INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION
for the
CONSERVATION of ATLANTIC TUNAS

R E P O R T
for biennial period, 1998-99
PART II (1999) - Vol. 1
English version

MADRID, SPAIN 2000

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS

28 CONTRACTING PARTIES (as of December 31, 1999)

Angola, Brazil, Canada, Cape Verde, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Equatorial Guinea, European Community, France (St. Pierre & Miquelon), Gabon, Ghana, Guinea Conakry, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Libya, Morocco, Namibia, Panama, Russia, Sao Tomé & Principe, South Africa, Trinidad & Tobago, Tunisia, United Kingdom (Overseas Territories), United States, Uruguay, Venezuela.

COMMISSION OFFICERS

Commission Chairman	*First Vice-Chairman*	*Second Vice-Chairman*
I. NOMURA, Japan (elected 22 November 1999)	J. BARAÑANO, EC-Spain (elected 22 November 1999)	A. SROUR, Morocco (elected 22 November 1999)

No	***PANEL MEMBERSHIP (52 Members)***	*Chairman*
1	Angola, Brazil, Canada, Cape Verde, China, Cote d'Ivoire, European Community, Gabon, Ghana, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Libya, Morocco, Namibia, Panama, Russia, Sao Tome & Principe, Trinidad & Tobago, United Kingdom (Overseas Territories), United States, Venezuela (21 members)	Cape Verde
2	Canada, China, Croatia, European Community, France (St. Pierre & Miquelon), Japan, Libya, Morocco, Panama, Tunisia, United Kingdom (Overseas Territories), United States (12 members)	European Community
3	European Community, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Namibia, South Africa, United States (6 members)	South Africa
4	Angola, Brazil, Canada, European Community, Japan, Morocco, Namibia, South Africa, Trinidad & Tobago, United Kingdom (Overseas Territories), United States, Uruguay, Venezuela (13 members)	United States

SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE COMMISSION

	Chairman
STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION (STACFAD)	J. Jones, Canada (re-elected 22 November 1999)
STANDING COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH & STATISTICS (SCRS) Sub-Committee on Statistics: S. Turner (United States), Coordinator Sub-Committee on Environment: J.M. Fromentin (EC-France), Coordinator Sub-Committee on By-catches: H. Nakano (Japan), Coordinator	J. E. Powers, United States (re-elected 15 October 1999)
CONSERVATION & MANAGEMENT COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE	J. F. Pulvenis (Venezuela) (elected 22 November 1999)
PERMANENT WORKING GROUP FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF ICCAT STATISTICS AND CONSERVATION MEASURES (PWG)	E. Penas (EC) (elected 22 November 1999)

ICCAT SECRETARIAT

Executive Secretary: Dr. A. RIBEIRO LIMA
Assistant Executive Secretary: Dr. P. M. MIYAKE
Address: C/Corazón de María 8, Madrid 28002 (Spain)

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, 1998-99, Part II (1999)"***, which describes the activities of the Commission during the second half of said biennial period.

This issue of the Biennial Report contains the reports of the Sixteenth Regular Meeting of the Commission, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in November, 1999, 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, the Report for 1999 has been published in two volumes. ***Volume 1*** includes the Reports of the Secretariat on its activities, 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), as well as the National Reports of the Contracting Parties of the Commission. ***Volume 2*** contains the Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) 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. The Report is available in the three official languages of the Commission: English, French and Spanish.

R. Conde de Saro
Commission Chairman

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(COM//99/6-Revised)*

1. New Contracting Parties to the Convention

The Department of Legal Services of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) notified the Secretariat that on March 30, 1999, the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago had deposited an instrument of adherence with the Director General of FAO, and that on November 10, 1999, the Republic of Namibia had deposited an instrument of ratification to the Convention. In accordance with Article XIV, paragraph 3, of the Convention, the Republics of Trinidad & Tobago and Namibia became Contracting Parties to the Convention. Thus, as of December 31, 1999, the Commission is comprised of 28 Contracting Parties.

In 1999 and in virtue of Article 12, paragraph 5, of the Rules of Procedure, Panama became a member of Panel 1 and Namibia became a member of Panels 1, 3 and 4.

2. Election of new Commission officers

At the 16th Regular Meeting of the Commission (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil - November 1999), the following new Commission officers were elected:

Commission Chairman	Mr. I. Nomura (Japan)
First Vice-Chairman	Mr. J. Barañano (EC-Spain)
Second Vice-Chairman	Mr. A. Srour (Morocco)
Panel 1	Cape Verde
Panel 2	European Community
Panel 3	South Africa
Panel 4	United States
Compliance Committee	Mr. J. F. Pulvenis (Venezuela)
PWG	Mr. E. Penas (EC)
STACFAD	Mr. J. Jones (Canada)

3. Acceptance or ratification of Madrid and Paris Protocols to the ICCAT Convention

As indicated by the provisions its Article 3, the Protocol adopted in Madrid in June, 1992, will enter into force, for all the Contracting Parties, on the 90th day following the deposit with the Director General of FAO of the last instrument of approval, ratification or acceptance by three-quarters of the Contracting Parties, which should include all the Parties classified by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development as of June 5, 1992, as developed market economy countries.

As of December, 1999, the following Contracting Parties have officially ratified or accepted the Protocol (some of these automatically accepted upon becoming Contracting Parties to the Convention):

* The Administrative Report presented to the 1999 Commission Meeting has been updated to December 31, 1999.

Republic of Korea	Acceptance on June 11, 1993
Canada	Ratification on September 22, 1993
South Africa	Acceptance on September 30, 1993
United States of America	Ratification on August 24, 1994
Russian Federation	Acceptance on September 14, 1994
Republic of Guinea (Conakry)	Acceptance on April 13, 1995
United Kingdom	Acceptance on November 10, 1995
People's Republic of China	Acceptance on October 24, 1996
Morocco	Ratification on December 9, 1996
Brazil	Ratification on January 15, 1997
Uruguay	Acceptance on July 24, 1997
Croatia	Acceptance on October 20, 1997
European Community	Acceptance on November 14, 1997
Tunisia	Acceptance on December 16, 1997
Libya	Acceptance on January 14, 1998
Venezuela	Acceptance on May 5, 1998
Japan	Acceptance on May 27, 1998
Panama	Acceptance on December 28, 1998
Trinidad & Tobago	Acceptance on March 30, 1999
Namibia	Acceptance on November 10, 1999

In order to enter into force, ratification is still required by France (as a developed market economy country), as well as by three of the following Parties (Angola, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Ghana, and San Tomé & Principe). In 1999, the Executive Secretary made personal contacts with and wrote letters to the aforementioned Parties, requesting them to ratify the Protocol as soon as possible

4. ICCAT Regulations and Resolutions

– Adopted in 1998

On April 23, 1999, during the six months grace period after the transmission of the Recommendations adopted by the Commission at its 1998 meeting, the Government of Morocco presented a formal objection to the *"Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Limitation of Catches of Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean"*. In accordance with Article VIII, paragraph 3(a) of the Convention, the entry into force of this Recommendation was extended for an additional 60 days, or until August 20, 1999.

Within this additional period of 60 days, and in accordance with the provisions of Article VIII, paragraph 3(b) of the Convention, the Government of Libya also presented a formal objection to the above Recommendation.

Notwithstanding, the Secretariat notified the Contracting Parties that all the Recommendations, except for the abovementioned Bluefin Catch Limit Recommendation, had entered into force on June 21, 1999.

The Government of Morocco, through its Embassy in Madrid, notified the Secretariat on August 19 that Morocco had reaffirmed its objection to the *"Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Limitation of Catches of Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean"*. On October 20, 1999, the Embassy of Libya in Madrid notified the Secretariat that the Libyan Government reaffirmed its objection. Both reaffirmations were made in accordance with Article VII, paragraph 3(e) of the Convention. Consequently, the Recommendation in question entered into force on August 20, 1999, for all Contracting Parties, except Morocco and Libya.

– Adopted in 1999

On December 16, 1999, the Secretariat transmitted the texts of the Recommendations and Resolutions adopted by the Commission at its 1999 Meeting to the Contracting Parties, and to non-Contracting Parties/Entities/Fishing Entities with an Atlantic coast or which fish tuna and tuna-like fishes in the Convention Area, as well as to intergovernmental organizations involved in fishery matters. If no objections are received from the Contracting Parties, these Recommenda-

tions will enter into force on June 15, 2000. The texts of the Recommendations and Resolutions adopted in 1999 are included in Annex 5 to the Proceedings of the 1999 Commission Meeting (in this volume).

5. Monitoring and inspection

As of November, 1999, the Contracting Parties that have accepted the ICCAT Scheme of Port Inspection, which was adopted by the Commission at its First Special Meeting (Madrid, 1978) and in effect since 1983, are as follows: Brazil, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Panama, Sao Tome & Principe, South Africa, United States, and Venezuela.

At its 15th Regular Meeting (Madrid, November 1997), the Commission adopted a *"Recommendation for a Revised ICCAT Port Inspection Scheme"* (see Annex 5-10 to the "Report for Biennial Period, 1996-97, Part II, Vol. 1). The revised Scheme, which entered into force on June 13, 1998, supercedes the previous ICCAT Port Inspection Scheme.

The Delegate of the European Community, at the time of ICCAT's 11th Special Meeting (Santiago de Compostela, Spain, November 1998), indicated that the Community had accepted the Revised Port Inspection Scheme, and that it would be incorporated the EC's internal law as soon as the Council of Ministers of the European Union adopts the modification to the EU's general monitoring scheme. At the end of 1999, this process continued its course.

6. ICCAT inter-sessional meetings and Working Groups

In accordance with Commission decisions, the following meetings inter-sessional of a scientific-technical nature took place in 1999. Details on these meetings can be found in the Report on Statistics and Coordination (COM-SCRS/99/9), included in this volume.

- Coordination Meeting of the ICCAT Bigeye Year Program (BETYP) - January 28 & 29 - Madrid, Spain. - - ICCAT Data Preparatory Meeting for South Atlantic Swordfish - April 8 to 13 - Tamandare, Brazil
- Meeting of the Inter-sessional Meeting of the ICCAT Sub-Committee on By-catch - May 11 to 14 - Messina, Italy
- Meeting of the ICCAT Working Group on Precautionary Approach - May 17 to 21 - Dublin, Ireland
- First Meeting of the ICCAT Working Group on Allocation Criteria - May 31 to June 2 - Madrid, Spain
- ICCAT SCRS Skipjack Stock Assessment Session - June 28 to July 2 - Funchal, Madeira, Portugal
- ICCAT SCRS Swordfish Stock Assessment Session - September 27 to October 4 - Madrid, Spain

7. Meetings at which ICCAT was represented

- 11th Meeting/Dialogue of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) on the "Relation Between Scientific Advice and Fisheries Management - January 26and 27 - Nantes, France.
  ICCAT was represented by Dr. J. Powers (United States), SCRS Chairman.

- Meeting of Regional Fisheries Agencies (of FAO and others) - February 11 & 12 - Rome, Italy
  ICCAT was represented by Dr. P. M. Miyake, Assistant Executive Secretary.

- FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) - February 15 to 19 - Rome, Italy
  ICCAT was represented by Dr. A. Ribeiro Lima, Executive Secretary.

- 5th Annual Meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) - February 22 to 26 - Tokyo, Japan
  ICCAT was represented by Mr. J. Morishita (Japan).

- High Level Symposium on Trade and Environment of the World Trade Organization (WTO) - March 15 & 16 - Geneva, Switzerland
  ICCAT was represented by Dr. A. Ribeiro Lima, Executive Secretary

- Working Group of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) on Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) - June 7 - Guayaquil, Equador

  ICCAT was represented by Mr. J. Ariz (EC-Spain).

- 63rd Meeting of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) - June 8 to 10 - Guayaquil, Equador
  ICCAT was represented by Mr. B. Hallman (United States).

- 2nd Session of the Scientific Advisory Committee of the General Fisheries Commission of the Mediterranean (GFCM) - June 7 to 10 - Rome, Italy
  ICCAT was represented by Dr. P. Miyake, Assistant Executive Secretary.

- 18th Session of the Coordinating Working Party on Fisheries Statistics (CWP) - July 5 to 9 - Luxemburg
  ICCAT was represented by Dr. P. M. Miyake, Assistant Executive Secretary.

- First Meeting of the Tuna Fisheries Regional Agencies - July 10 - Luxemburg
  ICCAT was represented by Dr. P. M. Miyake, Assistant Executive Secretary.

- 24th Session of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) - July 12 to 15 - Alicante, Spain
  ICCAT was represented by Dr. P. M. Miyake, Assistant Executive Secretary.

- Working Group on Monitoring Status and Trends of Fisheries - November 30 to December 3 - Rome, Italy.
  ICCAT was represented by Dr. P. M. Miyake, Assistant Executive Secretary.

- Scientific Committee of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) - December 7 to 10 - Kyoto, Japan.
  ICCAT was represented by Dr. P. M. Miyake, Assistant Executive Secretary.

- Second Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) - December 13 to 16 - Kyoto, Japan.
  ICCAT was represented by Dr. P. M. Miyake, Assistant Executive Secretary.

8. ICCAT Bigeye Year Program (BETYP)

Mr. Guillermo Fisch assumed his duties at Bigeye Program Coordinator on June 1, 1999. He visited the national laboratories of major areas of the Program, which included the Autonomous Regions of Azores, Madeira (Portugal), and the Canary Islands (Spain), as well as Senegal and Ghana. A meeting was held in July in Funchal, Madeira, with the participation of the members of the BETYP Coordination Committee, the ICCAT Assistant Executive Secretary, scientists from the Canary Islands, Madeira, and Ghana, as well as the Program Coordinator. The tagging program, which was already on going in the Canary Islands, continued with success. An agreement was signed with an Azorian boat owner to use a vessel in the tagging operations, which were initiated in June, 1999. An agreement was also reached with the MAC Program of Senegal to conduct opportunistic tagging in waters off Senegal and Mauritania. The bases for agreement were established to contract vessels to carry out tagging in Madeira and Ghana. Contacts were made to have a tagging expert present at the Tropical Tunas Species Group which takes place during the SCRS meeting. Work has started on the preparation of the sampling and tagging manuals.

9. Tagging lottery

The 1999 annual lottery for participants in the ICCAT International Cooperative Tagging Program for Tuna and Tuna-like Species was held in Madrid on October 11, at the time of the 1999 SCRS meeting. Three US$500 prizes were awarded, corresponding to three categories, as follows:

- Tropical tunas (108 tags entered in the lottery); Winner: Tag #EM 004862, for a bigeye tuna tagged by Senegal in December, 1997, and recovered by France in January, 1998.

- Temperate tunas (24 tags): Winner: Tag #HM 038579, for a sailfish tagged by the United States in April, 1998, and recovered by the United States in the same month in 1998.

- Billfishes (53 tags): Winner: Tag #HM 001776, for a swordfish tagged by the United States in June, 1995, and recovered by Spain in December, 1998.

10. Relations with other countries, organizations, and entities

Document COM/99/20 provided details on the Secretariat's activities in this area. In accordance with a Commission decision, in February, 1999, the Executive Secretary sent special letters to the following:

- Guinea (Conakry) and Equatorial Guinea, concerning compliance in the bluefin tuna and North Atlantic Swordfish fisheries.
- Trinidad & Tobago, encouraging continued collaboration with ICCAT.
- Mexico and Chinese Taipei, regarding Cooperating Party status.
- Guinea (Bissau), letter of warning regarding bluefin tuna fishing
- Singapore, Vanuatu, and Kenya, seeking clarification of fishing practices.
- Sierra Leone, final warning regarding bluefin and swordfish fishing.
- Belize, Honduras, and Panama, letters of identification, regarding non-compliance with ICCAT swordfish conservation measures.

In 1999, Singapore, Barbados, Vanuatu, Philippines and Cyprus requested information on the procedures to become Contracting Parties to the Commission. The Secretariat prepared responses to these countries.

11. Publications

- Statistical Bulletin, Vol. 28
- Report for Biennial Period, 1998-99, Part I (Vols. 1 and 2) - English, French and Spanish versions
- Collective Volume of Scientific Papers, Vol. XLIX, Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4
- Collective Volume of Scientific Papers, Vol. L, Nos. 1 and 2 (ICCAT Tuna Symposium - Azores)
- Data Record, Vo. 40

12. Secretariat staff

On June 1, 1999, Mr. Guillermo Fisch assumed his duties as Coordinator of the Bigeye Year Program (BETYP), and on September 1, 1999, Dr. Victor Restrepo joined the Secretariat in the position of Population Dynamics Expert.

As of November, 1999, the Secretariat is comprised of the following: Executive Secretary (D-1), Assistant Executive Secretary (P-5), Systems Analyst (P-2), Population Dynamics Expert (P-4), Bigeye Program Coordinator (P-4), five translators (three in GS-7, one in GS-6, one in GS-4), two Statistics Department staff (one GS-4 and one local contract), and four clerical staff (one in GS-2, three in GS-1).

In accordance with Article 33 of the current "ICCAT Staff Regulations and Rules", and taking into account the interests of the Commission and in virtue of the authority which said Article grants to the Executive Secretary, he decided to extend the age limit for retirement in the case of Dr. Peter Makoto Miyake, the Assistant Executive Secretary, and two multi-lingual translators, Mrs. Maria Ana Fernandez de Bobadilla and Mrs. Gloria Messeri.

1999 FINANCIAL REPORT
(COM/99/7-Revised)*

1. AUDITOR'S REPORT - FISCAL YEAR 1998

In May, 1999, the Executive Secretary transmitted a copy of the Auditor's Report to the governments of all the Contracting Parties. The General Balance at the close of Fiscal year 1998 **(Statement 1)** showed a balance in Cash and Bank of 65,450,186 Pesetas, corresponding to the available in the Working Capital fund (51,344,483 Pesetas), to advances on future contributions accumulated at the close of Fiscal year 1998 (2,482,358 Pesetas), and to the available in funds for other programs (11,623,345 Pesetas).

The accumulated pending contributions at the close of Fiscal Year 1998 (corresponding to 1998 and to previous years) amounted to 176,581,853 Pesetas.

2. FINANCIAL STATUS OF THE 2ND HALF OF THE BIENNIAL BUDGET - FISCAL YEAR 1999

All the financial operations of the Commission corresponding to Fiscal Year 1999 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 1999 Regular Budget (198,700,000 Pesetas) was approved by the Commission at its 11th Special Meeting (Santiago de Compostela, November 1998). The General Balance Sheet (attached as **Statement 2**) shows the Assets and Liabilities at the close of Fiscal Year 1999 (see **Tables 1 to 6)**.

