda relative to the observer fee. The Chairman deferred this to discussion under matter Item 15, "Other matters".

2.2 The Agenda was adopted, without change, and is attached as Appendix I to Annex 24.

3. Nomination of Rapporteur

3.1 Mr. J. Pereira (Portugal) was nominated to serve as Rapporteur, and this was accepted by the Committee.

4. Administrative Report (1994 activities)

4.1 The Executive Secretary referred STACFAD to COM/94/9, the 1994 Administrative Report, which includes details on the activities of the Commission, such as Commission membership, the status of the adoption of the Paris and Madrid Protocols, Secretariat distribution of pertinent ICCAT Recommendations and Resolutions, information on the Port Inspection Scheme, the meetings organized by ICCAT, meetings at which ICCAT was represented, etc. He indicated that the large number of inter-sessional scientific meetings considerably affected the normal work of the Secretariat and resulted in increased expenses in overtime. The Administrative Report also provides information on ICCAT's cooperation with other countries and organizations, ICCAT publications issued in 1994, the change in the Secretariat offices and the Secretariat staff.

4.2 Dr. Fernández made special note of the contract with the Autonomous University of Madrid to carry out a study on the sampling strategy, and noted that the study was highly acclaimed by the SCRS scientists. The Executive Secretary also made special reference to the special Billfish Publication, in hard-cover edition, which was published in 1994.

4.3 The Executive Secretary also informed the Committee of the forthcoming change in the offices of the Secretariat and indicated that there might be delays in the work until the offices are set up and running smoothly.

4.4 The Executive Secretary, in summarizing matters related to the Secretariat staff, informed the Committee that two new staff members had been hired to replace the two General Services category staff who had voluntarily resigned in 1994 for personal reasons.

5. Auditor's Report - 1993

5.1 The Executive Secretary referred the Committee to the 1994 Financial Report (COM/94/10), which provides detailed information on the financial situation of the Commission. He indicated that all the documentation referring to the Auditor's Report is available at the Secretariat and if delegates had any inquiries, the Secretariat would be pleased to supply the information.

5.2 The Delegate of Canada requested a table showing salaries of the Secretariat staff, from 1990 to 1994, including categories and annual steps. The Executive Secretary indicated to him that all the necessary information would be provided.

6. Financial status of the 1st half of the biennial budget - 1994

6.1 Dr. A. Fernandez referred the Committee to the tables attached to the Financial Report (COM/94/10), which deal with the status of Commission funds for the first half of the biennial period (1994). He noted that the accumulated debt owed to the Commission amounted to more than 136 million pesetas as of November 1, 1994. He stressed the importance of the early receipt of the country contributions to assure that the Secretariat's activities can continue.

6.2 In explaining the Financial Report statements, the Executive Secretary referred the Committee to Statement 3 and indicated that in 1994 three staff members, originally in the local contract category, had been classified according to the U.N. salary scheme. He pointed out that there was some savings in the salaries of the General Services category due to the fact that the new staff were hired at a lower category and step. He pointed out the expenses incurred in Chapter 2 (Travel) were mainly due to the two sessions of the U.N. Conference, but that some savings had been made due to ICCAT's not having to participate in the CITES Conference. He noted that the Commission meeting and related expenses will most likely surpass the amount budgeted. He requested authorization to utilize funds from extra-budgetary income, such as the return of VAT taxes, observer fees, etc. to apply towards the expected overrun in meeting expenses. Commission publication costs remained within amount budgeted, since all publications are done at the Secretariat, except for binding.

6.3 The Executive Secretary informed the Committee that the travel and per diem expenses for two members of the Secretariat to participate in the April meeting of the PWG in Tokyo were totally financed by the Japanese Government. He also indicated that the travel and per diem expenses for one staff member to participate in the Final Meeting of the Albacore Research Program held in Sukarrieta, Spain, in June, 1994, were financed by the Autonomous Government of the Basque Region. The Executive Secretary also pointed out that the European Community had financed the travel and per diem of one Secretariat staff member to participate in the *Ad Hoc* GFCM/ICCAT Working Group Meeting held in Fuengirola, Spain, in September, 1994.

7. Contributions pending payment from the Contracting Parties

7.1 The Executive Secretary informed the Committee that the contributions to the 1994 budget that were pending payment by the Contracting Parties (as of November 1, 1994) amounted to 35,207,304 pesetas, or 25.1% of the total budget.

7.2 The Executive Secretary reiterated the problem of the accumulated pending debt owed to the Commission which, as of November 1, 1994, amounted to 136,596,099 pesetas, which is close to the amount of the total 1994 budget. He urged the member countries to meet their financial obligations in order to assure the continuity of the Commission's activities.

8. Status of the Working Capital Fund

8.1 The Committee was informed that the financial status of the Commission is improved in relation to the last few years and this can be seen by the balance available in the Working Capital Fund. He cautioned, though, that if no other income is received towards this Fiscal Year, then this current positive balance will be substantially reduced, and may even be negative.

8.2 The Delegate of Portugal announced that her country's 1994 contribution had been paid and would be received very shortly at the Secretariat.

8.3 The Delegate of Japan asked for clarifications about a slight discrepancy in the amounts shown on the financial statements regarding Japan's voluntary contribution to the PWG. The Executive Secretary responded that this discrepancy was due to currency exchange between U.S. dollars, Japanese Yen and Spanish Pesetas. He also informed Japan that the difference had been deposited to the Working Capital Fund. A footnote to this effect will be added to the pertinent financial statement.

8.4 The Delegate of Angola announced that his country's total arrears would be settled during the first quarter of 1995. This information was welcomed by the Committee.

8.5 The Delegate of Venezuela notified the Committee that due to recent currency exchange controls, Venezuela was experiencing some difficulty in meeting its financial commitment. However, he indicated that procedure was in effect to meet Venezuela's financial obligation to ICCAT some time in early 1995.

9. Financial status of the Albacore Research Program

9.1 The Executive Secretary referred to the pertinent section of the Financial Report concerning the status of the Albacore Research Program. He reiterated the balance of 1,482,518 pesetas in Albacore funds, which will be applied towards the publication, in enhanced form, of the results of the Albacore Research Program.

10. Financial status of the Program of Enhanced Research for Billfish

10.1 The Executive Secretary reported that details on the 1994 Contributions/Expenditures of the Billfish Program are found in Appendix 5 to Annex 25. The balance in Billfish Funds amounted to US\$ 66,366.24 (as of November 1, 1994), which will be used towards Program activities in 1995 (see 1995 Billfish Program Plan, attached as Appendix 6 to Annex 25).

11. Budgetary implications of 1995 Commission activities:

11.1 The Committee reviewed the financial implications regarding proposed research and statistical requirements, intersessional meetings, the proposal for the ICCAT Tuna Symposium, Commission publications, the next meeting of the Commission, etc.

12. Adoption of the 1995 budget

12.1 The Chairman asked the Committee to review COM/94/11, the 1995 Revised Budget & Member Country Contributions, prepared by the Executive Secretary. Thus, the Committee would decide on and adopt the budget and corresponding contributions, based on the options presented. He indicated that the "basic budget" (Option C) included a 5% increase over the 1994 budget, which when considering the inflation rate, translates to a zero increase in real terms.

12.2 The Chairman reminded the Committee to consider the budgets options carefully and pointed out the paramount importance of hiring a permanent biostatistician on the Secretariat staff, particularly in view of the numerous biostatistical tasks requested by the SCRS and the Commission.

Second Session - December 1, 1994

Item 12. (Continued)

12.3 The Spanish Delegation noted that in view of the Secretariat's burden of work load, particularly as concerning tasks of a biostatistical nature, the hiring of a biostatistician was more than justified. He emphasized that the Commission requests more and more work to be carried out each year but is reluctant to provide adequate financial resources. Consequently, he strongly supported the adoption of budgetary Option D, which includes the hiring of a permanent biostatistician on the Secretariat staff. He also recognized the sacrifice that a 13% increase in the budget would entail on the countries, particularly the developing countries.

12.4 The Delegate of Canada appreciated the comments by Spain and the reasons put forward for the hiring of a biostatistician, but he pointed out the budgetary cuts his government is undergoing and that budget allotments to international organizations were also being reduced. Therefore, he indicated that Canada can only support Option C, (+5% increase over the 1994 budget) the basic budget option. He also suggested that part of the additional 5% could be applied to improve the Commission's computer system.

12.5 The Delegate of Japan referred to Chapter 2 of the budget (Travel) and recognized the importance of ICCAT's participation in the FAO Committee on Fisheries Meeting in Rome and the Sessions of the U.N. Conference. He requested that ICCAT participate, in an observer capacity, at the next annual meeting of the CCBST in Tokyo, since close collaboration between ICCAT and the CCBST is essential. Japan also supported budgetary Option C.

12.6 The U.S. Delegate indicated that he could support Option D, in view of the increasing work to be carried out, since the hiring of a biostatistician might free some staff to devote time to the work of the PWG.

12.7 The U.S. Delegate inquired about the possibility of holding next year's Commission at a business hotel where several small meeting rooms can be available, mainly because of the need to hold various small group meetings simultaneously.

12.8 The representatives of France and Portugal supported the view expressed by Spain in that the Commission must provide the Secretariat with the necessary resources to carry out the many tasks assigned to it by the Commission and SCRS, and expressed the importance of hiring a biostatistician. Both France and Portugal supported Budget Option D.

12.9 The representative from Venezuela also recognized the need for a biostatistician, but indicated that due to drastic cuts in his country's national budget, Venezuela is very interested in paying its arrears to ICCAT and cannot incur additional financial burdens.

12.10 The Delegate of Uruguay expressed her country's support for Option D since she felt that it would mean a savings in the long run.

12.11 The Delegate of Brazil indicated that his preference for a zero increase budget, although he recognized the need for a biostatistician.

12.12 The representative of South Africa indicated his country's support for Option C.

12.13 The Delegate of Canada referred to the increase in the travel budget and proposed that the Commission refrain from sending a representative to the 1995 Sessions of the U.N. Conference, but instead accept the invitation to attend the CCBST meeting. He also noted that other ICCAT Contracting Parties attending the U.N. Conference could provide a detailed report to the Commission.

12.14 The Delegate of Spain insisted on the need to provide adequate resources to the Commission to carry out all its work. He also emphasized that the Contracting Parties sign the Madrid Protocol that would put the new contribution scheme into effect and thus alleviate the burden on the developing countries. He reiterated the need for the ICCAT Executive Secretary to attend the 1995 Sessions of the U.N. Conference. The Delegate of France strongly supported the views expressed by Spain concerning the ICCAT participation in the U.N. Conference.

12.15 After all the members present around the table had expressed their views, the Chairman announced that Budget Option C (Basic Budget), which amounts to 147,281,000 pesetas was unanimously adopted (attached as Table 1).

13. Adoption of the contributions of the Contracting Parties to the 1995 budget

13.1 The Chairman referred the Committee to the revised table showing the member country contributions for 1995, based on the budget just adopted, i.e. 147,281,000 pesetas. The Executive Secretary clarified that the revisions included the change in Commission membership (i.e. the withdrawal of Benin, effective December 31, 1994) and the changes in panel membership (i.e. the withdrawal of Russia from Panel 4 and the incorporation of Canada to Panel 1). The revised contributions adopted are attached as Table 2.

13.2 The Delegate of Canada inquired whether the increase in Canada's contribution for 1995, with respect to the amount shown on the previous table, was only due to their incorporation to Panel 1, to which the Executive Secretary responded that it was.

14. Confirmation of the staff regulations and rules

14.1 The Committee was referred to document COM/94/30, the ICCAT Staff Regulations and Rules, which the Commission adopted at its 1993 Meeting for a one-year provisional period.

14.2 The U.S. Delegate requested some clarification of a few articles in the Staff Regulations (Article 33-Separation from service due to retirement, Article 39 (Amendment), and Article 40 (Recourse). He appreciated the work by the Executive Secretary in preparing these Staff Regulations and Rules which were considerably improved over the previous version. With regard to Article 40, the United States sought clarification that any request for recourse to an administrative decision would be brought to the attention of the Chairman of STACFAD by the Executive Secretary if requested by the staff person in question. The Executive Secretary confirmed that this was the case.

14.3 The United States expressed the view that Article 39.1 (Amendment) meant that the retirement age of 62, which could be mandated by Article 33 (Separation from service due to retirement), would not apply to persons currently on the staff at ICCAT, as the current Rules allow them to work beyond that age.

14.4 The Delegate of Canada expressed similar concerns regarding the application of the new Staff Regulations. He was of the opinion that retirement should not be mandatory, but an optional privilege. He stressed that Article 33 (Separation from service due to retirement) should not apply to the current staff members, including the Executive Secretary, but should be binding for all new employees.

14.5 The Executive Secretary explained that the text of new Article 40 (Recourse) was already included in the previous version of the Staff Regulations. He indicated that he had consulted with the FAO Legal Advisor in the preparation of the revisions of these Rules. He noted that Article 39.1 (Amendment) is new, in order to respect the rights already acquired by the staff members.

14.6 The Delegates of Spain, Portugal and France indicated their acceptance of Article 33 as regards the retirement age of 62, since in their respective countries mandatory retirement is considered a privilege and not discrimination.

14.7 The Delegate of Japan also expressed that consideration should be given to present staff as regards already acquired rights and privileges.

14.8 The Delegate of South Africa inquired whether the FAO Staff Rules referred to in new Article 44 (Unforeseen matters) had also been applied in the previous version of ICCAT Staff Rules or if this was a new element introduced.

14.9 Dr. Fernandez responded that this had been added to the revised Staff Rules to take into account any eventualities not specifically foreseen in the new Staff Rules.

14.10 The Executive Secretary proposed the acceptance of the Staff Regulations and Rules and a waiver for the present staff in the application of Article 33 (Separation from service due to retirement).

14.11 Several delegations indicated their acceptance of the revised Staff Rules and commended the Executive Secretary for the work done.

14.12 The Executive Secretary thanked the Committee for its support and generosity.

14.13 In view of the differences of opinion and criteria expressed by the delegations present, the Chairman, upon a request of the Delegate of Spain and with a view towards expediting the discussions, proposed STACFAD that the Revised Staff Regulations and Rules remain provisional for one more year.

14.14 The Executive Secretary proposed that Article 33, regarding mandatory retirement, not be applied during this period.

14.15 The Chairman also proposed that the delegations study these Staff Regulations thoroughly and submit their comments and/suggestions to the Secretariat and the Committee concurred with this proposed procedure.

15. Other financial and administrative matters

15.1 The U.S. Delegate reiterated its support for the Guidelines on Observers that were adopted at the 1993 Commission Meeting. However, he asked that the Committee consider a reduction in the amount of the fee (US\$ 2,000), in order to encourage participation of non-Contracting Parties and organizations.

15.2 The Chairman indicated that these Guidelines and the amount of the fee had been adopted after lengthy discussions by an *ad hoc* working group and then adopted by the Commission Plenary.

15.3 The Delegate of Spain was very interested in transparency, but she did not agree that non-members should enjoy, for a minimal fee, all the advantages that the Contracting Parties have. She encouraged those non-Contracting Parties who are interested in ICCAT's work to become Parties to the Convention. Therefore, Spain opposes any reduction in the observer fees.

15.4 The Delegates of Portugal and France supported the views expressed by Spain.

15.5 Dr. Fernandez indicated that the cost of the ICCAT annual meeting amounts to more than 12 million pesetas, which corresponds to about 545,000 pesetas per member country. Using these figures as a base, the *ad hoc* working group arrived at the US\$ 2,000 observer fee in 1993, which represents less than half the aforementioned cost per member country.

15.6 The U.S. Delegate asked that this item be included on the Agenda of the 1995 Commission meeting.

16. Date and place of the next meeting of STACFAD

16.1 It was agreed to hold the next STACFAD meeting at the same time and place as the next Commission meeting.

17. Adoption of report

17.1 The draft STACFAD Report was distributed at the final session and adopted through correspondence at a later time.

18. Adjournment

18.1 The 1994 meeting of STACFAD was adjourned.

Table 1. Budget adopted for 1995 (in pesetas)

<i>CHAPTERS</i>	<i>1994 BUDGET</i>	<i>BASIC BUDGET ADOPTED FOR 1995 OPTION C</i>	<i>BUDGET INCL. BIOSTATISTICIAN OPTION D</i>
1. Salaries	77,216,000	79,500,000	79,500,000
2. Travel	3,158,000	4,316,000 *	4,316,000 *
3. Commission Meeting	5,898,000	6,193,000	6,193,000
4. Publications	3,473,000	3,647,000	3,647,000
5. Office Equipment	810,000	850,000	851,000
6. Operating Expenses	10,851,000	11,394,000	11,394,000
7. Miscellaneous	1,329,000	1,395,000	1,395,000
Sub-total (1-7)	102,735,000	107,295,000	107,296,000
8. Coordination of Research			
a) Salaries	18,766,000	18,079,000	29,079,000
b) Travel to improve statistics	1,180,000	1,239,000	1,239,000
c) Port Sampling	1,736,000	1,823,000	1,823,000
d) Biostatistical Work	2,389,000 **	2,508,000 **	2,508,000
e) Electronic Equipment	1,736,000	1,823,000	1,823,000
f) Data Processing	4,366,000	4,584,000	4,584,000
g) Scientific meetings (incl. SCRS)	6,724,000	7,060,000	7,060,000
h) Miscellaneous	636,000	668,000	668,000
i) Albacore Research Program	0	0	0
j) Billfish Research Program ***	0	0	0
Sub-total (8a-8j)	37,533,000	37,784,000	48,784,000
Chap 9. Contingencies	0	2,202,000	2,202,000
TOTAL (Chapters 1 to 9)	140,268,000	147,281,000	158,282,000

* Includes "home leave" in 1995.

** Includes contract for biostatistical work.

*** Funded by the Trust Fund for Billfish Research.

Table 2. Member country contributions to the 1995 Commission Budget

OPTION C

Based on 1991 figures

Country	Panels # (A)	Panel % (B)	Total Budget (Convertible Pesetas) = 147,281,000				Fee Conv. Pts (G)	Panel Conv. Pts (H)	Panel Conv. Pts (I)	C+C Conv. Pts (J)	Total Conv. Pts (K)
			Catch MT (C)	Canning MT (D)	C+C MT (E)	C+C % (F)					
Angola	2	5.000	985	393	1,378	0.210	134,100	268,200	2,320,583	195,142	2,918,026
Brasil	2	5.000	27,076	1,790	28,866	4.404	134,100	268,200	2,320,583	4,087,794	6,810,677
Canada	3	6.667	1,571	0	1,571	0.240	134,100	402,300	3,094,111	222,474	3,852,985
Cap Vert	1	3.333	3,900	26	3,926	0.599	134,100	134,100	1,547,056	555,972	2,371,227
Côte d'Ivoire	1	3.333	4,800	3,500	8,300	1.266	134,100	134,100	1,547,056	1,175,386	2,990,641
España	4	8.333	189,004	44,055	233,059	35.556	134,100	536,400	3,867,639	33,004,126	37,542,265
France	3	6.667	81,798	22,883	104,681	15.970	134,100	402,300	3,094,111	14,824,164	18,454,675
Gabon	1	3.333	0	0	0	0.000	134,100	134,100	1,547,056	0	1,815,256
Ghana	1	3.333	37,795	112	37,907	5.783	134,100	134,100	1,547,056	5,368,114	7,183,370
Guinea Ecuatorial	0	1.667	350	0	350	0.053	134,100	0	773,528	49,564	957,192
Guinee, Rep. de	0	1.667	0	0	0	0.000	134,100	0	773,528	0	907,628
Japan	4	8.333	54,399	0	54,399	8.299	134,100	536,400	3,867,639	7,703,592	12,241,731
Korea	3	6.667	1,876	0	1,876	0.286	134,100	402,300	3,094,111	265,666	3,896,177
Maroc	2	5.000	4,251	221	4,472	0.682	134,100	268,200	2,320,583	633,292	3,356,176
Portugal	3	6.667	16,130	16,393	32,523	4.962	134,100	402,300	3,094,111	4,605,671	8,236,183
Russia	1	3.333	9,189	52	9,241	1.410	134,100	134,100	1,547,056	1,308,643	3,123,899
S.Tomé & Príncipe	1	3.333	539	0	539	0.082	134,100	134,100	1,547,056	76,329	1,891,585
South Africa	1	3.333	3,564	30	3,594	0.548	134,100	134,100	1,547,056	508,956	2,324,212
U.S.A.	4	8.333	26,142	60,277	86,419	13.184	134,100	536,400	3,867,639	12,238,032	16,776,171
Uruguay	0	1.667	368	11	379	0.058	134,100	0	773,528	53,671	961,299
Venezuela	2	5.000	36,440	5,553	41,993	6.407	134,100	268,200	2,320,583	5,946,744	8,669,627
Total	39	100	500,177	155,296	655,473	100	2,816,100	5,229,900	46,411,667	92,823,333	147,281,000

A: Panel membership.

B: % annual and panel membership (G+H).

C: Catch (live weight).

D: Canned production (net weight).

E: Total (C+D).

F: Percentage distribution of E.

G: Pesetas equivalent to \$1000 annual membership fee (at the time of calculation).

H: Pesetas equivalent to \$1000 for each panel membership (at the time of calculation).

I: 1/3 of (Total less G+H) distributed according to col. B %.

J: 2/3 of (Total less G+H) distributed according to col. F %.

K: Total (G+H+I+J)

**AGENDA OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION (STACFAD)**

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Nomination of Rapporteur
4. Administrative Report (1994 activities)
5. Auditor's Report - 1993
6. Financial status of the 1st half of the biennial budget - 1994
7. Contributions pending payment from the Contracting Parties
8. Status of the Working Capital Fund
9. Financial status of the Albacore Research Program
10. Financial status of the Program of Enhanced Research for Billfish
11. Budgetary implications of 1995 Commission activities:
 - Research and statistics
 - Intersessional meetings
 - Proposal for an ICCAT Tuna Symposium
 - Publications
 - Next meeting of the Commission
 - Others
12. Adoption of the 1995 budget
13. Adoption of the contributions of the Contracting Parties to the 1995 budget
14. Confirmation of the Staff Regulations and Rules
15. Other financial and administrative matters
16. Date and place of the next meeting of STACFAD
17. Adoption of Report
18. Adjournment

NATIONAL REPORTS

NATIONAL REPORT OF ANGOLA*

1. The fisheries

The tuna fishery of Angola off the south Atlantic coast is located in the area of Luanda, Benguela and Namibia. This fishery carries out tuna landings, which provide the numerical data for the statistical data base.

The Angola tuna catches are comprised mainly of average size fish (about 70 cm). The species taken are as follows: yellowfin tuna, skipjack tuna, Atlantic black skipjack, frigate tuna, and Atlantic bonito.

Commercial data are obtained from the fishing logbooks.

2. The catches

The catch and effort data are presented in Table 1.

3. Research

No report on the assessment of the stock was presented due to insufficient data, such as data on the size frequency distribution, age, growth, etc. This was due to the country's economic and financial situation caused by the war.

Table 1. Annual catches (in MT) of tunas, by species, 1990 to 1993

<i>Species</i>	<i>1990</i>	<i>1991</i>	<i>1992</i>	<i>1993</i>
Yellowfin tuna	191	636	441	208
Skipjack tuna	69	53	41	13
Atlantic black skipjack	99	193	14	17
Frigate tuna	1	--	--	--
Atlantic bonito	1	45	4	2
TOTAL CATCH	462	927	500	240
EFFORT	4	3	4	7

* Original report in French.

NATIONAL REPORT OF BRAZIL *

by

J. H. Meneses de Lima **

1. Status of the fisheries

1.1 Fleet Development

In 1993, the Brazilian longline fleet consisted of 19 vessels, 14 based at Santos (Sao Paulo) and five at Natal (Rio Grande do Norte). The Santos longline fleet is made up of small and medium sized vessels (total size and GRT ranging from 24 to 33 and 97 to 149, respectively) while for the Natal fleet all vessels are of small size (less than 23 meters long). There was an increase in fleet size from 1992 to 1993, due to two new boats of 22 meters total length that entered the Natal fleet.

Up to 1990 only Japanese flag longliners were chartered by Brazilian fishing companies. These vessels were based at Rio Grande do Sul and their annual numbers in operation ranged from three to six vessels. In 1991, 11 chartered Taiwanese longliners started fishing from Rio Grande do Sul and, in 1992, another group of 11 Taiwanese longliners started a fishery based at Belem (northern Brazil).

The Taiwanese fleet from Rio Grande do Sul increased to 15 vessels in 1992 and to 18 in 1993, stopping operations in 1994. As to the fleet based at Belem, the number of vessels increased to 14 in 1993, and at present they are still engaged in this fishery.

A small number of other foreign flag longliners were chartered by Brazil: one Honduran, one Japanese and two Portuguese vessels in 1992, and one Honduran, two Japanese and one Spanish vessel in 1993. Except for the Japanese vessels, all the others were medium sized vessels, with total length ranging from 26 to 39 meters.

Since 1992, when the leased Japanese baitboats were incorporated into the national fleet, there are only Brazilian vessels operating in this fishery. For the period 1992-1993, a total of 57 vessels were engaged in the fishery.

In 1991, newly built vessels equipped with brine freezing systems entered into the fishery, and at present, with the incorporation of the leased vessels into the national fleet, there are seven freezer baitboats engaged in the fishery, all of them in the over 151 GRT category.

The annual number of tuna vessels (longliners and baitboats) operating in Brazilian waters for the period 1992-1993 is shown in **Table 1**.

1.2 Fishing areas

Longline fisheries are carried out along most of the Brazilian coast. National and foreign leased longliners based at Santos only fish south of 15°S. The Brazilian longline fleet based in the northeast region operates in the area between 0° and 20°S (latitude). During the last few years, this fleet has been targeting yellowfin (using handline) in the first half of the year and targeting sharks during the rest of the year, when fishing effort (longline) is concentrated around coastal banks of higher shark catch rates.