Table 1 shows the status of the contributions of each Contracting Party at the close of Fiscal Year 1999.

Of the total budget approved, income received towards 1999 contributions amounted to 150,023,056 Pesetas at the close of Fiscal Year 1999. Only 12 of the 25 Contracting Parties included in this Budget have paid their total contribution (Angola, Canada, China, European Community, Croatia, France-St. Pierre & Miquelon, Japan, Korea, Russia, South Africa, Tunisia, and United States). Morocco paid 94% of its 1999 contribution (4,169,983 Pesetas) and the United Kingdom-Overseas Territories paid 89.21% of its 1999 contribution (3,818,864 Pesetas). Advances received in 1998 from Libya (2,365,387 Pesetas) and China (116,971 Pesetas) were applied toward partial payment of these countries' 1999 contributions. Advances totalling 185,372 Pesetas were received in 1999 from Tunisia (150,205 Pesetas) and from China (35,167 Pesetas), which will be applied to their future contributions.

The contributions to the 1999 Regular Budget pending payment from the Contracting Parties amounted to 48,676,944 Pesetas at the close of this Fiscal Year.

The total accumulated debt from budgetary and extra-budgetary contributions (from Panama and Trinidad and Tobago as new Commission members, and from Benin, Cuba and Senegal, who are no longer Commission members) at the close of Fiscal Year 1999 amounted to 213,965,099 Pesetas.

Statement 2 shows the liquidation of budgetary expenses at the close of Fiscal Year 1999, broken down by chapters. Following herewith are some general comments, by chapter:

Chapter 1 - Salaries: The salaries and remuneration for 11 members of the ICCAT Secretariat staff were charged to this chapter. The total expenditures include the updating of the remuneration schemes to those currently in effect for staff classified in the United Nations categories, including step (tenure) raises.

Chapter 2 - Travel: The expenses charged to this Budget chapter correspond to home leave for three Secretariat staff members in the Professional Category, who are entitled to this benefit, in accordance with the provisions of Article 27 of

* The Financial Report presented at the 1999 Commission Meeting has been revised and updated to the end of Fiscal Year 1999.

the current Staff Regulations and Rules. Other charges include trip and per diem expenses for Secretariat participation in inter-sessional meetings.

Chapter 3 - Commission Meetings: Some expenditures for the First Meeting of the Working Group on Allocation Criteria, held in Madrid, were charged to this budgetary chapter. The Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Fishing and Food assumed the major part of the expenses for the aforementioned meeting. This chapter also includes the expenses of the Commission Meeting in Rio de Janeiro. The Authorities of Brazil assumed the extra-ordinary expenditures incurred due to holding the annual ICCAT meeting outside the Headquarters city.

Chapter 4 - Publications: The costs for the Commission publications listed in the 1999 Administrative Report (COM/99/6) were charged to this budget chapter.

Chapter 5 - Office Equipment: Expenses charged as of the close of the Fiscal Year included the leasing costs of a sorter and the purchase of some office furniture for the Secretariat.

Chapter 6 - Operating Expenses: This chapter reflects expenses incurred in the operation of the Secretariat up to the close of Fiscal Year 1999. The increase in these expenses is due to the considerable increase in postal rates and to the increases for phone and fax.

Chapter 7 - Miscellaneous: This chapter includes various expenses of a minor nature, such as use of a taxi for official business, minor repairs at the Secretariat, etc.

Chapter 8 - Coordination of Statistics and Research:

a) Salaries: Salaries and remuneration for four Secretariat staff members are charged to this sub-chapter. The observations made under Chapter 1 as regards the salary schemes currently in force for 1999 for U.N. classified staff also apply to this sub-Chapter. Also included are the salary and Spanish Social Security expenses of one staff member who chose to continue in this special regime.

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

c) Statistics/Biology: Expenses charged to this sub-Chapter include email, the purchase of software for the Secretariat (Microsoft NT workstation, Visual Fortran, Eudora Pro Email, etc.) and expenses for Secretariat participation in the Skipjack Stock Assessment Session, held in Madeira.

d) Computer-related items: The Secretariat purchased the following computer equipment up to the close of Fiscal Year 1999: two desktop computers, three CD Rom recorders, a portable computer, a laser printer and a color monitor.

e) Scientific meetings (including the SCRS): The expenses for the SCRS plenary sessions, as well as the Species Group Meetings, remained within the amount budgeted.

f) Bluefin Year Program (BYP): The Contracting Parties financed a budget of 2,090,000 Pesetas as an ICCAT budgetary contribution towards this Program. A breakdown of deposits and expenses is shown in the table concerning this Program.

g) Bigeye Year Program (BETYP): The Contracting Parties financed a budget 1,515,000 Pesetas as an ICCAT budgetary contribution towards this Program. A breakdown of deposits and expenses is given in COM-SCRS/99/18, prepared by the BETYP Coordinator.

h) Billfish Research Program: The Contracting Parties financed a budget of 1,515,000 Pesetas as an ICCAT contribution towards this Program. A breakdown of deposits and expenditures is shown in the table concerning this Program.

i) Miscellaneous: The purchase of some office material was charged to this sub-Chapter.

Chapter 9 - Contingencies: The installation expenses for the Population Dynamics Expert and the liquidation costs for a staff member who resigned from the Secretariat staff, were charged to this Chapter.

Table 3 shows budgetary and extra-budgetary income received by the Commission in Fiscal Year 1999. Budgetary income amounted to 147,575,865 Pesetas, from Contracting Party contributions received in 1999 towards the 1999 Budget, contributions paid towards previous budgets (Angola: 2,860,305 Pesetas; Ghana: 11,924,308 Pesetas; and Uruguay:

1,882,426 Pesetas), as well as from other income (extra-budgetary) received in 1999. The extra-budgetary income received in 1999 included: new member contributions from Tunisia (adherence in 1997), France-St. Pierre & Miquelon (adherence in 1998), Panama (adherence in 1998), observer fees, bank interest, reimbursement for publications, return of Value Added Tax, and the positive difference in currency exchange.

Table 4 shows the composition and balance of the Working Capital Fund at the close of Fiscal Year 1999. The Fund shows a positive balance of 37,347,542 Pesetas, which represents 18.79% of the 1999 Budget.

Table 5 shows cash flow during Fiscal Year 1999, as regards income received and expenses incurred.

Table 6 shows the status of Cash and Bank to the close of Fiscal Year 1999, with a balance of 45,772,554 Pesetas, which correspond to the total available in the Working Capital Fund and the funds available in other Programs and advances on future contributions.

3. ICCAT TUNA SYMPOSIUM

The ICCAT Tuna Symposium (Azores, 1996), which was financed by the Commission of the European Communities (FAIR PROGRAM) and the Autonomous Government of Azores, ended its activities during this Fiscal Year, after having completed its objectives. The activity of this trust fund during Fiscal Year 1999, for which the accounting was under the responsibility of Dr. P. M. Miyake as Symposium Secretary, was as follows:

	Pesetas	*Pesetas*
Balance at start of FY 1999		**6,214,402**
Deposits:		
Contribution from European Community	598,990	
Return of Value Added Tax (VAT) 130,720		
Bank interest	29,093	**758,803**
Expenses:		
Salaries & honorariums	423,834	
Editor's fees	3,134,011	
Printing	3,398,720	
Bank charges	16,640	**-6,973,205**
Balance at close of FY 1999		**0**

4. BILLFISH RESEARCH PROGRAM

Following herewith is a summary in deposits and expenses for this Program:

	Pesetas	*Pesetas*
Balance at start of FY 1999		**1,831,262**
Deposits:		
Financed by ICCAT	1,515,000	
Voluntary contribution-Chinese Taipei	826,105	
Voluntary contribution-Billfish Foundation	4,026,550	**6,367,655**
Expenses:		
Program activities	4,628,294	
Bank charges	11,682	**-4,639,976**
Balance at close of FY 1999		**3,558,941**

5. BLUEFIN YEAR PROGRAM (BYP)

The status of funds in the Bluefin Year Program (BYP) are as follows:

	Pesetas	*Pesetas*
Balance at start of FY 1999		**3,582,649**

Deposits:		
Financed by ICCAT	2,090,000	
Voluntary contribution-Chinese Taipei	826,105	**2,916,105**
Expenses:		
Program activities	1,817,720	
Bank charges	335	**-1,818,055**
Balance at close of FY 1999		**4,680,699**

STATEMENT 1. GENERAL BALANCE (at the close of Fiscal Year 1998) (Pesetas)

ASSETS			*LIABILITIES*		
Available:		Pts.			Pts.
			Acquired holdings (net)		**9,227,404**
-- Banco Exterior de Espana:					
Acct. 030-17672.60-A (Pts.)		2,002,922			
Acct. 030-17329.75-F (Conv. Pts.)		20,563,219	**Guaranty deposit**		**61,564**
Acct. 030-31279.43-E (US$)	$90,684.46	13,149,247			
-- Barclays					
Acct. 21001466 (Pts.)		5,339,210	**Available in the Working Capital Fund**		**51,344,483**
Acct. 41002088 (US$)	$23,803.83	3,451,555			
-- Luso Espanol					
Acct. 91-50255223 (Conv. Pts.)		893,117	**Available in Symposium Trust Fund**		**6,214,402**
Time deposit (Pts.)		20,000,000			
Cash on hand (Pts.)		50,916	**Available in funds for other programs**		
			-- Billfish Research Program	1,831,262	
Total Available (Pts.)		**65,450,186**	-- Bluefin Year Program (BYP)	3,582,649	
(Exchange rate: 1US$ = 145 Pts.)			-- Bigeye Year Program (BETYP)	6,209,434	**11,623,345**
Available in Symposium Trust Fund:					
Acct. 030-0126445 (Pts.)		**6,214,402**	**Advances on future contributions**		**2,482,358**
Receivables:					
			Accumulated pending contributions		**176,581,853**
Overdue contributions		**176,581,853**			
Fixed Assets:					
Acquired before 1998	22,268,241				
Acquired during 1998	2,969,900				
Retired during 1998	0				
Total Fixed Assets, in use	25,238,141				
Accumulated depreciation	(16,010,737)				
Fixed Assets (net)		**9,227,404**			
Guaranty deposit		**61,564**			
TOTAL ASSETS		**257,535,409**	**TOTAL LIABILITIES**		**257,535,409**

STATEMENT 2. GENERAL BALANCE (at the close of Fiscal Year 1999) (Pesetas)

ASSETS			*LIABILITIES*		
Available:		Pts.			Pts.
			Acquired holdings (net)		**9,707,906**
-- Argentaria (BEX)					
Acct. 030-17672.60-A (Pts.)		1,012,097			
Acct. 030-17329.75-F (Conv. Pts.)		3,262,660	**Guaranty deposit**		**61,564**
Acct. 030-31279.9E (US$)	$39,943.00	6,599,422			
-- Barclays					
Acct. 21001466 (Pts.)		7,053,506	**Available in the Working Capital Fund**		**37,347,542**
Acct. 41002088 (US$)	$39,281.23	6,490,084			
-- Banco Luso Espanol					
Acct. 91-50255223 (Conv. Pts.)		1,279,785	**Available in funds for other programs**		
Time deposit (Pts.)		20,000,000			
			-- Billfish Research Program	**3,558,941**	
Cash on hand (Pts.)		75,000	**-- Bluefin Year Program (BYP)**	**4,680,699**	**8,239,640**
Total Available (Pts.)		**45,772,554**			
(Exchange rate: 1US$ = 165.221 Pts.)			**Advances on future contributions**		**185,372**
			Accumulated pending contributions		**213,965,099**
Receivables:					
Overdue contributions		**213,965,099**			
Fixed Assets:					
Acquired before 1999	25,238,141				
Acquired during 1999	2,405,640				
Retired during 1999	0				
Total Fixed Assets, in use	27,643,781				
Accumulated depreciation	(17,935,875)				
Fixed Assets (net)		**9,707,906**			
Guaranty deposit		**61,564**			
TOTAL ASSETS		**269,507,123**	**TOTAL LIABILITIES**		**269,507,123**

TABLE 1. STATUS OF CONTRACTING PARTY CONTRIBUTIONS (Pesetas) (to the close of Fiscal Year 1999)

	Contracting Party	*Balance due at start of Fiscal Year 1999*	*1999 Contracting Party contributions*	*Contributions paid in 1999 or applied to the 1999 Budget*	*Contributions paid in 1999 towards other budgets*	*Balance due at the close of Fiscal Year 1999*
A)	**Regular Commission Budget:**					
	Angola	2,860,305	3,225,471	3,225,471	2,860,305	0
	Brasil	0	9,290,024	0	0	9,290,024
	Canada	0	4,649,303	4,649,303	0	0
	Cap Vert	21,139,172	2,843,121	0	0	23,982,293
	China 1/	0	3,294,928	3,294,928	0	0
	Cote d'Ivoire	0	2,395,907	0	0	2,395,907
	Croatia	0	2,169,934	2,169,934	0	0
	European Community	0	77,820,487	77,820,487	0	0
	France (St.Pierre & Miquelon)	0	2,085,714	2,085,714		0
	Gabon	7,738,036	2,160,849	0	0	9,898,885
	Ghana	81,946,050	13,809,054	0	11,924,308	83,830,796
	Guinea Ecuatorial	8,611,575	1,063,865	0	0	9,675,440
	Guinea Conakry	6,058,910	1,124,048	0	0	7,182,958
	Japan	0	15,176,021	15,176,021	0	0
	Korea	0	5,538,862	5,538,862	0	0
	Libya 2/	0	3,940,106	2,365,387	0	1,574,719
	Maroc	0	4,436,148	4,169,983	0	266,165
	Russia	0	3,020,266	3,020,266	0	0
	Sao Tome & Principe	7,301,716	2,149,683	0	0	9,451,399
	South Africa	0	3,944,837	3,944,837	0	0
	Tunisia 3/	0	2,158,149	2,158,149	0	0
	United Kingdom (Overseas Territories)	0	4,280,630	3,818,864	0	461,766
	United States	0	16,584,850	16,584,850	0	0
	Uruguay	3,693,575	2,215,166	0	1,882,426	4,026,315
	Venezuela	1,133,674	9,322,577	0	0	10,456,251
	Sub-total (A)	*140,483,013*	*198,700,000*	*150,023,056*	*16,667,039*	*172,492,918*
B)	**New Contracting Parties:**					
	Tunisia (1997)	2,650,278	0	0	2,650,278	0
	UK-Overseas Terr. (1998)	5,071	0	0	5,071	0
	France-St.Pierre & Miquelon (1998)	1,695,872	0	0	1,695,872	0
	Panama (1998)	4,723,270	7,965,433	0	4,142,917	8,545,786
	Trinidad & Tobago (1999)	0	3,720,946	0	0	3,720,946
	Namibia (1999)	0	2,181,100	0	0	2,181,100
	Sub-total (B)	*9,074,491*	*13,867,479*	*0*	*8,494,138*	*14,447,832*
C)	Withdrawals of Contracting Parties:					
	Benin (Eff: 31-Dec-94)	8,403,961	0	0	0	8,403,961
	Cuba (Eff: 31-Dec-91)	11,034,300	0	0	0	11,034,300
	Senegal (Eff: 31-Dec-88)	7,586,088	0	0	0	7,586,088
	Sub-total (C)	*27,024,349*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*27,024,349*
	TOTAL (A+B+C):	**176,581,853**	**212,567,479**	**150,023,056**	**25,161,177**	**213,965,099**

1/ Part of the advance from the People's Republic of China of 116,971 Pts has been applied towards the partial payment their 1999 contribution (i.e. 81,804 Pts.) and the remainder (i.e. 35,167 Pts.) will be applied to their future contributions.

2/ The advance from Libya (2,365,387 Pts) has been applied in its entirety towards partial payment of their 1999 contribution.

3/ The advance from Tunisia (150,205 Pts), received in 1999, will be applied towards the payment of their future contributions.

TABLE 2. LIQUIDATION OF BUDGETARY & EXTRA-BUDGETARY EXPENDITURES (Pesetas) (to the close of Fiscal Year 1999)

Chapters		*1999 Budget*	*Expenditures to the close of Fiscal Year 1999*	
1. Budget & budgetary expenditures:				
Chapter 1.	Salaries	95,829,000	94,806,040	
Chapter 2.	Travel	7,229,000	7,256,773	
Chapter 3.	Commission Meetings (annual & inter-sessional)	10,521,000	10,498,442	1/
Chapter 4.	Publications	4,703,000	4,013,462	
Chapter 5.	Office Equipment	1,045,000	903,876	
Chapter 6.	Operating Expenses	13,568,000	15,428,270	2/
Chapter 7.	Miscellaneous	850,000	657,905	
	Sub-total Chapters 1-7	*133,745,000*	*133,564,768*	
Chapter 8.	Statistics and Research:			
	8A Salaries	35,092,000	34,883,713	
	8B Travel to improve statistics	5,248,000	5,252,886	
	8C Statistics/Biology	5,000,000	5,052,648	
	8D Computer-related items	1,500,000	1,667,037	
	8E Scientific meetings (including SCRS)	9,200,000	9,146,634	
	8F Bluefin Year Program (BYP)	2,090,000	2,090,000	3/
	8G Bigeye Year Program (BETYP)	1,515,000	1,515,000	3/
	8H Billfish Research Program	1,515,000	1,515,000	3/
	8I Miscellaneous	750,000	180,412	
	Sub-total Chapter 8	*61,910,000*	*61,303,330*	
Chapter 9.	Contingencies	3,045,000	3,011,128	
TOTAL BUDGETARY EXPENDITURES (Chapters 1 to 9)		**198,700,000**	**197,879,226**	

1/ The Authorities of Brazil assumed the extra expenses for the Commission Meeting in Rio de Janeiro.

2/ The voluntary contribution from Chinese Taipei to ICCAT (US$5,000) was applied to reduce expenses of this Budget chapter.

3/ ICCAT allocations to these Programs.