The baitboat fleet continued to operate in the traditional fishing ground, between 20° and 34°S, with the highest concentration of fishing effort in the area between 24° and 30°S.

* Original report in English.

** Instituto Brasileiro do Meio Ambiente e dos Recursos Naturais Renováveis (IBAMA)

1.3 Catches

Catches of tuna and tuna-like species taken by longliners in Brazilian waters during the years 1988 through 1993 are shown in Table 2. Total catches of the leased fleet amounted to 10,243.2 MT in 1993, following the continuous increasing trend which started in 1991 as a result of the increase in the fleet size. This fleet is mainly composed of Taiwanese flag vessels that target albacore, which has become the dominant species in catches since 1991. For the Brazilian longline fleet, the 1993 total catch was 1302.1 MT, with a predominance of swordfish catches.

Table 3 shows catches by Brazilian and Japanese leased baitboats for the period 1988-1991. Afterwards, with the incorporation of the leased vessels into the national fleet by October 1992, all catches are presented as Brazilian flag. Total catches in 1993 (21,135 MT) were similar to those of the year before (21,963 MT). The target species is skipjack, which represents about 85% of the total catch. There are differences in species composition between fisheries from Rio de Janeiro, Santa Catarina and Rio Grande do Sul, as each fishery operates in a different fishing ground. For the Rio de Janeiro fleet, yellowfin catches are higher than for the other fleets.

Tunas are also caught in artisanal fisheries from northeastern Brazil. There are, however, no data available for the last few years for these fisheries. Regarding the tunas caught as by-catch in surface fisheries in southeastern Brazil, data are available only for landings effected in Rio de Janeiro, which showed a total catch of 1,023.1 MT in 1993, with Atlantic little tuna appearing as the dominant species (37% of the total catch)

2. Research

The "Instituto Brasileiro do Meio Ambiente e dos Recursos Naturais Renováveis (IBAMA)", through its regional units (CEPENE and CEPESUL) located in the northeast and south regions of Brazil, has been in charge of the collection and compilation of Brazilian fishery data, except for the state of Sao Paulo, where this activity is carried out by the "Instituto de Pesca".

The collection of tuna statistics and sampling for size frequency of the main species has continued. There has been some problem with catch and effort data collection for the baitboat fleet based in Rio de Janeiro and for the Taiwanese leased longliners based at Belem, resulting in low coverage rate of logbooks. The coverage rate of logbooks for the other fleets has been normal.

During 1993, a total of 9,163 skipjack and 1,268 yellowfin were measured for length frequency distribution from landings of baitboats at Santa Catarina. Port sampling for size frequency of yellowfin landed by Brazilian longliners in northeast Brazil was also carried out.

Many Brazilian catch and effort data from longline fisheries that were missing from the ICCAT data base were submitted in 1994, together with some new series of data, including information on the number of hooks per basket for the period 1985 to 1993.

Following a recommendation made at the ICCAT Data Preparatory Meeting for South Atlantic Tuna Fisheries (1992, Recife), annual weight frequency data for yellowfin, albacore and bigeye landed by national longliners based at Santos (1978-1983) have been compiled and submitted to ICCAT.

3. Special meetings

The ICCAT Data Preparatory Meeting for South Atlantic Abundance Indices was held at CEPENE/IBAMA, in Tamandaré, Pernambuco, from 3-9 August, 1994. This meeting was originally proposed by the Swordfish Stock Assessment Group, at its meeting in 1993, and it was aimed to develop standardized catch rates from South Atlantic fleets. Participants from Brazil, Cape Verde, Japan, United States and Taiwan University, and a member of the ICCAT Secretariat attended the meeting.

IBAMA was responsible for the arrangements in preparation and local coordination of the meeting and also sponsored the participation of Brazilian scientists responsible for the collection of statistics and sampling data from the different areas of Brazil.

4. Shark fisheries

In recent years there has been an increase in shark catches taken by Brazilian longliners, which reached about 60% of total catches. Fourteen species of shark were identified in the fishery of longliners based at Natal (Rio Grande do Norte), with the blue shark (*Prionace glauca*) and the carcharhinus sharks being the most important species, representing nearly 95% of the total shark catch. For the longline fleet based at Santos (Sao Paulo), 31 species were identified, with 15 species being caught regularly. The main species are separated into five groups: Blue shark, shortfin mako (*Isurus Oxyrinchus*), thresher shark (*Alopiidae*), hammerhead shark (*Sphyrnidae*) and carcharhinus sharks. The blue shark is the dominant species in catches, representing about 30% of the total catch of Santos longliners.

As regards the longline leased fleet, species composition of catches shows a small percentage of sharks in comparison with the Brazilian fleet. Although the high proportion of sharks in catches of the Brazilian longline fleet results from a change in fishing practice, as fishermen have been continuously targeting sharks (seeking areas and seasons with higher concentrations of sharks), due to the better price of shark in the market, figures for sharks caught by the leased fleet are probably underestimated.

Data from on board observer programs have shown that the majority of sharks caught by the leased fleet are finned and discarded at sea, only catches of a few species of high economic value being retained on board. Based on the weight of shark fins landed by four leased longliners during 1993, it was shown that the catch reported by these vessels as sharks and other species represented less than 50% of the estimated catch. Shark catches by both the Brazilian and the leased longline fleets are shown in Table 4, for the period 1989-1993.

5. Data collection systems

As part of a national program for the collection of fishery statistics, Brazil has implemented two statistical collection systems, one for landings and one for logbooks. All masters of fishing vessels over 20 GRT are required to submit logbooks, completed in full on a daily basis, at the end of each trip. This requirement also applies to foreign leased vessels operating in Brazilian waters. Penalties applied if logbooks are not submitted include fines and cancellation of fishing licenses. In the beginning, the logbook system was supported by a network of data collectors based at the main landing ports, and when the logbooks had not been completed on board, the information was collected by interviewing the ship masters. In recent years, given the limited number of personnel available for the collection of data, the logbook returns decreased, and for some baitboat fisheries, the logbook coverage has been very low, about 20-40% of trips. Logbook coverage for longliners has been 100% for the Japanese leased fleet and the national fleet, and 80% for the Taiwanese fleet based in southern Brazil. Actions are being taken to improve the rate of logbook returns of the Taiwanese fleet based in northern Brazil.

Statistics on catches landed after each trip are collected directly from the buyers' sales sheet, or are submitted on the appropriate forms by the fishing companies or boat owners.

6. Tuna management measures

ICCAT recommendations of minimum weight limits for yellowfin and bigeye have been implemented in domestic legislation in 1973 and 1981, respectively. As regards the swordfish minimum size and weight recommendation, actions are being taken to speed up the process of implementation of this measure. All domestic legislation on tuna management measures also applies to foreign leased vessels operating in Brazilian waters which are considered as Brazilian vessels by national legislation on fisheries.

Table 1. Distribution of tuna vessels that operated in Brazilian waters, vessel flag and port base, 1992-1993

<i>Fleet</i>	<i>Port base</i>	1992		1993	
		<i>Baitboat</i>	<i>Longline</i>	<i>Baitboat</i>	<i>Longline</i>
Brazilian	Rio G. do Norte	--	3	--	5
	Rio de Janeiro	25***	--	23***	--
	Sao Paulo	--	14	--	14
	Santa Catarina	32*	--	30**	--
	Rio G. do Sul	--	--	4**	--
<i>Sub-total</i>		57	17	57	19
Honduras (1)	Sao Paulo	--	1	--	1
Japanese (1)	Rio G. do Sul	--	1	--	1
Portuguese (1)	Sao Paulo	--	2	--	--
Spanish (1)	Sao Paulo	--	--	--	1
Taiwanese (1)	Para	--	11	--	14
	Rio G. do Sul	--	15	--	18
<i>Sub-total</i>		--	30	--	36
TOTAL		57	47	57	55

(1) Foreign vessels leased by Brazil

* Included 6 baitboats over 151 GRT.

** Included 2 freezer baitboats over 151 GRT.

*** Freezer baitboats (over 151 GRT).

Table 2. Catches (MT) of tuna and tuna-like fishes taken by the Brazilian and foreign leased longline fleets, 1988-1993

<i>Species</i>	<i>Fleet</i>	<i>1988</i>	<i>1989</i>	<i>1990</i>	<i>1991</i>	<i>1992*</i>	<i>1993*</i>
Yellowfin	Brazilian	421.6	491.6	532.8	247.5	257.8	395.6
	Leased	477.0	634.1	121.9	333.6	968.6	1,627.4
Albacore	Brazilian	66.3	61.1	129.0	57.8	92.0	54.0
	Leased	327.4	372.4	355.5	1,021.9	2,629.1	4,533.3
Bigeye	Brazilian	61.1	41.0	56.9	42.6	25.5	4,666.0
	Leased	884.9	471.5	534.4	307.2	759.3	1,510.5
Swordfish	Brazilian	692.5	926.2	1,023.7	720.7	623.9	618.8
	Leased	469.5	241.6	679.3	590.4	1,979.4	1,602.3
Sailfish	Brazilian	109.5	122.7	91.9	57.3	32.1	45.6
	Leased	5.7	0.9	1.5	8.6	251.3	176.7
White marlin	Brazilian	113.6	172.7	160.7	280.5	117.1	78.0
	Leased	34.8	31.5	40.9	92.5	91.0	349.5
Blue marlin	Brazilian	19.9	30.0	19.2	16.5	16.8	15.9
	Leased	44.3	28.8	30.8	42.7	108.8	139.3
Other**	Brazilian	4.1	4.1	10.9	40.2	61.3	48.2
	Leased	3.2	6.9	10.1	35.7	213.5	304.2
TOTAL	Brazilian	1,488.6	1,849.4	2,025.1	1,463.1	1,226.5	1,302.1
	Leased	2,246.8	1,787.7	1,774.4	2,435.6	7,001.0	10,243.2

* Preliminary estimates.

** Includes *Acanthocybium solandri*.

Table 3. Catches (MT) of tuna and tuna-like fishes taken by the Brazilian and Japanese leased baitboat fleets, 1988-1993

<i>Species</i>	<i>Fleet</i>	<i>1988</i>	<i>1989</i>	<i>1990</i>	<i>1991</i>	<i>1992</i>	<i>1993</i>
Skipjack	Brazilian	9,963	14,218	13,290	14,477	18,944	17,570
	Leased	7,264	6,331	6,735	5,947	---	---
	Total	17,227	20,549	20,025	20,424	18,944	17,570
Yellowfin	Brazilian	1,446	1,331	862	1,109	2,731	3,157
	Leased	149	45	92	60	---	---
	Total	1,595	1,376	954	1,169	2,731	3,157
Others	Brazilian	342	184	268	368	288	428
	Leased	3	2	15	---	---	---
	Total	345	186	283	368	288	428
TOTAL	Brazilian	11,751	15,733	14,420	16,065	21,963	---
	Leased	7,416	6,378	6,842	6,007	---	---
	Total	19,167	22,111	21,262	22,072	21,963	21,135

Table 4. Catches of pelagic sharks by the Brazilian and foreign leased longline fleets and their percentage composition in relation to the total catches, 1988-1993

<i>Year</i>	<i>Brazilian fleet</i>	<i>Fleet %</i>	<i>Leased fleet</i>	<i>%</i>
1988	1,298.4	45.0	481.4	17.7
1989	1,962.4	50.0	211.1	10.6
1990	2,706.4	55.3	391.4	18.1
1991	2,517.9	60.1	403.5	14.2
1992	1,999.8	60.0	574.8	7.6
1993	2,137.2	60.6	1,439.0	12.3

NATIONAL REPORT OF CANADA :

by
J. M. Porter **

1. Introduction

The Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans has responsibility for Canadian fisheries management and statistics, and for research on Atlantic large pelagic species fished in Canadian waters in support of the ICCAT Convention. Canadian research programs are conducted for swordfish and tunas at the Biological Station, St. Andrews, New Brunswick, and for large pelagic sharks at the Bedford Institute of Oceanography, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. Beginning in 1994, the fisheries are managed on a calendar year basis; prior to 1994, management was on an April to March basis.

2. Status of the Fisheries

2.1 Bluefin tuna

The Canadian nominal landings of Atlantic bluefin tuna in 1993 were 458.6 MT (round) (Table 1), leaving 128.9 MT of the combined 1992-93 quota (1,031 MT) uncaught. The major fisheries took place off southwest Nova Scotia (Hell Hole between Browns and Georges banks, and Bay of Fundy) - approximately 223 MT (49% of Canadian catch). One hundred and eleven MT of bluefin were caught in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, 26 MT were caught off Newfoundland (tail of Grand Banks and Virgin Rocks), and about 45 MT were harvested off northeastern Nova Scotia. A significant catch (29 MT) was taken in the St. Margaret's Bay fish trap fishery. In the 1993-94 fishing season the Canadian offshore longline vessel fishery which directs towards tuna species other than bluefin within Canada's 200-mile fisheries zone caught 21.3 MT of its 35 MT bluefin by-catch limit (Table 2), though a total of 25 MT was caught in the 1993 calendar year.

2.2 Swordfish

The Canadian nominal landings of swordfish in 1993 were 2,233.7 MT (round), taken mainly by longline (99%), with smaller landings by the harpoon fishery (Table 3). The mean weight (round) of longlined and harpooned swordfish caught in the Canadian fishery was 56 kg and 129 kg, respectively (Table 3). Fifteen percent of the Canadian landings by number in 1993 constituted small fish as defined by the ICCAT swordfish recommendations for regulatory measures (<25 kg round, Table 3).

2.3 Sharks and other tunas

Historically, blue shark, porbeagle and shortfin mako have been a by-catch of the Canadian swordfish and groundfish longline fisheries. The pelagic longline fishery also takes other shark species. A directed porbeagle fishery by the Faeroese in Canadian waters was also permitted under a 1981 Fisheries Agreement. Since 1991, however, Canadian interest in sharks has increased; several boats have been directing for the mackerel sharks. The 1993 reported landings of 1,028 MT are summarized by species in Table 1; the catch of sharks in Canadian waters is believed to be higher than is currently reported because of discarding and no previous requirement to identify as to species. These problems are being addressed through regulatory amendments planned for 1994.

Albacore, bigeye and yellowfin tuna were directed for by one Canadian offshore longline vessel (Table 2), as well as by the swordfish longline fleet (Table 1).

* Original report in English.

** Pelagic Fisheries Section, Biological Station, Department of Fisheries & Ocean, St. Andrews, N.B.

3. Research Studies

In March 1993, a research program for large pelagic sharks was initiated at the Bedford Institute of Oceanography, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia (P. Hurley).

In July 1993, the ICCAT Workshop on the Technical Aspects of Methodologies which Account for Individual Growth Variability by Age (COM-SCRS/93/17) was hosted by the Biological Station, St. Andrews, New Brunswick, and convened by J. M. Porter. Twenty-two people attended, representing six countries or organizations.

In August 1993, the large pelagics program in St. Andrews acquired an assessment biologist (H. Stone).

Canada participated in U.S. Cooperative Tagging System Workshop (October).

3.1 Bluefin tuna

Preliminary analysis of effort using existing log records for the Canadian Hell Hole fishery was attempted, but logs were determined to be inadequate both in design and completion by the fishermen. New log record forms were designed to capture the effort information and implemented for the 1993 fishery.

Implementation of a Dockside Monitoring Program in southwest Nova Scotia in 1993 has resulted in more complete coverage of dressed weights and dressed lengths of all fish landed in that area. In addition, 10% of the vessels of the fleets fishing in the Hell Hole were required to carry observers. Observer coverage of Bay of Fundy fishing activities was also undertaken. Observers measured fork length and dressed length for each fish.

Tag recoveries from the 1990-92 Hell Hole tagging were received. At the end of 1993, there were 21 of the 154 tags recovered, either from the Hell Hole or New England fisheries (SCRS/93/50).

Preliminary histological analyses were undertaken of the bluefin gonads sampled from the Canadian and U.S. fisheries in 1991-92 (cooperative between DFO and Acadia University).

3.2 Swordfish

The Fisheries Act was implemented to require fishermen to submit individual weights of all swordfish landed (tally sheets), providing more complete size information for the Canadian swordfish landings (50% of catch sampled in 1993).

Further analysis of the CPUE data (1961-92) was conducted.

Port sampling for swordfish lengths and weights continued.

At-sea sampling by the Canadian Observer Program was conducted on Japanese longline vessels while in the Canadian 200-mile fisheries zone.

3.3 Sharks and other tunas

The scientific research program for pelagic sharks initiated at the Bedford Institute of Oceanography, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, was as follows:

- Initiated analysis of CPUE and at-sea sampling data collected by the Canadian Observer Program on Faeroese longline vessels directing for porbeagle shark in the Canadian 200-mile fisheries zone (1979-92).
- Initiated analysis of the shark bycatch of Japanese longline vessels directing for tunas in the Canadian 200-mile fisheries zone (1977-92).

- At-sea sampling by the Canadian Observer Program will be conducted on Faeroese and Japanese longline vessels while in the Canadian 200-mile fisheries zone and on Canadian offshore longline vessels directing for non-regulated tunas.
- Conducted port sampling of sharks landed by the recreational fishery.

Biological sampling of the other tunas has been conducted on the Canadian offshore and Japanese fisheries within the Canadian 200-mile fisheries zone. There was limited sampling of the domestic fleet (submission of tally sheets and logs, and observer coverage).

4. Management

4.1 Bluefin tuna

In response to new ICCAT regulatory recommendations, Canada implemented a 2-year (1992-93) Atlantic bluefin tuna fishery management plan. The bluefin tuna fishery on the Atlantic coast was subject to the following measures in 1993:

- *Quota:* A quota of 587 MT, assigned in accordance with the provision that uncaught 1992 quota was made available for the 1993 fishery. The combined total for both years (1,031 MT) represents an overall reduction of 10% as per the ICCAT measures. This quota provides for fishing allocations for the seven inshore management units and the offshore longline fishery;
- *Consultation:* Fishing seasons and quotas for each management area were made in consultation with industry and strictly monitored by DFO;
- *Limited Entry:* The number of regular directed bluefin tuna licences was limited to 719, plus 38 restricted activity licences, 4 fish trap licences in St. Margaret's Bay (bycatch of bluefin), and one offshore licence (by catch of 35 MT of bluefin);
- *Restrictions:* Strict vessel replacement, management fishing areas and licence transfer requirements were enforced;
- *Gear:* Gear restrictions were as follows: commercial fishery limited to rod and reel and/or trolled line (must be attached to vessel; maximum of two lines, each with one hook fished at one time); charter limited to rod and reel; pelagic longline in offshore fishery. Electric harpoons were permitted on an additional one-year experimental basis;
- *Tags:* As in previous years, all bluefin must be tagged, when caught, with a uniquely numbered identification tag. This was used in conjunction with logbooks for the purpose of catch monitoring.

In 1993, 584 licensed fishermen actually participated in the directed bluefin tuna fishery (Table 4). One offshore licence was issued for tunas other than bluefin with a bycatch of 35 MT of bluefin. Four fish trap licences in St. Margaret's Bay were re-issued, allowing a bycatch of bluefin (Table 4).

4.2 Swordfish

The 1993 Atlantic Swordfish Fishing Plan contained the following management measures:

- *Quota:* A quota of 2,000 MT was assigned for 1993 and broken down as follows:

Total Quota	2,000 MT
By-catch for Canadian offshore tuna vessels	60 MT
Canadian longline and harpoon quota	1,940 MT

- *By-catch:* (i) Longline vessels directing for swordfish were permitted to direct for tuna other than bluefin; (ii) A 60 MT (maximum) swordfish bycatch quota was provided for the offshore Canadian tuna fishery.

- *Area:* A condition of licence appeared on all swordfish licences: "Valid for NAFO Convention Subareas 3, 4 and 5 only, excluding Fishing Zones 1 and 2 of Canada" (Gulf of St. Lawrence and Bay of Fundy).
- *Limited Entry:* Swordfish longline licences and swordfish harpoon licences were available only to fishermen who held such licences in 1992.
- *Gear:* Only swordfish longline and harpoon gear permitted.
- *Small Fish:* A prohibition on the taking and landing of swordfish less than 25 kg (live weight) was continued. A length equivalent for this measure was 125 cm from the fork of the tail to the tip of the lower jaw. Vessels were limited to 15% tolerance of the number of fish per landing.
- *Opening Date:* The opening date for swordfishing was May 1 for the 1993 season.

Seventy-five licensed swordfish longline fishermen (directed fishery) were active in the 1993 fishery on the edge of the Scotian Shelf and the Grand Banks of Newfoundland. Participation has increased since 1988 due to pressure from the closure of groundfish fisheries (Table 3). Although a total of 1421 fishermen are eligible for harpoon licences, only 72 were active. In addition, one offshore licence was issued for tunas other than bluefin (bigeye, albacore, yellowfin) with a swordfish bycatch provision of 60 MT.

4.3 Sharks and other tunas

In 1993, there were no management plans for sharks or tunas other than bluefin.

5. Preliminary Information for 1994

See Annex for 1994 Management Plans for Atlantic Bluefin Tuna, Atlantic Swordfish, Atlantic Porbeagle, Shortfin Mako and Blue Sharks.

5.1 Bluefin tuna

Details of the 1994-95 management plan are as follows (if different from the 1992-93 plan):

- *Quota:* A quota of 817 MT was allocated among seven inshore management units and the offshore fishery (including trip limits). The 1994-95 quota is divided equally between the two years and uncaught 1994 quota will be added to the 1995 quota. A preliminary quota of 408 MT was put in place for 1994.
- *Minimum Size:* No person shall have in possession any bluefin tuna that weighs less than 30 kg.

The inshore bluefin tuna fishery was closed on 24 September 1994 when the quota of 383 MT was reached. Twenty-five MT remain for the offshore fishery. Some incidental fish were caught in herring weirs around Grand Manan Island, New Brunswick (Bay of Fundy), but were released alive. The fish traps in St. Margarets Bay have caught 78 MT in 1994. The catches in southwest Nova Scotia have declined, probably due to a combination of fish abundance, management measures and re-deployment of the fleet elsewhere. Reported sightings of small, medium and giant tuna have been frequent during 1990-94; this may imply some improvement in the western bluefin stock as a result of the restrictive management measures in place since 1982.

The scientific research program at the Biological Station, St. Andrews was as follows:

- Preliminary estimates from the 1990-92 tagging experiment of population size, exploitation rates and migration patterns were presented at the American Fisheries Society (August).
- Hail monitoring for all bluefin tuna landed in Nova Scotia, resulting in more complete coverage of dressed weights and dressed lengths.

- Data entry undertaken by Statistics Branch for all tuna landed in Nova Scotia in 1994, to speed the availability of data to scientists.
- Five tag recoveries from the 1990-92 tagging: 4 back in the Hell Hole, and one from a Moroccan trapnet in the east Atlantic.

5.2 *Swordfish*

Opening date for the 1994 was 1 June. The nominal Canadian landings as of 10 October 1994 were 1243 MT and the fishery is still in progress.

The scientific research program at the Biological Station, St. Andrews, New Brunswick was as follows:

- Hail monitoring implemented for all swordfish landed in Canada. This should ensure 100% submission of log records, individual weights of fish and total landings. Data are to be provided in a computerized form to biologists in 1994.
- Detailed editing and screening of the 1962-1993 CPUE data was conducted prior to the 1994 update of the biomass index.
- An age-specific index of relative abundance has been calculated for swordfish caught by longline in Canada (1988-93).
- A juvenile swordfish (<125 cm) mark-recapture study involving DFO Science and the swordfish Industry was initiated in 1994. A total of 160 swordfish have been tagged between Georges Bank and the Grand Banks, with one recovery east of the Flemish Cap by a Spanish longline vessel.
- At-sea boardings of swordfish longline vessels have provided measurements of live fish.

5.3 *Sharks and other tunas*

Regulatory amendments were made in May 1994 and a Fishery Management Plan for porbeagle, shortfin mako and blue sharks has been implemented (see Annex). The Plan includes provisions for a limited entry commercial fishery, gear restrictions, a prohibition of finning sharks, and the collection of fishing and biological data. Precautionary catch levels for a directed longline fishery for sharks were set as follows: 1,500 MT for porbeagle, 250 MT for shortfin mako, and 250 MT for blue shark.

The research program for pelagic sharks was as follows:

- Historical CPUE and at-sea sampling data collected by the Canadian Observer Program on Faeroese longline vessels directing for porbeagle sharks in the Canadian 200-mile fisheries zone was analyzed for comparison of data from Canadian vessels directing for porbeagle.
- The logbook/tally sheet system used for Canadian swordfish vessels was modified to enable collection of CPUE and size composition data from Canadian vessels directing for pelagic sharks.
- A shark tag and release program was initiated.
- Port sampling of sharks will be established as the commercial fishery develops.

Table 1. Summary of 1993 Canadian landings (MT round weight) of large pelagic fish species.

<i>Species</i>	<i>1993 landings</i>
Swordfish	2,233.7
Bluefin tuna	458.6
Albacore tuna	8.7
Bigeye tuna	124.1
Yellowfin tuna	71.5
Unspecified tuna	9.1
Blue shark	20.8
Shortfin mako	152.2
Porbeagle	832.0
Unspecified sharks	22.7

Table 2. Catches (MT round weight) of the Canadian offshore large pelagic fishery which directs for non-regulated tunas, 1987-94 *

Species	1987-88	1988-89	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94
ALB	21	47	22	21	+	+	6.7
BET	144	95	31	15	0	+	11.1
YFT	40	30	7	14	+	+	1.3
BFT*	33	104	53	28	13	1.2	21.3
SWO**	15	16	6	9	0	+	33.0

* Prior to 1994, this fishery was managed on a 1 April-31 March basis. Beginning in 1994, management will be on a calendar year basis.