TABLE 3. BUDGETARY & EXTRA-BUDGETARY INCOME RECEIVED (Pesetas) (to the close of Fiscal Year 1999)

1.1	**Contributions received in 1999 towards the 1999 Budget:**			
	South Africa	(19 Feb 1999)	3,944,837	
	Tunisia	(23 Feb 1999)	2,158,149	
	Morocco	(25 Feb 1999)	4,169,983	
	United States	(04 Mar 1999)	16,584,850	
	Japan	(15 Mar 1998)	15,176,021	
	Canada	(29 Mar 1999)	4,649,303	
	France (St. Pierre & Miquelon)	(14 Apr 1999)	2,085,714	
	European Community	(22 Apr 1999)	77,820,487	
	Croatia	(03 May 1999)	2,169,934	
	United Kingdom (Overseas Territories)	(05 May,10 Jun, 13 Jul 1999)	3,818,864	
	Korea	(25 May 1999)	5,538,862	
	Angola	(14 Sep 1999)	3,225,471	
	China	(05 Nov 1999)	3,213,124	
	Russia	(15 Dec 1999)	3,020,266	147,575,865
1.2	**Contributions received in 1999 towards previous budgets:**			
	Uruguay	(15 Mar, 26 Oct 1999)	1,882,426	
	Angola	(14 Sep 1999)	2,860,305	
	Ghana	(21 Oct 1999)	11,924,308	16,667,039
1.3	**Extra-budgetary contributions from new Contracting Parties received in 1999:**			
	Tunisia	(23 Feb 1999)	2,650,278	
	France (St. Pierre & Miquelon)	(14 Apr 1999)	1,695,872	
	United Kingdom (Overseas Territories)	(05 May 1999)	5,071	
	Panama	(14 Dec 1999)	4,142,917	8,494,138
1.4	**Other extra-budgetary income:**			
	Observer fees at ICCAT Meeting		4,936,461	
	Bank interest		1,377,938	
	Refund from VAT		733,760	
	Reimbursement for publications		24,710	
	Positive difference in currency exchange		1,625,183	8,698,052
TOTAL INCOME RECEIVED IN 1999				**181,435,094**

TABLE 4. COMPOSITION & BALANCE IN THE WORKING CAPITAL FUND (Pesetas) (to the close of Fiscal Year 1999)

Available in the Working Capital Fund (at start of Fiscal Year 1999)		51,344,483
a) Liquidation of budgetary income and expenses of Fiscal Year 1999		
Deposits:		
-- Contributions paid in 1999 and/or advanced for application to the 1999 Budget	150,023,056	
Deductions:		
-- Budgetary expenses (Chapters 1 to 9) of Fiscal Year 1999	(197,879,226)	(47,856,170)
b) Other income and expenses no included in the Budget of Fiscal Year 1999		
Deposits:		
-- Contributions paid in 1999 towards previous budgets	16,667,039	
-- Extra-budgetary contributions from new Contracting Parties	8,494,138	
-- Other extra-budgetary income	8,698,052	
Deductions:		
-- Extra-budgetary expenses	0	33,859,229
BALANCE AVAILABLE (at the close of Fiscal Year 1999)		**37,347,542**

TABLE 5. CASH FLOW (Pesetas) (during Fiscal Year 1999)

INCOME & ORIGIN			*EXPENSES & APPLICATION*		
Balance in Cash and Bank (at the start of Fiscal Year 1999)		65,450,186	Available in Program funds at the close of Fiscal Year 1998 and applied to Fiscal Year 1999		11,623,345
Income:					
Contributions paid in 1999 and/or advanced for application to the 1999 Budget	150,023,056		Advances on contributions at the close of Fiscal Year 1998 and applied to Fiscal Year 1999		2,447,191
Contributions pending from previous budgets and paid in 1999	16,667,039		Budgetry expenses (Chapters 1 to 9) of FY 1999		197,879,226
			Available at the close of Fiscal Year 1999		
Extra-budgetary contributions from new Contracting Parties and received in 1999	8,494,138		-- In the Working Capital Fund	37,347,542	
			-- Advances received pending application to future contributions at the close of FY 1999		
Other extra-budgetary income received in 1999	8,698,052		(China)	185,372	
Advances on future contributions received in 1999	150,205	184,032,490	Available for Programs:		
			-- Billfish Research Program	3,558,941	
Balance (at close of Fiscal Year 1999) for the Programs:			-- Bluefin Year Program (BYP)	4,680,699	45,772,554
-- Billfish Research Program	3,558,941				
-- Bluefin Year Program (BYP)	4,680,699	8,239,640			
TOTAL INCOME & ORIGIN		**257,722,316**	**TOTAL EXPENSES & APPLICATION**		**257,722,316**

TABLE 6. STATUS OF CASH & BANK (Pesetas) (at the close of Fiscal Year 1999)

SUMMARY		*BREAKDOWN*		
Balance in Cash and Bank	45,772,554	Available in the Working Capital Fund		37,347,542
		Total advances received		185,372
		Available in Funds for Programs:		
		-- Billfish Research Program	3,558,941	
		-- Bluefin Year Program (BYP)	4,680,699	8,239,640
TOTAL CASH IN CASH & BANK	**45,772,554**	**TOTAL AVAILABLE & ADVANCES**		**45,772,554**

REPORT ON STATISTICS AND COORDINATION OF RESEARCH IN 1999 (COM-SCRS/99/9)

1. INTRODUCTION

Four major ICCAT inter-sessional scientific meetings were held during the year, not including the Swordfish Stock Assessment which will be held immediately prior to the SCRS annual meeting. This year also saw the initiation of the Bigeye Tuna Year Program (BETYP) following the commitment of major contributions by the EU and Japan to this Program. The BETYP Program Plan made provision for the hiring of a Coordinator at the Secretariat on initiation of the Program. Accordingly, Mr. Guillermo Fisch was contracted as BETYP Coordinator. Following the proposal by the SCRS, adopted by the Commission, the Secretariat also hired a Population Dynamics Expert. Dr. Victor Restrepo was selected for this post and joined the ICCAT staff on September 1, 1999. There is still a shortage of staff at the Secretariat. The hiring of a biostatistician was requested by the SCRS but this proposal was not accepted by the Commission in 1998. The hiring of a biostatistician is essential in order to provide quality service to the Commission in the future.

2. DATA COLLECTION AND PROCESSING BY THE SECRETARIAT

2.a) Data submission to the Secretariat

A Table showing the progress made by the Secretariat in the collection of 1998 Task I, Task II and biological data submitted by the national offices, was presented at the meeting. As in previous years, few data were submitted by the deadlines, and a considerable amount of data were received only a few days before, or even during, the SCRS Species Groups.

In 1999, stock assessments were scheduled for north and south swordfish, skipjack (east and west), and for bigeye tuna. Following discussions with the relevant SCRS officers, the Secretariat established new and final deadlines for the submission of data on swordfish, skipjack and bigeye after which date no submissions would be incorporated into the ICCAT data base before the assessments. The deadline set was the last day by which the Secretariat needed the data if it realistically hoped to finish the preparatory work for the SCRS Species Groups. Notwithstanding, some data for the major fisheries were not submitted until well after the deadline, and some not until during the meetings. Such late submission causes serious delays in the provision of data to the Working Groups, as well as unnecessarily increasing the workload for the Secretariat.

2.b) Date processing by the Secretariat

Task I data are updated several times during the year and each updated version is put on the web site.

CATDIS (catch distribution) of major species and gear by 5ºx5º and quarter, has been updated to eliminate some errors previously found, and to include data for 1997. The updated version of CATDIS was placed on the web-site in July, 1999.

The following catch-at-size data base was created or updated by the Secretariat.

1) Swordfish catch at size by sex up to 1998 was prepared for the Swordfish Stock Assessment Group. The methods used are presented in SCRS/99/6. The major difficulty was to separate the previous catch at size by major ICCAT sampling areas into finer areas in the North Atlantic, for which sex ratios had been developed. The Secretariat, with assistance from the national scientists of the United States, Japan, Spain and Chinese Taipei, created the CAS data by sex and converted them into catch at age. For the South Atlantic, the original sampling areas were maintained, and the data updated.

2) Skipjack catch at size up to 1998 was created for the Skipjack Stock Assessment, held in Madeira, June 28 June

to July 2,1999. Only EC-Spain, EC-France and EC-Portugal (partial) provided catch-at-size files. CAS for all other fisheries, including major baitboat fisheries, was created by the Secretariat. The methods used are presented in SCRS/99/7. As this is the first time that CAS has been created for this species, the work involved considerable reviewing of the historical statistics.

3) Bigeye catch at size data. The Secretariat experienced considerable difficulties in carrying out this task as staff were heavily involved in preparation for the Swordfish Stock Assessment, which was held for an extended period (12 days), just prior to the Bigeye Stock Assessment. Bigeye data were not submitted early enough to prepare in advance. The methods used are presented in SCRS/99/8.

2.c) Codification of historical data

The SCRS established the policy in the past whereby any significant changes to historical data must be justified and accompanied by documented evidence. The Secretariat, therefore, cannot take the final decision on whether or not such changes can be accepted. However, the Secretariat created catch at size on the assumption that most of these changes would be accepted by the SCRS, as there would be insufficient time for the SCRS groups to complete their work if these data were not entered until formally approved. In most cases, the assessments were done before the SCRS had an opportunity to review the revised data.

Significant changes to data which had been proposed at the time of writing this report are as follows:

1) EC-Spain provided revised Task I data for purse seine catches of tropical tuna species and EC-France and EC-Spain submitted revisions to the catch-at-size files of tropical tuna catches for 1991 to 1997, and also for NEI data.

2) Turkey has submitted revised Task I data for bluefin tuna for the years 1985-1997. In this respect, and according to the decision taken by the SCRS in 1998, the ICCAT Assistant Executive Secretary, Dr. P. M. Miyake, visited Turkey, at the invitation of the Turkish Government in order to review the proposed changes to Turkish bluefin tuna catch statistics. Government scientists of Turkey and Dr. Miyake jointly undertook a comprehensive review of the data and presented their findings in SCRS/99/23. These findings were presented jointly by the Government of Turkey and the ICCAT Secretariat for the consideration of the SCRS.

3) Data for Panama for the years 1972 to 1998 (data for 1998 are still partial) were officially submitted by the Government of Panama and the Secretariat. The Government of Panama invited the Assistant Executive Secretary, Dr. Miyake, to visit Panama in order to examine the historical development of the tuna fleet flying the Panamanian flag, the catch statistics of this fleet, the current management scheme, and the future statistical collection system. Responding to the request by the Commission, joint effort was made to clarify the NEI catches related to Panama and the new data series is reported in COM-SCRS/99/13.

4) The United States proposed some changes to Task I skipjack catches (see SCRS/99/58). The very minor changes to recreational catches were accepted by the Skipjack Working Group, but changes to commercial fisheries were not included in the assessment, pending further review.

2.d) Estimation of mis-reporting or non-reporting

Further improvements have been observed in this area, mainly due to the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program and efforts made by the national scientists. In addition, the Secretariat, with the collaboration with national scientists, has eliminated many NEI category catches (See, Section 2.2). Document COM-SCRS/99/12 provides the estimates of unreported catches.

2.e) Shark statistics

All the data on shark catches taken by tuna fishing vessels have now been entered into a temporary base (Access). It was agreed at the meeting of the Working Group on Sharks that the current spreadsheet/ACCESS format be maintained pending discussion on general ICCAT data management policy by the SCRS.

At present, most of the data received at the Secretariat are Task I type data. Very little biological data have been collected.

3. SPECIAL ACTIONS TAKEN IN 1999 (not covered in Section 2)

3.a) Secretariat actions taken in response to SCRS recommendations

Many of the actions taken in response to SCRS recommendations are discussed throughout this Report (e.g. recruitment of population dynamics scientists, initiation of the Bigeye Year Program, preparation for the Special Session of the Sub-Committee on Statistics, improvement of the data base, etc.). Special mention is made of the following most important achievements:

- **Bibliographic data base** - The part of the ASFA data base for the years 1977-1996 relating to ICCAT publications was provided by the FAO in 1998. The efforts of the FAO Fisheries Department in extracting this and making it available to the Secretariat are very much appreciated. The file has been reformatted and updated by the Secretariat for ease of use. The data base (up to and including the publications in 1999) is now available on diskette. The keys for reference are 'author', 'year', 'SCRS numbers', and 'species (as far as possible)'.

- **Bigeye Year Program (BETYP) -** The Bigeye Year Program was tentatively approved by the Commission, but commitments for funding of the Program were not received until early 1999. Once the commitments from the EC and Japan were received, a meeting of the Coordinators was held and the Program started. Mr. Guillermo Fisch was contracted as Program Coordinator and took up his position in June, 1999. (For more details, see COM-SCRS/99/18.)

- **Bluefin Year Program (BYP) -** A meeting was held among the scientists concerned with the collection of bluefin samples and Dr. Carles Pla (University of Gerona), offered to provide a sample storing center for the east Atlantic area. An agreement was reached that ICCAT should buy a deep freezer, but since then no progress has been made. On the other hand, the Secretariat has been assisting with the reporting of tag recoveries and arrangements for further sampling.

- **Preparation for special meeting of the Sub-Committee on Statistics -** A special background document was prepared by the Secretariat for this Group (SCRS/99/24). In order to facilitate this work, a special survey was taken by the Secretariat of national and regional agencies' data base systems. The results are also summarized in document SCRS/99/24.

3.b) Improvement of computer facilities and software

The Secretariat purchased some of the items recommended in 1998 and previous years, as follows:

2 Desk top computers
3 CD ROM recorders
1 portable computer with additional memory and battery
1 Laser printer
1 color monitor
1 copy of Microsoft NT Workstation
1 copy of Digital Visual Fortran v/6

These purchases do not include equipment for the BETYP Coordinator.

4. MEETINGS

4.a) ICCAT Inter-sessional meetings relative to SCRS activities in 1999:

- **Data Preparatory Meeting for South Atlantic Swordfish** (Tamandaré, Brazil - April 8 to 13, 1999)

This meeting was held at the invitation of the Brazilian Government. The Secretariat was represented by Dr. P.M. Miyake. The data base was provided and the Secretariat assisted in the scientific work during the session. The report has been edited and translated by the Secretariat and presented as document SCRS/99/19. The work which the Group requested the Secretariat to carry out has been completed and is presented in SCRS/99/6.

- **Skipjack Stock Assessment Session** (Madeira, Portugal - June 28 to July 2, 1999)

This meeting was held in Madeira at the invitation of the Autonomous Government of Madeira. Dr. P.M. Miyake, Mr. P. Kebe and Ms. J. Cheatle attended from the Secretariat. The Secretariat revised and prepared the entire data base to assist the scientific work during the session. The report was edited and translated by the Secretariat and presented as document SCRS/99/21.

- **Sub-Committee on By-Catch** (Messina, Italy - May 11 to 14, 1999)

The meeting was held at Messina at the invitation of Aquastudio. Dr. P. Miyake attended the meeting from the Secretariat. The data base was prepared by the Secretariat and the meeting report was edited, translated and made available as SCRS/99/20.

- **Working Group on Precautionary Approach** (Dublin, Ireland - May 17 to 21, 1999)

The Working Group on Precautionary Approach was attended by Dr. P. M. Miyake. In preparation for this Working Group meeting, a questionnaire on the various parameters of each species was prepared by the Rapporteurs, and presented to the meeting. The report was translated by the Secretariat and resented as COM-SCRS/99/11.

- **Coordination Meeting of the ICCAT Bigeye Tuna Year Program (BETYP)** (Madrid, Spain - January 28 and 29, 1999)

A small group met at the Secretariat in January, 1999 (see Sec. 3a). The Group revised the budget and operations of the Program, based on the contributions committed during the 1998 Commission Meeting, and drafted the announcement of the post of BETYP Coordinator. The report of this Group was presented as SCRS/99/22.

4.b) Other scientific meetings at which ICCAT was represented

- ICCAT was represented by Dr. P. M. Miyake at three GFCM meetings in 1999, the 1st and 2nd Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) and the GFCM Commission meeting held in Alicante, Spain, July 12 to 15, 1999. His report on these meetings was presented as document COM-SCRS/99/14. Dr. Miyake also attended a meeting of FAO and non-FAO regional fisheries bodies, in Rome (February 11 and 12, 1999) and his report is available as COM-SCRS/99/16.

- Dr. J. Powers (SCRS Chairman) represented ICCAT at the 11th Meeting of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) meeting on the "Relationship Between Scientific Assessment and Fisheries Management"(Nantes, France - January 26 and 27, 1999). His report was presented as SCRS/99/26.

- Dr. P. M. Miyake represented ICCAT at the Coordinating Working Party on Fishing Statistics (CWP), held in Luxembourg, June 5 to 9, 1999. His report on the meeting was presented as COM-SCRS/99/15. At the same time, a meeting was held among tuna regional agencies, which is reported in COM- SCRS/99/17.

- Mr. J. Ariz of the Spanish Oceanographic Institute represented ICCAT at the IATTC Working Group on Fish Aggregating Devices (Guayaquil, Equador - June 7, 1999). His report was presented as document SCRS/99/28.

- Mr. Y. Uozumi (Japan) attended at the Meeting of the Scientific Committee of North Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) and the NAFO Working Group on Precautionary Approaches (San Sebastian, Spain - April 27 to May 1, 1999). Mr. Uozumi presented his report on these meetings in SCRS/99/27. ICCAT had not been invited to these meetings.

5. PUBLICATIONS

Details of the ICCAT scientific publications issued in 1999 can be found in the Administrative Report (COM/99/6).

As reported in 1998, Dr. J. Beckett was contracted as Editor of the 1996 ICCAT Tuna Symposium Report. The

two volumes containing the Symposium report and contribution papers have been published in the enhanced edition of the *Collective Volume of Scientific Papers, Vol. L,* which has been dedicated to Dr. P.M. Miyake, the Assistant Executive Secretary.

RECORDS OF MEETINGS

16th REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSION

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil - November 15 to 22, 1999

FIRST PLENARY SESSION

1. Opening of the meeting

1.1 In the absence of the Commission Chairman, the meeting was opened by the Second Vice Chairman, Dr. Eric Kwei (Ghana). Dr. Kwei recalled the signing of the Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas in Rio de Janeiro in 1966, and which took effect in 1969, since which ICCAT had grown significantly both in terms of number of Contracting Parties and in terms of investment in fishery resources. Dr. Kwei took the opportunity to pay a special tribute to Mr. Brian Hallman for his dedication to ICCAT.

1.2 Mr. Marcio Fortes de Almeida, Acting Minister for Agriculture, was pleased to welcome the delegates to Brazil for the first time since the signing of the ICCAT Convention, particularly as tuna fisheries are becoming increasingly important to Brazil in terms of production, trade and employment opportunities. He considered ICCAT to be fundamental to the conservation of tuna international tuna resources and hoped that the meeting would be constructive and beneficial to all.