** Species regulated by Canadian quota regulations.

+ <1 MT.

Table 3. Summary of 1988-93 active licenses, swordfish landings (MT round weight), average weight of fish (kg round) and percentage of small fish*

	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
Number of active licenses						
Longline	39	52	50	53	46	75
Harpoon	+	+	+	61	72	72
Catch (MT)						
Longline	887	1,097	819	953	1,486	2,206
Harpoon	24	146	92	73	60	28
Total	911	1,243	911	1,026	1,546	2,234
Average weight (kg)						
Longline (# sampled)	50 (1,315)	52 (3,902)	61 (10,280)	61 (8,111)	57 (5,904)	56 (19,469)
Harpoon ((# sampled)	— (0)	129 (637)	138 (164)	78 (146)	67 (136)	129 (151)
% of catch of small fish* (by number)	16	16	11	11	16	15
% of catch sampled	7	23	71	49	23	50

* <25 kg round weight.

+ Undetermined number, but <100.

Table 4. Distribution of bluefin tuna & swordfish fishing licenses by region and species* in 1993

Region	Number of licenses				
	Total	Bluefin		Swordfish longline	
		Active	Total	Active	
Gulf	616	500	0	0	
Newfoundland	55***	24	7	7	
Scotia-Fundy	32	32	69	68	
St. Margaret's Bay	4	4	--	--	
Quebec	54	28	0	0	
	761	588	76	75	

* Only bluefin tuna and swordfish are regulated by limited entry.

** Fish trap licenses with by-catch of bluefin tuna.

*** 38 of these licenses are subject to a reduced level of fishing activity and restricted to NAFO Divisions 3LNO.

Note: Active fishermen are those that picked up their licenses, license conditions and tags, and may or may not have actually fished

ANNEX

1994 MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR CANADIAN LARGE PELAGIC SPECIES

Atlantic Bluefin Tuna
Atlantic Swordfish
Atlantic Porbeagle, Shortfin Mako and Blue Sharks

1994 ATLANTIC BLUEFIN TUNA MANAGEMENT PLAN

Items specific to the 1994 Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Management Plan are outlined in the following section. General information on the licensing policy and gear types can be found on pages 9-10.

1. Licensing

- a) In 1994, the 26 temporary 3LNO¹ licences issued in the Newfoundland Region will continue to be issued to the list of eligible fishermen on a rotational basis. These 3LNO licences are subject to reduced access to the fishery in respect to both area to be fished and level of activity.

One offshore fishing licence for yellowfin, bigeye and albacore tunas with a bluefin tuna bycatch provision will be issued for the 1994 fishery.

- b) Tuna licences available in 1993 to charter boat operators cannot be reissued for use in the commercial fishery.
- c) Tuna fishing licences are valid for the areas indicated on the licence.
- d) The short-term leasing of vessels owned or registered by fishermen from another DFO Region, for use in the bluefin tuna fishery is not permitted. However, for the purpose of short-term vessel leasing or use in the Gulf of St. Lawrence bluefin tuna fishery, the Quebec and Gulf regions will be considered as one.
- e) No bait licences will be issued for the bluefin tuna fishery. However, special provisions may be necessary due to the cod moratorium.
- f) All other licensing provisions as outlined in the Commercial Fisheries Licensing Policy for Eastern Canada will apply.
- g) Licences will be made valid for the areas indicated on the licence and for the region of issue only. Any fishing activity outside of DFO regional boundaries will be permitted only by specific licence conditions issued by the region where the fishing activity takes place.

2. Seasons and Quotas

a) Seasons:

- i) The bluefin tuna fishing season runs from January 1 to December 31 each year.
- ii) Opening and closing dates for charter boat operators can be varied by condition of licence depending on availability of quota set aside for charter boat operations.

¹ Subareas and Divisions of the NAFO Convention Area are shown in Figure 1.

b) *Quotas:*

The **total** Canadian quota for bluefin tuna caught by all gear types and for all areas for 1994 and 1995 is 817 t. The 1994-95 quota is divided equally between the 1994 and 1995 seasons (408 t/408 t). Uncaught 1994 quota will be added to the 1995 quota.

This quota will provide for fishing allocations for the seven recognized management units and the offshore longline licence-holder for bigeye, yellowfin and albacore tunas.

• Bluefin tuna management units are:

- Prince Edward Island
- Newfoundland
- The Gulf Shore of Nova Scotia
- Quebec
- Gulf of New Brunswick
- Southwest Nova Scotia
- St. Margaret's Bay

c) *Offshore:*

A total of 25 t of bluefin tuna will be made available as a bycatch provision for the one licence-holder in the 1994 offshore fishery for bigeye, yellowfin and albacore tunas.

d) *Inshore:*

Quotas will be allocated in the following manner:

- i) Each of the seven bluefin tuna management areas will receive an initial allocation of 35 tonnes.
- ii) A reserve of 50 t will be established for a possible traditional late season fishery in St. George's Bay.
- iii) An initial Atlantic-wide reserve will be established at 88 t.
- iv) Additional quota allocations (DIPS) will be provided as follows:
 - If a management area runs out of initial allocation, it will be entitled to a second allocation (DIP) of 35 tonnes from the reserve.
 - A DIP must be completely exhausted before a new DIP is permitted.
 - A "cap" of 105 t, an initial allocation and two subsequent dips, will be placed on the amount of tuna that can be harvested by the fleets in any one management area, pending a review of remaining quota on *September 23, 1994*.
 - When a management area has used up its quota from the initial allocation and subsequent available DIPS, that fishery will be closed by order of the Regional Director General.
- v) In order to ensure the availability of quota for traditional fisheries in local areas, a limit of 35 t will be placed on the quantity of fish which may be harvested by vessels outside their own DFO management region.
 - Conditions under which this fish may be harvested during 1994 will be determined during local working group consultations. Regardless of where bluefin is caught, it will be counted against the quota of the homeport of the vessel.

NOTE: An exception to the 35 t limit on the quantity of fish which may be harvested by vessels outside their own DFO management region, will be made for tuna caught in NAFO Area 4Wd by eligible Gulf

Region based vessels. Bluefin caught in 4Wd by eligible Gulf Region based vessels will not be counted against this 35 t limit.

vi) *St. Margaret's Bay/Weir Experiment*

Depending on funding availability, on an experimental basis in 1994 in connection with a DFO research project, four (4) St. Margaret's Bay licensed bluefin tuna trap net fishermen may be permitted to initially use 5 t of their bluefin tuna allocation (up to a maximum of 8.75 t if bycatch conditions warrant) to cover the collection and sale of bluefin tuna caught incidentally in Southwest New Brunswick weirs. DFO field staff would closely supervise all operations under this project.

vii) *Reallocation Schedule²*

- (1) On September 23, 1994, 50 percent of the Atlantic-wide reserve will be allocated to areas where fishing operations are still active.

NOTE: "Active is defined as those management units which harvest at least 5 t of bluefin tuna in their home area in the two weeks preceding each reallocation date.

- (2) On September 30, 1994, the remaining Atlantic-wide reserve will be allocated equally to areas where fishing operations are still active.
- (3) On October 7, 1994, 50 percent of the total unused quota and 50 percent of the St. George's Bay quota will be allocated equally to areas where fishing operations are still active.
- (4) On October 14, 1994, all of the total unused quota will be allocated equally to areas where fishing operations are still active.
- (5) On October 21, 1994, the remainder of the St. George's Bay quota will be allocated to areas where fishing operations are still active.

e) *Charter Operations:*

In management areas with charter boat fisheries, a separate quota reserve will be set aside for charter operations from within quota allocations provided to that area to ensure continued operation of the balance of the charter season. The provision of quota specifically for charter boat operations will be determined by the Regional Directors General.

3. Monitoring

- a) Tuna tags will be used in conjunction with logbooks for the purpose of catch monitoring. Tags will be issued at a rate determined for the management region, consistent with catch performance and quota availability. Tags will only be issued following logbook presentation. All fish must be tagged. It is illegal to be in possession of untagged bluefin tuna.
- b) All tags and licence conditions will be issued from fishery offices adjacent to the fishery. Records will be kept of all tags issued including tag number, date, and location of issuance and person to whom tag(s) issued.
- c) Vessels operating in areas outside of their home management area will be subject to the conditions specified for the area in which they are fishing.
- d) All Canadian exports of bluefin tuna must be accompanied by an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document available from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

² The offshore fishery licence-holder will not participate in the reallocation process because of the nature of that fishery.

4. Areas

a) Management Areas will be those described in the Atlantic Fishery Regulations, 1985.

b) *Area 4Wd:*

All Scotia-Fundy and Gulf Region bluefin tuna charter operators will continue to be able to participate in the 4Wd bluefin fishery with rod and reel gear on an unrestricted access basis.

Alternative conservation measures to enhance DFO control of the commercial bluefin tuna fishery in Chedabucto Bay have been adopted on a trial basis for 1994. Details are available through local DFO Area Offices.

Eligible Scotia-Fundy and Gulf Region based licensed bluefin tuna fishermen will be permitted to fish for bluefin in NAFO Area 4Wd under condition of licence using rod and reel ONLY.

Before an eligible vessel from either Region can begin fishing in Area 4Wd, the licence condition must be issued at the Department of Fisheries and Oceans office in Canso, Nova Scotia.

c) *Division 4Vn:*

No bluefin tuna fishing activity will be permitted in Division 4Vn in 1994.

Licensing Policy

1. **Application:** This policy applies to the harvesting of bluefin tuna in the waters off the Atlantic Coast of Canada.
2. **Entry Controls:** With the exception of the 26 temporary 3LNO licences in the Newfoundland Region, licences may only be issued to fishermen who held a licence in the preceding calendar year or who acquired such a licence through reissuance (transfer) procedures outlined in Section 7 below.
3. **Gear Restrictions:**
 - (a) **Commercial** - commercial tuna fishermen are permitted to use rod and reel and/or tanded lines.³ Pelagic longline is used in the offshore tuna fishery. The following conditions apply to tanded line fishing:
 - the line must be attached to the vessel and attended at all times;
 - a total of two tanded lines may be fished at any one time;
 - a maximum of one (1) hook per tanded line may be fished at any one time; and
 - one buoy per line must be on board the vessel when tanded lines are used.
4. **Charter Vessel Licences:** Charter vessels will be limited to the use of rod and reel only.
5. **Licence Conditions:** Bluefin tuna licence conditions will be issued separate to the licence. When licences are issued, they must be annotated as follows:

"NOT VALID UNLESS LICENCE CONDITIONS ARE ATTACHED."
6. **Vessel Replacement Rules:** Where a licence holder retains licences for other species, the replacement vessel size is governed by the most restrictive replacement policy.

³ During the 1994 season, the use of electrified harpoons will be permitted in the inshore fishery.

7. Change of Licence Holder:

(a) Commercial Tuna Licences:

- i) Subject to (iii) below, licences may only be reissued to eligible fishermen as per the Commercial Fisheries Licensing Policy for Eastern Canada. In the case of licence splits, refer to Section 18 of the Commercial Fisheries Licensing Policy for Eastern Canada.
- ii) Upon reissuance, all conditions of licence (i.e., area, gear type, quantity, etc.) will be maintained by the new licence holder (Section 17.20 of the Commercial Fisheries Licensing Policy for Eastern Canada).
- iii) In 1994, DFO will permit the transfer of 10 Gulf Region bluefin tuna licences to full-time resident 4Wd fishermen. A maximum of 8 t will be provided for these fishermen with the catch being credited to the Southwest Nova fleet allocation. These licences can only be fished in 4Wd with rod and reel gear. Future transfer of these 10 licences would only be permitted to other resident 4Wd full-time fishermen.

(b) Charter Vessel Licences in Newfoundland Region:

- i) Charter vessel licences may be reissued to non-fishermen for charter purposes.
- ii) Charter vessel licences available in 1993 in the Newfoundland Region cannot be reissued as Commercial Tuna Licences in 1994.

8. **Small Fish:** No person shall have in possession any bluefin tuna that weighs less than 30 kg.

Fishery Profile

Historically, the Canadian tuna fisheries have used five major gear types: sports rod and reel, purse seine, trap net, harpoon, and incidental catches on longlines and in gillnets. In 1980, fishermen began to use a method called "tended line" or "keg" fishing, which involves a single hook on a length of buoyed rope attached to the vessel. Currently, rod and reel (both sports charters and commercial fishing operations), tended line and offshore longline are used. In 1992, the experimental use of electrified harpoons, first permitted on a limited basis in 1991, was allowed to continue in order to better assess the effectiveness and selectivity of this inshore gear.

Distribution

West Atlantic bluefin tuna spawn in the Gulf of Mexico. They migrate north in the spring and are most common in warm waters. In the western Atlantic, tuna congregate in the West Indies in April and May, followed by a summer movement as far north as Newfoundland and southern Labrador. Bluefin tuna gain weight on their northern migration, and the heavier they become, the higher the fat content. Tuna with high fat content receive the best prices on the international markets. Bluefin tuna is one of five species of tuna found in the Northwest Atlantic. Other tuna species found in the western Atlantic include bigeye, albacore, yellowfin and blackfin. These species are not yet subject to quotas.

Value

The impact of the bluefin tuna fishery on the economy of the Atlantic coast comes from direct income earned by fishermen and vessel owners, from the income generated by vessel owners purchasing supplies, and from personal income used to buy goods and services. The employment multiplier is limited principally to those involved in fishing since bluefin are generally shipped fresh to markets in Japan and the United States. In 1991, at an average of \$8.00 per pound, Canadian catches had a landed value of approximately \$8.4 million. In 1992, the landed value of the Canadian catch decreased to about \$6.00 per pound, resulting in a total landed value level of approximately \$6 million. The landed value of this fishery in 1993 was about \$8 million.

Up to 1988, Canadian fishermen landed an average of only 38% of the available Canadian bluefin quota. In 1989, a combination of more efficient use of gear, fishing on non-traditional grounds (Browns Bank, Virgin Rocks) and higher prices paid to fishermen contributed to the beginning of the tremendous increase in landed value. In 1991, 485 t of Canada's 573 t quota was landed; in 1992 about 444 t was landed; and in 1993, landings totalled 459 t.

Licences

In 1993, there were 36 bluefin tuna licences in the Scotia-Fundy Region, 616 in the Gulf Region, 55 in the Newfoundland Region and 54 in the Quebec Region.

Of the 55 Newfoundland licences, 13 are regular Atlantic-wide licences, 12 are regular 3LNO licences, 26 are temporary 3LNO licences and four are recreational (rod and reel only) licences. The temporary 3LNO licences are issued annually to a list of eligible fishermen which was established through a 1995 draw process.

Landings

**BLUEFIN TUNA LANDINGS BY FLEET (tonnes)
1988-1993**

	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
PEI	61.0	97.8	66.44	78.08	107.9	129.0
NFLD	44.0	119.2	115.14	105.64	55.2	26.0
NB	--	34.3	33.69	34.75	36.2	30.4
QUE	--	34.0	33.67	36.62	35.2	34.4
GNS	49.0	75.6	38.33	55.37	56.6	72.5
SWNS	204.0	164.1	131.12	156.65	137.19	111.8
ST. MAR	18.0	--	1.50	--	2.1	28.3
OFFSHORE	146.6	12.2	28.50	13.3	1.0	24.2
SEIZED	--	29.1	0.54	1.32	1.7	2.0
TOTAL	522.6	566.3	448.9	484.75*	443.53*	458.59

* Includes year-end catch adjustments.

Consultative Process

Bluefin tuna stocks throughout the Atlantic Ocean come under the jurisdiction of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT).

The Atlantic Large Pelagics Advisory Committee (ALPAC) serves as the primary vehicle through which the Bluefin Tuna Management Plan covering the Gulf, Quebec, Newfoundland and Scotia-Fundy Regions is developed. Members of the Committee include DFO fishery managers and biologists, bluefin tuna fishermen, representatives from fishermen's associations, processors and provincial government representatives. ALPAC also provides advice to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans on matters related to bluefin tuna including: the condition of the stocks, allocation of the resource among fishermen, methods of harvesting, research needs, enforcement requirements, licensing policy and economic analysis of fishing enterprises.

Issues specific to individual Regions are reviewed by regional Advisory Committees and Working Groups or through meetings of fishermen who make direct recommendations to ALPAC.

These groups prepare recommendations on quota splits, inter-season adjustments, licensing policies, enforcement issues, regulatory changes and gear restrictions.

Currently, the tuna fishery is regulated by the Atlantic Fishery Regulations, 1985.

DFO and industry agreed that there was a need to review the Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Management Plan. This led to the introduction of the Inshore Tuna Allocation System (ITAS). ITAS was the centrepiece of the 1989 Management Plan and has remained an integral part of subsequent Plans.

1994 ATLANTIC SWORDFISH MANAGEMENT PLAN

MANAGEMENT MEASURES:

1. QUOTA:

A quota of 2000 t is assigned for 1994 as follows:

- Canadian longline and harpoon fishery
- Bycatch for Canadian offshore tuna fishery⁴

2. BYCATCH:

- i) Longline vessels directing for swordfish are permitted to retain tuna, other than bluefin, caught incidentally.
- ii) A bycatch swordfish allowance may be provided for the offshore tuna fishery⁴.

3. AREA:

A condition of licence will appear on all swordfish licences: "Valid for NAFO Convention Subareas 3, 4 and 5 only, excluding Fishing Zones 1 and 2 of Canada" (Gulf of St. Lawrence and Bay of Fundy).

4. LIMITED ENTRY:

Swordfish longline licences and swordfish harpoon licences will be available only to fishermen who held such licences in 1993.

5. GEAR RESTRICTIONS:

Only swordfish longline and harpoon gear are permitted.

6. SMALL FISH:

There will be a limit imposed on the taking and landing of swordfish less than 25 kg (live weight). A length equivalent for this measure will be 125 cm from the fork of the tail to the tip of the lower jaw. No more than 15% (by number of fish) of a vessel's catch per trip can be made up of such small swordfish.

7. OPENING DATE:

The opening date for swordfish will be June 1 for the 1994 fishing season.

⁴ Ministerial decision pending.

8. DATA COLLECTION/MONITORING:

- 1) All licensed fishermen must submit log records to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans under the provisions of Section 61 of the Fisheries Act on the completion of each trip. This requirement also applies to vessels that fish, but do not catch any fish.

If log records are not submitted during the fishery as required, fishermen will not be authorized to continue fishing. Submission of fully completed 1994 log records and tally sheets is required for 1995 licence renewal.

- 2) The following information must be contained in the log records submitted by fishermen:

- (a) Name of vessel;
- (b) Type of fishing gear used;
- (c) Name of the captain and total number of crew;
- (d) Trip number;
- (e) Date of sailing from port and date of return;
- (f) Port or ports at which the catch is sold;
- (g) Name of buyer;
- (h) Day, month and year of fishing activity;
- (i) Position of fishing activity in latitude and longitude;
- (j) Depth at which fishing activity was carried out;
- (k) Quantity of fishing gear used in fishing effort;
- (l) Estimated weight of individual fish by species in pounds or kilograms;
- (m) Discards, dead or alive, by species.

- 3) Scotia-Fundy based longline vessels are required to provide hails to a DFO-approved Operations Centre three hours in advance of landing after each trip. Further operational monitoring details will be specified in the conditions of licence. Newfoundland based longline vessels will continue to be authorized to fish on a trip-by-trip basis.

1994 MANAGEMENT PLAN: ATLANTIC PORBEAGLE, SHORTFIN MAKO AND BLUE SHARKS

BACKGROUND:

Canadian interest in Atlantic shark fishing, particularly for porbeagle, shortfin mako and blue sharks, has increased dramatically over the past two years.

These shark species are seasonal migrants within Canadian waters and available information suggests that the biological units cover a larger area. Limited information on the life history of these sharks is available and the catch/effort statistics necessary to assist with scientific research on these species are currently incomplete. However, given the general late maturity and low fecundity of sharks in general, the species can be rapidly overexploited and depleted if the fishery is not carefully managed.

OBJECTIVES:

The 1994 Management Plan was established to control and monitor the inshore/offshore Atlantic fisheries for these stocks while gathering the data essential to assess the health and potential of these stocks in Canadian waters.

MANAGEMENT MEASURES:

1. Precautionary Catch Levels

The following 1994 precautionary catch levels have been established for the 1994 directed commercial-longline Canadian fisheries for porbeagle, shortfin mako and blue sharks:

Porbeagle Shark: Total Catch Level: 1,500 t

Shortfin Mako Shark: Total Catch Level: 250 t

Blue Shark: Total Catch Level: 250 t

2. Bycatch

Porbeagle, shortfin mako or blue shark caught incidentally in other fisheries may be retained and such catches must be reported through fishing logs (detailed in Section 8).

Only those licensed longline vessels directing for shark who also hold swordfish longline licences may retain any swordfish or tuna, other than bluefin tuna, caught incidentally.

3. Licensing

In 1994, exploratory commercial shark fishing licences may be issued upon application to existing commercial limited entry licence-holders (individuals or registered Canadian companies) who were active participants in any of the 1990, 1991, or 1992 fisheries for shortfin mako, blue or porbeagle shark.

Participation is defined as having directed for and landed at least 1500 kg of porbeagle, shortfin mako or blue shark during any of the 1990, 1991 or 1992 seasons OR having invested in specialized shark fishing gear in 1990, 1991 or 1992. Proof of such participation will be indicated through the provision of the Department purchase or sales slips. Participation in the 1993 fishery will not be considered. Only one (1) exploratory licence per fisherman/company will be issued.

Also for 1994, a limited number of additional exploratory commercial shark licences may be issued through a public draw to fishermen, for vessels less than 65', in areas where few or no licences exist. Those wishing to participate in this draw must be full-time commercial limited entry licence-holders who have submitted an acceptable fishing plan (see Section 8) to the Department.

Licence transfers will not be permitted in 1994.

In line with the federal government's Aboriginal Fisheries Strategy, the above criteria do not apply to Natives providing that Native applications have the written support of their Band or Provincial Association. Licence applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Licences will also be required for the 1994 recreational shark fishery.

4. Area

Only those fishermen using registered fishing vessels >65' LOA may access the 1994 fisheries for porbeagle, shortfin mako and blue sharks on an Atlantic-wide basis. In all other cases, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans' Sector Management Policy will apply.

5. Season

The porbeagle, shortfin mako and blue shark fishing seasons for management purposes run from January 1 to December 31.

6. Gear

Commercial fishing will be with handline or longline. Recreational fishing will be with rod and reel gear only.

7. Finning

Finning (the practice of removing only the fins from sharks and discarding the remainder of the shark at sea) is strictly prohibited and will result in the non-renewal of the subsequent shark licence.

Fins may be sold, traded or bartered, but only in proper proportion to carcasses sold, traded or bartered with a maximum of 5% fins per dressed carcass weight. Fins may not be stored aboard the vessel after associated carcasses are sold, traded or bartered.

8. Data Collection

All licence applications must include a fishing plan which contains the following information:

- a) expected start date of harvesting
- b) expected area of harvesting
- c) expected duration of harvesting
- d) type of gear to be used
- e) intended port of landing
- f) confirmed buyer(s)/markets to be targeted

Logbooks⁵ shall be completed in full on a daily basis when fishing and must be returned to DFO upon landing. A copy of the sales weigh-out sheet (i.e. tally sheet) received from the fish buyer for each trip must also be provided. 1995 licence renewal will not be considered without submission of all 1994 logbook and weigh-out sheet information. Logbook information shall include:

- vessel and captain name;
- amount harvested (weight and number of fish);
- date catch delivered and company delivered to;
- number and dates of days fished;
- area of fishing;
- position of fishing activity in latitude and longitude (daily);
- depth at which fishing activity was carried out (daily);
- water temperature during harvesting operations;
- quantity and type of fishing gear used in fishing effort (daily);
- estimated weight of individual fish by species in pounds or kilograms (daily);
- discards if any by species (daily).

Means of data collection to assess the recreational shark fishery will be developed.

9. Enforcement

As per the provisions of the Atlantic Fishery Regulations, observers must be taken aboard shark fishing vessels at the request of the Department.

10. General

Receipt of authorization to participate in the 1994 shark fishery does not constitute any guarantee of authorization beyond 1994.

5 For the 1994 fishery, swordfish logbooks (available from the local Fisheries & Oceans Area Office) should be used to record shark fishing activities.

NATIONAL REPORT OF FRANCE *

1. Status of the Fishery

1.1 General overview

French catches of tunas in 1993 amounted to 86,000 MT, which is almost 20% more than in 1992, and constitutes the record level for the decade. This increase is due mainly to the increase in skipjack (+60%) and bigeye catches (+38%), followed by the increase in albacore catches (+14%), a temperate species. Catches of all the species reached the highest levels recorded in the last 10 years (Table 1). As regards bluefin tuna, a slight decline was noted (-19%), which would be due to the decrease in Mediterranean catches.

1.2 Temperate tunas

-- Bluefin tuna

Bluefin tuna are caught mainly in the Mediterranean. The 1993 fishing season, carried out by 30 purse seiners, caught 4,730 MT, as compared to 5,970 MT taken in 1992 by 28 vessels. The estimated catch for 1994 should be on the order of 7,000 MT, with the major part of the catch was taken during the months of May to July around the Balearic Islands. The increase of trade with Japan is the reason why this large-fish fishery increased, with an increase in fishing effort on this species during the spawning period. The new vessels, because of their high rentability, can search for bluefin tuna in areas very far from their base ports. Of note is the return of favorable conditions (mainly feeding) in the provencal area, which contributed to the presence of tuna aged 1 to 14 in this sector in 1994; this situation has not occurred in the aforementioned sector since the mid-1980's. Notwithstanding, fishing effort was concentrated in the western part of the western Mediterranean basin.