1.3 The Honourable Anthony Garotinho, Governor of the State of Rio de Janeiro, also welcomed the participants to Brazil, and to Rio de Janeiro in particular. Mr. Garotinho informed the meeting that he had introduced incentives to promote the fishing and shipbuilding industries in the State, which would make the work of ICCAT increasingly important to Brazil.

2. Adoption of Agenda and arrangements

2.1 The Agenda was adopted without modification, and is attached as **ANNEX 1**. The List of Commission Documents is attached as **ANNEX 3**.

3. Introduction of Contracting Party delegations

3.1 The Executive Secretary welcomed Namibia as a Contracting Party. The Head Delegates of each Contracting Party introduced their delegations. Angola, Brazil, Canada, Cape Verde, China, Croatia, Cote d'Ivoire, European Community, France (St. Pierre & Miquelon), Gabon, Ghana, Japan, Korea, Libya, Morocco, Namibia, Panama, Russian Federation, Sao Tome & Principe, South Africa, Tunisia, United Kingdom (Overseas Territories), United States, Uruguay and Venezuela were present. The List of Participants is attached as **ANNEX 2.**

3.2 Opening statements were made by Brazil, the European Community, France (St. Pierre & Miquelon), Japan, Namibia, Panama, United Kingdom (Overseas Territories) and the United States. These statements are included in **ANNEX 4-1**.

4. Introduction and admission of observers

4.1 Mexico and Chinese Taipei, as Cooperating Parties/Entities/Fishing Entities, were admitted as observers.

4.2 The observers from the Denmark (Faroe Islands), Iceland, Philippines, Turkey, Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM), the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), Greenpeace, the Natural Resource Defense Council (NRDC), Ocean Wildlife Campaign, Seaweb, and the Wildlife Conservation Society, were introduced and admitted. While observers were not permitted to make opening statements orally, Denmark (Faroe Islands), Iceland and the NRDC submitted opening statements in writing, which are included in **ANNEX 4-2**.

5. Report of the Meeting of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS)

5.1 The Chairman of the SCRS, Dr. J. Powers, presented the Report of the 1999 SCRS Meeting. He deferred discussion on the stock assessments to the Panels and presented only the general findings of the SCRS, particularly those having financial implications.

5.2 The Sub-Committee on Statistics held an inter-sessional meeting in 1999 to review the current ICCAT data management system, which was found to be inadequate in the light of the increasing demands for data to be made available rapidly, while the volume and complexity of the data are also increasing, thus hindering the work which the Commission requests the SCRS to carry out. The SCRS recommended that the Commission hire a biostatistician, as had been recommended in previous years, and that the data base be changed to a relational data base.

5.3 The Sub-Committee on the Environment recommended holding a Workshop in 2001 to examine techniques for evaluating the relationship between recruitment variability and environmental interaction and their impact on assessments and management.

5.4 The Sub-Committee on By-Catch also held an inter-sessional meeting in 1999 to update information on catch, biological parameters and abundance indices.

5.5 Dr Powers also reported on the progress of the ICCAT Bluefin Year Program (BYP), the Billfish Research Program, and the Bigeye Year Program (BETYP). He emphasized the importance of these research programs, which should be continued.

5.6 He also reported that a Populations Dynamics Expert had been recruited by the Secretariat, and that the SCRS now recommended the establishment of an Methodology Working Group and Advisory Committee which would involve peer review of ICCAT scientific reports to ensure more standardized assessment methods and reporting, and increase transparency.

5.7 He further noted the SCRS decision that compliance by individual countries should be evaluated on the basis of the Reporting Tables adopted by the Commission in 1998 rather than by the SCRS, in order to maintain the high credibility and scientific value of the ICCAT scientific data base. The SCRS would continue to evaluate the effects of regulatory measures on stocks in general terms.

5.8 The SCRS Chairman also briefly reported on the progress made by and the future plans of the Working Group on the Precautionary Approach.

5.9 Dr. Powers pointed out that stock assessments on bluefin tuna stocks would be more effective in 2001 rather than 2000 as originally requested by the Commission, as a considerable amount of preparatory work was required for both east and west stocks before meaningful assessments could be made.

5.10 The Commission thanked Dr. Powers for his excellent leadership and congratulated him on being elected for a second term. The Commission also expressed its appreciation for the work of SCRS scientists.

5.11 The Report of the SCRS was adopted by the Commission together with the all recommendations contained therein. The 1999 SCRS Report is published in the *Report for Biennial Period, 1998-99, Part II (1999) - Vol. 2.*

SECOND PLENARY SESSION

6. Review of the Precautionary Approach

6.1 The Commission thanked the SCRS for its work on this topic, and noted that the Precautionary Approach to fisheries management recognizes the need for appropriate limits and biological reference points, which would reduce uncertainty and guide management decisions. It was felt that following the FAO Expert consultations on the Precautionary Approach, and with further advice from the SCRS Working Group on the Precautionary Approach, it would be appropriate to bring scientists and fishery managers together to develop a practical approach to this issue. It was stressed that while the work of the Working Group on the Precautionary Approach was based on the concept of sustainable development, this needed to be reflected in management measures which were both enforceable and effective. The statement made by the Delegate of Canada on this item is included in **ANNEX 4-1**.

6.2 It was further noted that while all efforts should be made to gather information on the biology of tuna resources, the precautionary approach not only included biological factors, but also involved environmental and social issues.

6.3 With reference to the simulation models developed by the SCRS, it was felt that the SCRS should continue the work on bluefin tuna and extend the model to the other major species under the ICCAT mandate, and give a full report on progress at the next Commission meeting. It was agreed that the next meeting of the Working Group on the Precautionary Approach would be held before the next Commission meeting, and the date and venue will be confirmed.

7. Status of the ratification/acceptance of the Protocol of amendment to the Convention (adopted in Madrid 1992) and repercussions

7.1 The Executive Secretary reported, with regret, that there had been no developments since the 11th Special Meeting of the Commission (Santiago de Compostela, Spain - November, 1998) and that the Protocol had still not entered into force. The Chairman once again urged those Contracting Parties which had not yet ratified the Protocol to do so.

8. Report of the First Meeting of the Working Group on Allocation Criteria

8.1 The Commission reviewed document COM/99/19, the Report of the First Meeting of the Working Group on Allocation Criteria, and noted that the creation of this Working Group had been a major breakthrough in discussing some of the more delicate aspects of fisheries management. The Report was adopted by the Commission and is attached as **ANNEX 6**.

8.2 It was unanimously agreed that the work of this Group should continue. The EC-Spain offered to host the next Meeting of the Working Group on Allocation Criteria, and it was agreed that this would be held from April 6 to 8, 2000. The Faroe Islands particularly expressed their wish to be invited to this meeting in an observer capacity, and made a statement which is included in **ANNEX 4-2**.

9. ICCAT responsibilities in relation to international fishery agreements

9.1 The United States introduced a draft Resolution on the Need for New Approaches to Deter Activities that Diminish the Effectiveness of ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures. The objective of this proposal was to strive toward better compliance and improved cooperation, and to continue the good work which the Commission had already started. The United States lamented the fact that only four ICCAT Contracting Parties had yet ratified the United Nations Agreement on the Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks and the FAO Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas.

9.2 While many delegations supported the Resolution, in principle, some reservations were expressed on the wording of part of the text, which was unacceptable due to possible interpretations which would impinge upon the sovereign rights of States. Following some discussion, it was agreed that the text should be redrafted and submitted to the Final Plenary Session.

FINAL PLENARY SESSION

9. ICCAT responsibilities in relation to international fishery agreements - Continued

9.3 Following discussion on the proposed *Resolution Concerning the Need for New Approaches to Deter Activities That Diminish the Effectiveness of ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures,* the Resolution, as modified, was adopted by the Commission (attached as **ANNEX 5-12**).

9.4 The United States introduced a "Draft Resolution by ICCAT on Atlantic Sharks". Certain delegations expressed concern about the text as presented in light of the FAO International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks, but there was insufficient time to consider the U.S. proposal fully. Consequently, it was agreed that this Resolution could be re-submitted for consideration at the 2000 Commission meeting. The text of this draft Resolution, although not adopted, is included, for reference purposes, in **ANNEX 4-3**.

9.5 Japan proposed a draft Resolution concerning the management of large-scale tuna fishery. After some considerable discussion, it was agreed that the Resolution as proposed could not be adopted without time for fuller reflection and debate. The text was therefore modified and adopted as the *Resolution by ICCAT Endorsing the FAO International Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity*, and is attached as **ANNEX 5-13.**

10. Relations with other fora

10.1 The Executive Secretary referred the delegates to the pertinent section of the 1999 Administrative Report, which lists the various meetings at which ICCAT was represented. The Commission was satisfied that there was a good relationship with both FAO and with other regional fishery agencies.

10.2 The Commission was informed that since the 11th Special Meeting of the Commission (1998), two further meetings of the South East Atlantic Fishery Organization (SEAFO) had been held, and another was planned for 2000. Cooperation with ICCAT was anticipated, as SEAFO has no mandate on the ICCAT species in its area of competence.

10.3 Japan drew the attention of the Commission to the recent court order made by the International Court of the Law of the Sea in relation to Japanese southern bluefin tuna research activities. It was felt that although this was a provisional measure, it had certain implications for the significance and authority of regional fishery management organizations, including ICCAT, as the case had been brought to the International Court of the Law of the Sea, despite the fact that this issue could have been settled within the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT). It was noted that this precedent could have potential impact on ICCAT measures.

11. Report of the meeting of the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG) and consideration of any proposed recommendations therein

11.1 The Chairman of the PWG, Mr. J. Pulvenis (Venezuela) presented the Report of this Working Group, together with one Recommendation and two Resolutions which the PWG wished to forward to the Commission for its consideration and final approval, as follows:

- *Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding Belize and Honduras Pursuant to the 1995 Swordfish Action Plan Resolution* (attached as **ANNEX 5-4**)

- *Resolution by ICCAT on Improving Recreational Fishery Statistics* (attached as **ANNEX 5-9**)

  and

- *Resolution by ICCAT Calling for Further Action against Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported Fishing Activities by Large-Scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area and Other Areas* (attached as **ANNEX 5-11**)

11.2 The PWG Chairman also reported that model letters had been drafted by the PWG to various Non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities, specifically to Chinese Taipei and Mexico regarding Cooperating Status; to Barbados, requesting information on swordfish catches; to Sierra Leone seeking information on the fishing activities of one vessel; to the Philippines, identifying that country under the terms of the *Bluefin Tuna Action Plan Resolution* as a Non-Contracting Party with vessels fishing for Atlantic bluefin tuna in a manner which diminishes the effectiveness of the ICCAT bluefin tuna conservation program; to Singapore, identifying that country under the terms of the *Swordfish Action Plan Resolution* as a Non-Contracting Party with vessels fishing for Atlantic swordfish in a manner which diminishes the effectiveness of the ICCAT swordfish conservation program; to Belize and Honduras notifying them that ICCAT, pursuant to the terms of the *Swordfish Action Plan Resolution*, recommended that its members impose prohibitions on the import of Atlantic swordfish and its products harvested by vessels of these two countries; and letters of warning to Kenya and Vanuatu regarding Atlantic swordfish fishing. In addition, the PWG drafted letters to Belize, Cambodia, Honduras, Kenya, the Philippines, Sierra Leone, Singapore, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines identifying these countries pursuant to the terms of ICCAT's *Resolution Concerning the Unreported and Unregulated Catches of Tunas by Large-scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area* as Non-Contracting Parties whose large-scale longline vessels have been fishing tunas and tuna-like species in a manner which diminishes the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures. The letters drafted by the PWG are appended to the 1999 Report of the Permanent Working Group (see **ANNEX 7**).

11.3 The Report of the PWG, together with the proposed Recommendations, Resolutions and letters, was adopted by the Commission, and is attached as **ANNEX 7**.

12. Report of the meeting of the Compliance Committee

12.1 The Chairman of the Compliance Committee, Mr. C. Dominguez (EC-Spain), presented the Report of the Compliance Committee, and drew the Commission's attention to the two Recommendations proposed by the Committee:

- *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Importation of Bluefin Tuna and its Products from Panama* (attached as **ANNEX 5-8**)

- *Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding Equatorial Guinea Pursuant to the 1996 Recommendation Regarding Compliance in the Bluefin Tuna and North Atlantic Swordfish Fisheries* (attached as **ANNEX 5-10**); and

12.2 The Commission's attention was also drawn to three model letters drafted by the Committee. These letters identified the Republic of Guinea (Conakry), Trinidad and Tobago, and Equatorial Guinea pursuant to the terms of ICCAT's *Resolution Concerning the Unreported and Unregulated Catches of Tunas by Large-scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area* as Contracting Parties whose large-scale longline vessels have been fishing tuna and tuna-like species in a manner which diminishes the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures. In addition, the letter to Equatorial Guinea transmitted the *Recommendation Regarding Equatorial Guinea Pursuant to the 1996 Recommendation Regarding Compliance in the Bluefin Tuna and North Atlantic Swordfish Fisheries*, adopted by the Commission in 1999. The letters drafted by the Compliance Committee are appended to the 1999 Report of the Compliance Committee (see **ANNEX 8**).

12.3 The Commission reviewed and adopted the Report of the Compliance Committee, together with the management recommendations and draft letters contained therein. The Report is attached as **ANNEX 8**.

13. Reports of the Meetings of Panels 1 to 4

13.1 The Reports of Panels 1-4 were presented to the Commission by the respective Panel Chairpersons. The Commission reviewed the Reports and regulatory measures forwarded by the Panels, and adopted the proposed Recommendations and Resolutions, as follows:

Panel 1:

- *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Establishment of a Closed Area/Season for the Use of Fish-Aggregation Devices (FADs)* (attached as **ANNEX 5-1**)

Panel 2:

- *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Possible Management Measures for Northern Albacore* (attached as **ANNEX 5-6**)

Panel 3:

- *Recommendation by ICCAT to Extend the Southern Albacore Management Arrangement and to Improve Monitoring* (attached as **ANNEX 5-7**)

Panel 4:

- *Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Rebuilding Program for North Atlantic Swordfish* (attached as **ANNEX 5-2**)
- *Resolution by ICCAT on the Clarification of the Stock Structure and Boundaries between the Swordfish Stocks in the Atlantic* (attached as **ANNEX 5-3**)
- *Resolution by ICCAT for the Development of Possible Time/Area Closures for North and South Atlantic Swordfish and Gear Modifications to Reduce Undersized Swordfish Catch and Fishing Mortality* (attached as **ANNEX 5-5**)

13.2 The Reports of Panels 1, 2 and 3 were adopted at the time of the meeting, whereas it was agreed to adopt the Report of Panel 4 by correspondence*. The Reports of Panels 1-4 are attached as **ANNEX 9.**

14. Report of the Meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD)

14.1 The STACFAD Chairman informed the Commission that, due to time constraints, the Committee had decided to adopt the 1999 STACFAD Report by correspondence.* Notwithstanding this decision, the Committee forwarded the 2000-2001 Biennial Budget and Contracting Party contributions to the Commission for final approval. The revised total budget for 2000 amounting to **245,752,000 Pesetas** was formally adopted by the Commission, together with the corresponding Contracting Party contributions. It was noted that the 2001 Budget and Contributions were adopted provisionally. The 1999 STACFAD Report is attached as **ANNEX 10**, and includes the 2000-2001 Biennial Budget and Contributions as well as the catch and canning data used for the calculations (see **Tables 1 to 4** of the STACFAD Report)

15. Date and place of the next meeting of the Commission

15.1 The Government of Morocco extended an invitation to host the 12th Special Meeting of the Commission, and to pay all the additional expenses, not included in the ICCAT budget, which this would incur. The Commission thanked Morocco for this invitation, and it was agreed that the 2000 meeting of the Commission will be held in Morocco, from November 13 to 20.

16 Election of Commission Chairman

16.1 The Commission expressed its appreciation for the excellent work and dedication of the outgoing Chairman, Mr. Rafael Conde de Saro (EC-Spain). The Delegate of Brazil proposed Mr. Ichiro Nomura (Japan), as Chairman. This motion was seconded by the European Community, and Mr. Nomura was unanimously elected as the new Chairman of the Commission. Mr Nomura thanked the Commission for the trust placed in him, and stated that he would do his best to strengthen the spirit of integrity and cooperation which existed in ICCAT.

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* The Report of Panel was adopted later.

* The STACFAD Report was adopted later.

17. Election of Vice-Chairmen of the Commission

17.1 The Commission thanked Mr. Araripe Macedo (Brazil) and Dr. Kwei (Ghana), the outgoing Vice-Chairmen. The Commission unanimously elected Mr. J. Baranaño (EC-Spain) as First Vice Chairman, and Mr. A. Srour (Morocco) as Second Vice-Chairman.

18.Other matters

18.1 The European Community raised the issue of the organization and functioning of the Commission, and made several suggestions as to how the Commission could become more efficient and coordinated.

18.2 It was proposed that a Working Group, which would include legal experts, be established to review all the regulatory measures proposed for adoption by the Commission, both from a legal perspective and with regard to consistency with previous Recommendations and Resolutions. It was proposed that all draft Recommendations and Resolutions dealing with important issues not anticipated in the agenda be submitted to the Commission at least 30 days in advance of the meeting, and that these would be examined by the Working Group and circulated to all Contracting Parties. This would also assist those delegations comprising a small number of delegates, allowing them to consult with the relevant experts of their country beforehand, and thus facilitate discussions at the meetings.

18.3 It was noted that several suggestions relative to organization that were made by the EC which have already been put into effect, such as the numbering of the recommendations, development of a coded version of past recommendations, etc. As concerns other suggestions, the Chairman asked the Executive Secretary to take these into account, inasmuch as possible, for the next annual meeting in 2000.

18.4 The EC submitted a draft resolution aimed at the development of an integrated and updated monitoring and inspection scheme for ICCAT. Due to the lack of time for discussion, this proposal was not adopted. The EC "Draft Resolution for the Development of a Monitoring Scheme and its Implementation" is included in **ANNEX 4-3**.

19. Adoption of the Report

19.1 It was agreed that the Plenary Sessions of the 16th Regular Meeting would be adopted by correspondence.*

20 Adjournment

20.1 The Chairman extended his thanks, on behalf of the Commission, to the Government of Brazil, and the State of Rio de Janeiro for their hospitality. The excellent organization of the hosts was appreciated, and special thanks were extended to Mr. Flavio Leme for his valuable contribution to the success of the meeting.

20.2 Statements presented in writing to the Final Plenary Session by Faroe Islands and Mexico are included in **ANNEX 4-2**.

20.3 The Commission also expressed its appreciation to Mr. Rafael Conde de Saro, the Chairman of the Commission for his excellent chairmanship during his term of office, and thanked the ICCAT Executive Secretary, the Chairs of the Panels and Committees, the interpreters, the local staff and the ICCAT Secretariat staff for their work.

20.4 The 16th Regular Meeting of the Commission was adjourned on Monday, November 22, 1999.

* The Proceedings of the Opening, Second, and Final Plenary Sessions were adopted later.

ANNEX 1

1999 COMMISSION AGENDA

1 Opening of the meeting
2 Adoption of Agenda and arrangements
3 Introduction of Contracting Party Delegations
4 Introduction and admission of Observers
5 Report of the Meeting of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS)
6 Review of the Precautionary Approach
7 Status of the ratification/acceptance of the Protocol of amendment to the Convention (adopted in Madrid: 1992) and repercussions
8 Report of the First Meeting of the Working Group on Allocation Criteria
9 ICCAT responsibilities in relation to international fishery agreements
10 Relations with other fora
11 Report of the Meeting of the Permanent Working for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG) and consideration of any proposed recommendations therein
12 Report of the Meeting of the Compliance Committee and consideration of any proposed recommendations therein
13 Reports of the Meetings of Panels 1 to 4 and consideration of possible regulatory measures proposed
14 Report of the Meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD)
-- Adoption of the budget and contributions for the 2000-2001 biennial period
15 Date and place of the next meeting of the Commission
16 Election of Commission Chairman
17 Election of Vice-Chairmen of the Commission
18 Other matters
19 Adoption of Report
20 Adjournment

ANNEX 2

LIST OF COMMISSION PARTICIPANTS

Contracting Parties

ANGOLA

NDOMBELE, Dielobaka (Head Delegate)
Directeur des Conventions Internationales
Ministère des Pêches et de l'Environnement
Av. 4 de Fevereiro 25
C.P.83 - Luanda
Tel: +244 239 3616
Fax: +244 233 9941

BRAZIL

DA ROCHA VIANNA, Hadil (Head Delegate)
Ministerio das Relaçoes Exteriores, DMAE-MRE
Anexo 1 - Sala 736
Brasilia D.F. - Cep 70170-900
Tel: +55 61 411 6730
Fax: +55 61 411 6906
E-mail: hadil@mre.gov.br

ALVES, Luiz Antonio
Rua México, 125, 9° Andar-centro
CEP 20020-100
Tel: +55 628 4957
Fax: +55 628 4957
E-mail: lasalves@ripmail.com.br

AMORIM, Alberto
Instituto de Pesca
Av. Bartolomeu de Gusmao 192
11030-906 Santos - SP
Tel: +55 13 261 5995
Fax: +55 13 261 1900
E-mail: erisamorim@uol.com.br

BALTHAZAR DO COUTO, Ignácio
Sindicato deo Armadores de Pesca do Estado
do Rio de Janeiro
Rua Engenheiro Fábio Goulart, 605
Ilha da Conceiçao
Niteroi-RJ, CEP 24050-090
Tel: +55 21 719 0455
Fax: +55 21 719 0292
E-mail: saperj@nitnet.com.br

BENVENUTO, Flavio L.
4ª Secão da Barra S/N Distrito Industrial
Caixa Postal N° 44
Rio Grande RS 96.204.090
CONEPE
Tel: +55 53 231 1500
Fax: +55 53 232 5963
E-mail: isantos@milkrus.com.br

BOTAFOGO GONÇALVES, Octavio
Secretaria da Comissão Interministerial para
os Recursos do Mar (SECIRM)
Marinha do Brasil
Esplanada dos Ministerios, Bloco N, Anexo B, 3° Andar
70.055 Brasilia D.F.
Tel: +55 61 429 1329
Fax: +55 61 429 1338
E-mail: 101@secirm.mar.mil.br

CABRAL, Pedro
Delegacia Federal da Agricultura
Avenida Rodrigues Alves, 129, 1° Andar
Rio de Janeiro CEP 20081-250
Tel: +55 21 233 9122
Fax: +55 21 253 8182
E-mail: gab-rj@defesaagropecuaria.com.br

CALZAVARA ARAUJO, Gabriel
Ministerio de Agricultura e do Abastecimento
Esplanada dos Ministerios, Bloco D, Sala 950
Brasilia D.F., CEP 70 043-900
Tel: +55 61 225 5001
Fax: +55 61 224 5049
E-mail: calzavara@tba.com.br

DAMM, Maria Silva B.
Delegacia Federal da Agricultura do Rio de Janeiro
Departamento de Inspeção de Pescado - DIPOA/MA
Avenida Rodrigues Alves, 129 - 20.081.250
Rio de Janeiro
Tel: +55 21 608 1866
Fax: +55-21 263 8355

DOKI, Nobumitsu
CONEPE
Praça Almirante Gao Coutinho, 28, Conj.26
Ponta da Praia, Santos S.P
Tel: +55 13 261 4667
Fax: +55 13 261 4667
E-mail: koden@fnoteal.com.br

DU MONT, Alex
Ministerio de Agricultura- Sala 948
Esplanada dos Ministerios, Bloco D, Ed.Sede
Brasilia D.F.
Tel: +55 61 321 1910
Fax: +55 61 224 5049
E-mail: dra.estrategico@defesaagropecuaria.gov.br

FACO, João Lauro Dorneles
Dept. of Computer Science
Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro
C.P. 68530-21945-970
Rio de Janeiro RJ
Tel: +55 21 493 8334
Fax: +55 21 290 1095
E-mail: jldfaco@acd.vfrj.br

FAULHABER, Celio
SPES/DIPOA/MA
Ministerio da Agricultura
Esplanada dos Ministerios - Anexo - Sala 441
Brasilia D.F CEP 70.043.900
Tel: +55 61 218 2775
Fax: +55 61 218 2672
E-mail: sepes@defesaagropecuaria.gov.br

FERREIRA JUNIOR, Joao F.
Ministerio de Agricultura e do Abastecimento
Esplanada dos Ministerios, Bloco D, 9º Andar
Brasilia D.F., CEP 70 043-900
Tel: +55 61 218 2257
Fax: +55 61 225 2156

GOBITSCH NETO, Geraldo
Governo do Estado do Pará
Representaçao em Brasilia D.F.
SC5Quadra 02, Ed. Palacio do Comercio, Sala 509
Brasilia D.F.
Tel: +55 61 225 2018
Fax: +55 61 225 2012

HAGA, Bryndull
Rua Presidente Wilson 162, 12° Andar
Rio de Janeiro, R.J.
Tel: +55 21 532 5473
Fax: +55 21 532 0532
E-mail: bhaga@peshop.com.br

HARGREAVES, Paulo
Universidade do Rio de Janeiro
Cx.Postal 68508
Rio de Janeiro RJ, CEP 21945-970
Tel: +55 21 560 7143
Fax: +55 21 290 6626
E-mail: hargreaves@peno.coppe.ufrj.br

HAZIN, Fabio H.V.
Ministerio da Agricultura
Dpto. de Pesca e Aquicultura
Rua das Pernambucanas, 377, Apto.1102
Recife-Pe, CEP 52.011-010
Tel: +55 81 441 7276
Fax. +55 81 441 7276
E-mail: fabiohvh@elogica.com.br

HAZIN, Rodrigo F.
CONEPE
Rua Chile, 216
Ribeira, Natal RN 59.012.240
Tel: +55 84 211 4635
Fax: +55 84 201 2278
E-mail: norpesca@cabugisat.com.br

IMAI, Roberto K.
Rua Otávio Correia, 115, 1° Andar
Estuário - Santos SP 11-025.230
Tel: +55 13 227 5844
Fax: +55 13 231 5357
E-mail: imai@fractal.com.br

KOTAS, Jorge Eduardo
CEPSUL - IBAMA
Av. Min. Victor Konder S/N
CEP 88301-280, Itajai SC
Tel: +55 47 348 6058
Fax: +55 47 348 6058
E-mail: jkotas@cepsul.ibama.gov.br

KOWALSKI, José
CONEPE
Rua Cesar Augusto Dalcoquio, 2020
Salseiros - Itajai SC 88.311.510
Tel: +55 47 345 1064
Fax: +55 47 346 1963
E-mail: fishing@matrix.com.br

LEITE PENTEADO, Luis
Vice-presidente
Federaçao Nacional dos Trabalhadores em
Transporte Maritimos, Fluviais e Pescadores
Rua do Carmo 27 - Salas 602 e 610
CEP 20014-900-Centro-Rio de Janeiro RJ
Tel: +55 21 221 1772
Fax: +55 21 242 8783

LEME, Flavio
Delegacia Federal da Agricultura
Avenida Rodrigues Alves, 129, 9º Andar
Rio de Janeiro CEP 20081-250
Tel: +55 21 233 9122
Fax: +55 21 253 8182
E-mail: flavioleme@vol.com.br

LIN, Celso Fernandez
CEPSUL - IBAMA
Av. Min. Victor Konder S/N
CEP 88301-280
Itajai SC
Tel: +55 47 348 6058
Fax: +55 47 348 6058
E-mail: lin@cepsul.ibama.gov.br

MARRUL-FILHO, Simao
Ministerio do Meio ambiente
Esplanada dos Ministerios, Bloco B, 7° Andar, Sala 726
Brasilia D.F.
Tel: +55 61 317 1492
E-mail: simao.filho@mma.gov.br

MATTOS, Sergio M. G.
SUDENE, CPE/DEE/Recursos Naturais Renováveis
Engenho do Meio
Recife PE
Tel: +55 81 416 2527
Fax: +55 81 271 2310
E-mail: smattos@sudene.gov.br

MENESES DE LIMA, J.H.
CEPENE/IBAMA
Rua Samuel Hardman s/n
55.578-000 Tamandaré - PE
Tel: +55 81 676 1109
Fax: +55 81 676 1310
E-mail: meneses@ibama.gov.br

MERCIER, Marc
Confederacão Nacional dos Pescadores
Rua João Estevão, 636
Paranagua-Pr.
Tel: +55 41 422 2554
Fax: +55 41 422 0554

MOREIRA DA SILVA, Antonio
Diretor Presidente
Sindicato dos Pescadores dos Estados do
Rio de Janeiro e Espirito Santo
Pça. XV de Novembro, 2 - Sala 410
Rio de Janeiro RJ
Tel: +55 21 242 0792

MUÑOZ ECHEVERRIA, Heriberto
Rua Monsenhor Walfredo Leal 104
Centro-Cabedelo PB, CEP 58310-000
Tel: +55 83 228 2600
Fax: +55 83 228 4183
E-mail: tunamar@elogica.com.br

MURATA, Satoshi
CONEPE
Rua Estocolmo, 132
Rio de Janeiro 21931 480
Tel: +55 21 396 6594
Fax: +55 21 396 6594
E-mail: murata@netyet.com.br

NASCIMENTO, Leo
Instituto Brasileiro de Meio Ambiente - IBAMA
Rua 15 de Novembro, 42
Centro- Rio de Janeiro
Tel: +55 21 221 5033
Fax: +55 21 221 5245

OLIVEIRA, Geovânio M.
Ministerio de Agricultura e Abastecimento
Esplanada dos Ministerios, Bloco D, Sala 955
Brasilia D.F. CEP 70043-900
Tel: +55 61 218 2112
Fax: +55 61 224 5049
E-mail: dpa-pesca@defesnagropecuaria.gov.br

PENNA JUNIOR, Jorge A.
AMBIENTAL
Rua Barao do Amazonas, 481/402
Centro-Niteroi-RJ
Tel: +55 21 613 2508
Fax: +55 21 620 3501
E-mail: gpena@uol.com.br

PERCIAVALLE, Giacomo V.
Av. Dr. Nereu Ramos 343
Itajai SC
Tel: +55 47 346 1159
Fax: +55 473 46 1159
E-mail: vip@melim.com.br

PUGAS, José Maria
Confederacão Nacional dos Pescadores
Rua João Estevao, 636
Paranagua-Pr.
Tel: +55 41 422 2554
Fax: +55 41 422 2554

RAMALHO, Sergio
CONEPE
Rua Visconde do Uruguai, 535, 9° Andar-centro
Niteroi RJ 24.030.077
Tel: +55 21 717 6892
Fax: +55 21 717 6892
E-mail: conepe@tba.com.br

SERRA, Manuel J.
Sindicato dos Pescadores dos Estados do
Rio de Janeiro e Espirito Santo
Praça 15 de Novembro, 02, Sala 410-Centro
Rio de Janeiro CEP 20010
Tel: +55 21 242 0792
Fax: +55 21 242 0792

SILVA, Armando D.
CONEPE
4° Seção da Barra S/N Distrito Industrial
Caixa Postal 44
Rio Grande RS 96.204.090
Tel: +55 53 231 1500
Fax: +55 53 232 5963
E-mail: lsantos@milkrus.com.br

SILVA, Francisco
Delegacia Federal da Agricultura do Ceara
Rua Artur Ferreira, 253, Apto.01 Montese
Fortaleza CE, 60.410.210
Tel: +55 85 494 5777
Fax: +55 85 494 7879
E-mail: fchiconsilva@hotmail.com

STRADA, Lucienne
Instituto SEGUMAR
Rua Alberto de Campos 10
BLA/1107
Tel: +55 21 287 6579
Fax: +55 21 287 6579
E-mail: strada@unisys.com.br

STUDART, Paulo
Av. Abolição 5151
Mucuripe
Fortaleza-Ceará
Tel: +55 85 263 2044
Fax: +55 85 263 1848
E-mail: empesca.em@empesca.com.br

TAVARES DE ALMEIDA, Walbert
Marinha do Brasil
Esplanda dos Ministerios, 5° Andar, Bloco N
Brasilia D.F.
Tel: +55 61 423 1055
Fax: +55 61 423 1051
E-mail: 11-2@eme.mon.mil.br

TELLES CUNHA, George W.
AMBIENTAL
Rua Barao do Amazonas, 481/402
Centro-Niteroi-RJ
Tel: +55 21 613 2508
Fax: +55 21 620 3501
E-mail: tcadvogados@uol.com.br

TIMM, Jose U.
Ministerio da Agricultura e do Abastecimiento
Esplanada dos Ministerios - Bloco D - Sala 922
Brasilia 70.160.900
Tel: +55 61 218 2444
Fax: +55 61 225 9918
E-mail: timbira@agricultura.gov.br

ZAPATA, Jesús
Rua Presidente Joao Pessoa 23
58310-000 Cabedelo
Joao Pessoa (PB)
Tel: +55 83 228 4010
Fax: +55 83 228 2318
E-mail: capesca@elogica.com.br

CANADA

CHAMUT, Pat (Head Delegate)
Assistant Deputy Minister
Fisheries Management
Department of Fisheries & Oceans
200 Kent St.
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0E6
Tel: +1 613 990 9864
Fax: +1 613 990 9557

ALDOUS, Don
41 Armitage Road, Newport
Hants Co.,
Nova Scotia B0N 2A0
Tel: +1 902 757 3915
Fax: + 902 757 3979
E-mail: daldous@fox.nstn.ca

ALLEN, Chris J.
Resource Management-Atlantic
Department of Fisheries & Oceans
200 Kent St.
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0E6
Tel: +1 613 990 0105
Fax: +1 613 990 7051
E-mail: allenc@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

ANGEL, John
P.O. Box 1C1
Head of St.Margaret's Bay
Nova Scotia B0J 1R0
Tel: +1 902 826 7765
Fax: +1 902 826 7065
E-mail: jangel@navnet.net

CHIDLEY, Gerard
P.O. Box 22
Renews, Newfoundland A0A 3N0
Tel: +1 709 363 2900
Fax: +1 709 363 2014

CHRISTMAS, Bernd
111 Memberton St.
Sydney, Nova Scotia B1S 2M9
Tel: +1 902 564 6466
Fax: +1 902 539 6645
E-mail: redraven@auracom.com

DUSSSAULT, Edith
Department of Fisheries & Oceans
200 Kent St.
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0E6
Tel: +1 613 993 5316
Fax: +1 613 993 5995
E-mail: dussaulte@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

JONES, James
Directeur Régional, Gestion des Pêches
Pêches du Golfe, Région des Maritimes
C.P. 5030, 343, rue Archibald
Moncton, New Brunswick E1C 9B6
Tel: +1 506 851 7752
Fax: +1 506 851 2615
E-mail: jonesj@mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca

PORTER, Julie
Department of Fisheries & Oceans
Biological Station, 531 Brandy Cove Road
St.Andrews, N.B., E5B 2L9
Tel: +1 506 529 5902
Fax: +1 506 529 5862
E-mail: porterjm@mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca

RICHARDSON, Dale
R.R. N° 1, Sable River Shelburne Co.
Nova Scotia
Tel: +1 907 656 2411
Fax: +1 907 656 2595

ROACH, Greg
N.S. Department of Fisheries & Aquaculture
P.O. Box 2223
Halifax NS. B3J 2C4
Tel: +1 902 424 0348
Fax: +1 902 424 4671
E-mail: roachg@gov.ns.ca

SAUNDERS, Allison
Dpt. of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
Economic Law Division (JLO)
Lester B. Pearson Building
125 Sussex Drive
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0G2
Tel: +1 613 996 2643
Fax: +1 613 992 6483
E-mail: allison.saunders@dfait-maeci.gc.ca

SURETTE,Tim
215 Main St.
Yarmouth, Nova Scotia
Tel: +1 902 742 0871
Fax: +1 902 742 9863
E-mail: surettet@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

CAPE VERDE

EVORA ROCHA, Carlos A. (Head Delegate)
Director Geral das Pescas
Ministério do Turismo, Transportes e Mar
Palázio do Governo, Várzea
Praia CP 206
Tel: +238 610 505
Fax: +238 616 691
E-mail: dgpescas@mail.