Eastern Atlantic catches of bluefin tuna were higher in 1993 (1,098 MT) than in 1992 (894 MT), and have been on the increase since 1988. The preliminary data show a strong increase in catches by pelagic trawl, as regards the official statistics, which show some imprecision as regards the gears used to catch this species.

-- Albacore

Albacore fishing in the Atlantic was carried out during the summer of 1993 by 64 driftnet vessels, which landed 4,600 MT, and by a fleet of 20 to 25 paired pelagic trawl vessels that caught 1,700 MT. Following the very high catches of 1992, the 1993 catches constituted a new record.

In the Mediterranean, albacore are caught incidentally by the purse seiners and are targeted by the sport fishery from mid-August until the end of October. The 30 purse seiners, whose target species is bluefin tuna, caught only 60 MT as by-catch in 1993.

1.3 Tropical tunas

-- The purse seine fleet

The catches of tropical tunas in 1993 by French tuna vessels amounted to 74,064 MT, broken down as follows: 31,946 MT yellowfin, 32,223 MT skipjack and 9,895 MT of bigeye. Including the three French purse seiners which changed to St. Vincent flag and which caught 10,011 MT in 1993, the total catch reached 83,946 MT for the same number of purse seiners as in 1992 (i.e. 20 vessels). The 1993 catch, which was 58% over that of 1992, is also the highest since 1969. This increase in the three species is more marked for skipjack and bigeye. Among the factors that have changed in the fishery, the reported movement of the fleet to their traditional fishing

* Original report in French.

grounds is noteworthy: there was more fishing in the coastal areas and the Gulf of Guinea, whereas there was less fishing in the Cape Lopez area and almost no fishing in the Senegalese area. This movement of the fishing grounds is, without a doubt, one of the factors which could explain the high skipjack catches. On the contrary, the increase in bigeye catches is observed in all the areas fished by the fleet. There is some doubt about the magnitude of the increase in bigeye catches. Indeed the catches landed show an increase in bigeye catches, but the increase is so significant (+103% from 1992 to 1993) that it casts some doubt on the method used to correct the species composition. Therefore, this will be the subject of a study carried out jointly with Spanish scientists who use this same method, and who have also noted a strong increase in bigeye catches. The possibility of a change in environmental conditions should not be discarded and should also be examined.

These important catches, together with an almost constant nominal effort have resulted in very high yields, the highest reported since 1969 for skipjack and bigeye. If the CPUE is expressed in effective effort, these catches are still high for skipjack and bigeye and, in the case of yellowfin, the CPUE is slightly above the 1992 CPUE (3.7 in 1993 for 3.1 in 1992).

Finally, it should be pointed out that the average weight of yellowfin is lower in the first quarter of 1993 (traditionally the fishing period for large yellowfin), than during the corresponding quarter of 1992. (17 kg instead of 30 kg).

-- The baitboat fleet

As regards the baitboat fleet, there were seven French flag vessels in Dakar in 1993 and five vessels flying other flags (Spain, Cape Verde and Panama), which is similar to that of the previous year. The French baitboats caught 6,778 MT of the 9,499 MT taken by the fleet, or 71% of the total catch. The 1993 catch is within the ten-year average for this fishery, both in terms of catches as well as species composition (37% yellowfin, 35% skipjack and 28% bigeye).

The 1993 yield of all the species combined (6.7 MT/day fishing) is slightly below that of the last two years, which represented the highest CPUEs ever attained by this fishery.

2. Research

French research on tunas is carried out on the temperate species of the Atlantic and Mediterranean by IFREMER and on the tropical species in the Atlantic by ORSTOM.

2.1 Temperate tunas

-- Bluefin tuna

Sampling of the landings of bluefin tuna from purse seiners that operate in the Mediterranean continued. In 1993, this sampling was carried out based on commercial data obtained from fish dealers, and covered about 79% of the total catch and 69% of the size composition. A program sponsored by the European Union (EU) is underway and involves several Mediterranean member countries. This program is aimed at the improvement of knowledge on the statistics and biology of this species, and will contribute to the objectives of the ICCAT Bluefin Year Program (BYP).

-- Albacore

For the north Atlantic, albacore research was centered on the development of aging methods on large albacore, with a view towards improving the analytical stock assessments.

The program to monitor the by-catches of the driftnet fishery was carried out in 1992 and 1993. On-board observers were placed on 25% of the fleet. The data collected permitted carrying out an assessment of the by-catches, particularly those of marine mammals (about 1,600 dolphins from two species each year) as well as the albacore catches by geographic strata. This program has now finalized and will not continue in 1994.

This year, there seems to have been compliance with the 2.5 km driftnet regulation since August 1, 1994, after numerous incidents that occurred at sea. The French driftnet fleet was comprised of 70 driftnet vessels in 1994.

In the Mediterranean, France tagged more than 3,000 fish during five years of tagging cruises. Tag recoveries continued at the rate of about 10 a year, bringing recoveries to about 70. All the validated recoveries have all taken place in the Mediterranean. The collection of data from these cruises continues, within the framework of the Mediterranean large pelagics program, finances in part by the EU, especially as concerns the relationship between environmental factors and concentrations of this species in the Mediterranean.

2.2 Tropical tunas

As regards tropical tunas, work on fishery statistics and research is carried out in close collaboration with the research institutes of Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal, and Venezuela, countries where French scientists are working.

Detailed fishery statistics of the French inter-tropical fleets were submitted on a timely basis to ICCAT. Research carried out on tropical tunas involved the following subjects:

- analysis of the fishing strategy of the baitboats based in Dakar; also, this fishery is the subject of a recently-initiated research program that will continue for three years.
- evaluation of the interactions in the skipjack fisheries of the eastern tropical Atlantic.
- analysis of the tuna catches taken by the purse seiners in association with Cetaceans and particularly dolphins in the western Indian and eastern Atlantic Oceans. This research is part of a three-year program initiated in 1993 and which financed by the EU, ORSTOM and the IBO.
- analysis of the Lekeckis waves in the Equatorial area and of the rich food chain which these generate and which produce the important catches of tunas in this area.

Some of these research subjects have been the subject of papers which have been submitted to the 1994 SCRS by the French scientists.

Table 1. French catches (in 1,000 MT) of tunas in 1983-1993

Species	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
Yellowfin	31.9	5.8	9.8	16.6	16.6	21.6	30.6	43.8	34.2	31.5	31.1
Skipjack	20.5	13.2	8.5	11.7	15.1	16.3	15.6	16.4	31.4	20.2	32.2
Bigeye	6.0	2.1	4.4	4.6	3.4	3.8	2.8	4.9	6.6	7.2	9.9
Albacore	3.0	2.9	2.2	1.2	2.0	2.8	3.7	3.4	4.2	6.1	7.0*
Bluefin	4.1	4.2	5.6	3.8	4.9	6.2	4.9	5.2	5.1	6.9	5.8
TOTAL	65.5	28.2	30.5	37.9	42.0	50.7	57.6	73.7	81.5	71.8	86.0

* 6.3 temperate Atlantic + 0.6 Mediterranean + 0.5 tropical Atlantic (purse seiners).

NATIONAL REPORT OF GABON*

1. The fishery

Tuna fishing in Gabon is carried out by several artisanal, industrial and sport fishing vessels. The fishing methods used by these vessels are as follows:

- lines with hooks
- lines without hooks
- driftnets

The main species which comprise the catches are: yellowfin, skipjack, bigeye, billfishes and small tunas.

There are three reported fishing periods each year, taking into account the migratory pattern of tunas which explain their seasonal character: from May to June, in July-August-September, and between October and November (the latter period shows high levels of abundance the Cape Lopez area).

2. The catches

The catches are shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Catches (MT) by Gabon, by species, in 1993

<i>Species</i>	<i>Catches</i>
Yellowfin tuna	11.7
Skipjack	1.0
Bigeye	0.6
Billfishes	2.8
Blue marlin	1.436
White marlin	.450
Black marlin	.500
Sailfish	.420
Small tunas	60.0

* Original report in French.

NATIONAL REPORT OF GHANA *

1. The fleet

The Ghanaian tuna fishery in 1993 was dominated by baitboats. Twenty-five (25) baitboats operated during 1993 using anchovy (*Engraulis encrasicolus*) as the main bait. The gross tonnage of those vessels ranged from 250 to 500. All of them were Ghana flag vessels.

2. The fisheries

the vessels operated largely in the traditional ICCAT quadrants 1 and 4. Skipjack tuna was the dominant species caught, accounting for about 70% of the total tuna landed. Tuna landings by species for the year under review are shown in Table 1. The quantities are the adjusted values based on multi-species sampling.

3. Research and Statistics

Port sampling for multi-species estimation, length frequency distribution and observation of biological parameters continued throughout the year. A total of 15,137 skipjack, 94,31 yellowfin and 2,054 bigeye were measured for length frequency distribution during the year. All these data and other necessary information have been submitted to ICCAT on the relevant forms.

Table 1. Tuna landings by Ghana, by species - 1993

Species	Landings (MT)
Skipjack tuna	25,544
Yellowfin tuna	10,847
Bigeye tuna	106
Atlantic black skipjack tuna	359
TOTAL	36,856

* Original report in English.

NATIONAL REPORT OF GUINEA*

by

S. Traore** and M. Kourouma***

1. The fishing fleet

The 1994 fishing fleet in the EEZ of Guinea was comprised of 24 tuna vessels, of which 17 were French flag vessels and 7 were Spanish flag vessels. The engine power of the vessels varied between 960 HP to 4200 HP. The gross tonnage of these vessels varied from 421 to 1,283 GRT. The distribution of the fleet by engine power and by GRT classes is shown in Tables 1 and 2.

2. Catches and fishing effort

A system to monitor the statistics of the industrial fishery has been implemented by the National Center of Fisheries Research, within the framework of a scientific study being carried out by the "Surveillance and Protection of Fishing in Guinea" project. The objectives of this system are to estimate and monitor the main indicators which serve serving as a base for a rational management of the Guinean fishery.

The "Industrial and Semi-industrial Fishery" data base of this center, in addition to the characteristics, does not include either the catches or the fishing effort of the tuna vessels that have been authorized to fish off the Guinean coast.

Notwithstanding, the export of 20.4 MT of tunas caught by two demersal trawling vessels is noted. The origin of these catches still has to be verified, since an analysis of the catch records of these vessels and the ICCAT export forms show some incompatibilities.

3. Recommendations

Within the framework of enforcement of Guinea's collaboration with ICCAT, Guinea is very interested in the transmission of available information relative to the activities of the tuna fleet in the Guinean EEZ, such as: catch statistics, fishing effort, species caught and fishing seasons.

In effect, the requirement to monitor the catch statistics requires collaborative efforts between the specialized institutes and ICCAT in order to determine the catches of the tuna fleet by countries.

* Original report in French.

** Department of Industrial Fishing, National Center of Fisheries Research of Boussoira.

*** Management Service, National Directorate of Fisheries & Aquaculture.

Table 1. Distribution of tuna vessels by vessel power

750-999	100-1499	1500-1999	2000-2999	3000-3999	Total
1	0	2	9	12	24

Table 2. Distribution of tuna vessels by gross tonnage

250-499	500-999	1000-1999	Total
1	17	6	24

NATIONAL REPORT OF JAPAN *

by

National Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries

1. Fishing activities

Two types of fisheries, longline and purse seine, had been operated by Japan in the Atlantic Ocean. However, the purse seine fishery ceased its activity and withdrew from the Atlantic Ocean during 1992. Consequently, the longline catch accounted for 100% of the total Japanese catches in the Atlantic in 1993. The 1993 Japanese catch of Atlantic tunas and tuna-like fishes is estimated to be 53,358 MT (Table 1).

1.1 The longline fishery

The number of Japanese longliners operating in the total Atlantic in 1993 was about 240. This is slightly less than the number in 1992 (Table 2). The total longline catch in 1993 was estimated to be about 53,400 MT, which resulted in an increase (about 10%) over the 1992 catch (Table 1). Among the major species, southern bluefin, bigeye and swordfish catches increased by about 1,000 MT, 1,700 MT and 2,800 MT, respectively. On the other hand, catches of bluefin, albacore and yellowfin tuna declined 200 MT, 800 MT and 400 MT, respectively. The catch of bigeye tuna accounted for 68% of the total longline catch (70% in 1992), and this has remained unchanged for more than a decade. Among other species, important catches, in terms of weight, were swordfish and yellowfin, followed by bluefin. In 1993, the operational pattern of the longline fleet was similar to that of recent years.

1.2 The purse seine fishery

No catch was reported by this fishery since the two Japanese purse seiners ceased their operations in 1992, one in April and the other in October, due to economic reasons.

2. ICCAT regulations

Since the initiation of the fishery regulations adopted by the International Commission for the conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) for bluefin, yellowfin, bigeye tunas and swordfish, Japanese fishermen have been concurrently subject to national fisheries regulation. To comply with the bluefin tuna regulations, the area-time closure has been in effect as a domestic regulation both in the Gulf of Mexico (since 1982) and the Mediterranean Sea (since 1975). Since the 1993 fishing year, the period of area closure in the Mediterranean Sea has been modified from May 21-June 30 to June 1-July 31, according to a regulation adopted at 1993 ICCAT meeting. These closures have been effective to reduce the longline fishing mortality on the spawning stock. In recent years, the number of longliners allowed to fish in the northwestern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea has been limited respectively. Bluefin and swordfish catches have been strictly monitored through radio-reporting in the Atlantic, including the Mediterranean Sea. To monitor the longline fleet closely, three governmental patrol boats were dispatched to the Atlantic Ocean, one to the Mediterranean Sea during April to July, and the other two to the northwestern Atlantic in winter.

3. Research activities

The National Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries (NRIFSF) has been in charge of the collection and compilation of Atlantic fishery data necessary for the scientific research on Atlantic tuna and billfish stocks. All the statistical data have been routinely reported to the ICCAT Secretariat and the results of scientific research have also been presented at the regular meetings and inter-sessional workshops of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS).

* Original report in English.

3.1 Fishery data

The NRIFSF submitted final 1992 catch, catch/effort and part of size frequency data (Task I, II and biological sampling) of the longline fishery to the ICCAT Secretariat. The compilation of the same data for 1993 has been in progress. The preliminary 1993 catch estimates are given in this report. The size data for swordfish and bluefin tuna in 1993 were presented. The quick reporting system of logbooks and size data by on-board sampling at a port of call has been continued since its inception in April, 1984. A new logbook format was introduced at the beginning of 1993. There are several improvements in the new format, one of which is the separation of sailfish and spearfish. These species were combined on the old format. At the same time, catch in weight by species is added so as to arrive at a better estimate of landings.

3.2 Tuna biology and stock assessment

The biological and stock assessment studies carried out by the NRIFSF on Atlantic tunas and billfishes have been continued and enhanced. Among these, Bluefin Year Program-related research is one of the major activities. During the recent fishing seasons (November 1992-January 1994), gonad, vertebra and tissue samples were collected from about 400 fishes caught by the longliners that operated in the northwestern and central Atlantic. Bluefin sampling for genetic analysis was also carried out from the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean area, and is still continuing, with the assistance of scientists in those areas. This year the NRIFSF conducted a research cruise for bluefin larvae both in the Gulf of Mexico and in the Mediterranean Sea during May to August in cooperation with U.S., Spanish and Italian scientists. Gratitude is expressed to those who were involved in this activity and contributed to the success of this cruise. The materials and data collected from the cruise are now being analyzed. A summary report of this cruise has been presented to the SCRS.

This year the NRIFSF participated in various ICCAT meetings, i.e., the ICCAT Data Preparatory Meeting for Atlantic Pelagic Tuna Longline Fisheries, the Final Meeting of the Albacore Research Program, the Second Meeting of the Consultation on the Technical Aspects of Methodologies which Account for Individual Growth Variability by Age, the Workshop on the Development of Abundance Indices for South Atlantic Tuna and Tuna-like Fishes, the *Ad Hoc* GFCM/ICCAT Joint Working Group on Stocks of large Pelagic Fishes in the Mediterranean Sea, the 1994 SCRS Stock Assessment Session for East Atlantic Bluefin Tuna, and the 1994 SCRS Stock Assessment Session for Swordfish in the entire Atlantic.

4. Documents presented by Japan to the 1994 SCRS

The scientific documents presented by Japan to the 1994 SCRS are included in the List of SCRS Documents (Appendix 3 to Annex 25) and/or published in the "Collective Volume of Scientific Papers" series.

Table 1. Japanese catches (MT) of tunas and tuna-like fishes, by type of fisheries, in the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea, 198-1993

Type of fishery	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993*
Longline (Home-based)	47,326	58,514	54,930	46,883	48,515	53,358
Purse seine	5,887	4,453	4,361	7,516	2,794	--
Total	53,213	62,967	59,291	54,399	51,309	53,358

*Preliminary.

Table 2. Annual number of Japanese tuna boats that operated in the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea, 1988-1993

Type of fishery	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993*
Longline (Home-based)	183	239	235	242	248	239
Purse seine	2	1	1	2	2	0

*Preliminary.

Table 3. Catches (MT) of tunas and tuna-like fishes taken by the Japanese longline fishery, 1988-1993

	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993*
Atlantic						
Albacore	1,128	1,214	1,324	1,346	1,048	897
Bigeye tuna	31,664	39,419	35,024	29,487	34,128	35,836
Bluefin tuna	2,278	2,396	2,014	3,669	3,862	6,065
Southern bluefin	548	625	1,202	1,331	525	1,576
Yellowfin tuna	5,982	6,971	5,919	4,718	3,715	3,350
Swordfish	4,051	5,592	7,305	4,687	3,539	6,382
Blue marlin**	823	1,555	1,216	905	1,017	1,022
White marlin	144	146	126	121	248	102
Sailfish***	79	78	88	88	43	66
Others	366	390	538	443	265	263
Atlantic Sub-total	47,064	58,386	54,756	46,795	48,390	52,559
Mediterranean						
Bluefin tuna	258	127	172	85	123	793
Swordfish	4	1	2	1	2	4
Bigeye tuna	--	--	--	2	--	--
Others	--	--	--	--	--	2
Mediterranean Sub-total	262	128	174	88	125	799
TOTAL	47,326	58,514	54,930	46,883	48,515	53,358

* Preliminary.

** Includes a minor amount of black marlin.

*** Includes shortbill spearfish.

Table 4. Catches (MT) of tunas taken by the Japanese Atlantic purse seine fishery, 1988-1993

	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
Bigeye tuna	14	38	13	39	28	--
Yellowfin tuna	2,221	1,873	1,671	1,371	1,036	--
Skipjack tuna	3,652	2,542	2,677	5,752	1,731	--
Albacore	--	--	--	--	--	--
TOTAL	5,887	4,453	4,361	7,162	2,794	--

NATIONAL REPORT OF KOREA*

by

National Fisheries Research and Development Agency

1. The tuna fishery

The Korean longline fishery for tunas in the Atlantic Ocean has shown a gradual decline year after year since 1985, not only in terms of number of fishing vessels, but also in catches. In 1993, four Korean tuna longliners were engaged in fishing activities and the total catch from the vessels amounted to 863 metric tons (MT), a decrease of 24.8% over the previous year's figure (Table 1). The 1993 total catch showed the lowest value in the Korean tuna catch history in the Atlantic Ocean. During 1993, the Korean tuna vessels operated in an area of equatorial waters between 10°N and 10°S.

1.1 Bigeye tuna

Bigeye tuna comprises the major component of the Korean tuna longline fishery, not only as regards production, but also from an economic viewpoint, since the beginning of the 1980's when the deep longline fishing technique was employed. The catch of bigeye tuna decreased from 866 MT in 1992 to 377 MT in 1993. However, the proportion of bigeye in 1993 remained at the highest value as in past years, accounting for 43.7% of the total catch. Since 1985, the annual catch of bigeye tuna has continued to decrease rapidly until recent years.

1.2 Yellowfin tuna

Yellowfin tuna are also an important target species of the Korean tuna longline fishery in the Atlantic Ocean. The 1993 catch of this fish species from the fishery amount to 180 MT, a decline of 17.8% from the previous year's catch. From 1977 onwards, the annual catch of yellowfin tuna in this Ocean has maintained a trend showing a significant year-after-year decrease.

1.3 Albacore, Swordfish and Billfishes

The 1993 nominal catches of albacore, swordfish and billfish from the Korean tuna longline fishery are not available for the respective fish species, whereas they are included in the "others" column in the format submitted to the ICCAT Secretariat (Task I). This is because Korean fishermen recorded on their logbooks only the main targeted species, such as bigeye tuna and yellowfin tuna.

The catch composition of these fish species can be available from the Task II data obtained on the basis of a sampling system, being undertaken by the National Fisheries Research and Development Agency (NFRDA) with a view to collecting fisheries data such as spatial and/or temporal catch and fishing effort statistics, etc. Considering the species composition of these fish species (except for bigeye and yellowfin tunas) in the Task II data (assuming a coverage rate of 48.4%; sum of catches of ALB, SWO and BIL in Task II divided by the catch of others in Task I), the catches of these fish species were estimated to be 37 MT albacore, 217 MT swordfish, and 41 MT blue marlin (see Table 1).

2. Research activities

Routine scientific monitoring work was carried out by the NFRDA as in past years. This monitoring covers the collection of catch and fishing effort statistics from the Korean tuna longliners in the Atlantic to meet the data requirements of ICCAT, especially for both Task I and Task II statistics. To initiate an ageing study, a total of 14 and 12 first dorsal spines were sampled from bigeye and yellowfin tunas, respectively. Some tasks, such as the preparation of materials for ageing and preliminary examination, are under way. This research work will be carried out continuously by the NFRDA in the future.

* Original report in English.

Table 1. Number of Korean longliners fishing tunas and tuna-like fishes and nominal catches (MT), by species, in the Atlantic Ocean, 1977-1993

Year	Number of Boats	BFT	YFT	ALB	BET	SKJ	SWO	BUM	WHM	SAI	Other bill-fishes	Others	TOTAL
1977	120	3	16,347	9,345	7,610	9	1,240	164	202	141	449	3,339	38,849
1978	47	-	11,512	4,418	9,182	42	1,333	177	79	29	111	2,211	29,094
1979	65	2	6,997	3,875	7,305	2	606	95	13	20	96	1,058	20,069
1980	54	-	5,869	1,487	8,963	4	683	9	1	5	167	1,764	18,952
1981	56	-	6,650	1,620	11,682	47	447	81	13	11	171	1,584	22,306
1982	52	-	5,872	1,889	10,615	21	684	17	24	16	114	1,781	21,033
1983	53	3	3,405	1,077	9,383	530	462	65	20	4	51	1,224	16,224
1984	51	-	2,673	1,315	8,943	29	406	61	5	3	423	927	14,785
1985	45	77	3,239	901	10,691	20	344	54	1	105	729	1,293	17,454
1986	28	-	1,818	694	6,084	11	82	15	-	62	106	1,093	9,965
1987	29	-	1,457	401	4,438	6	75	17	-	-	183	1,048	7,625
1988	29	-	1,368	197	4,919	3	123	-	-	-	409	782	7,801
1989	33	-	2,535	107	7,896	6	162	-	-	-	857	944	12,507
1990	17	-	808	53	2,690	-	101	-	-	-	446	170	4,268
1991	9	-	260	32	801	-	150	-	-	-	624	9	1,876
1992	8	-	219	-	866	-	17	-	-	-	40	5	1,147
1993	4	-	180	(37)	377	-	(217)	(41)	(2)	(2)	-	(7)	863

() = Estimated catch from others of 306 MT recorded in the Task I data, based on species composition of Task II data.

- = No catch.

NATIONAL REPORT OF MOROCCO*

1. Description of the fishery

Tuna fishing is carried out mainly during the reverse migration of these species, i.e., when tuna move from the Mediterranean towards the Atlantic. This period occurs between August and November. This migratory character justifies the high catches reported during the migratory period of these species. Swordfish are caught during a period that is relatively more spaced out, from the end of March to October.

The tuna species caught in the Mediterranean are mainly Atlantic bonito (*Sarda sarda*), frigate tuna, swordfish, and bluefin tuna.

In the Moroccan Mediterranean, three fishing techniques are utilized to catch tunas and tuna-like species, which are: driftnet, surface longline, and trap.

2. The catches

The total reported catches of tunas and tuna-like species in 1993 (Mediterranean) are on the order of 544 MT, compared to 1,829 MT for the previous year (Table 1). The coastal catch amounted to 478 MT (88%), whereas the trap catch was only 66 MT (12%).

The main species caught by the coastal is swordfish, which comprises 80% of the total catch. As regards the trap catches, their importance, in terms of weight, corresponds mainly to frigate tunas.

3. Management

The measures adopted for the management of tuna fishing in Morocco refer to the establishment of minimum commercial sizes for certain species, and that relative to the use of driftnets. This regulation includes the measures adopted by ICCAT as well as other measures taken at the national level in Morocco.

4. Research

The Scientific Institute of Maritime Fishing continues to give special attention to the scientific monitoring of the tuna fisheries. Consequently, and further to the Skipjack Research Program carried out in the 1980s, another program has been initiated to study the biology of tunas, and relies mainly on assistance from ICCAT. This program covers the landings of frigate tuna and Atlantic bonito at the port of Mohammedia in the Atlantic and swordfish landings at the port of Nador. The operations carried out on these species are limited to size sampling. The cost of fish to obtain biological parameters is very expensive.

It should be noted that a future program relative to the monitoring of these fisheries will give special emphasis to the activities of the trap fishery, and the breakdown of the tuna catches that are mixed in the landings of the coastal fishery.

* Original report in French.

Table 1. Catch series for tunas and tuna-like fishes caught along the coasts of Morocco in 1986-93

		1986		1987		1988		1989		1990		1991		1992		1993	
		Trap	Coastal fleet	Trap	Coastal fleet	Trap	Coastal fleet	Trap	Coastal fleet	Trap	Coastal fleet	Trap	Coastal fleet	Trap	Coastal fleet	Trap	Coastal fleet
ATLANTIC																	
Bluefin tuna	BFT	166	122	101	255	235	202	304	147	228	75	759	36	84	328	254	22
Atlantic bonito	BON	5	246	18	223	2	587	3	563	8	356	1	575	1	761	1	878
Frigate tuna	FRI	10	292	11	303	3	191	113	486	238	497	347	516	91	150	76	109
Swordfish	SWO	3	178	5	192	1	195	3	219	26	177	10	182	13	339	3	454
Black skipjack	LTA	0	47	5	103	1	48	3	11	53	202	0	41	0	259	0	18
Skipjack tuna	SKJ	0	425	0	105	0	428	0	295	0	837	0	178	0	391	0	217
Plain bonito	BOP	0	33	0	487	0	1422	0	1058	0	263	0	348	0	272	0	253
Total Atlantic		184	1343	140	1668	242	3073	426	2779	553	2407	1117	1876	189	2500	334	1951
MEDITERRANEAN																	
Bluefin tuna	BFT	38	18	110	6	96	44	286	9	580	7	22	7	82	2	4	2
Atlantic bonito	BON	4	47	5	122	1	107	0	28	0	27	0	27	0	6	1	8
Frigate tuna	FRI	25	150	27	151	0	811	70	1107	185	1421	118	597	250	806	60	32
Swordfish	SWO	0	92	0	40	0	62	0	97	0	289	0	478	0	683	0	436
Black skipjack	LTA	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Skipjack tuna	SKJ	0	2	0	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Plain bonito	BOP	0	1	0	26	0	8	0	7	0	21	0	9	0	0	0	0
Total Medi.		67	310	142	358	97	1044	356	1248	765	1769	140	1118	332	1497	66	478
ATLANTIC + MEDITERRANEAN																	
Bluefin tuna	BFT	204	140	211	261	331	246	590	156	808	82	781	43	166	330	258	24
Atlantic bonito	BON	9	293	23	345	3	694	3	591	8	383	1	602	1	767	2	886
Frigate tuna	FRI	35	442	38	454	3	1002	183	1593	423	1918	465	1113	1113	956	136	141
Swordfish	SWO	3	270	5	232	1	257	3	316	26	466	10	660	13	1022	3	890
Black skipjack	LTA	0	47	5	103	1	60	3	11	53	206	0	41	0	259	0	18
Skipjack tuna	SKJ	0	427	0	118	0	428	0	295	0	837	0	178	0	391	1	217
Plain bonito	BOP	0	34	0	513	0	1430	0	1065	0	284	0	357	0	272	0	253
TOTAL		251	1653	282	2026	339	4117	782	4027	1318	4176	1257	2994	521	3997	400	2429

NATIONAL REPORT OF RUSSIA *

by

V. Z. Gaikov & M. E. Grudtsev **

1. The fishery

The 1993 tuna catch amounted to 3,185 MT, including 2,160 MT of yellowfin tuna, 540 MT of skipjack tuna, 265 MT of Atlantic black skipjack, 150 MT of frigate tuna, and 70 MT of bullet tuna; 19 MT of mackerel were also caught. The fishery was comprised of purse seine vessels. The fleet, comprised of six purse seine vessels, engaged in the fishery. The distribution of the tuna catch, by fishing grounds, was as follows: Exclusive Economic Zone of Sierra Leone: 2,510 MT (68% yellowfin tuna, 12% skipjack, 11% Atlantic black skipjack, 6% frigate tuna, and 3% bullet tuna); the open central east Atlantic: 675 MT (66% yellowfin and 34% skipjack).

Data on the fishery are provided in Table 1, and preliminary estimates for the first half of 1994 are given in Table 2.

2. Research

In 1993, the analysis was carried out on retrospective data collected by Russian fishing vessels in 1984-1992 concerning the tuna fishery and biology in the east equatorial Atlantic Ocean. A total of 6,900 yellowfin tunas, 8,900 skipjack tunas and 8,800 Atlantic black skipjack, frigate tuna and bullet tuna specimens were analyzed.

Table 1. Species composition of the tuna catch, by fishing grounds and fishing periods

	<i>Sierra Leone Area</i>	<i>Open central tropical Atlantic</i>	
No. of vessels	5	5	
Fishing Period	February-May	January-December	
Effort (days at sea)	463	304	
Catches (MT)			
Yellowfin tuna (YFT)	1,175	445	2,160
Skipjack tuna (SKJ)	310	230	540
Atlantic black skipjack (LTA)	265	--	265
Frigate tuna (FRI)	150	--	150
Bullet tuna (BFT)	70	--	70
Total	2,510	675	3,185

* Original report in English.

** Atlantic Scientific Research Institute of Marine Fisheries & Oceanography (AtlantNIRO).

Table 2. Russian catch (MT) of tunas during the first half of 1994

<i>Species</i>	<i>Catch (MT)</i>
Yellowfin tuna (YFT)	1,456
Skipjack tuna (SKJ)	1,082
Atlantic black skipjack (LTA)	189
Frigate tuna (FRI)	400
Bullet tuna (BLT)	100

NATIONAL REPORT OF SPAIN

by

Spanish Institute of Oceanography (IEO)

1. State of the fisheries

Spanish catches of tunas and swordfish amounted to 162,724 MT in 1993, which represents a slight decline (2%) with respect to the average catch of the last four years (1989-1992) (Table 1). Of note is the progressive decrease in albacore catches in recent years, which reached their lowest level in 1991, and the spectacular increase in bluefin tuna catches due to the increase in fishing in the Bay of Biscay. Yellowfin catches have declined progressively since 1990; catches of bigeye and small tunas increased in the last year. Swordfish catches have remained at the same level of the last four years.

2. Fisheries and research by areas

2.1 Temperate area

-- Bluefin tuna

The 1993 catches of bluefin tuna in the Bay of Biscay (3,834 MT) represented more than three times the 1992 value, and is the highest catch in the last 27 years, with a level of effort similar to that of previous years. The abundance of age 2 fish of Mediterranean origin was one of the reasons for the high catches.

In the south Atlantic area, trap catches (1,244 MT) continued the declining trend that started in 1988, with a constant number of traps (4 units in operation).

In general, in the Mediterranean, catches as well as effort remained stable in 1992, although there was an 8% decline in bluefin tuna catches. By fisheries, purse seine catches were maintained, with the same nominal fishing effort as in previous years (5 purse seine vessels). Traps, unclassified gears, and surface gears declined; handline increased slightly. In general terms, for the last five years, the bluefin tuna caught by Spain in the Mediterranean represents 6% of the total report in this sea, and 20% of the overall eastern stock.

Observer cruises on board purse seiners in the western Mediterranean have resulted in important improvements in the basic statistics on bluefin tuna. These cruises continued in 1994.

Through the development of IEO projects and from the participation in the research project of large pelagics of the Mediterranean, financed by the EU, studies were carried out on the fecundity of bluefin tuna. The IEO has the collaboration of a sport fisherman at the port of Valencia, which in the last two tagging cruises (1993 and 1994) has released more than 1,100 specimens of bluefin tuna (>50 cm).

An IEO scientist participated in the larval survey cruise carried out by Japan in the Mediterranean during the summer of 1994.

In September, 1994, the *Ad Hoc* GFCM/ICCAT Joint Working Group on Stocks of Large Pelagic Fishes in the Mediterranean Sea and the East Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Stock Assessment Session were held at the Oceanographic Center of Fuengirola of the IEO. Spanish scientists presented seven documents, which dealt, among other subjects, with the state of the bluefin and swordfish fisheries, information from the tagging/recovery cruises, and indices of abundance of swordfish (standardized) and bluefin tuna (nominal).

* Original report in Spanish.

-- Albacore

The 1993 total catches of albacore by Spain in the north Atlantic amounted to 17,765 MT, which is 3% less than 1992 catches. A total of 290 MT were taken in the Mediterranean, which is similar to previous years.

The major component of the catches (15,269 MT) were taken in the northeastern Atlantic and Cantabrian Sea during the months of June to October. The yield was 8% less than 1992 (16,670 MT). The baitboat fleet caught 9,178 MT, which is 2% less than in 1992. Troll catches amounted to 6,091 MT, which is 17% less than the previous year.

Baitboat fishing effort declined by 30% with respect to 1992; Troll effort declined by 8%.

In the autumn fishery in the area around the Azores, carried out by the baitboat fleet, catches reached 2,496 MT, which is 76% higher than those obtained in the previous year in the same area.

Research work centered on improving knowledge on the biology of this species, and on the analysis of the basic data of the surface fishery in order to carry out an assessment of the north stock.

At the Final Meeting of the ICCAT Albacore Research Program, organized by the ASZI of the Basque Autonomous Government at the Sukarrieta Laboratory, papers were presented; estimates of growth based on tag/recapture data, studies on growth validation based on finray spines of specimens tagged and injected with tetracycline (recovered after various years at liberty), nominal indices of abundance (aggregated and non-aggregated) by age for the Spanish baitboat and troll fleets. A paper was also presented on the changes in CPUE in recent years, from daily records of the Basque baitboat fleet.

-- Swordfish

In 1993, surface longline catches of swordfish taken in the Atlantic (north and south) amounted to 13,141 MT.

In the north Atlantic, surface longline catches were 6,392 MT, which is the same level as in previous years. Thus, 1993 catches continue being about 70% of those taken in 1988 (a 30% decline with relation to said reference year).

As regards the south Atlantic, the longline catch amounted to 6,749 MT, with is about 1,000 MT more than the last two years.

In the Mediterranean in 1993, the Spanish catch of swordfish by surface longline reached 1,293 MT, with fishing effort similar to the average value of the last ten years.

As regards research work, observer cruises on board large longliners continued, and biological samples were collected to carry out studies on spawning areas and sex ratio/size. Nominal indices of abundance were presented for the Atlantic and Mediterranean fisheries. A joint project between the United States and Spain was carried out on mitochondrial DNA studies; sex ration/size in the Atlantic, Indian, and Pacific Oceans and Mediterranean Sea was reviewed by similarity analysis; Spanish scientists, together with scientists of Canada, the United States and Japan, contributed towards the development of nominal biomass indices.

2.2 Canary Islands area

-- Baitboat fishery

Overall catches decreased with respect to previous years, from 14,330 MT in 1992 to 9,000 MT in 1993. The catch, by species, indicates an important decline in skipjack catches from 7,128 MT to 2,839 MT and an increase in albacore catches, which doubled (603 MT in 1993). The number of vessels declined slightly to 307 vessels.

During the tagging cruise carried out in waters off Gomera Island 718 skipjack were tagged.

Biological sampling maturity, sex ratio) of yellowfin and skipjack continued, as well as the collection of stomachs for studies on skipjack feeding.

2.3 Tropical area

During 1993, 30 fishing vessels with Spanish flag operated in the tropical area. The carrying capacity again declined to 18,715 MT. This decline is due to the change in flag by the fleet and to the movement of fishing vessels between the Atlantic and Indian Oceans.

The increase in skipjack (9,000 MT) and bigeye (3,000 MT) catches, as well as the decrease in yellowfin catches (7,000 MT) is noteworthy.

Two purse seiners remained in the western Atlantic, catching 1,253 MT of tunas, which is similar to catches in previous years. Three baitboats, based in Dakar, caught 1,400 MT of tunas (yellowfin, skipjack and bigeye).

The IEO is carrying out a joint research project with ORSTOM, financed by EU, on species associated with the fish caught by the freezer tuna vessels in the Atlantic and Indian Oceans. Within this project, an historical review of the fisheries data has been carried out.

An analysis is also being conducted on the catches by species and commercial category according to the different types of association present in the fishery.

Six documents were presented to the 1994 SCRS on the baitboat fishery in the Canary Islands area, and three documents were presented on purse seine fishery in the inter-tropical Atlantic. Noteworthy among these are the study on the new fishing method using live bait in the Canary Islands, the analyses on the development of the CPUE, as well as the studies on fishing with floating objects and on free schools of the Spanish purse seine fleet in the Atlantic Ocean.

REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION BY SPAIN OF THE SWORDFISH MANAGEMENT MEASURES

The ICCAT Recommendations which establish regulations on catch and/or effort of the swordfish fisheries take 1998 as a point of reference. Thus, Spain wishes to inform the ICCAT Member States as well as the Commission itself of the actions which the Spanish fisheries administration has taken on this swordfish fishery prior to the Recommendations and in implementing these since 1991.

1988-1991 period

Due to the uncertainty in the preliminary assessments, as well as other empirical indicators of the fishery, Spain, based on domestic reports, at the unilateral level and awaiting assessments with a higher degree of certainty, adopted precautionary measures, with respect to the north Atlantic. The objectives were on the one hand, the conservation of the swordfish resource, and on the other hand to reduce the repercussions which the adoption of possible measures could have in the future for the management of this fishery:

- Effort of a sector of the fleet was transferred from the north Atlantic to the south stock.
- An Experimental Observer Program was initiated in 1990, whose objectives were:
 - Knowledge on fishing strategies as regards fishing areas.
 - Gears.
 - Reliability of the information compiled by other sources.
 - Associated species.
 - Biological data on these species: size, sex, gonad indices.
 - Knowledge on the catch levels.
 - Landings.

- Possible discards.
- Comparison of these data with other sources.

Some 241 fishing days with observers were carried out, with an observed effort of 611,000 hooks and a 2.5% coverage rate of the north Atlantic.

With the introduction of these measures, a 35% reduction was realized in catches in the north Atlantic, with respect to 1988 as well as a 32% reduction in nominal effort.

1991-1993 period

Since 1991, based on the entry into force of the ICCAT Recommendation, the following measures were adopted:

-- At the legislative level:

- Incorporation of the ICCAT recommendations to the national legislation, by means of the publication of the measures adopted by the Commission in the Official State Bulletin No. 48, dated February 25, 1991.
- Circular No. 1/91 of the Director General of Fishery Resources to the entire extractive sector: boat owners, brotherhoods of fishermen, producers organizations, etc., which instructs the Spanish fishing fleet on the concrete measures it must comply with in its activity directed at swordfish, whose area of operation is defined in the Official State Bulletin No. 48, dated February 25, 1991, published beforehand.

Although all the ICCAT Recommendations are included in the juridic norms and whose compliance is obligatory for the Spanish fishing fleet, different measures have been taken for the application of each one of the Recommendations. To understand better the actions taken, the ICCAT Recommendations are numbered and the actions carried out for the implementation and compliance of these are given below:

FIRST: That the Contracting Parties whose nationals have been actively fishing for swordfish in the North Atlantic take measures to reduce the fishing mortality of fish weighing more than 25 kg in the area north of five degrees North latitude by 15 percent from recent levels. The reduction in fishing mortality shall be determined by the catch in 1988 or may be a reduction of fishing effort that will result in the equivalent reduction of fishing mortality.

Various alternatives were reviewed, among them the establishment of a TAC, or a control of effort as the most effective measures to implement this first Recommendation.

The establishment of a TAC presents serious difficulties of inspection and control, as well as the possibility of indirectly provoking under-estimates of the reported catches, thus creating undesirable effects on the scientific data bases and consequently on the knowledge on the status of the stocks. Also, it favors re-flagging, as has been the case on numerous occasions when strict TACs were established.

On the other hand, the Spanish fleet because of its characteristics, can carry out landings at numerous points, as well as transshipments to vessels of other flags, and both operations are difficult to control with a view to abiding by the TACs established.

Consequently and taking into account all these elements, it was decided that controlling effort was the most efficient operative measure.

To this end, an Order was prepared and published on January 8, 1993, regulating the surface longline fleet in international fishing grounds.

In accordance with that outlined in the Final First Provision of the aforementioned Order, dated August 3, 1993, the Official State Bulletin No. 184, published by Resolution of July 23, 1993, the "Special Census of Surface Longline Vessels" in international fishing grounds.

Also, the Official State Bulletin No. 229 of September 24, 1993, published by Resolution of July 30, 1993, among others, the Updated Census of Surface Longline Vessels Classified as "National Fishing Grounds".

Both these each and every one of the vessels that could request authorization to fish swordfish. The selection criteria to prepare these census lists have been highly restrictive, taking into account the objective of the aforementioned measures was to control overall fishing effort limiting the number of vessels susceptible to accede to this fishery.

The first, by means of the design of Fishing Plans of a quarterly periodicity, defines number of vessels, the number of fishing days, the number of days at sea and areas, among other elements.

The second consists of Temporary Fishing Permits (TFP) of an individual nature, for each one of the vessels included in the Fishing Plan. The duration of these is variable, depending on the type of vessel, whether it a freezer or fresh fish vessel. The TFPs give details on the obligatory measures that vessels must observe in carrying out their activity.

The incompliance of any of the required demands could result in:

- a) Not authorizing a new Temporary Fishing Permit.
- b) The suspension of the TFP in effect, with the subsequent return to the base port.

Other measures for the diversification of effort have been:

- a) Experimental searching cruises in other oceans, financed by Community and national funds.
- b) Incentives of a general nature foreseen by the legislation in effect for the scrapping of fishing vessels.

SECOND: In order to protect small swordfish, the Contracting Parties take the necessary measures to prohibit the taking and landing of swordfish in the entire Atlantic Ocean weighing less than 25 kg live weight (125 cm lower jaw fork length); however, the Contracting Parties may grant tolerances to boats which have incidentally captured small fish, with the condition that this incidental catch shall not exceed 15 percent of the number of fish per landing of the total swordfish catch of said boats.

In addition, the Contracting Parties are encouraged to take other appropriate measures within their national jurisdictions to protect small swordfish, including, but not limited to, the establishment of time and area closures.

With regard to this recommendation, besides the aforementioned pertinent legislation, the following actions have been carried out:

- a) Conscientiousness of the fleet not to operate in areas of juvenile concentrations, through information seminars on the convenience of fishing strategies in relation to the ICCAT recommendations and the exercise of responsible fishing.

Institutional publicity campaigns on radio, in the press and on television, directed at fishermen and consumers with the objective of improving the exploitation of the fishing resources, i.e. with decided protection of juveniles.

- b) Specific development of on-board, scientific observer programs to evaluate, among other parameters, the catches of juveniles, levels of discards, fishing strategies, etc.

The days fishing observed were increased substantially to about 400 days/year.

- c) Port inspections. The number of inspections, within the framework of the ICCAT Port Inspection Scheme, has been increased significantly, which resulted in more control and a considerable increase in the number of inspections carried out on this fleet.
- d) The Seasonal Fishing Permits within the overall conditions for fishing which they include, also include specific lines which limit catches of individuals less than 125 cm or 25 kg in weight.

THIRD: The Contracting Parties that are directly fishing for swordfish shall take the necessary measures to limit the fishing mortality of swordfish in the entire Atlantic Ocean to the level of catch in 1988, or will limit the fishing effort that will result in the equivalent level of fishing mortality.

In order to comply with this Recommendation, the same package of measures of the FIRST Recommendation are applied, since both refer to the control of effort and its diversification.

FOURTH: That, notwithstanding the first and third paragraphs, Contracting Parties whose recent catch levels are small shall keep their annual catches within levels that are reasonable and abide by conservation measures mentioned in paragraph two.

With regard to this Recommendation, no special measures have been adopted since the Spanish fleet is not categorized within this provision.

FIFTH: That the Contracting Parties whose nationals do not target swordfish in the North Atlantic Ocean shall take necessary measures to limit the incidental catch to no more than 10 percent of the total weight of the entire catch so that fishing mortality of swordfish will stay at the current level.

This Recommendation also did not require special measures for its implementation since the Spanish fleet does not have incidental catches of swordfish.

If indeed the measures adopted are important, Spain considers the application of these measures of major importance, since in order to maintain or modify such restrictive criteria and which have such serious consequences for the large fleets that direct their activity at swordfish, the efficiency of the measures must be taken into account based on the attaining the proposed objectives.

In this respect, the impact of the measures applied has been as follows:

- a) With regard to the FIRST Recommendation, the Spanish fleet has reduced nominal effort in the north Atlantic from the reference year 1988 to 1992 by more than double the level recommended by ICCAT.
- b) As concerns the SECOND Recommendation, the level of fish less than 125 cm or 25 kg in weight has been reduced from 31.4% in 1988 to 15.2% in 1991 and from 17.1% in 1992, with an average value (weighted average) of 16.1% for the entire Atlantic Ocean. This implies for the entire Atlantic a reduction of 50% with respect to the juvenile catches in 1988.

These data are encouraging, taking into account that, based on the data of scientific observers, the levels of voluntary discards are close to "0".

- c) The THIRD Recommendation has been equally implemented by Spain, since for the entire Atlantic, not only has there been a freeze on the Spanish fleet, as recommended, but the fleet has been reduced significantly with respect to the level of 1988.

Based on these results, it is considered that suitable measures have been taken from the point of view of this fleet in order to attain the proposed objective of the ICCAT Recommendations. Therefore, for 1994, these measures continued in effect.

Attached herewith are all the legislative measures, as well as the censuses, the model of the Seasonal Fishing Permit, corresponding to the north and south Atlantic.

**EXPLANATORY NOTE ON THE INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT BY SPAIN
WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE ICCAT PORT INSPECTION SCHEME**

Sixty-two (62) inspections have been carried out at Spanish ports (Table 2). The List of Inspectors is attached as Table 3. The vessels inspected are of different flag states, as detailed below:

- 40 Spanish flag vessels
- 4 Italian flag vessels
- 3 French flag vessels
- 5 Panamanian flag vessels
- 2 Danish flag vessels
- 1 Belgium flag vessel
- 1 Papua-New Guinea flag vessel
- 1 Portuguese flag vessel
- 1 Maltese flag vessel
- 1 United Kingdom flag vessel
- 1 Hong Kong flag vessel.

An inspection of a transport truck was also carried out.

Infractions Reports were drawn up on 22 occasions. The majority of the infractions corresponded to anomalies not related to the ICCAT Recommendations, such as anti-regulatory net mesh sizes, lack of logbooks, failure to fill in the logbooks, failure to identify the equipment, etc.

In four of the inspections, three vessels and one transport truck, the Infraction Report corresponded to catches and possession of immature bluefin tuna. A total of 31.5 crates, equivalent to 364 Kg, were confiscated.

**APPLICATION BY SPAIN OF THE ICCAT BLUEFIN TUNA
STATISTICAL DOCUMENT PROGRAM**

Due to the filling in of a Register of Entry of ICCAT Statistical Documents resulted in a more in-depth analysis of the complexity of the implementation of the Program.

The total number of Documents validated by the Chambers of Commerce amounted to 337, which represents a total volume of 4,216,310 Kgs (i.e. 4,216 MT) of bluefin tuna exported to Japan.

Some 507 Documents were received without validation, transmitted by the General Directorate of Customs and attached to the documents required for all exports. The total of these exports of bluefin tuna amounted to 221,518 Kgs, or 221.5 MT.

Of the validated documents, 249 corresponded to exports of bluefin tuna from the Mediterranean. Seventy-six (76) validated documents from the same area corresponded to frozen products. The total of the fresh product exports from the Mediterranean reached 1,463,657 Kgs (i.e. 1,463.6 MT). Exports of frozen products amounted to 1,278.32 Kgs, or 1,278 MT. Exports of bluefin tuna from the Atlantic are included in 11 Documents validated for fresh bluefin and which represents a total of 1,077,552.3 Kgs (1,077.5 MT). Two (2) validated Documents were presented for frozen bluefin tuna, for a total of 428,602 Kgs, or 428.6 MT.

Of the non-validated Documents, the following information is taken:

- 507 Documents corresponded to fresh bluefin tuna from the Mediterranean, which represented a total of 220,004 Kgs, or 22 MT.

It should be pointed out that in the validated Documents the French flag vessel "Marcal II" is indicated as a Spanish flag vessel in 4 instances, with a total of bluefin tuna exported amounting to 42,967 Kgs (43 MT). Also, a vessel ("Axurra") whose flag is not clearly determined (French or Italian) showed exports amounting to 3,198 Kgs, or 3 MT.

For the ICCAT Meeting, Japan transmitted a letter to the ICCAT Executive Secretary concerning the implementation of the aforementioned Program. That letter includes three annexes, which refer to the imports to Japan in the months of June, July and August, indicating the number of Documents from each country and the total of the imports. These annexes also reflect the anomalies encountered in the filling in of the Documents and the information from Contracting and non-Contracting Parties concerning institutions accredited to validate the Documents.

As regards Spain, the information on the number of Documents and the total product imported shows notable differences. For the total of the months of June, July and August, the number of Documents from Spain are 121 and the total of the imports amount to 279,195 Kgs.

This difference can be due to various reasons:

a) The report by Japan seems only to include fresh and chilled bluefin tuna. This is quite strange, since the implementation of the Document for this type of fresh tuna will be effective starting December 1. It would be necessary to also know the imports to Japan of frozen bluefin tuna, so as to measure better the effort which it being directed on bluefin tuna in the Atlantic and the Mediterranean.

b) Possibly, some of the Spanish exports had not yet entered Japan.

The landings by French vessels at Spanish Mediterranean ports amounted to 1,937,736 Kgs, or 1,938 MT.