SANTA RITA VIEIRA, Maria Helena
Direction Générale des Pêches
B.P. 200, Palais du Gouvernement
Praia
Tel: +238 610 505
Fax: +238 616 691

CHINA

CUI, Guohui
Division of Distant Water Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture
No.11 Nongzhanguan Nanli
Beijing 100026
Tel: +86 10 641 92923
Fax: +86 10 64192961
E-mail: bofdwf@agri.gov.zn

LIU, Xiaobing
Deputy Director, Bureau of Fisheries
Ministry of Agriculture
No.11 Nongzhanguan Nanli
Beijing 100026
Tel: +86 10 641 92974
Fax: +86 10 641 92961
E-mail: inter-coop@agri.gov.cn

WANG, Xiadou
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
No.2 Chaoyangmen Nandajie
Beijing 100701
Tel: +86 10 659 63264
Fax: +86 10 65963209
E-mail: tfs1@fmprc.gov.cn

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

KOFFI, Luc (Head Delegate)
Inspecteur Général-Agriculture et des Ressources Animales
B.P. V84, Abidjan
Tel: +225 218 875
Fax: +225 219 462

DJOBO, Anvra Jeanson
Direction Aquaculture et Pêche
B.P. V19
Abidjan
Tel: +225 253 453
Fax: +225 243 626

FANNY, Amadou
Ministère de la Production Animale
B.P. V 82
Abidjan
Tel: +225 213 524
Fax: +225 335 362

N'GORAN, Ya
CRO
B.P. V18
Abidjan
Tel: +225-355 014
Fax: +225 351 155
E-mail: ngoran@cro.ird.ci

CROATIA

URBAN, Zelimir (Head Delegate)
Shis QI 09, Conjunto 11, Casa 03
Brasilia D.F. 71625-110 (Brazil)
Tel: +55 61 248 0610
Fax: +55 61 248 1708

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

MASTRACCHIO, Emilio (Head Delegate)
Directeur, DG PÊCHE/B
Commission Européenne
200 Rue de la Loi
1049 Bruxelles (Belgium)
Tel: +32 2 295 5568
Fax: +32 2 296 5951
E-mail: emilio.mastracchio.@cec.eu.int

ALVES, Marta Teresa
Direccao Geral das Pescas e Aquicultura
Edificio Vasco da Gama
Alcantara-Mar, Lisboa (Portugal)
Tel: +35 1 391 3553

AMBROSIO, Giuseppe
Direttore Generale
Ministerio Politiche Agricole e Forestali
Via XX Settembre 20
Roma (Italy)
Tel: +39 6 482 7034
Fax: +39 6 481 9714
E-mail: gambrosio@politicheagricole.it

ANGULO ERRAZQUIN, José Angel
Asociación Nacional de Armadores de Buques Atuneros Congeladores
Fernández de la Hoz 57, 5º - Apt.10
28003 Madrid (Spain)
Tel: +34 91 442 6899
Fax: +34 91 442 0574

ARIZ TELLERIA, Javier
Instituto Español de Oceanografía
Centro Oceanográfico de Canarias
Apartado 1373
Santa Cruz de Tenerife (Spain)
Tel: +34 922 549 400
Fax: +34 922 549 554
E-mail: tunidos@ieo.rcanaria.es

ARO, Markku
Permanent Representation of Finland to the EU
Rue de Treves 100
1040 Bruxelles (Belgique)
Tel: +32 2 287 8464
Fax: +32 2 287 8407
E-mail: markku.aro@formin.fi

ARRIBAS Y RUIZ-ESCRIBANO, Juan Ignacio
Secretaría General de Pesca Marítima
Ortega y Gasset 57
28006 Madrid (Spain)
Tel: +34 91 402 5050
Fax: +34 91 402 0212

AULITTO, Giuseppe
Ministerio Politiche Agricole e Forestali
Via XX Settembre 20
Roma (Italia)
Tel: +39 06 590 84203
Fax: +39 06 5908 4818
E-mail: pescacq@politicheagricole.it

BARAÑANO, J.R.
Director General de Recursos Pesqueros
Secretaría General de Pesca Marítima
Ortega y Gasset 57
28006 Madrid (Spain)
Tel: +34 91 402 8375
Fax: +34 91 309 1229

BAPTISTA JORGE, Humberto Manuel
OPCENTRO
Estrada Marginal-Sul
2520 Peniche (Portugal)
Tel: +351 26 278 2034
Fax: +351 26 278 4908
E-mail: opcentro@amap.maip.telepac.pt

BARCIELA VILLAR, Agustin
Puerto Pesquero e de Vendedores
GFC 16
36202 Vigo (Pontevedra, España)
Tel: +34 986 434 805
Fax: +34 986 439 218

BEAMISH, Cecil
Director
Department of the Marine & Natural Resources
Leeson Lane
Dublin 2 (Ireland)
Tel: +353 1 619 9374
Fax: +353 1 661 3817
E-mail: cecil_beamish@marine.irl.gov.ie

BERGSTROM, Magnus
National Swedish Fishery Administration
P.O. Box 423
SE-40126 Goteborg (Sweden)
Tel: +46 31 743 0300
Fax: +46 31 743 0444
E-mail: magnus.bergstrom@fiskeriverket.se

BESLIER, Serge
Commission européenne
DG PÊCHE/B-1
200 Rue de la Loi
B-1049 Bruxelles (Belgique)
Tel: +32 2 295 0115

BILBAO, Aurelio
Federación de Cofradías de Vizcaya
Bailén 7, bajo
Bilbao (Vizcaya, España)
Tel: +34 94 415 4011
Fax: +34 94 688 5788

CADENAS DE LLANO CORTÉS, María del Carmen
Subdirección General Organismos Multilaterales de Pesca
Secretaría General de Pesca Marítima
Ortega y Gasset 57
28006 Madrid (Spain)
Tel: +34 91 402 5000
Fax: +34 91 402 0212
E-mail: orgmul-sgpm@virtual.sw.es

CAMPOS QUINTEIRO, Albino
Presidente de la Asociación Nacional de Armadores
de Buques Palangreros de Altura (ANAPA)
Bolivia 20, 2°.C
36204 Vigo (Pontevedra, España)
Tel: +34 986 420 511
Fax: +34 986 414 920
E-mail: tusapesca@ont.servicom.es

COCCIA, Massimo
Presidente, Federazione National Cooperative della Pesca
Via de' Gigli d'Oro 21
00186 Roma (Italia)
Tel: +39 06 689 3450
Fax: +39 06 689 3766

CONDE DE SARO, Rafael (Commission Chairman)
Embajada de España
2375 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington DC 20035 (United States)
Tel: +1 202 728 2340
Fax: +1 202 833 5670

CONTE, Plinio
Ministerio Politiche Agricole
Direzione Generale Pesca e Acquacoltura
Viale dell'Arte 16
00144 Roma (Italia)
Tel: +39 06 590 84746
Fax: +39 06 590 89176
E-mail: monfinpesca@politicheagricole.it

DE DIEGO Y VEGA, Amalia
Commission européenne
DG PÊCHE/B-4
200 Rue de la Loi
1049 Bruxelles (Belgique)
Tel: +32 2 296 8614
Fax: +32 2 295 5700
E-mail: amalia.de-diego-y-vega@cec.eu.int

DELLA SETA, Giovanni
Ministerio Politiche Agricole
Direzione Generale Pesca e Acquacoltura
Viale dell'Arte 16
00144 Roma (Italia)
Tel: +39 06 590 84746
Fax: +39 06 590 89176
E-mail: pesca2@politicheagricole.it

DION, M.
Délégué Général
Syndicat National des Armateurs
des Thoniers Congélateurs
BP 127 - 29181 Concarneau (France)
Tel: +33 29 897 1957
Fax: +33 29 850 8032

DOMINGUEZ DIAZ, Carlos
Embassy of Spain
1-3-29 Roppongi, Minato-Ku
Tokyo 106-0032 (Japan)
Tel: +81 3 358 38533
Fax: +81 3 358 28627
E-mail: carlosmp@tke.att.ne.jp

ESTACIO, Susana
Secretaria Regional de Agricultura e Pescas
Governo Regional dos Açores
Rua Consul Dabney
9900 Horta, Faial - Açores (Portugal)
Tel: +351 92 208 918
Fax: +351 92 391 127
E-mail: susana@drp.raa.pt

FUENTES GARCIA, Ricardo
Carretera de La Palma
Paraje Los Marines
30593 La Palma (Murcia, España)
Tel: +34 968 554 141
Fax: +34 968 165 324
E-mail: rfuentes@ricardofuentes.com

GAONA ORTIZ, Francisco Emilio
Agente de Aduanas
Alamo 15
30205 Cartagena (Murcia, España)
Tel: +34 968 554 763
Fax: +34 968 554 764
E-mail: gaona@arrakis.es

GAUTHIEZ, François
Conseiller Scientifique
Direction des Pêches Maritimes et de l'Aquaculture
Ministère de l'Agriculture et de la Pêche
3 Place de Fontenoy
75007 Paris (France)
Tel: +33 1 495 58203
Fax: +33 1 495 58200
E-mail: francois.gauthiez@agriculture.gouv.fr

GIANNINI, Luigi
FEDERPESCA
Via Emilio de Cavalieri 7
00178 Roma (Italia)
Tel: +39 06 854 112
Fax: +39 06 853 5299
E-mail: luigi-giannini@federpesca.it

GROISSARD, Bernard Joseph
43 rue du Puits-Neuf
85350 Ile d'Yeu (France)
Tel: +33 02 515 83417
Fax: +33 02 515 87749

GUERNALEC, Cyril
Comité National des Pêches Maritimes et des Elevages Marins (CNPMEM)
51 rue Salvador Allende
92027 Nanterre Cédex (France)
Tel: +33 01 477 50101
Fax: +33 01 490 00602
E-mail: cguernalec@comite-peches.fr

HERMIDA TRASTOY, Andrés
Director Xeral
Estructuras Pesqueiras e Mercados Xunta de Galicia
Conselleria de Pesca, Marisqueo e Acuicultura
Rua do Sar 75
15702 Santiago de Compostela (Coruña, España)
Tel: +34 981 546 347
Fax: +34 981 546 288
E-mail: andres.hermida.trastoy@xunta.es

HERNANDEZ SALGADO, Maria Pilar
Subdirección General de Organismos Multilaterales de Pesca
Secretaría General de Pesca Marítima
Ortega y Gasset 57
28006 Madrid (Spain)
Tel: +34 91 402 5000
Fax: +34 91 309 3967
E-mail: phernand@mapya.es

YBAÑEZ RUBIO, Ignacio
Subdirector General de Organismos Multilaterales de Pesca
Secretaría General de Pesca Marítima
Ortega y Gasset 57
28006 Madrid (Spain)
Tel: +34 91 402 5000
Fax: +34 91 309 3967
E-mail: iybanez@mapya.es

INSUNZA DAHLANDER, Jacinto
Federación Nacional de Cofradías de Pescadores
Barquillo 7, 1° dcha.
28004 Madrid (Spain)
Tel: +34 91 531 9804
Fax: +34 91 531 6320

IRIGOYEN BERISTAIN, J.M.
Presidente
Cofradía de Pescadores Elkano de Getaria
Kaia, 2
28808 Getaria (Guipúzcoa, España)
Tel: +34 943 140 200
Fax: +34 943 140 766

LARZABAL, Serge
Syndicat des Marins Pêcheurs
Quai Pascal Etissalt
64500 - Ciboure Cédex (France)
Tel: +33 05 594 71034
Fax: +33 05 594 70539

LIGEARD, Christian
Sous-Directeur des Pêches Maritimes
Ministère de l'Agriculture et de la Pêche
Direction des Pêches Maritimes et de l'Aquaculture
3 Place de Fontenoy
75003 Paris (France)
Tel: +331-49 558221
Fax: 331-49 558200
E-mail: christian.ligeard@agriculture.gouv.fr

MARTÍN FRAGUEIRO, Juan Carlos
Puerto Pesquero s/n - Apt.3
Edificio Anexo Lonja
36900 Marín (Pontevedra, España)
Tel: +34 986 882 169
Fax: +34 986 883 178
E-mail: armadores.marin@cesatel.es

MEJUTO, Jaime
Instituto Español de Oceanografía
Apartado 130
15080 A Coruña (Spain)
Tel: +34 981 205 362
Fax: +34 981 229 077

MENDIBURU, Gérard
Armement Aigle des Mers
B.P. 337
64503 Ciboure Cédex (France)
Tel: +33 05 592 60552
Fax: +33 05 592 60552

MORAIS, Paulo
Delegaçao em S. Miguel da DRP
Governo Regional dos Açores
Rua Carvalho Araujo 33
9500 Ponta Delgada - Açores (Portugal)
Tel: +351 296 286 517
Fax: +351 296 281 055
E-mail: paulom@virtualazores.com

MORON AYALA, Julio
Organización de Productores Asociados de Grandes Atuneros Congeladores (OPAGAC)
Ayala 54, 2°A
28001 Madrid (Spain)
Tel: +34 91 575 8959
Fax: +34 91576 1222
E-mail: opagac@arrakis.es

NEVES DOS SANTOS, Miguel
IPIMAR-CRIPSUL
Av. 5 de Outubro S/N
8700-305 Olhao (Portugal)
Tel: +351 289 700 504
Fax: +351 289 700 535
E-mail: mnsantos@ipimar.ulg.pt

NOVO, M.
Zona Portuaria de Peniche
Empresa C.A.P.A.
2520 Peniche (Portugal)
Tel: +351 26 778 4052

OLAIZOLA ELIZAZU, Esteban
Cofradía de Pescadores de Fuenterrabía
Muelle s/n
20280 Fuenterrabía (Guipúzcoa, España)
Tel: +34 943 641 134
Fax: +34 943 643 936

ORTEGA MARTINEZ, Concepción
Gerente-Adjunta
Organización de Palangreros Guardeses (ORPAGU)
Avda. Manuel Alvarez 16, bajo
36780 La Guardia (Pontevedra, España)
Tel: +34 986 611 809
Fax: +34 986 611 667
E-mail: orpagu@interbook.net

PARRES, Alain
Président du Comité National des Pêches Maritimes
et des Elevages Marins (CNPMEM)
c/o UAPF, 59 rue des Mathurins
75008 Paris (France)
Tel: +33 1 492 89109
Fax: +33 1 474 29112
E-mail: office@3142563260

PENAS LADO, Ernesto
Commission européenne, DG PÊCHE /B-4
200 Rue de la Loi
1049 Bruxelles (Belgique)
Tel: +32 2 296 3744
Fax: +32 2 295 5700
E-mail: ernesto.penas-lado@cec.eu.int

PEREIRA, Joao
Universidade dos Açores
Departamento de Oceanografia e Pescas
9900 Horta, Faial - Açores (Portugal)
Tel: +351 92 292 945
Fax: +351 92 292 659
E-mail: pereira@dop.uac.pt

PICCINETTI, Corrado
Laboratorio Biologia Marina e Pesca
Universita Bologna in Fano, Viale Adriatico 1/N
61032 Fano (PS) (Italia)
Tel: +39 721 802 689
Fax: +39 721 801 654
E-mail: lbmpfano@mobilia.it

PINHO, Mario
Secretaria Regional de Agricultura e Pescas
Governo Regional dos Açores
Rua Consul Dabney
9900 Horta, Faial - Açores (Portugal)
Tel: +351 92 208 918
Fax: +351 92 391 127
E-mail: mainka@dop.uac.pt

RAMBAUD, Christian
Commission européenne
200 Rue de la Loi
1049 Bruxelles (Belgique)
Tel: +32 2 296 0545
Fax: +32 2 296 5951
E-mail: christian.rambaud@cec.eu.int

RODRIGUEZ RODRIGUEZ, B.
Cofradía de Pescadores "Santa Tecla"
Baixo Muro 32
36780 La Guardia (Pontevedra, España)
Tel: +34 986 613 307
Fax: +34 986 613 694

SANTIAGO BURRUTXAGA, Josu
Director de Pesca
Gobierno Vasco-Departamento de Agricultura y Pesca
c/Donostia-San Sebastián 1
01010 Vitoria-Gasteiz (Spain)
Tel: +34 945 019 650
Fax: +34 945 019 989
E-mail: j-burrutxaga@ej-gv.es

SANCHEZ-ESCRIBANO BAILON, Estefanía
Federación Nacional de Cofradías de Pescadores
Barquillo 7, 1º dcha.
28004 Madrid (Spain)
Tel: +34 91 531 9804
Fax: +34 91 531 6320

SIHVO, Jukka
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
Department of Fisheries and Game
P.O. 232
00171 Helsinki (Finland)
Tel: +358 91 608 8902
Fax: +358 91 604 285
E-mail: jukka.sihvo@mmm.fi

SILVA, Helder
Secretaria Regional de Agricultura e Pescas
Governo Regional dos Açores
Rua Consul Dabney
9900 Horta, Faial - Açores (Portugal)
Tel: +351 92 208 918
Fax: +351 92 391 127

SOULERES, Vanessa
CLS Argos
8-10 rue Hermes
Parc Technologique du Canal
31126 Ramonville (France)

SPEZZANI, Aronne
Commission européenne
DG PÊCHE/C-4
1049 Bruxelles (Belgium)
Tel: +32 2 235D9692
Fax: +32 2 295 1433
E-mail: aronne.spezzani@cec.eu.int

TAVARES, Antonio Luis
Avda. Brasilia 657
Complexo Docapesca
1400-038 Lisboa (Portugal)
Tel: +351 21 302 0794
Fax: +351 21 302 0793

TAYLOR, G.
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food
Nobel House - Room 423 B
17 Smith Square
London SWIP 3JR (UK)
Tel: +44 171 238 6529
Fax: +44 171 238 5721
E-mail: g.taylor@fish.maff.gov.uk

TEIXEIRA DE ORNELAS, José A.
Director Regional das Pescas
Direcçao Regional das Pescas
Estrada da Pontinha
9000 Funchal - Madeira (Portugal)
Tel: +351 291 203 200
Fax: +351 291 229 691
E-mail: jornelas@mail.madinfo.pt

TEJEDOR URANGA, Jaime
Organización de Productores de Pesca
de Bajura de Guipúzcoa (OPEGUI)
Miraconcha 9, Bajo
20007 San Sebastián (Guipúzcoa, Spain)
Tel: +34 943 140 200
Fax: +34 943 140 677

UHER, Rainer
Council of the European Union
Rue de la Loi, 175
B-1048 Brussels (Belgium)
Tel: +32 2 285 6987
Fax: +32 2 285 6910
E-mail: rainer.uher@consilium.eu.int