Table 1. Spanish catches (MT) of tunas and swordfish, 1989-1993

<i>Species</i>	<i>1989</i>	<i>1990</i>	<i>1991</i>	<i>1992</i>	<i>1993</i>
Yellowfin tuna	61640	68605	59773	51704	44226
Skipjack tuna	35300	47834	72642	51083	57920
Bigeeye tuna	7660	10355	18537	17601	19618
Albacore	25447	25876	18166	20089	19525
Bluefin tuna	5012	4629	3664	4532	7059
Swordfish	16485	13959	12558	11857	13141
Small tunas	<u>5077</u>	<u>6052</u>	<u>3664</u>	<u>638</u>	<u>1235</u>
TOTAL	156621	177310	189004	157504	162724

Table 2. ICCAT Inspections

REG. #	LIST	MATRIFOLIO	NAME OF VESSEL	NATIONALITY	INSPECTION PORT	TYPE OF ACT	FISHING TYPE	FISHING GROUND
3064 94	3	GI-4/ 02167	Maral	Spain			Surface LL	High seas
3068 94	3	VI-2/ 02370	Punta Bazar	Spain			Surface LL	High seas
3062 94	3	AL-2/ 01789	Punta Delgada	Spain			Surface LL	Mauritania
3063 94	3	VI-5/ 09959	Xiada	Spain			Surface LL	High seas
2606 93	3	VI-5/ 09545	Sirin Segundo	Spain	Burela		Surface LL	EEC (Bay of Biscay)
2616 93	X	001/ 00001	Reefer Cape	United Kingdom	Sta. Eug. Riveira		Undetermined	Undetermined
2588 93	X	19142-00090	Albacora Caribe	Panama	Caramiñal		Large freezer tuna vessel	High seas
1025 94	N	CA-2/ 00273	Albacora Frigo Dos	Spain	Caramiñal			Seychelles
2615 93	X	D/ 13351	Ice Crystal	Denmark	Caramiñal			Others
2614 93	X	D/ 13354	Ice Star	Denmark	Caramiñal		Others	Senegal
1377 94	X	HP/ 00008	Praslin Reefer	Panama	Caramiñal		Undetermined	Seychelles
1022 94	X	89-A/ 18542	Sierra Aralar	Panama	Caramiñal		Others	Others
1375 94	X	HP' 00009	Victoria Reefer	Papua-New Guinea	Caramiñal		Undetermined	Seychelles
3388 94	O	SS-2/ 01786	Siete de Julio	Spain	Marin		Surface LL	South Atlantic
1787 94	X	PAN-19/00141	Tagar	Panama	Marin		Surface LL	High seas
2605 93	X	HP-5/00129	Espadarte	Panama	Cangas		Other types	High seas
1616 94	3	GI-4/ 02179	Rampa	Spain	Cangas		Freezer trawl	NAFO
2626 93	3	VI-5/ 09557	Ana Isabel Costa	Spain	Vigo		Surface LL	Portugal (N.Paral. Peniche)
2600 93	3	VI-5/ 09703	Jose Almuiña	Spain	Vigo		Surface LL	Portugal (N.Paral. Peniche)
1073 94	0	FE-4/ 02024	Mar Hipanico	Spain	Vigo		Surface LL	Spanish waters
1078 94	0	FE-4/ 02020	Masso 32	Spain	Vigo		Surface LL	Spanish waters
2599 93	3	VI-7/ 03333	Monxo	Spain	Vigo		Surface LL	Portugal (N.Paral. Peniche)
2602 93	3	FE-4/ 3068	Nuevo Salmon	Spain	Vigo		Surface LL	Spanish waters
3377 94	0	VI-5/ 09848	Playa de Somo	Spain	Vigo		Surface LL	South Atlantic
2610 93	3	VI-5/ 09123	Prudencio	Spain	Vigo		Surface LL Portugal	Portugal (N.Paral. Peniche)
1076 94	3	FE-2/ 00000	Punta do Castro	Spain	Vigo		Surface LL	EEC (Bay of Biscay)
2596 93	3	FE-2/ 00000	Punta do Castro	Spain	Vigo		Surface LL	High seas
2617 93	X	N/ 02689	Queen Mary Three	Malta	Vigo		Surface LL	NEAFC waters
2598 93	3	ST-4/ 02410	Reina Mercedes	Spain	Vigo		Surface LL	Portugal (N.Paral. Peniche)
2618 93	X	V/ 00071		Portugal	Vigo		Surface LL	High seas
2611 93	3	VI-7/ 02147	Segundo Ribel	Spain	Vigo		Surface LL Portugal	Portugal (N.Paral. Peniche)
2613 93	3	VI-7/ 03557	Suso	Spain	Vigo		Surface LL Portugal	Portugal (N.Paral. Peniche)
2619 93	X	L-192/05125	Thunnus	Hong Kong	Vigo		Others	High seas
2608 93	3	VI-7/ 03335	Tosca Segundo	Spain	Vigo		Surface LL	Portugal (N.Paral. Peniche)
2601 93	3	VI-5/ 10138	Leyce	Spain	Bayonne		Surface LL	High seas
2607 93	3	VI-7/ 00000	Amencer	Spain	La Guardia		Surface LL	Morocco
2609 93	3	VI-5/ 09198	Dia Segundo	Spain	La Guardia		Surface LL	Morocco
2603 93	3	GI-4/ 02167	Maral	Spain	La Guardia		Surface LL	High seas
2595 93	3	VI-5/ 07765	Pleamar	Spain	Vigo		Surface LL	High seas
2358 94	X	K577/00768	Cayenne	France			Undetermined	Undetermined
1094 94	0	SS-2/ 01786	Siete de Julio	Spain	Marin		Surface LL	High seas
1890 94	3	VI-5/ 07460	Urbasa	Spain	Marin			High seas
1145 94	X	111111/11111	Albrih	Belize	Cangas		Freezer trawl	NAFO
1608 94	3	VI-5/ 10037	Baz	Spain	Vigo		Surface LL	High seas
1781 94	3	GI-4/ 02181	Cedes	Spain	Vigo		Surface LL	Others
1331 94	3	GI-4/ 02167	Maral	Spain	Vigo		Surface LL	High seas
1611 94	3	HU-3/ 01533	Paco Vazquez	Spain	Vigo		Surface LL	High seas
1359 94	6	VI-5/ 09848	Playa de Somo	Spain	Vigo		Surface LL	High seas

Table 2. (Cont'd)

REG. #	LIST	MATRIFOLIO	NAME OF VESSEL	NATIONALITY	INSPECTION PORT	TYPE OF ACT	FISHING TYPE	FISHING GROUND
2594 93	0	CJ-1-6/00093	Puerto de Figueras	Spain	Vigo		Surface LL	High seas
1612 94	3	VI-2/ 02370	Punta Bazar	Spain	Vigo		Surface LL	High seas
1613 94	3	AL-2/ 01789	Punta Delgada	Spain	Vigo		Surface LL	High seas
	3	Gisberlande IV	GG 9392 A	France	L'Ametlla		Tuna purse seine	Mediterranean
	3	Tio Gel	CP-3-2009	Spain	L'Ametlla		Tuna purse seine	Mediterranean
	3	Louis Francoise II	436671 ST	France	L'Ametlla		Tuna purse seine	Mediterranean
	3	Angelo C	9 PA-321	Italy	Ibiza		Surface driftnet	Mediterranean
	3	Ignacio Padre I	SR-2369	Italy	Almeria		Surface LL	Mediterranean
	3	Aurora	CT-691	Italy	Almeria		Surface LL	Mediterranean
	3	Giannella	CT-245	Italy	Carboneras		Surface LL	Mediterranean
	3	Estrella del Mar	3-AT-2-755	Spain	Santa Pola		Surface LL	Mediterranean
	3	Arriero- Transportista		Spain	Santa Pola		Surface LL	Mediterranean
	3	Ciudad de Torrevieja	3-AT-3-564	Spain	Torrevieja		Purse seine	East Mediterranean
	3	Hnos. Ruso Anton	3-AT-2-738	Spain	Santa Pola		Trawl	Mediterranean

Table 3. List of Inspectors

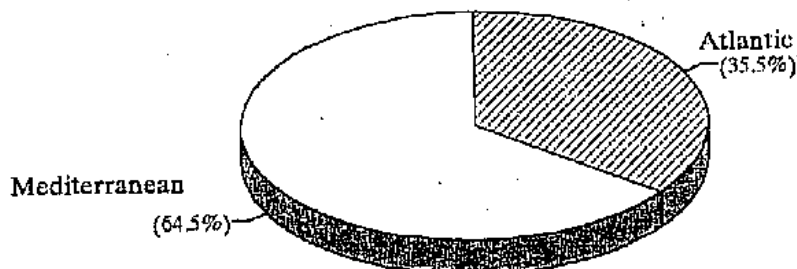
<i>LAST NAME, First Name</i>	
GIL GAMUNDI, Juan Luis	MUNAR FERNANDEZ, Pedro Antonio
SANTOS MANEIRO, J. Tomas	AMUNARRIZ EMAZABEL, Sebastian
FONTAN ALDEREGUIA, Manuel	TENORIO RODRIGUEZ, Jose Luis
VITURRO CHIRINO, Andres Ramon	ROMERO INSUA, Jesus
PAIS PIÑEIRO, Jose	MOLINA ROMERO, Jose Antonio
SAAVEDRA ESPAÑA, Jesus	ZAMORA DE PEDRO, Carlos
LESTON LEAL, Juan Manuel	GONZALEZ TUÑEZ, Jose Manuel
RODRIGUEZ RODRIGUEZ, Victor Ramon	DIAZ SIMIL, Jose Luis
SIEIRA RODRIGUEZ, Jose	RUIZ LLAMERA, Jose Luis
LARRAÑAGA CES, Carlos Maria	DOIRO GARCIA, Avelino Miguel
JURADO PLAZA, Antonio B.	VIDAL MANEIRO, Juan Manuel
ABALDE NOVAS, Tomas	PRIETO FERNANDEZ, Jose Manuel
FERNANDEZ COSTAS, Antonio Damian	DURAN ABUIN, Santiago
SAN EMETERIO IGLESIAS, Andres	FONTANET DOMENECH, Felipe Manuel

Table 4. Amount of bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) declared (in Kgs) and distribution of the Statistical Documents (in #)

<i>DOCUMENTS WITH VALIDATION</i>						
<i>Fishing area</i>	<i>Fresh Products</i>		<i>Frozen Products</i>		<i>TOTALS</i>	
	<i># of Docs</i>	<i>Kgs</i>	<i># of Docs</i>	<i>Kgs</i>	<i># OF DOCS</i>	<i>KGS</i>
Mediterranean	249	1,463,657.00	76	1,278,032.20	325	2,741,689.20
Atlantic	11	1,077,552.30	2	428,602.00	13	1,506,154.30
TOTAL	260	2,541,209.30	78	1,706,634.20	338	4,247,843.50

<i>DOCUMENTS WITHOUT VALIDATION</i>						
<i>Fishing area</i>	<i>Fresh Products</i>		<i>Frozen Products</i>		<i>TOTALS</i>	
	<i># of Docs</i>	<i>Kgs</i>	<i># of Docs</i>	<i>Kgs</i>	<i># OF DOCS</i>	<i>KGS</i>
Mediterranean	507	220,004.00	0	0.00	507	220,004.00
Atlantic	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
TOTAL	507	220,004.00	0	0.00	507	220,004.00

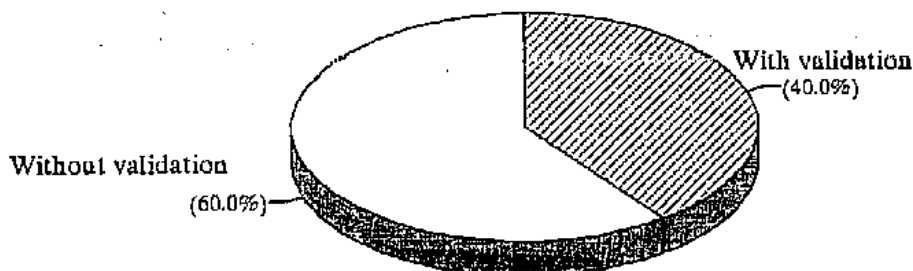
BLUEFIN TUNA CATCHES BY AREA



Mediterranean	2,741,689.2 Kgs.
Atlantic	1,506,154.3 Kgs.
Total:	4,247,843.5 Kgs.

Catches are noted from documents validated by the Chambers of Commerce.

COMPARISON OF DOCUMENTS WITH AND WITHOUT VALIDATION



Documents with validation	338
Documents without validation	507
Total number of documents:	845

NATIONAL REPORT OF SOUTH AFRICA *

by

A. J. Penney **

1. Tuna fishery catch and effort trends

As a result of past under-reporting of tuna catches in logbooks submitted by South African pole and line vessels (baitboats), total South African tuna catches were estimated by scaling logbook returns to totals reported by tuna dealers and exporters. These estimates indicate a 25% decrease in total tuna catch, resulting entirely from a decrease in the catch of south Atlantic albacore (see Table 1). Albacore continues to be the only species of importance to the South African fishery, contributing 99% to the total catch. Catches of bigeye and yellowfin tuna, made as a by-catch to the pole fishery, increased slightly to 102 MT and 261 MT, respectively. No tuna catches were made with longlines or purse seine nets, but a recreational fishery, using rod and reel to fish for swordfish, developed off Cape Point in the SW Cape. This fishery targets large adult swordfish and reported 2 MT caught, although many of these fish were actually tagged and released.

South African pole boats were initially excluded from fishing in Namibian waters following Namibian independence in 1990. During 1992 and 1993, approximately 25 South African vessels were granted permits to fish in Namibian waters, under joint-venture agreements with Namibian fishing companies. A Namibian statistical data collection system was implemented in 1993, and data collected estimated a total South African tuna catch off Namibia of 2,287 MT, including 2,172 MT of albacore. Comparison with South African data on catch-per-area (see Table 2), indicates that South African data under-estimated the catch off Namibia, and that the actual total catch by South African vessels should be approximately 5,485 MT, only a 15% decrease over estimated 1992 total catches.

During 1993, permits were issued to 90 Japanese and 30 Taiwanese vessels to longline for tuna in South African waters. No detailed data reporting requirements are associated with these permits, and foreign vessels have only been required to report an annual total catch per species made in South African waters. It is therefore not possible to determine the total catches made under these permits within the ICCAT area. However, reported total catches show that Japanese vessels are targeting on bigeye tuna, yellowfin tuna and swordfish, with a minor reported catch of southern bluefin tuna, much of this catch being made to the east of the ICCAT area. Taiwanese vessels are targeting on albacore, with lesser catches of yellowfin tuna, bigeye tuna and marlin species.

2. Statistical data collection systems

South Africa first implemented a logbook system to monitor the fishing efforts of her tuna fleet in 1985, as part of the development of the National marine Linefish System. This system monitors all linefishing vessels and not just tuna vessels, as most tuna vessels are also active in the squid jigging and finfish handline fisheries. Coverage of South African tuna catches using this system has gradually improved since 1985. By 1990, comparisons with dealer return data showed that logbooks reported approximately 75% of the total tuna catch. Most of the un-reported catch was made by smaller vessels which opportunistically enter fishery at time of high albacore abundance in nearshore waters. Dealer returns are still used to monitor total catch levels, as recent comparisons indicate that logbook returns still under-report the total catch.

As a result of the multi-species nature of South Africa's line fisheries, there are substantial problems associated with determining effective effort directed at any particular species group, and this is true for the tuna vessels. During the past year, substantial research effort has been directed at determining the effective effort

* Original report in English.

** Sea Fisheries Institute.

associated with the reported albacore catches, while excluding effort directed at other species. During 1994, the albacore CPUE data series was standardized using General Linear Modelling techniques, and the resultant index has been used in recent assessments of the southern Atlantic albacore resource. Initial results of the South African GLM analyses suggest that South African catch rates are more reflective of factors controlling albacore availability with the South African nearshore tuna fishing areas, than of south Atlantic albacore abundance.

Following the declaration of Namibian independence in 1990, South African vessels were excluded from the rich Tripp Seamount albacore fishing area, pending the negotiation of licenses to fish in Namibian waters. Since then, 25 South African vessels have obtained tuna fishing rights in Namibian waters, operating under charter to Namibian companies under joint-venture agreements. As a result, reporting of these catches to the South African data system declined. However, research cooperation negotiations have been initiated between South Africa and Namibia and it is hoped that these will result in a cooperative catch monitoring system, covering albacore catches in both South African and Namibian waters.

Various foreign vessels have also been granted fishing rights in South African waters. In 1993, permits were issued to 90 Japanese and 30 Taiwanese vessels to fish for tuna and related species in South African waters using longlines. To date, the monitoring of catches by these vessels has been relatively superficial, and permit holders are required only to provide annual summaries of the total catch per species made in South African waters. No observer program is conducted on these vessels. In response to various requests for information on catches by such vessels, South Africa is currently investigating the possibility of improving the resolution in data provided by such foreign flag fishing operations.

3. Implementation of tuna management measures

As South Africa has no commercial fisheries for bluefin tuna or swordfish, most of the numerous ICCAT-recommended management measures for these species are not applicable to South Africa and so have not been implemented in domestic legislation. Although the catches of yellowfin and bigeye tunas are also small, South Africa implemented the ICCAT recommended minimum weight limits for these species in 1973 and 1980, respectively. Most recently, South Africa implemented the minimum size (125 cm) and weight (25 kg) limits for swordfish in August, 1992. In addition, the sale of swordfish has been prohibited, except when caught as an incidental by-catch in trawl or longline fisheries, in which case the swordfish catch must not exceed 10% of the mass of the total catch.

Recreational fishermen in South Africa are currently prohibited from catching more than ten tuna of any particular species per person in any one day. It is also prohibited for any vessel, including foreign vessels, to carry or use any large-scale drift net in South African waters. With regard to foreign vessels permitted to fish in South African waters, only longline gear is permitted, all ICCAT weight limits and domestic legislation must also be adhered to.

4. Inspection of tuna landings

South Africa is currently a signatory to the ICCAT Port Inspection Scheme, and has annually appointed Inspectors to inspect tuna catches in South African harbors. However, the only foreign vessels transshipping tuna in these harbors are Japan and Taiwan, neither of which are signatories to the scheme. Catches by these vessels have therefore not been inspected, and efforts have concentrated on South African baitboats. During 1993, 15 inspections were conducted in Cape Town harbour and 20 inspections in Hout Bay harbour. These inspections covered 25 South African vessels, two Portuguese vessels and one Taiwanese vessel operated under charter to a South African company. All of these vessels fished only with pole and line, and the vessels inspected off-loaded approximately 24,000 tuna, consisting almost entirely of albacore. As there are no limits on albacore, few fish were measured, although between 10 and 25 fish were weighed from each discharge to determine average fish weights. A few bigeye and yellowfin tunas were weighed, and were all found to weigh in excess of 30 kg each.

Permits issued to foreign vessels to fish for tuna in South African waters specifically require that South African inspectors be allowed to board at any time to inspect catches or ship's records. However, no inspections or observations are currently conducted on these vessels. Various options for improving both the monitoring and data provision by foreign vessels fishing for tuna in South African waters are currently being investigated.

5. Other research activities

5.1 Length-frequency sampling

South Africa is also a signatory to the ICCAT Port Sampling Scheme, conducting length-frequency sampling of Taiwanese albacore catches transshipped in Cape Town harbour. In 1993, 2,195 albacore were measured from 21 Taiwanese longliners transshipping 3,216 MT of albacore in Cape Town. In addition, total discharge figures were obtained from shipping agents for all these transshipments, and forwarded to ICCAT for comparison with reported catch data.

Most length-frequency sampling effort was directed at South African pole boats off-loading catches of albacore in Cape Town and Hout Bay harbors, where a total of 6,068 albacore were measured. Most of these fish were caught in the SW Cape region, with fewer samples being available from the W. Cape. All fish caught by South African vessels operating in Namibia have to be off-loaded at Namibian ports, so no sampling of these catches could be done in South Africa. However, Namibia has not initiated a sampling program, and data should be available from 1994 onwards.

As in past years, analysis of the length-frequency data (see Figure 1) shows that most albacore caught by South Africa in the SW Cape were 70 cm to 90 cm fork length. Interestingly, catches made in the W Cape included an additional mode of albacore from 60 cm to 70 cm fork length, which is unusual for this more northern area. In the past, the smaller recruits have usually been caught in the more southerly fishing areas.

5.2 Albacore stock assessment

South Africa has conducted an annual assessment of the state of the southern Atlantic albacore stock, upon which our fishery depends, for discussion by the ICCAT albacore species group. Initial dynamic production model assessments in 1991 indicated that the stock was exploited beyond an estimated MSY of 21,000 MT. Subsequent standardization of CPUE indices to incorporate increased targeting on bigeye tuna suggested that MSY was closer to 25,000 MT, but that the resource was still exploited beyond this level. However, there were certain problems with standardization of the CPUE indices, particularly for Taiwan, and no abundance index had been produced for the South African surface fishery. During 1993 and 1994, substantial efforts were therefore made to produce GLM standardized CPUE indices for both the Taiwanese and South African fisheries, using the original raw data, and to use these in revised dynamic production model assessments of the southern Atlantic albacore stock.

The South African abundance index does not appear to reflect the abundance of the albacore resource, but more the availability of albacore to the inshore surface fleets. This is hardly surprising, but has little effect when incorporated in the revised assessments. The Japanese and re-standardized Taiwanese indices still dominate the assessments, and revised assessments are even more pessimistic than those conducted to date. The resource is estimated to be markedly depleted, to approximately 20% of its unexploited level, and to have an MSY of approximately 23,000 MT. Resource projections under various catch strategies suggest that current annual catches of over 28,000 MT need to be reduced to 18,000 MT, at most, to stabilize the population, and that further reductions may be necessary if the resource does not recover under this strategy.

Table 1. Total South African catches (in metric tons) of tuna species by various methods during 1992 and 1993

Method	Albacore		Yellowfin		Bigeye		Skipjack		Swordfish		Total	
	1992	1993	1993	1993	1992	1993	1992	1993	1992	1993	1992	1993
Pole Catch	6306	4500	63	257	51	102	5	4	-	-	6425	4863
Longline	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Purse seine	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rod & reel	54	35	6	4	-	-	1	1	-	2	61	42
Trawl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Total	6360	4535	69	261	51	102	6	5	0	4	6486	4907

Table 2. Total estimated albacore catches (metric tons) by South African baitboats in the SW Cape, Cape and Namibia, as reported to the South African and Namibian statistical systems

Catch area	1993 albacore catch
South African data	
Southwest Cape	1,007
West Cape	1,942
Namibia	1,586
Namibian data	
Namibia	2,173

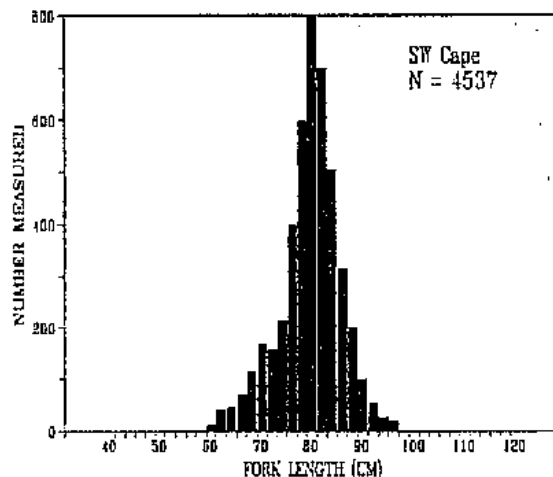
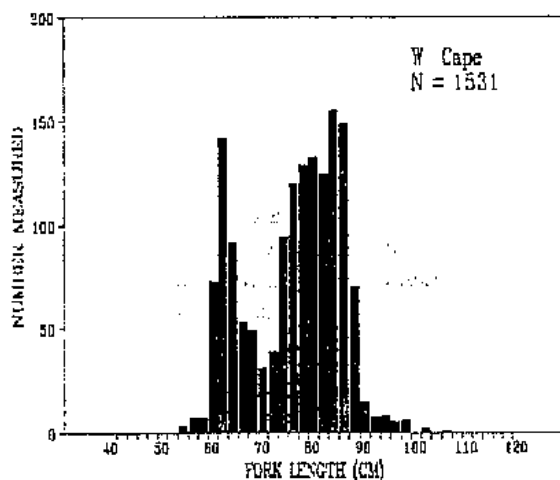


Figure 1. Length-frequency distribution of south Atlantic albacore caught during 1993 by the South African pole and line fishery fishing in the southwest and west Cape fishing regions.

NATIONAL REPORT OF URUGUAY *

by

O. Mora **

1. Introduction

The Uruguayan tuna fishery is carried out in the Uruguayan EEZ and in adjacent international waters by a small longline fleet whose main target species is swordfish. In recent years, there has been a change in fishing pattern with the gradual introduction of small-sized vessels with ice wells, which operate using American or Spanish longline, thus substituting the freezer vessels of larger draft of Japanese origin. The number of tunas vessels flying the flag of Uruguay declined gradually to one vessel in 1991, followed by a slight increase since 1992, with the entry of the aforementioned vessels, and reached a total of four vessels in 1994 (Table 1).

2. The catches

The increase in effort was reflected in the catches, which amounted to 371 MT of tuna and tuna-like fishes in 1992 (Table 2), 97 MT more than in 1991. The 1993 reported catches reached 355 MT, which is considered under-estimated, due to problems detected in the reporting of the catches and to the lack of adequate monitoring of the landings, as was done in previous years.

Of the total reported catch in 1993, 86% corresponded to swordfish and tuna; the remainder was comprised mainly of pelagic sharks and incidental catches of oilfish and others.

2.1 Swordfish and tunas

Swordfish has always been one of the main species taken by the fleet and since 1992 it has been the target species, which has resulted in recent years in an increase in the percentage of the catch of this species (Table 3). The maximum seasonal values continue being recorded during the third quarter.

The next most important catches in 1993 were 46 MT of bigeye (13%), 20 MT of yellowfin (6%), and 28 MT of albacore (8%), although the latter is not a target species of the fleet.