ULLOA ALONSO, Edelmiro
Secretario Técnico
Asociación Nacional de Armadores de Buques
Palangreros de Altura (ANAPA)
Puerto Pesquero, Edificio Vendedores, Of.1-6
Apartado 1078
36202 Vigo (Pontevedra, Spain)
Tel: +34 986 433 844
Fax: +34 986 439 218
E-mail: edelmiro@arvi.infonegocio.com
ZABALETA BILBAO, Iñaki
Federación de Cofradías de Vizcaya
Bailen 7, bajo
Bilbao (Vizcaya, Spain)
Tel: +34 946 186 173
Fax: +34 946 885 788

ZULUETA , J.
ATUNSA
Lamera, 1
48370 Bermeo (Vizcaya, Spain)
Tel: +34 946 186 200
Fax: +34 94 6 186 128

FRANCE (St.Pierre & Miquelon)

GRIGNON, G. (Head Delegate)
Assamblée Nationale
126 rue de l'Université
75007 Paris Cedex (France)
Tel: +33 1 406 38218
Fax: +33 1 406 38281

SEGURA, Serge
Ministère des Affaires Etrangères
Direction des Affaires Juridiques
37 Quai d'Orsay
75700 Paris (France)
Tel: +33 1 431 75326
Fax: +33 1 431 74359
E-mail: serge.segura@diplomatie.fr

SILVESTRE, Daniel
Sécrétariat Général de la Mer
16 Boulevard Raspail
Paris 75007 (France)
Tel: +33 1 428 4 0876
Fax: +33 1 428 4 0790
E-mail: daniel.silvestre@sgmer.premier-ministre.gouv.fr

GABON

PAMBO, Louis Gabriel (Head Delegate)
Directeur Général des Pêches et de l'Aquaculture
Ministère des Eaux et Forets, de la Pêche, chargé du
Reboisement, B.P. 9498
Libreville
Tel: +241 748 992
Fax: +241 764 602
E-mail: dgpa@internetgabon.com

MBA-ASSEKO, Georges
Ministère des Eaux et Forets, de la Pêche, chargé du
Reboisement
B.P. 9498
Libreville
Tel: +241 748 992/762 500
Fax: +241 764 602
E-mail: dgpa@internetgabon.com

MBOKOU, Romain
Directeur des Pêches Industrielles
Ministère des Eaux et Forets, de la Pêche, chargé du
Reboisement
B.P. 9498
Libreville
Tel: +241 762 630
Fax: +241764 602

GHANA

KWEI, Eric (Head Delegate)
Pioneer Food Cannery
P.O. Box 40
Tema
Tel: +233 22 202 981
Fax: +233 22 202 982
E-mail: e.tughah@heinz.comm.gh

JAPAN

NOMURA, Ichiro (Head Delegate)
Director
Far Seas Fisheries Division
Fisheries Agency of Japan
1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 100
Tel: +81 3 3591 6582
Fax: +81 3 3591 5824

CAMPEN, Sally
Consultant
1350 Beverly Road, PMB 278, Suite 115
Mclean, Va 22101-3917 (USA)
Tel: +1 703 980 9111
Fax: +1 703 783 0292
E-mail: sjcampen@aol.com

GOMEZ DIAZ, Gabriel
Federation of Japan Tuna Fisheries Cooperative Associations
2-3-22 Kudankita, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 102
Tel: +81 3 326 4 6166
Fax: +81 3 323 47455

HANAFUSA, Katsuma
Chief Deputy Director
Far Seas Fisheries Division
Fisheries Agency of Japan
1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 100
Tel: +81 3 3591 6582
Fax: +81 3 3591 5824

HATEKEYAMA, Yoshikatsu
Federation of Japan Tuna Fisheries Cooperative Associations
2-3-22 Kudankita, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 102
Tel: +81 3 326 4 6167
Fax: +81 3 323 4 7455

HAYAKAWA, Tetsuzo
Federation of Japan Tuna Fisheries Cooperative Associations
2-3-22 Kudankita, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 102-0073
Tel: +81 3 326 46167
Fax: +81 3 323 47455

HANEDA, Hiroshi
Federation of Japan Tuna Fisheries Cooperative Associations
2-3-22 Kudankita, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 102
Tel: +81 3 326 46167
Fax: +81 3 323 47455

IKEDA, Masaji
President
Hokkaido Tuna Fisheries Cooperative Associations
6-chome Nishi, 4-jo Kita, Sapporo-shi
Hokkaido 060-0004
Tel: +81 1 261 5621
Fax: +81 1 271 4790

ISHIKAWA, Yutaka
Director of Agricultural and Marine Products Office
Ministry of International Trade and Industry
1-3-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo
Tel: +81 3 3501 0532
Fax: +81 3 3501 6006
E-mail: ishikawa-yutaka@miti.gov.jp

IWATA, Tsuyoshi
International Affairs Division
Fisheries Agency of Japan
1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 100
Tel: +81 3 3591 1086
Fax: +81 3 3502 0571
E-mail: tsuyoshi_iwata@nm.maff.go.jp

KAMIKAWANA, Kazuhide
International Department
Federation of Japan Tuna Fisheries Cooperative Associations
2-3-22 Kudankita, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 102-0073
Tel: +81 3 326 46167
Fax: +81 3 323 47455
E-mail: camie1A@aol.com

KEIKO, Ishihara
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Fishery Division
2-2-1 Kasumagaseki, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 100
Tel: +81 3 358 03311
Fax: +81 3 350 33136

MASAHIRO, Mino
Deputy Director
Far Seas Fisheries Division
Fisheries Agency of Japan
1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 100
Tel: +81 3 350 22443
Fax: +81 3 359 15824
E-mail: masahiro_mino1@nm.maff.go.jp

MIYABE, Naozumi
National Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries
5-7-1 Chome Orido
Shimizu 424-8633
Tel: +81 54 336 6045
Fax: +81 54 335 9642
E-mail: miyabe@enyo.affrc.go.jp

OZAKI, Eiko
Deputy Manager - International Dept.
Federation of Japan Tuna Fisheries Cooperative Associations
2-3-22 Kudankita, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 102-0073
Tel: +81 3 326 46167
Fax: +81 3 323 47455
E-mail: ozaki@intldiv.japantuna.or.jp

TAKAGI, Yoshihiro
Managing Director for International Relations
Overseas Fishery Cooperation Foundation
9-13, Akasaka-1, Minato-Ku
Tokyo
Tel: +81 3 358 55381
Fax: +81 3 358 24539
E-mail: takagi@ofcf.or.jp

TAKAMURA, Nobuko
Federation of Japan Tuna Fisheries Cooperative Associations
2-3-22 Kudankita, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 102-0073
Tel: +81 3 328 00565
Fax: +81 3 328 00557
E-mail: nokomama@aol.com

TANAKA, Kengo
Deputy Director
International Affairs Division
Fisheries Agency of Japan
1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 100
Tel: +81 3 359 11086
Fax: +81 3 350 20571
E-mail: kengo-tanaka@nm.maff.go.jp

WADA, Masato
Far Seas Fisheries Division
Fisheries Agency of Japan
1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 100
Tel: +81 3 350 22443
Fax: +81 3 359 15824
E-mail: masato-wada@nm.maff.go.jp

WATANABE, Tsutomu
Managing Director
Federation of Japan Tuna Fisheries Cooperative Associations
2-3-22 Kudankita, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 102-0073
Tel: +81 3 326 46167
Fax: +81 3 323 47455
E-mail: watanabe@japantuna.or.jp

KOREA

HWANG, E.S. (Head Delegate)
Embassy of the Republic of Korea
Gonzalez Amigó, 15
28033 Madrid (Spain)
Tel: +34 91 353 2000
Fax: +34 91 353 2001

KIM, Kuan Yong
Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries
826-14, Jinsol B/D
Yeogsam-dong, Kangnam-Ku
Seoul
Tel: +82 2 346 62054
Fax: +82 2 554 2023
E-mail: icdmomaf@chollian.net

KIM, Soon Tae
Embassy of the Republic of Korea
Av. das Naçoes, Lote 14
Brasilia D.F. (Brazil)
Tel: +55 61 321 2500
Fax: +55 61 321 2508
E-mail: stkim88@mofat.go.kr

LIBYA

ABUKHDER, Ahmed (Head Delegate)
Marine Biology Center
P.O. Box 30830 Tajura
Tripoli
Tel: +218 21 369 0003
Fax: +218 21 369 0002
E-mail: abukdir@yahoo.com

ABUKHRAES, Masaud Ali
Lispafishing Co.
P.O. Box 3479
Tripoli
Tel: +218 21 333 7229

FARAG, Elmahpi
Sedi St.
Tripoli
Tel: +218 21 333 7229

AWEDAT, Ibrahime
Secretariat of Marine Ressources
Sirf
Tel: +218 54 62142
Fax: +218 54 61641

ELHALOBA, Mansour
Committe for Foreign Affairs
Organization Department
Tripoli
Tel: +218 21 333 5371
Fax: +218 21 333 5371

MOROCCO

MESKI, Driss (Head Delegate)
Directeur de la Coopération et des Affaires Juridiques
Ministère des Pêches Maritimes
B.P. 476, Agdal, Rabat
Tel: +212 7 688 196
Fax: +212 7 688 194
E-mail: meski@mp3m.gov.ma

EL KTIRI, Taoufik
Direction des Pêches Maritimes et de l'Aquaculture
Ministère des Pêches Maritimes
Nouveau Quartier Administratif
Agdal, Rabat
Tel: +212 7 688 118
Fax: +212 7 688 134
E-mail: elktiri@mp3m.gov.ma

SROUR, Abdellah
Institut National de Recherche Halieutique
Centre Régional de Recherche en Méditerranée
B.P. 493 - Nador
Tel: +212 6 600 869
Fax: +212 6 603 828
E-mail: srour@nadornet.net.ma

NAMIBIA

ISHITILE, Axel Zeppi (Head Delegate)
Private bag 13355
Windhoek
Tel: +264 61 205 3007
Fax: +264 61 224 566
E-mail: ishitile@mfmr.gov.na

CLARK, Les
Ministry of Fisheries
Private Bag 24185
Windhoek
Tel: +264 61 205 3080
Fax: +264 61 233 286
E-mail: lclarck@mfmr.gov.na

BARNES, L.Barney
Namibia Tuna Association
P.O. Box 473
Walvis Bay
Tel: +264 64 206 565
Fax: +264 64 207 460

HAMUKUAYA, Hashali
Ministry of Fisheries
Private Bag 13355, Windhoek
Tel: +264 61 205 3911
Fax: +264 61 220 558
E-mail: hhamukuaya@mfmr.gov.na

WIIUM, Vilhjalmur
Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Ressources
Private Bag 13355 - Windhoek
Tel: +264 61 205 3043
Fax: +264 61 205 3076
E-mail: vwiium@mfmr.gov.na

PANAMA

FRANCO, Arnulfo L.(Head Delegate)
Autoridad Marítima de Panamá
Antigua Escuela de Diablo, Panamá
Tel: +507 232 8570
Fax: +507 232 6477
E-mail: digerema@sinfo.net

SANCHEZ DE PIRRO, Virginia
Autoridad Marítima de Panamá
Antigua Escuela Diablo High
Panamá
Tel: +507 232 7510
Fax: +507 232 6477
E-mail: pirro@smultired.com

RUSSIA

KUKHORENKO, Konstantin (Head Delegate)
Director - AtlantNIRO
5, D. Donskoy
Kaliningrad 236000
Tel: +7 011 221 5645
Fax: +7 011 221 9997
E-mail: atlant@baltnet.ru

LEONTIEV, Serguei
VNIRO
17, U.Kranoselskaya
Moscow B-107140
Tel: +7 095 264 9465
Fax: +7 095 264 9187
E-mail: acrovnin@mx.iki.rssi.ru

SAO TOME & PRINCIPE

EVA AURELIO, J. (Head Delegate)
Direcçao das Pescas
C.P. 59 - Sao Tome
Tel: +239 122 2091
Fax: +239 122 1095

SOUTH AFRICA

VAN ZYL, Johan A. (Head Delegate)
Director, Sea Fisheries
Private Bag X2
Rogge Bay 8012, Cape Town 8012
Tel: +27 21 402 3020
Fax: +27 21 402 3217
E-mail: tceres@sfri.wcape.gov.za

KAYE, Andrew
South African Tuna Association
P.O. Box 6501 - Roggebaai 8012
Tel: +27 21 421 2492
Fax: +27 21 425 2716
E-mail: andrew@kaytrad.co.sa

PENNEY, Andrew
Pisces Research & Management Consultants
22 Forest Glade, Tokai Road
Tokai 7495
Tel: +27 21 754 238
Fax: +27 21 754 238
E-mail: piscesrc@iafrica.com

RAFAEL, Augusto
S.A. Tuna Association
P.O. Box 7394, Roggebaai
Cape Town 8012
Tel: +27 21 475 117
Fax: +27 21 479 995

TUNISIA

EL ABED, Amor (Head Delegate)
Institut National des Sciences et
Technologies de la Mer (INSTM)
28, rue 2 mars 1934
2025 Salammbô
Tel: +216 1 730 548
Fax: +216 1 732 622
E-mail: amor.elabed@instm.rnrt.tn

UNITED KINGDOM (Overseas Territories)

JACKSON, Andrew (Head Delegate)
Aviation and Maritime Department
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
King Charles St.
London SW1A 2AH
Tel: +44 171 270 2628
Fax: +44 171 270 3189
E-mail: and.fco@gtnet.gov.uk

BARNES, J.A.
Director
Department of Agriculture & Fisheries
P.O. Box HM 834
Hamilton HM CX - Bermuda
Tel: +1441 236 4201
Fax: +1441 236 7582
E-mail: agfish@ibl.bm

HODGSON, Arthur
Ministry of Environment
Hamilton
Bermuda
Tel: +1441 295 5151

UNITED STATES

SCHMITTEN, Rolland (Head Delegate)
Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Affairs
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
HCHB, Room 5806
14th Constitution Avenue
Washington D.C. 200030
Tel: +1 202 482 6976
Fax: +1 202 482 6000
E-mail: rolland.schmitten@hdq.noaa.gov

BALTON, David
Office of Marine Conservation
US Department of State
Washington D.C. 20016
Tel: +1 202 647 2335
Fax: +1 202 736 7350
E-mail: baltonda@state.gov

BEIDEMAN, Nelson
Blue Water Fishermen's Association
910 Bayview Avenue
P.O. Box 579
Barnegat Light, New Jersey 08006
Tel: +1 609 361 9229
Fax: +1 609 494 7210
E-mail: bwfa@usa.net

BLANKENBEKER, Kimberly
Foreign Affairs Specialist
Office of Sustainable Fisheries, SF4
International Fisheries Division
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910
Tel: +1 301 713 2276
Fax: +1 301 713 2313
E-mail: kimberly.blankenbeker@noaa.gov

BLATNIK-SIGEL, Valerie
U.S. Department of Commerce
14th & Constitution Avenue, N.W., Room 5838
Washington D.C. 20030
Tel: +1 202 482 8376
Fax: +1 202 501 1262
E-mail: valerie.blatnik-sigel@noaa.gov

CURTIS, Keith M.
Deputy SCO, Brazil
Embaixada dos Estados Unidos
SES-Av. Das Naçoes, Lote 3
70403-900 Brasilia D.F. (Brazil)
Tel: +55 61 321 7272
Fax: +55 61 225 3981
E-mail: kcurtis@mail.doc.gov

DELANEY, Glenn
601 Pennsylvania Av., NW, Suite 900
Washington D.C. 20004
Tel: +1 202 434 8220
Fax: +1 202 639 8817
E-mail: gldelaney@aol.com

DEVNEW, John
Flagship Group Ltd.
5000 World Trade Center
Norfolk, Virginia
Tel: +1 757 625 0938
Fax: +1 757 627 2130
E-mail: jdevnew@flagshipgroup.com

DONOFRIO, James
Executive Director
Recreational Fishing Alliance
P.O. Box 3080
New Gretna, New Jersey 08224
Tel: +1 609 294 3315
Fax: +1 609 296 9049
E-mail: jdrfa@cs.com

GRAVES, John
The College of William and Mary
Virginia Institute of Marine Science
Gloucester Point, Virginia 23062
Tel: +1 804 684 7352
Fax: +1 804 684 7157
E-mail: graves@vims.edu
HAYES, Robert
1455 F St. NW
Suite 225
Washington D.C.
Tel: +1 202 638 3307

HENDERSON, Judith A.
Commercial Consul, US Consulate General
Avenida Presidente Wilson, 147
Rio de Janeiro 20030-020
Tel: +55 21 220 1059
Fax: +55 55 21 240 9738

HOWARTH, Robert
Committee on Resources
US House of Representatives, 805 House Annex I
Washington D.C. 20515
Tel: +1 202 226 0200
Fax: +1 202 225 1542
E-mail: rob.howarth@mail.house.gov

HUSTED, Rachel
National Marine Fisheries Service - NOAA
1315 East-West Highway, Room 14729
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910
Tel: +1 301 713 2347
Fax: +1 301 713 1917
E-mail: rachel.husted@noaa.gov

HYMAN, Erias A.
U.S. Department of Commerce
14th & Constitution Avenue, N.W., Room 5838
Washington D.C. 20030
Tel: +1 202 482 8376
Fax: +1 202 501 1262
E-mail: ehyman@doc.gov

KELLER, Gordon
U.S. Department of Commerce
14th & Constitution Avenue, N.W., Room 5838
Washington D.C. 20030
Tel: +1 202 482 8376
Fax: +1 202 501 1262
E-mail: gkeller@doc.gov

KERSTETTER, David
International Fisheries Division
Office of Sustainable Fisheries
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910
Tel: +1 301 713 2347
Fax: +1 301 713 1917
E-mail: david.kerstetter@noaa.gov

KOEHLER, Holly
Office of Marine Conservation - Room 5806
US Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington D.C. 20520
Tel: +1 202 647 2335
Fax: +1 202 736 7350
E-mail: koehler-hr@state.gov

LENT, Rebecca
Chief, Highly Migratory Species
Management Division
National Marine Fisheries Service
NOAA-DOC-F/SF1
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910
Tel: +1 301 713 2347
Fax: +1 301 713 1917
E-mail: rebecca.lent@noaa.gov

MATLOCK, Gary
Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries
NMFS/NOAA
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910
Tel: +1 301 713 2334
Fax: +1 301 713 0596
E-mail: gary.c.matlock@noaa.gov

McCALL, Mariam
NOAA-Office of the General Council for Fisheries
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910
Tel: +1 301 713 2231
Fax: +1 301 713 0658
E-mail: mariam.mccall@noaa.gov