2.2 Sharks

The percentage of sharks landed by the tuna fleet remained at about 10%, and is comprised mainly of *Isurus oxyrinchus* and *Lamna nasus*. Lately, the landings of *Prionace glauca* and some Carcharidae species have increased. The former species is the most abundant although it is not always landed. There are a large number of sharks that are discarded, after extracting the fins. The total percentage caught is estimated at about 50%. The decline from 109 MT in 1992 to 50 MT in 1993, as shown in Table 2, is due to the lack of reporting of the catches.

3. Research and statistics

The National Institute of Fishing (INAPE) is the only agency dedicated to the study of these resources, which is in charge of collecting statistics, carrying out research and monitoring this fishery.

* Original report in Spanish.

** National Institute of Fishing.

In recent years, preliminary estimates have been made based on catches reported in the logbooks and on landing records, due to the lack of logbook records. In 1992 and 1993, there was a notable increase in the omission of information in the fishing logbooks, and a decline in the quality of the data on effort, catches and fishing areas. After this was brought to the attention of the vessel owners and captains, an improvement was noted in the reported information in 1994.

Sampling of landings has not been carried out since mid-1992, due to the logistical problems (lack of means of transportation, personnel, etc.), to changes in the base port and to the type of product landed. If the first problem mentioned could be solved, sampling of the predorsal spines of bigeye, yellowfin and albacore could be continued. Size sampling of swordfish at port is still not viable since swordfish are landed without heads.

Between July, 1993, and July, 1994, size sampling was carried out on swordfish and tunas on board a U.S. flag vessel which operated with a special permit in the Uruguayan Exclusive Economic Zone. The data are being processed and will be transmitted to the Secretariat shortly.

Work continued on the updating of the catch and effort data base and the analysis of available information by area, together with the dynamics on the convergence of areas in the same time/area strata, in order to determine the correlation between them. On the other hand, the characteristics and behavior of the fleet are being re-evaluated, in order to carry out the corresponding standardizations. The decrease in the staff who carry out this work has caused delays in the schedule established.

In addition to the technical documents, INAPE also publishes, on an annual basis, a Commercial Bulletin which includes information on the exports of species caught by the Uruguayan tuna fleet, by country of destination and by product type.

4. Management

In accordance with the resolution of the United Nations General Assembly (No. 44/225) of December 1991, the Government of Uruguay has decreed a law which prohibits the use of "pelagic driftnets" in jurisdictional waters of the Eastern Republic of Uruguay.

Later in 1993, based on the ICCAT recommendations, a preliminary draft of a Decree was presented which establishes minimum size of 25 kgs for the catch and landing of swordfish, with a 15% tolerance in the landings, by trip, of this species. As regards the minimum size regulations for bigeye and yellowfin, the same procedure will be followed. Once these decrees are adopted, the Secretariat of the Commission will be notified accordingly.

Table 1. Number of Uruguayan tuna flag vessels, by category

GRT	1991	1992	1993
< 200		2	2
201-500	1	1	2
Total	1	3	4

Table 2. Catches (MT, live weight) taken by the Uruguayan tuna fleet, 1991-1993

<i>Species</i>	<i>1991</i>	<i>1992*</i>	<i>1993*</i>
Swordfish	156	210	260
Bigeye tuna	20	56	48
Yellowfin tuna	62	74	20
Albacore	34	31	26
Bluefin tuna	1	0.2	1
Billfishes	1		
Total tuna & tuna-like species	274	371	355
Sharks **	37	109	50
Others **	10	11	10

* 1992 and 1993 values are preliminary.

** Product weight.

Table 3. Percentage of catches of swordfish and tunas taken by the Uruguayan tuna fleet, 1981-1993*

<i>Year</i>	<i>Swordfish</i>	<i>Bigeye tuna</i>	<i>Yellowfin tuna</i>	<i>Albacore</i>
1981	34	32	25	9
1982	40	26	15	16
1983	45	25	15	15
1984	54	20	10	15
1985	31	16	10	42
1986	42	14	22	21
1987	58	17	9	15
1988	52	15	21	12
1989	67	9	10	13
1990	76	9	4	13
1991	57	7	23	12
1992	57	15	20	6
1993	73	13	6	8

* Percentage based on the total catches of tunas and tuna-like species (MT, live weight).

NATIONAL REPORT OF THE UNITED STATES *

by

U.S. Department of Commerce
National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service-Southeast Fisheries Science Center

1. Introduction

The total (preliminary) reported U.S. catch of tuna and tuna-like fishes (excluding billfishes) in 1993 was 24,384 MT (Table 1). This represents a decrease of 2,366 MT (9% decrease) from 1992.

2. Fisheries monitoring

2.1 Tropical tunas

Yellowfin tuna. Yellowfin is the principal species of tropical tuna landed by U.S. fisheries in the western north Atlantic. Total landings decreased to 4,260 MT in 1993, from 6,501 MT landed in 1992 (Table 2). Approximately 64% of the U.S. yellowfin tuna landings resulted from fish caught (mainly by longline) in the Gulf of Mexico.

Skipjack tuna. Skipjack tuna are also caught by U.S. vessels in the western north Atlantic. Total skipjack landings declined from 525 MT in 1992 to 290 MT in 1993. Most of the catch is by purse seines and is taken off the U.S. east coast (NW Atlantic) between Cape Hatteras and Long Island.

Bigeye tuna. The other large tropical tuna reported in catches by U.S. vessels in the western north Atlantic is bigeye tuna. In general, U.S. catches of bigeye tuna are a minor part of the total bigeye tuna catch as the majority of catches of this species comes from the eastern and central Atlantic. The majority of U.S. landings of this species comes from the longline vessels fishing off the east coast of the U.S. in the area from Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, to Massachusetts. Annually between 1991 and 1993 the amount of bigeye taken by longline vessels ranged from 80.1% to 89.1%. Total reported catches for 1993 rose by 27% from 720.8 MT to 913.6 MT, with significant increases in the longline and pair trawl gears in the northwest Atlantic (Table 3).

2.2 Temperate tunas

Bluefin tuna. The U.S. bluefin tuna fishery continues to be regulated by quotas, limits on catches per trip, and size limits. To varying degrees, these regulations are designed to restrict total U.S. landings to preserve the monitoring nature of the fishery, and to direct effort at large bluefin (>195 cm SFL). Regulations governing the U.S. fishery were updated in 1992 to be in conformity with the 1991 ICCAT agreements for additional conservation measures for this species.

During 1992, regulations were promulgated that: prohibited landing of bluefin tuna in excess of ICCAT recommendations; limited incidentally-caught bluefin in the southern longline fishery to one fish per trip, provided 2,500 lbs. of other species were landed and sold (that regulation remained in effect in 1994 until April 14, when regulations were promulgated which limited landings to one fish per trip, provided 1,500 lbs. of other species were landed on trips which landed before May 1, and 3,500 lbs. of other species on trips which landed after April 30); reduced the rod and reel daily catch of small bluefin from four to two per person, with further reductions depending on vessel type (private, charter or party-boats); prohibited the sale of bluefin less than 70 inches; and prohibited retention of bluefin tuna less than 26 inches.

* Original report in English.

These and other regulatory actions were necessary to improve management and monitoring of the U.S. Atlantic tuna fishery, to conform more closely to the 1991 ICCAT recommendations, and to enhance collection of data to improve assessment of the environmental, economic, and social impacts of the fisheries and of fishery policy.

U.S. vessels fishing in the northwestern Atlantic in 1993 landed an estimated 1,238 MT of bluefin tuna and discarded dead an estimated 30 MT (total 1,268 MT). Those estimated landings represented an increase of 65 MT from the estimated 1992 level, and the estimated dead discards were 5 MT higher. The 1993 landings by gear were: 295 MT by purse seine, 88 MT by harpoon, 224 MT by hand line, 86 MT by longline (of which 54 MT were from the Gulf of Mexico), 540 MT by rod and reel (of which 209 MT was the estimated catch of the small bluefin fishery off the northeast U.S.), and 1 MT was taken by other gears. The estimated catch of small bluefin tuna (< 145 cm SFL), 209 MT, was substantially lower than in 1992 when 116 MT were taken; the estimated catch of bluefin less than 115 cm was 120 MT. In addition to landed catch, an estimated 621 bluefin (about 28 MT) were discarded dead by U.S. longline vessels. Of those discards, an estimated 29 fish (about 6 MT) were caught in the Gulf of Mexico; that total was lower than the estimates for 1992 (45 MT).

Uncertainty about the catch of bluefin less than 177 cm SFL taken by rod and reel was estimated by incorporating variability in the samples from the fishery. A thousand independent bootstrap estimates of that total catch were made, the median of the estimates was 5,861 fish <115 cm, 2,007 fish 115-144 cm, and 349 fish 145-177 cm (129, 80 and 28 MT, respectively). The empirical 90% confidence intervals about those estimates were: 5,335-6,474, 1,789-2,555, and 287-445 fish, respectively.

In response to new (1992) regulations limiting the allowable catch of small fish by U.S. fishermen, in conformity with ICCAT agreements, enhanced monitoring of the rod and reel fishery was implemented for the purpose of providing near real-time advice on catch levels by this fishery. This monitoring activity continued in 1994.

Albacore. Albacore are landed by U.S. vessels. However, this species contributes significantly less to the total U.S. tuna production than the other tunas. Historically albacore has not been a target of any of the U.S. tuna fisheries operating in the north Atlantic. Total reported catches were very low prior to 1985, averaging only 22 MT. However, U.S. catches increased substantially with close to 97% of the production annually coming from the northeastern U.S. coast in most years. Reported catches of albacore were 453 MT in 1993, a slight increase from 1992 of 377 MT. The amount of albacore taken incidentally in the directed tuna fisheries has increased in recent years. In 1986, the harvest by longline, handline, and gillnet boats was 24% of the total albacore harvest, while the proportion of the 1993 harvest was 38% (Table 4). Although albacore are not a major target of U.S. tuna fishermen, they are frequently sought by recreational fishermen off the northeastern U.S. This seasonal fishery landed 193 MT (43% of the total annual yield) in 1993, a substantial increase from the 1992 level of 103 MT (27%). The other fisheries taking albacore are the commercial longline (swordfish, yellowfin, bigeye), the gillnet (swordfish), and the handline (bluefin), and recently beginning in 1993 the pair trawl fisheries. The overall longline component of albacore landings has increased significantly since 1988. An experimental fishery (pair trawl) fishing five vessel pairs began operating in the northeastern U.S. in 1992. This fishery accounted for 67 MT (15%) of the 1993 albacore yield, a slight decline from the level observed in 1992 of 109 MT (27%) for this fishery.

2.3 Swordfish

U.S. vessels landed 4,186 MT of swordfish in 1993, a 2% decline from the revised landing figure of 4,236 MT for 1992. This decline was due, at least in part, to the U.S. implementing regulations in June, 1991, on the Atlantic swordfish fishery which includes the entire north Atlantic Ocean north of 39°N latitude. The regulations established an annual quota of 4,560 MT and a minimum size of 25 kg whole weight or 78.7 cm carcass length, measured along the body contour from the cleithrum to the anterior portion of the caudal keel, with a 15% tolerance for under-sized swordfish based on the total number of swordfish landed per trip. These regulations were based on the 1990 swordfish stock assessment and ICCAT-adopted measures to reduce fishing mortality on swordfish. The landings by ICCAT area for 1993 (compared to 1992) were: 556 MT (632 MT) from the Gulf of Mexico (Area 91); 1,457 MT (1,600 MT) from the northwest Atlantic (Area 92); 845 MT (646 MT) from the Caribbean Sea (Area 93); and 919 MT (973 MT) from the north central Atlantic (Area 94A). U.S. swordfish landings are monitored and tracked from reports submitted by dealers, vessel owners and captains, NMFS port agents, and mandatory daily logbook reports submitted by U.S. vessels permitted to fish for swordfish.

The total weight of swordfish sampled for sizing U.S. landings in 1992 by longline, gillnet, and harpoon gears was 3,331 MT, 76 MT, and 1 MT, as compared to 3,220 MT, 89 MT, and 4 MT, respectively, in 1993. In 1992, the weight of the sampled swordfish landings represented 89%, 88%, and 100% of the U.S. total reported annual landings for longline, gillnet, and harpoon gears, respectively, whereas 1993 sampled swordfish landings were 88%, 94%, and 100% of the U.S. total reported annual landings of swordfish by gear, respectively. In 1992, two additional gear types were used for sizing the landings. The total weight of swordfish sampled by otter trawl and pair trawl was 5 MT and 11 MT, which represented 46% and 85% of the U.S. total U.S. reported annual landings of swordfish, whereas 1993 sampled swordfish landings for these two gear types were 7 MT and 10 MT, which represented 100% and 100% of the total U.S. reported annual landings by these gears. The decrease in pair trawl landings in 1993 was attributed to regulations which established a landed limit of two swordfish per vessel per trip. During the past three years, the Southeast Fisheries Center has received specific trip data for swordfish from 1982 to 1992 for all gear types. These data have been processed, entered and compared with previous landings. Swordfish landings and catch at size have been updated for these years. A total of 855 MT of swordfish was added to the 1982 to 1992 landings for all gears combined, 92% of the swordfish landings added came from years 1982 to 1988.

This fishery is also being monitored via a scientific observer sampling program, instituted in 1992. Approximately 5% of the fleet-wide fishing effort is randomly selected for observation during the fishing year. Daily catch and effort reports for the permitted U.S. fleet indicated that about 22,000 swordfish were discarded dead in 1993, which is estimated to represent approximately 300 MT of swordfish. Comparison of scientific observer data with the daily reported catch and effort data indicated that the daily reports may under-represent the actual number of fish that were discarded dead. The observer sampling data supports estimates of from approximately 28,000 fish discarded dead in 1993, representing an estimated 400 MT of swordfish.

2.4 Billfishes

Blue marlin, white marlin, and sailfish are landed by recreational rod and reel fishermen and are a by-catch of the U.S. commercial tuna and swordfish longline fisheries. This year (1993) represents the fifth full year of compliance under the regulations of the U.S. Fisheries Management Plan for Atlantic Billfishes, which was implemented in October, 1988. The Plan allows that billfish caught by recreational gear (rod and reel) may only be landed if the fish are larger than the size limit specified for each species covered by the Plan. Recreational landings of each billfish species are estimated using two data sources: (1) the Large Pelagics Recreational Survey conducted under contract to the NMFS from which the SEFSC estimates total billfish catch from waters along the northeastern U.S. (north of 35°N latitude); and (2) the SEFSC Recreational Billfish Survey which provides the number of billfish caught during tournaments held along the southeastern U.S. coast (south of 35°N latitude), in the Gulf of Mexico, and U.S. Caribbean Sea regions (i.e., U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico).

In addition to restrictions on U.S. recreational harvest, the Management Plan also imposed regulations on commercial fisheries by prohibiting retention and sale of the three species at U.S. ports. For this reason, no official U.S. commercial landings were reported for any of the three Atlantic species. However, estimates of by-catch mortality in the U.S. longline fleet are made using the data from mandatory pelagic logbooks completed by U.S. captains and owners. The numbers of billfish, by species, caught and kept or discarded dead (not those reported as discarded live) are used in estimating by-catch mortality of billfish caught on longliners.

The preliminary estimates of 1993 U.S. recreational catches for these billfish species, combining the geographical areas of the Gulf of Mexico (Area 91), the northwestern Atlantic west of 60°W longitude (Area 92), and the Caribbean Sea (Area 93) are 76.3 MT for bluefin marlin, 13.0 MT for white marlin, and 11.1 MT for sailfish. The estimates for 1992 were 49.2 MT, 8.1 MT, and 5.1 MT, respectively, for the three species. The estimates of the U.S. recreational catch (landings) assume that the recreational database includes all billfish landed and does not include any estimates of mortality of released fish. It thus assumes that there is no substantial mortality of billfish released (or tagged and released) in the recreational fishery.

Preliminary estimates of billfish that were kept or dead discarded by-catch in the U.S. commercial longline fishery in 1993 were 143.8 MT for blue marlin, 23.3 MT for white marlin, and 17.7 MT for sailfish. The equivalent estimate of 1992 by-catch of billfish was 127.1 MT, 23.0 MT, and 10.6 MT, respectively, for the three species.

2.5 Mackerels

King and Spanish mackerel catches reported by U.S. fishermen are harvested using mainly gillnets and handlines. Major commercial and recreational fisheries exist throughout the range of both species, the timing of which is seasonal in nature. Very intense commercial gillnet, rod and reel, and recreational rod and reel fisheries have taken place on both mackerel species since the early 1960's throughout their range. Current fisheries in the U.S. for both species are regulated through federal quotas on commercial landings, minimum size restrictions, and recreational personal bag limits. It is believed that conservation actions in recent years regarding per trip vessel landing limits and geographical quotas have helped to stabilize quotas and improve overall stock condition. Management policies are set for federally designated migratory groups, the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico resource groups, that have been placed under a rigid re-building plan since 1985 when age-based stock assessments indicated that over-fishing was occurring on three of the four stocks exploited. Because these species occur in both federal and state territorial zones of the U.S., successful management has required participation by both federal and state management agencies. Currently, the Gulf of Mexico Spanish mackerel and king mackerel stocks are considered over-fished.

Harvest of both species has stabilized in recent years, although large fluctuations in recreational catches in some years have occurred and overages in commercial landings are still common. The stabilization in yields is thought to be the direct impact of regulations which have been implemented in an effort to sustain future production. Factors contributing to fluctuations in annual recreational harvests include difficulties of enforcement of differential bag limits imposed in individual states, large inter-annual variances in recreational harvest estimates, regulations that permit the sale of king mackerel from recreational charter boats after the closure of commercial fisheries and variations in year-class strength. King mackerel yields have ranged from 4,363 MT to 7,264 MT between 1983 and 1992, with an average production of 5,993 MT since 1989. Removals of Spanish mackerel have ranged from 2,784 MT to 5,957 MT between 1993 and 1992, and since 1989 have averaged 4,655 MT. Landings for 1993 are preliminary and are not included in these averages and ranges.

2.6 Sharks

In December, 1992, the U. S. Fishery Management Plan for Sharks of the Atlantic Ocean (FMP) was released. This Plan aims at stabilizing and regulating the rapidly growing shark fishery. The Plan includes management measures for 39 of the most frequently caught sharks and divides them into three groups: large coastal species (22 species), small coastal sharks (7 species), and pelagic species (10 species). The Plan includes an annual commercial quota of 2,436 MT (dressed weight) for the large coastal group and 580 MT for the pelagic group. For the recreational fishery, the Plan establishes a trip limit of four large coastal and pelagic species combined, and a daily bag limit of five sharks per person for the small coastal species. Other management measures include a prohibition of finning (landing only the fins and discarding the carcass), the live release of sharks not landed, and the establishment of data collection procedures.

In 1992, U.S. commercial landings of Atlantic large coastal sharks were 4,002 MT dressed weight (these included sharks identified as large coastal sharks landed in the northeastern U.S. and those either identified as large coastal sharks or as unclassified sharks landed in the southeastern U.S. and Gulf of Mexico). Additionally, 431 MT of fins of all shark groups were landed in the northeast in 1992 and 127 MT of fins were landed in the southeast and Gulf. Additionally, recreational landings of large coastal sharks have averaged approximately 400 MT in recent years.

In 1993, the preliminary U.S. commercial landings of large coastal sharks were 2,715 MT dressed weight (these included sharks identified as large coastal sharks landed in the northeastern U.S. and those either identified as large coastal sharks or as unclassified sharks landed in the southeastern U.S. and Gulf of Mexico). Additionally, 303 MT of fins of all shark groups were landed in the northeast in 1993 and 69 MT of fins were landed in the southeast and Gulf.

3. Research activities

3.1 Bluefin tuna research

Ichthyoplankton surveys in the Gulf of Mexico were continued in 1993 and 1994. Data resulting from these surveys are used to develop a fishery-independent index of abundance of spawning west Atlantic bluefin tuna. This

index has continued to provide one measure of bluefin abundance that is used in SCRS assessments of the status of the resource.

As part of its commitment to the Bluefin Year Program, research supported by the U.S. has concentrated on ichthyoplankton sampling, reproductive biology and stock structure.

U.S. and Japanese scientists conducted a joint survey of bluefin ichthyoplankton in the Gulf of Mexico in 1994 during the course of the annual U.S. survey. Results of that survey are not yet available, but should permit: (1) comparison of catch rates between the different fishing methods used by the two nations; (2) comparison of Gulf of Mexico catch rates with catch rates from other bluefin spawning areas sampled by the Japanese; and (3) should provide samples for genetic studies.

The research on reproductive biology is centered at the New England Aquarium's Edgerton Research Laboratory and is a component of the Aquarium's federally funded study of basic biology and productivity of bluefin tuna. That program has successfully maintained small bluefin in a close sea water system for more than two years. A limited number of samples for studying maturation and fecundity have been collected in 1993 and 1994 and some processing has been completed. No results are yet available.

Studies related to stock structure of Atlantic bluefin are being coordinated by the NMFS laboratory in Charleston, South Carolina. Research will concentrate on regions in the mtDNA or genomic DNA that contain a sufficient amount of genetic variation to be informative in stock structure analyses. A meeting of scientists from several organizations was held in 1994 to develop a plan for examining the feasibility of determining bluefin tuna stock structure from genetic material. A report of the meeting was submitted at the 1994 SCRS meeting. During 1993, limited sampling of bluefin and other tunas was conducted for use in developing methods of studying genetics. Samples of bluefin were obtained from both the west Atlantic and the Mediterranean Sea. During 1994, additional samples were obtained from the west Atlantic and a cooperative sampling program to obtain additional Mediterranean Sea samples was established with the Spanish Institute of Oceanography's Oceanographic Center of Malaga.

At the request of the National Marine Fisheries Service, the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, National Research Council (NRC) reviewed the scientific basis of U.S. management of fisheries for Atlantic bluefin tuna. The Council reviewed bluefin biology, tagging data and the 1993 SCRS assessment. A copy of the NRC report was submitted as an ICCAT document at the East Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Stock Assessment Session in September. The NMFS is working with the NRC through a series of meetings to develop procedures to implement the NRC's research recommendations.

In preparation for the 1994 SCRS assessment of western Atlantic bluefin, the U.S. scientific delegation (NMFS and non-governmental) prepared manuscripts on assessment methods and tools, bluefin biology, and on indices of abundance for west Atlantic bluefin.

3.2. *Swordfish research*

In response to ICCAT recommendations, randomized observer sampling in the U.S. large pelagic fleet was continued into 1994. Using the fishing vessel performance information provided through the submission of mandatory pelagic logbooks by owners and operators, a list of randomly selected vessels was used to derive a sampling fraction of 5% (about 800 observer days per year) of the fleet in the Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean, and Atlantic Ocean since 1992. Coverage by the Southeast and Northeast Fisheries Science Centers (SEFSC and NEFSC) successfully deployed observers aboard 44 longline vessels during 1992 (281 observed sets), 110 longline sets during 1993 (855 observed sets). In addition, during the first six months of 1994, the SEFSC program covered 34 vessels observing 184 sets. The data from observer samples were compared against self-reported information from the U.S. large pelagic mandatory logbook system and estimates of the amount of discard mortality of swordfish in the U.S. fleet were developed from the analysis for the 1994 SCRS.

Sex ratio-at-size data on Atlantic swordfish have been collected since 1989 by the SEFSC in collaboration with volunteer captains in the U.S. longline fleet. These data continue to be collected in response to ICCAT recommendations, and may provide a basis for stratifying swordfish landings by sex, as well as size. Utilizing observer coverage by the Miami Laboratory observer program, working through the assistance of the observer program at Louisiana State University, the NEFSC observer program, and cooperative vessel captains and crews, biological material for swordfish reproduction analysis, as well as other forms of biological analyses (i.e., age and

growth, stock identification, etc.) have been collected. Morphometric (length and weight) and biological data have primarily been collected within the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone of the northwest Atlantic Ocean, the Gulf of Mexico, and the Caribbean Sea, since 1990. Additionally, the collection of swordfish data by the ICCAT-sponsored Venezuelan observer program aboard Venezuelan longline vessels fishing the lower Caribbean Sea has continued since 1991.

Sex ratio information has been collected from over 11,000 Atlantic swordfish specimens sampled during 1990 through early 1994. Since the beginning of the reproductive study, about 4,200 paired ovaries are available for assessment of sexual maturity. Continuation of the assessment of ovarian development, maturity stages, and fecundity estimates for female swordfish based on microscopic examination of whole oocytes were reported to ICCAT in a manuscript submitted to the Swordfish Stock Assessment Session in 1994.

Direct ageing of swordfish in the U.S. catch using anal spines has been undertaken through a cooperative agreement with the University of Miami's Cooperative Unit for Fisheries Education and Research (CUFER). Since 1990, nearly 4,000 swordfish finrays have been obtained through the observer programs and through voluntary sample submission by the swordfish longline fleet. Sampling of finrays during all months and over an extensive range by size and sex (60-295 cm lower jaw fork length) was most comprehensive during 1991 and early 1992. A progress report on this research activity was provided to the 1994 Swordfish Stock Assessment Session.

A method of analysis which directly incorporates catch-at-size information into the sequential population analyses (VPA) procedure used for estimating stock abundance from catch and abundance index information was developed for application to swordfish. This method was documented in a manuscript submitted to the Second Meeting of the Consultation on the Technical Aspects of Methodologies Which Account for Individual Growth Variability by Age, held at the IFREMER Laboratory in Brest, France, in June, 1994. The method makes use of abundance index data by size class (5 cm LJFL intervals were used). After initial fits to the simulated data with known characteristics, several modifications to the method were implemented which improve the model performance with these data.

Analysis of catch rate data, used for tuning the various stock assessment models, was also continued. Both age- and size-specific CPUE analyses were conducted and reported upon in manuscripts prepared for the 1994 SCRS. In addition, robust statistical methods are being investigated for use with catch rate analyses to see if alternative methods might be less sensitive to outliers and to alternative error distributions.

Research into the genetic diversity of swordfish is continuing through cooperative work undertaken by FISHTEC, a research consortium involving the SEFSC Charleston Laboratory and several university research laboratories. A manuscript detailing the results of a genetic study using swordfish specimen material from the western and eastern north Atlantic, the south Atlantic, the Mediterranean, and the Pacific Ocean was presented to the 1994 Swordfish Stock Assessment Session.

Several methods were investigated and documented in a manuscript provided to the Swordfish Stock Assessment Session for estimating the number of swordfish which were discarded dead by the U.S. fleet after implementation of minimum size regulations mid-way through 1991. All methods made use of the observer sampling data.

The number of tagged swordfish, released by U.S. longline vessels has substantially increased since the U.S. implemented minimum size regulations in 1991, in conformity with ICCAT recommendations. Most of these fish were smaller than the minimum size at time of release. Since 1991, annual releases have averaged about 1,300 fish, whereas the annual releases of tagged swordfish for 1988-1990 averaged about 350 fish. Reported recoveries of tagged swordfish have likewise increased since implementation of the minimum size. Since 1991, the annual number of swordfish tag recoveries has averaged more than 22 fish, while the annual average number reported from the period 1988-1990 was about 10.

3.3 Albacore research

Albacore research conducted during 1993 was continued during 1994 with emphasis in two areas: growth and stock abundance. The ASPIC non-equilibrium production model was re-applied to the north Atlantic stock using an updated and more refined set of statistics. This research effort gave similar results as obtained in 1993 and, more importantly, provided auxiliary information on the basic catch-per-effort data that was useful in judging the reliability or usefulness of the data being used in other methods, such as virtual population analyses to estimate

abundance of albacore. The ASPIC method was contrasted with another production model; AAPM, by the albacore stock assessment group during the 1993 SCRS to evaluate several disparate sets of catch data as accurately reflecting abundance of albacore. In addition, the ASPIC method was applied to the south Atlantic stock by the albacore stock assessment group at the 1994 SCRS for comparisons with another model, the AAPM, that required a greater number of assumptions than the ASPIC model.

The cooperative research on growth began in 1993 by the U.S. NMFS and the IEO of Spain was updated at the NMFS in Miami in May, 1994. That work included more data and was extended to analyze the existence of individual variability in albacore growth and the effect on overall parameter estimates using maximum likelihood techniques.

The U.S. NMFS also participate in the Final Meeting of the ICCAT Albacore Research Program held in June, 1994, in Sukarrieta, Spain, and one participant presented two scientific manuscripts towards this effort.

Plans and protocol for sampling albacore taken in the U.S. pair trawl fishery operating in the northeast U.S. were made. Specific goals of this research include: obtaining data needed to develop conversion formulae for dressed weight to round weight and obtaining albacore tissues for inclusion into a U.S. library of genetic samples.

3.4 Mackerels and small tunas research

U.S. research on small tunas is directed mainly on king and Spanish mackerel stocks with the main focus areas being collection of basic fisheries catches statistics and biostatistical sample data, fishery age samples and abundance indices. Because assessment and management are by necessity by geographical units, continued research on migration of king mackerel in particular is important.

Five manuscripts prepared for the annual Mackerel Stock Assessment Workshop, held in Miami, Florida (March, 1994) documented the status of the stocks, effects of differential bag limit analyses and methods used in evaluating bag limit options for mackerels since 1990, development of mackerel abundance indices, and updated information on Gulf migratory group king mackerel mixing proportions during winter off the Florida east coast.

Chief research questions of concern continue to be: (1) uncertainty in the abundance of juvenile fish of all stocks; (2) lack of adequate abundance indices for adult fish for Spanish mackerel in all areas; (3) concern about low sampling rates for Spanish mackerel fisheries in particular; (4) lack of accuracy in predicting recreational harvests; and (5) precise data on the present degree of mixing between different geographical units of king mackerel.

3.5 Billfish research

Routine sampling of recreational billfish tournaments continued to be conducted along the U.S. east coast, Gulf of Mexico, Bahamas, and Caribbean Sea in 1993. A total of 111 billfish tournaments were sampled in 1993, representing 78,797 hours of fishing effort, a decrease of 26 tournaments and about 7,600 hours over the 1992 levels. This represented 709 billfish (blue marlin, white marlin, and sailfish) boated, 1,170 released, and 1,391 tagged (and released). Morphometric measurements of sexed billfish landings were also taken in conjunction with the ICCAT Enhanced Research Program for Billfish. A detailed summary of these efforts was documented in a the 1992/93 annual report of SEFSC billfish program and a document summarizing this work was also presented to the 1994 SCRS meeting.

The NMFS SEFSC again played a substantial role in the ICCAT Enhanced Research Program for Billfish in 1993, with SEFSC scientists acting as general coordinator and coordinator for the western Atlantic Ocean. Major accomplishments in 1993 included the following: (1) completion of over 30 observer trips in 1993; (2) the billfish working group completed the first SCRS assessments on blue and white marlin in over a decade; (3) continuation of the swordfish observer program and biological sampling in Venezuela; (4) continuation of work on shore-based sampling in St. Maarten, Grenada, Jamaica, Senegal, Côte d'Ivoire and Las Palmas, and expansion of sampling in Venezuela; (5) continuation of sampling in Trinidad; (6) finalizing plans and funding for joint ICCAT/CARICOM tagging cruises on small longline vessels out of St. Vincent and Grenada; (7) completion of preparation for the publication of the Second ICCAT Billfish Workshop in an enhanced format; (8) approval of funding for publishing the Second ICCAT Billfish Workshop as a hardcover book at no cost to ICCAT; (9) continuation of hard part sampling from large (including one 1,200 lb. blue marlin) and small size marlin and

sailfish for age determination; (10) retrieval of hard parts from a tag-recaptured sailfish which had been injected with oxytetracycline for age validation; and (11) obtaining enough outside funding to maintain the Program through the 1995 sampling season.

3.6 Tagging

Cooperators in the Southeast Fisheries Center's Cooperative Tagging Program (CTP) tagged and released 7,252 billfishes (including swordfish; see swordfish section) and 1,919 tunas in 1993. This represents a decrease of 9% from 1992 levels for billfish and an increase of 2.6% for tunas. However, The Billfish Foundation (TBF) has greatly increased tagging activities, and if TBF releases for 1993 were added to NMFS releases, this would result in a substantial increase in Atlantic billfish releases for 1993. Among CTP billfish releases, there were 1,650 blue marlin, 1,413 white marlin, 2,841 sailfish, 51 spearfish, 3 black marlin, 2 striped marlin, and 1,291 swordfish. For tunas, there were 630 bluefin tuna, 851 yellowfin tuna, and 436 releases of other tuna species.

There were 173 billfish recaptures in 1993, representing an increase of 36% over 1992. Among these recaptures: 11 blue marlin, 22 white marlin, 98 sailfish, and 42 swordfish. The ICCAT Enhanced Research Program for Billfish in the western Atlantic Ocean has continued assistance of tag recaptures, particularly from Venezuela, Barbados, and Grenada. A total of 69 tunas have been recaptured (36 bluefin tuna, 24 yellowfin tuna, 9 other). There was a 36% increase of combined bluefin and yellowfin tuna recaptures.

There were several significant billfish recaptures during 1993. The longest reported sailfish migration was 2,162 nautical miles (nmi), released off Beaufort, North Carolina, and recaptured off the northern coast of French Guiana (8.12°N-52.48°W) in 332 days. A blue marlin was released off Puerto Rico and recaptured 837 days later off Cumaná, Venezuela (466 nmi). The longest reported white marlin migration for 1993 was released off Long Island, New York, and recaptured in Guiana Basin, a distance of about 2,212 nmi in 322 days. The longest swordfish migration was 1,960 nmi, from a fish released near the Grand Banks (47.20°N-41.58°W) and recaptured NW of the Leeward Islands (20.87°N-60.92°W) after 99 days.

For bluefin tuna, there were six transatlantic migrations from off New Jersey to north of Spain (44.42°N-2.75°W), the longest migration being about 4,573 nmi. There were also four transatlantic migrations of yellowfin tuna, the longest released off New Jersey and recaptured off Ghana (00.88°N-3.33°W) after 525 days.

A magnetic tape of the CTP tagging database for 1993 was made available to ICCAT to supplement its database. The U.S. is currently establishing application of INTERNET for communication between the CTP database and other agencies or countries. This will facilitate high speed transfer of tagging to and from other tagging programs, where the CTP will be used as the central depository of mark-recapture data.

3.7 Fishery observer deployments

Domestic fishery observers. The Pelagic Longline Observer Program, initiated by the SEFSC Miami Laboratory, completed nine full quarters of observer coverage. A total of 140 vessel trips (903 sets) were observed from May, 1992, to June, 1994. During this period, over 23,000 fish (primarily swordfish, tunas, and sharks), marine mammals and sea turtles were observed by SEFSC personnel.

The NMFS, Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC, Woods Hole, Massachusetts) conducted observer coverage aboard 25 different domestic longline vessels targeting swordfish, tuna and sharks in calendar year 1993. Thirty-five observer trips, totaling 344 days, were made on these vessels during January-November. By-catch from this fishery included yellowfin tuna, bigeye tuna, bluefin tuna, and blackfin tuna, as well as sharks, marine mammals and marine turtles. The NEFSC contractor provided observers for coverage of the fishery.

Drift gillnet fishery observer coverage. The Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC) placed observers aboard five different domestic drift gillnet vessels targeting swordfish, tuna and sharks in calendar year 1993. Since the Atlantic swordfish, tuna and shark drift gillnet fishery is classified as Category I under the U.S. Marine Mammal Protection Act, observer trips, totaling 126 days, were conducted on these vessels during January-July and December. By-catch from this fishery included albacore, bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack tuna. Personnel for observer coverage of this fishery were provided through deployment of NEFSC staff, direct contracting with individual observers by NEFSC and through the NEFSC contractor.

Pelagic pair trawl fishery observer coverage. The Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC) placed observers aboard 14 different domestic pelagic pair trawl vessels targeting tuna, predominantly bigeye, in calendar year 1993. By-catch from this fishery included yellow tuna, albacore and swordfish. Personnel for observer coverage of this fishery were provided through the NEFSC contractor.

Foreign fishery observers. There was no foreign fishing activity in the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) off the east coast during 1993.

Table 1. Catches and landings (MT) of Atlantic tunas and tuna-like fishes, excluding billfishes, by U.S. fishermen, 1967-1993¹

<i>Year</i>	<i>BFT</i> ²	<i>YFT</i> ^{3,4}	<i>ALB</i>	<i>BET</i> ³	<i>LTA</i>	<i>SKJ</i> ³	<i>BON</i>	<i>SWO</i> ⁵	<i>SSM</i> ⁶	<i>KGM</i> ⁶	<i>OTH</i> ⁷	<i>TOTAL</i>
1967	2,320	1,136	0	0	7	493	22	474	3,577	2,767	10	10,806
1968	807	5,941	0	18	6	3,314	43	274	5,342	2,813	2	18,560
1969	1,226	18,791	0	148	7	4,849	98	171	4,952	2,814	1	33,057
1970	3,327	9,029	0	195	158	11,752	83	287	5,506	3,050	-	33,387
1971	3,169	3,764	0	544	5	16,224	90	35	4,713	2,571	50	31,165
1972	2,138	12,342	10	212	212	12,290	24	246	4,863	2,213	-	34,550
1973	1,294	3,590	0	113	20	21,246	261	406	4,437	2,710	-	34,077
1974	3,638	5,621	13	865	51	19,973	92	1,125	4,990	4,747	1	41,116
1975	2,823	14,335	1	67	67	7,567	117	1,700	5,288	3,095	19	35,079
1976	1,931	2,252	0	28	5	2,285	23	1,429	6,385	4,053	30	18,421
1977	1,956	7,208	2	331	53	6,179	268	912	5,453	3,837	71	26,270
1978	1,848	9,747	9	248	113	8,492	224	3,684	3,310	2,507	31	30,213
1979	2,297	3,182	11	212	12	3,102	502	4,618	2,926	6,293	11	23,167
1980	1,505	2,118	21	202	88	3,589	195	5,624	5,429	10,726	513	30,010
1981	1,530	1,866	54	152	97	5,373	333	4,529	2,748	12,565	200	29,447
1982	812	883	126	377	87	731	209	5,410	3,747	9,863	962	23,207
1983	1,394	226	18	255	107	589	253	4,820	2,784	7,069	453	17,968
1984	1,317	1,252	25	408	41	817	217	4,749	3,904	7,445	883	21,058
1985	1,423	6,259	17	353	74	1,786	109	4,705	3,984	6,010	247	24,967
1986	1,654	5,775	162	747	103	1,004	83	5,210	5,957	5,682	337	26,714
1987	1,543	6,993	270	1,008	118	650	130	5,247	5,071	5,628	386	27,044
1988	1,505	9,361	115	702	204	36	88	6,171	5,097	5,809	430	29,518
1989	1,732	7,381	260	762	128	56	278	6,411	4,443	4,363	334	26,148
1990	1,769	5,287	386	650	173	240	298	5,519	4,272	5,936	390	24,920
1991	1,780	6,336	482	962	227	806	469	4,525	5,609	6,051	367	27,614
1992	1,200	6,501	377	721	593	525	494	4,236	5,438	6,122	543	26,750
1993	1,268	4,260	453	914	423	290	96	4,186	5,438	6,122	934	24,384

- 1 Estimates of recreational catches off the northeast U.S. are included for all years for bluefin tuna and for all other tunas since 1986. Estimates generally are only for the northeastern U.S.
- 2 Includes estimated bluefin dead discards since 1986. (The 1986 estimate covered only some times and areas.)
- 3 Prior to 1981, figures include some catches of purse seiners flying other flags (Bermuda, Netherlands Antilles, Nicaragua, and Panama).
- 4 Includes small quantities of bigeye tuna prior to 1975.
- 5 Swordfish landings revised for 1982 to 1992.
- 6 Does not include recreationally-caught Spanish (1967-83) and king (1967-78) mackerels. 1993 landings are set equal to 1992, since 1993 data are still preliminary.
- 7 This category includes blackfin and wahoo as well as the Task I category other tunas.

Table 2. Landings (MT) of yellowfin tuna in 1992 and 1993

<i>Area</i>	<i>Gear</i>	<i>1993</i>	<i>1992</i>
NW Atlantic	Longline	601.02	879.48
	Rod and reel	471.28	305.34
	Troll	112.7	103.42
	Purse seine	208.39	375.95
	Gillnet	0.36	3.06
	Handline	13.00	66.67
	Pair trawl	41.67	12.9
	Trawl	1.17	1.74
	Harpoon		0.18
Gulf of Mexico	Uncl	0.85	13.52
	Longline	2,649.50	4,576.93
	Other	58.21	10.06
Caribbean	Longline	101.02	151.35
TOTAL		4,260	6,500

Table 3. Landings (MT) of bigeye tuna in 1992 and 1993

<i>Area</i>	<i>Gear</i>	<i>1992</i>	<i>1993</i>
NW Atlantic	Longline	684.44	483.34
	Rod and reel	39.36	57.94
	Troll	8.46	15.96
	Purse seine	--	--
	Gillnet	7.89	0.88
	Handline	3.31	17.89
	Pair trawl	90.73	50.38
	Trawl	0.04	--
	Harpoon	--	0.01
Gulf of Mexico	Longline	39.34	59.90
	Rod and reel	0.07	--
	Handline	0.01	--
Caribbean	Longline	39.56	34.47
TOTAL		913.57	720.77

Table 4. Landings (MT) of albacore, by year, 1986-1993

<i>Gear</i>	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
Longline	28.40	34.44	48.73	58.32	148.62	201.48	145.86	171.75
Gillnet	2.64		5.31	24.90	20.55	6.55	6.17	2.48
Handline	7.95		10.13	13.47	7.89	9.10	3.96	2.78
Trawl			0.05	0.05	0.54	0.00	109.11	0.40
Com. trawl		15.24		5.00	7.94	3.83	1.42	14.52
Rec. rod & reel	123.42	204.89	46.21	158.00	200.07	254.38	102.67	193.19
Pair trawl						4.61	109.11	67.56
Other		15.43	4.45	0.05	0.02	2.50	8.05	0.04
All gears	162.14	270.00	114.88	259.79	386.23	482.48	377.24	452.72

NATIONAL REPORT OF VENEZUELA

by

Autonomous Service for Fishery and Marine Resources
and
National Fund for Agricultural Research

1. Introduction

The National Fund for Agricultural Research (FONAIAP), through the Agricultural Research Center of the State of Sucre (CIAPES), and jointly with the Autonomous Service for Fishery and Marine Resources (SARPA) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cattle Breeding, the French Institute of Scientific Research for the Development in Cooperation (ORSTOM), and the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) develop research activities on studies of the biology and fishery for large pelagic tunas and billfishes.

Activities are currently being carried out which include the analysis of catch and effort data of the industrial and artisanal fisheries, and the analysis of biological information on some of the main species.

2. The fisheries

The industrial fishery for tunas and billfishes carried out by the Venezuelan fleet uses three fishing types: purse seine, baitboat and longline. The fleet is comprised of 31 purse seiners, 14 baitboats and 27 longliners.

The artisanal fishery for billfishes of the *Istiophoridae* family is carried out by 43 longline vessels operating off the east coast of the country. In the central area there is a fleet comprised of 23 artisanal vessels that operate using banding nets or trammel nets.

3. The catches

The 1993 catches of tunas and billfishes, by fishing gear, (purse seine, baitboat and longline) are shown in Tables 1 to 3. For all the fishing methods, yellowfin tuna is the most important species, with total landings amount to 20,192 MT, which represents 63% of the purse seine fishery, 79% of the baitboats, and 84% of the tuna longliners. The total 1993 catches of skipjack were 8,121 MT, representing 30% of the purse seine catches and 14% of the catches taken by baitboat.

At present, a segment of the longline fleet comprised of seven vessels is carrying out a fishery directed particularly at swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*), and the catches by this fleet were 182 MT in 1993 (Table 4).

Landings in Venezuela by the Venezuelan purse seine which operated in the eastern Pacific Ocean in 1993 totaled 46,646 MT, which was equivalent to 60% of the total landings in the country. On the other hand, the total catches of tunas and swordfish in the Atlantic Ocean amounted to 30,683 MT, of which 83% corresponded to the purse seine fishery.

Catches taken by the artisanal fleet in 1993 reached 361 MT. The catch was comprised mainly of billfishes (147 MT in Juangriego and 90 MT in Catia La Mar), and includes a several other species (Tables 5 and 6).

* Original report in Spanish.

4. Biological sampling

In 1993, size sampling was carried out on 24,527 tunas and billfishes (Tables 7 and 8), and represented an 89% increase as compared to 1992. This sampling was conducted on purse seiners, baitboats and longliners that operate in the Caribbean Sea and the western Atlantic Ocean. The catch, in percentage, was comprised mainly of yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*) 28%, and skipjack (*Katsuwonus pelamis*) 45%. The size measurements carried out on billfishes in the artisanal fishery (longline and driftnet), which operates mainly in the Caribbean Sea, amounted to 3,173 individuals, of which the major proportion (68%) corresponded to sailfish (*Istiophorus plarapterus*).

Table 1. Catches (MT) taken by the purse seine fleet (PS) which operated in the Atlantic Ocean in 1993

Species	Q U A R T E R				Total	%
	I	II	III	IV		
Yellowfin tuna (YFT)	3,159	784	2,389	9,427	1,5759	62.96
Skipjack tuna (SKJ)	594	260	683	5,596	7,433	29.62
Frigate tuna (FRI)	200	44	69	210	523	2.09
Albacore (ALB)	133	14	26	55	228	0.91
Bigeye tuna (BET)	219	1	53	82	355	1.42
Blackfin tuna (BLF)	174	11	88	461	734	2.93
TOTAL	4,479	1,114	3,308	16,131	25,032	100.00

Table 2. Catches (MT) taken by the baitboat fleet (BB) which operated in the Atlantic Ocean in 1993

Species	Q U A R T E R				Total	%
	I	II	III	IV		
Yellowfin tuna (YFT)	701	542	1,124	1,374	3,741	78.67
Skipjack tuna (SKJ)	126	97	231	234	688	14.47
Bigeye tuna (BET)	34			122	156	3.28
Blackfin tuna (BLF)	35	36	22	77	170	3.58
TOTAL	896	675	1,377	1,807	4,755	100.00

Table 3. Catches (MT) taken by the Venezuelan industrial longline fleet in the Atlantic Ocean in 1993

<i>Species</i>	<i>Q U A R T E R</i>				<i>Total</i>	<i>%</i>
	<i>I</i>	<i>II</i>	<i>III</i>	<i>IV</i>		
Yellowfin tuna (YFT)	79.6	154.6	146.3	310.5	691.6	83.97
Albacore (ALB)	5.2	6.1	3.3	3.0	17.6	2.14
Bigeye tuna (BET)	0.8	2.3	1.2	1.0	5.3	0.64
Blue marlin (BUM)	4.2	6.6	1.0	3.4	15.2	1.85
White marlin (WHM)	1.7	3.1	0.7	3.4	8.9	1.08
Sailfish (SAI)	0.6	1.6		1.3	3.5	0.42
Swordfish (SWO)	3.0	0.2	0.2		3.4	0.41
Spearfish (SPF)	0.2	0.8		0.3	1.3	0.16
Sharks (SHK)	20.0	16.8	15.9	13.5	66.2	8.04
Dolphin fish (DOL)	0.9	0.6	0.9	0.7	3.1	0.38
Wahoo (WAH)	0.1	2.9	3.1	1.4	7.5	0.91
TOTAL	116.3	195.6	173.2	338.5	823.6	100.00

Table 4. Catches (MT) taken by the Venezuelan industrial swordfish longline fleet in the Atlantic Ocean in 1993

<i>Species</i>	<i>Q U A R T E R</i>				<i>Total</i>	<i>%</i>
	<i>I</i>	<i>II</i>	<i>III</i>	<i>IV</i>		
Yellowfin tuna (YFT)	17.5	2.1	5.8	17.4	42.8	23.52
Albacore (ALB)	5.2	6.1	3.3	3.0	17.6	2.14
Bigeye tuna (BET)	6.7	0.6	3.0	14.7	25.0	13.73
Blue marlin (BUM)	0.9	4.1	0.1	0.5	5.6	3.08
White marlin (WHM)	0.2	0.1	0.2	1.5	2.0	1.10
Sailfish (SAI)	0.8	0.1	0.2	2.2	3.3	1.81
Swordfish (SWO)	20.1	8.8	13.5	21.2	63.6	34.95
Dolphin fish (DOL)	0.1	0.1	0.7	0.3	1.2	0.66
Sharks (SHK)	8.5	3.2	10.8	14.8	37.3	20.49
TOTAL	60.0	25.2	37.6	75.6	198.8	100.00

Table 5. Catches (MT) taken by the artisanal billfish fleet off the central coast of Venezuela in 1993

<i>Species</i>	<i>QUARTER</i>				<i>Total</i>	<i>%</i>
	<i>I</i>	<i>II</i>	<i>III</i>	<i>IV</i>		
Blue marlin (BUM)	3.9	12.8	3.8	3.3	23.9	24.97
White marlin (WHM)	0.1	0.8	1.8	1.0	3.7	3.87
Sailfish (SAI)	2.3	13.6	27.5	16.6	60.0	62.70
Swordfish (SWO)	0.5	1.8	1.8	0.3	4.4	4.60
Dolphin fish (DOL)	0.4	1.5	1.2	0.6	3.7	3.86
Wahoo (WAH)	0.1	2.9	3.1	1.4	7.5	0.91
TOTAL	7.2	30.5	36.2	21.8	95.7	100.00

Table 6. Catches (MT) taken by the artisanal billfish longline fleet off the eastern coast of Venezuela in 1993

<i>Species</i>	<i>QUARTER</i>				<i>Total</i>	<i>%</i>
	<i>I</i>	<i>II</i>	<i>III</i>	<i>IV</i>		
Blue marlin (BUM)				2.0	2.0	1.23
White marlin (WHM)	7.3	0.2	10.9	74.7	93.1	57.40
Sailfish (SAI)	11.9	1.1	10.9	27.9	51.8	31.94
Swordfish (SWO)	0.1				0.1	0.06
Dolphin fish (DOL)	2.1	0.7	8.0	3.8	14.6	9.00
Spearfish (SPF)				0.6	0.6	0.37
TOTAL	21.4	2.0	29.8	109.0	162.2	100.00

Table 7. Biological sampling of tunas and billfishes of the industrial tuna fleet in 1993

<i>Species</i>	<i>Gear</i>			<i>TOTAL</i>
	<i>PS</i>	<i>BB</i>	<i>LL</i>	
Yellowfin tuna (YFT)	5,424	791	568	6,783
Skipjack tuna (SKJ)	10,630	523		11,153
Frigate tuna (FRI)	1,277			1,277
Albacore (ALB)	47		122	169
Bigeye tuna (BET)	253	74		344
Blackfin tuna (BLF)	657	65		722
White marlin (WHM)			149	149
Sailfish (SAI)			59	59
Spearfish (SPF)			41	41
Blue marlin (BUM)			69	69
Swordfish (SWO)			48	48

Table 8. Biological sampling of tunas and billfishes of the eastern artisanal fleet (Juangriego) and the central coastal fleet (Playa Verde) of Venezuela in 1993

<i>Species</i>	<i>Juangriego</i>	<i>Playa Verde</i>	<i>Total</i>
Blue marlin (BUM)	17	274	291
White marlin (WHM)	450	190	640
Sailfish (SAI)	623	1,915	2,538
Swordfish (SWO)		12	12
Spearfish (SPF)	9		9
Dolphin fish (DOL)	49	174	223
TOTAL	1,148	2,565	3,713