MORAN, Patrick E.
Foreign Affairs Specialist
Office of Sustainable Fisheries
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910
Tel: +1 301 713 2276
Fax: +1 301 713 2313
E-mail: pat.moran@noaa.gov

NUSSMAN, Michael
American Sportfishing Association
1033 North Fairfax St., Suite 200
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
Tel: +1 703 519 9691
Fax: +1 703 519 1872
E-mail: nussmanasa@aol.com

POWERS, Joseph (SCRS Chairman)
Southeast Fisheries Science Center
National Marine Fisheries Service
75 Virginia Beach Drive
Miami, Florida 33149
Tel: +1 305 361 4295
Fax: +1 305 361 4219
E-mail: joseph.powers@noaa.gov

RAPPOPORT, Sloan
United States Senate
Committee on Commerce
SH-428 Washington D.C. 2015
Tel: +1 202 224 3757
Fax: +1 202 224 0826
E-mail: sloan-rappoport@commerce.senate.gov

RUAIS, Richard P.
Executive Director, East Coast Tuna Association
28 Zion Hill Road
Salem, New Hampshire 03079
Tel: +1 603 898 8862
Fax: +1 603 898 2026
E-mail: rruais@aol.com

SANABRIA, Miguel
Caribbean Fishery Management Council
268 Muñoz Renia Avenue, Suite 1108
San Juan, Puerto Rico 00918-2577
Tel: + 1 787 766 5962
Fax: +1 787 766 6239

SCOTT, Gerald
Southeast Fisheries Science Center
National Marine Fisheries Service
75 Virginia Beach Drive
Miami, Florida 33149
Tel: +1 305 361 4596
Fax: +1 305 361 4562
E-mail: gerry.scott@noaa.gov

SLOAN, Stephen
510 Park Avenue
New York, New York 10022
Tel: +1 212 688 7567
Fax: +1 212 751 1384
E-mail: fishsave@pipeline.com

STONE, Gregory
New England Aquarium, Central Wharf
Boston, Massachusetts 02110
Tel: +1 617 973 5229
Fax: +1 617 973 0242
E-mail: gstone@neaq.org

WANNAMAKER, Catherine
Senate commerce committee
508 Dirksen
Washington D.C. 20007
Tel: +1 202 224 4912
Fax: +1 202 228 0303
E-mail: catherine-wannamaker@commerce.senate.gov

WINGROVE, Robyn
Office of Sustainable Fisheries SF1
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910
Tel: +1 301 713 2347
Fax: +1 301 713 1917
E-mail: robyn.wingrove@noaa.gov

URUGUAY

NORBIS, Walter (Head Delegate)
Departamento de Biología
Instituto Nacional de Pesca (INAPE)
Constituyente 1497
11200 Montevideo
Tel: +598 2 409 2969
Fax: +598 2 401 3216

SILVEIRA MONTANER, Beatriz
Asesora Jurídica
Instituto Nacional de Pesca (INAPE)
Constituyente 1497
11200 Montevideo
Tel: +598 2 409 2969
Fax: +598 2 401 3216

VENEZUELA

MOLINET, Ricardo (Head Delegate)
Ministerio de la Producción y el Comercio SARPA
Torre Este, Piso 10, Parque -Central
Caracas
Tel: +58 2 509 0383
Fax: +58 2 574 3587
E-mail: rmolinet@telcel.net.ve

PULVENIS, Jean François
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores
Torre M.R.E., Piso 13, Esquina Carmelitas
Caracas
Tel: +58 2 862 8886
Fax: +58 2 819 3732
E-mail: dgsfm@impsat.com.ve

AROCHA, Freddy
Instituto Oceanográfico de Venezuela - U.D.O.
Apartado de Correos No.204
Cumaná 6101
Tel: +58 93 302 111
Fax: +58 93 322 960
E-mail: farocha@sucre.udo.edu.ve

PLANAS GIRON, Lourdes
Consulado General de Venezuela
Praia de Botafogo 242, 5° Andar
Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)
Tel: +55 21 554 5955
Fax: +55 21 553 8118
E-mail: lourdesplanas@hotmail.com

OBSERVERS

FAROE ISLANDS (Denmark)

BRÚQV, Hans Johannes
Managing Director
Faroe Seafood Prime P/F
Mykinesgøta 5, P.O. Box 68
FO 110 Tórshavn, Faroe Islands
Tel: +45 298 345 345
Fax: +45 298 345 300
E-mail: hansjohs@faroe.com

KRISTIANSEN, Andras
Director
Ministry of fisheries and Maritime Affairs
Yviri Via Strond 17, P.O. Box 87
FO 110 Torshavn, Faroe Islands
Tel: +45 298 353 030
Fax: +45 298 353 035
E-mail: andrask@fisk.fl.fo

HONDURAS

KATTÁN, Roberto
Avda. Copacabana 1183
Jola 104
CEP 22070-010
Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)
Tel: +55 21 521 2570
Fax: +55 21 267 4593

ICELAND

ASMUNDSSON, Stefan
Ministry of Fisheries
Skulagata 4
150 Reykjavik
Tel: +354 560 9670
Fax: +354 562 1853
E-mail: stefas@hafro.is

RINGSETH, Tom Mario
Consul
General Consulate of Iceland
Praia Flamengo 66, Bl.B G/1015
22228-900 Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)
Tel: +55 21 285 1795

MEXICO

COMPEAN JIMENEZ, Guillermo A.
PNAAPD Campus Cicese
Km. 102, Carretera Tijuana-Ensenada, Ap. 1206
22860 Ensenada, Baja California
Tel: +52 61 745 637
Fax: +52 61 745 638
E-mail: atundelf@cicese.mx

MURILLO CORREA, Mara
Directora General de Política y Fomento Pesquero
Periférico Sur 4209, 5° piso
Jardines en la Montaña
14210 México D.F.
Tel: +52 5 628 0718
Fax: +52 5 628 0898
E-mail: mmurillo@semarnap.gob.mx

NORWAY

JOHANSEN, Thor S.
Consul Geral
Praia do Flamengo, 344, 9° Andar
22210-030 Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)
Tel: +55 21 553 5505
Fax: +55 21 553 1925
E-mail: norkons@rio.com.br

PHILIPPINES

CHEN, Shu
Suite 707, Dazma Corporate Center
321, Dasmarinas St., Binondo
Manila
Tel: +63 2 244 5563
Fax: +63 2 244 5566

CHOO, Geoff
Suite701, Dazma Corporate Center
321, Damarinas St., Binondo
Manila
Tel: +63 2 241 3375
Fax: +63 2 242 9813

ENCOMIENDA, Alberto
Department of Foreign Affairs
Maritime and Ocean Unit
Manila
Tel: +63 2 834 4052
Fax: +63 2 831 4767

GANADEN, Reuben
Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
860 Arcadia Building
Quezon Avenue- Quezon City
Tel: +63 2 372 5058
Fax: +63 2 373 7447

SY, Richard
Suite701, Dazma Corporate Center
321, Damarinas St., Binondo
Manila
Tel: +63 2 241 3375
Fax: +63 2 242 9813

TAN, Daisy
Suite701, Dazma Corporate Center
321, Damarinas St., Binondo
Manila
Tel: +63 2 244 5563
Fax: +63 2 445 566

TURKEY

ORAY, I.K.
University of Istanbul
Faculty of Aquatic Products
Ordu Cad No.206
Laleli - Istanbul
Tel: +90 212 514 0388
Fax: +90 212 514 0379
E-mail: oray@istanbul.edu.tr

CHINESE TAIPEI

CHERN, Yuh-chen
Fisheries Administration
Council of Agriculture
17th floor, N°9 Hsiang Yang Rd.
Taipei
Tel: +886 2 234 97030
Fax +886 2 233 16408

HO, S.C.Peter
Overseas Fisheries Development Council
19 Lane 113, sec. 4
Roosevelt Road
Taipei
Tel: +886 2 273 82478
Fax: +886 2 273 84329
E-mail: qscho@ofdc.org.tw

HOU, Chi-Ho
Tuna Association
3 F 2, no.2, Yu-Kang Middle 1st.Road
Kaohsiung
Tel: +886 1 841 9606
Fax: +886 1 831 3304

HU, Nien-tsu
Office for Marine Policy Studies
National Sun Yat-sen University
Kaohsiung
Tel: +886 7 525 5799
Fax: +886 7 525 6126
E-mail: omps@mail.nsysu.edu.tw

HUANG, Lien-sheng
R. Voluntarios da Patria 45/405
22270-000 Botafogo
Rio de Janeiro (Brasil)
Tel: +55 21 535 0768
Fax: +55 21 537 1031
E-mail: taipeirj@prolink.com.br

HSU, C.C.
Institute of Oceanography
P.O. Box 23-13
Taipei 106
Tel: +886 2 236 22987
Fax: +886 2 236 61198
E-mail: hsucc@ccms.ntu.edu.tw

KO, Weng-fa
Tuna Association
3F-2 Yu-Kang Middles 1st Road
Kaohsiung
Tel: +886 7 841 9606
Fax: +886 7 831 3304

LIN, Weng-chen
Tuna Association
3F-2, No.2 Yu-Kang Middle 1st. Rd.
Chien-Chen District
Kaohsiung
Tel: +886 7 841 9606
Fax: +886 7 8313304
E-mail: kevin@org.tw

WU, Shinn-charng
Fisheries Administration
Council of Agriculture
F17, NO9 Hsiang-Yang Rd.
Taipei 100
Tel: +886 2 2349 7010
Fax: +886 2 2331 6408

WU, Kuo-ching
Tuna Association
3F-2, No.2 Yu-Kang Middle 1st. Rd.
Chien-Chen District
Kaohsiung
Tel: +886 7 841 9606
Fax: +886 7 831 3304
E-mail: twtuna@ksts.seed.net.tw

YEH, Shean-ya
Institute of Oceanography
P.O. Box 23-13
Taipei
Tel: +886 2 236 37753
Fax: +886 2 2392 5294
E-mail: sheanya@ccms.ntu.edu.tw

Interngovernmental Organizations

Caribcan Community & Common Market (CARICOM)

SINGH-RENTON, Susan
CFRAMP (Caricom Fisheries)
LP 123 Western Main Road
Chaguaramas, Trinidad - West Indies
Tel: +868 628 1524
Fax: +868 634 4549
E-mail: renton@tstt.net.tt

Greenpeace International

ROMINE, Traci
Greenpeace
Rua dos Pinheros 240
Sao Paulo S.P. (Brazil)
Tel: +55 11 302 27427
Fax: +55 11 302 27427
E-mail: tromine@amcham.com.br

Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)

ALLEN, Robin L.
Director, IATTC
c/o Scripps Institution of Oceanography
8604 La Jolla Shores Drive
La Jolla, California 92037 (USA)
Tel: +1 858 546 7019
Fax: +1 858 546 7733
E-mail: rallen@iattc.org

Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)

CHASIS, Sarah
NRDC
40 W 20th St., 11th. Floor
NY, NY 10011 (USA)
Tel: +1 212 727 4423
Fax: +1 212 727 1773
E-mail: schasis@nrdc.org

SPEER, Lisa
40 W 20th St., 11th. Floor
New York, New York 10011 (USA)
Tel: +1 212 727 4423
Fax: +1 212 727 1773
E-mail: lspeer@nrdc.org

Seaweb

BOA, Susan
1731 Connecticut Av.
Washington D.C. 20009 (USA)
Tel: +1 202 483 9570.
Fax: +1 202 483 9354
E-mail: sboa@seaweb.org

BROWN, Jessica
1731 Connecticut Av.
Washington D.C. 20009 (USA)
Tel: +1 202 483 9570
Fax: +1 202 483 9354
E-mail: jbrown@seaweb.org

Wildlife Conservation Society

PIKITCH, Ellen
2300 Southern Blvd.
Bronx, New York 10460 USA
Tel: +1 718 220 5885
Fax: +1 718 364 4275
E-mail: epikitch@wcs.org

ICCAT Secretariat

A. Ribeiro Lima
P. M. Miyake
P. Kebe
V. Restrepo
E. Carel
E. Cartuyvels
J. Cheatle
M. A. F. de Bobadilla
J.L. Gallego
C. García Piña
F. García Rodriguez
G. Messeri
A. Moreno Rodriguez
J.A. Moreno Rodriguez
P. Scidita

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COM/99/3	Agenda for Panels 1-4
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COM/99/6	1999 Administrative Report
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COM/99/8	Revised estimated budget and contributions for the 2000-2001 biennial period
COM/99/9	(SCRS/99/9) Report on Statistics and Coordination of Research in 1999 - ICCAT Secretariat
COM/99/10	(SCRS/99/10) Compendium of management recommendations and related resolutions adopted by ICCAT for the conservation of Atlantic tunas and tuna-like species - ICCAT Secretariat
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COM/99/12	(SCRS/99/12) Unreported Atlantic tuna catches - ICCAT Secretariat
COM/99/13	(SCRS/99/13-Rev.) Response to the Commission's 1997 Recommendation concerning unreported and NEI catches - P. M. Miyake, A. Franco, E. Diaz, D. Lopez
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COM/99/17	(SCRS/99/17) Report of the 1st Inter-Tuna-Agency Meeting (Luxembourg, July 10, 1999) - P. M. Miyake
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STATEMENTS & DRAFT PROPOSALS MADE AT THE PLENARY SESSIONS

ANNEX 4-1

Statements By Contracting Parties:

STATEMENT BY BRAZIL

At the outset, allow me to introduce myself. My name is Hadil da Rocha Vianna and I am from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. I sit between the other two Brazilian delegates, Mr. Gabriel Calzavara de Araújo, Head of the Fisheries and Aquiculture Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Mr Fábio Hissa Hazin, Chief Scientist of Brazil in ICCAT. The Brazilian Delegation counts also upon the valuable contribution of representatives of the Ministry of Environment, of the Inter-ministerial Commission for Marine Resources, as well as of the Brazilian Navy. Representatives of state governments and of the fisheries private sector participate as observers. As you may notice, Mr. Chairman, the significant participation of representatives of the Government as well as of the fishing sectors reflects the importance Brazil attaches to ICCAT work and deliberations.

The Brazilian Delegation takes this opportunity to express its satisfaction in hosting this 16th Regular Meeting of the Commission, the last one to take place in this millennium. To hold this meeting in the city of Rio de Janeiro, where ICCAT was born 33 years ago, is emblematic of the moment of transition and modernization that the Commission is going through. We believe that this moment is decisive for ICCAT taking into account the challenges it will have to face and overcome in the next century.

The living marine resources are shared by all peoples of the world, from both developed and developing countries, from coastal countries as well as from countries that fish in distant waters. We are convinced that the difficult yet inevitable path toward sustainable fishing can only be followed if all countries move in the same direction.

With a coastline of more than 8000 km, extending from the south to the north Atlantic Ocean, and more than three million square km of Exclusive Economic Zone, Brazil is a coastal country by definition, and as such depends heavily n marine living resources for the welfare of its population. Having this in mind, we would also like to take this opportunity to reiterate our deepest belief that all fishing activities, in particular those related to the exploitation of the tuna resources of the Atlantic Ocean, must be carried out in a responsible manner and on the basis of sustainability. For this purpose, the Brazilian Government has always made efforts to fully comply with ICCAT resolutions and recommendations. The Brazilian contribution to ICCAT conservation measures contemplates a considerable research and data compilation effort. At this point, I must underline that these efforts have been carried out in the most commendable way by the Brazilian Institute for Environment and Renewable Natural Resources (IBAMA) of the Ministry of Environment, as well as by the Fisheries and Aquiculture Division of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Still in the context of ICCAT measures, I must recall that Brazil does not support those measures that are not applied on equal and balanced basis to all members of the Commission. Therefore, we cannot favor, for example, the application of trade sanctions which have a much more severe impact on developing countries than on developed ones.

Brazil is firmly convinced of its right to develop high seas fishery. The critical conditions of some of the stocks, particularly in the case of highly migratory species, is due to the excessive catches by the long distance fleet of developed countries. Therefore, and as far as stocks recovery efforts are concerned, we believe that these countries should account for the larger portion of the burden. Moreover, we are totally convinced that the reduction of the fishing efforts on some of the species should not be achieved in detriment of the right of developing countries to develop their high seas fisheries - a right that is soundly based and assured in several international legal instruments. Brazil considers of the utmost importance that ICCAT work fully incorporates the provisions of the relevant international instruments related to the conservation and management of marine living resources.

We believe that the allocation of catching quotas based mainly, if not solely, on historical catches directly harms this right. Many members of ICCAT including Brazil have been seriously concerned with this issue. As you well know, and

Ad Hoc Working Group has been established to discuss the matter and to propose new criteria. A complete consensus has not yet been reached but, in our view, great progress has been made nonetheless.

Finally; I would like to inform the Commission that in its recent meeting in Hobart, Australia, the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Living Marine Resources (CCMLAR) designated the Brazilian Delegation to represent it in this XVI ICCAT Regular Meeting.

Mr. Chairman, as we welcome all Delegations to Rio, Brazil reiterates is conviction that the goodwill to cooperate that has always inspired the works of this Commission will lead us once more to the most fruitful outcomes.

STATEMENT BY CANADA

Canada would like to thank the SCRS's *Ad Hoc* Working Group on the Precautionary Approach for all the constructive work that has been done since its creation in 1997.

This work is a positive step that will provide the foundation for programs in ICCAT on the Precautionary Approach. Canada strongly supports the Precautionary Approach and we intend to continue to assign a high priority to its implementation in ICCAT.

The Precautionary Approach is a relatively new concept in fisheries management. Several international organizations are also studying the approach to demystify it and develop practical strategies for its application.

The implementation of the Precautionary Approach to fisheries management recognizes the need for appropriate limits and biological reference points.

At the present time our ability to establish these limits is constrained by the lack of good scientific data. ICCAT stocks are currently not information-rich. In fact, over half of the stocks are information-poor. As responsible fisheries managers, we need to improve the basic inputs and provide better and basic information on these stocks. With better data we can reduce uncertainty in stock assessment and more precisely quantify biological reference points to guide our management decisions.

I would also emphasize that the Precautionary Approach is not limited to the development of reference points. They need to be complemented by appropriate measures to ensure compliance with our conservation measures. Establishing limits on paper that are ignored in practice will do nothing to rebuild stocks and provide sustainable fisheries.

Canada again thanks the SCRS for their work and also for reminding the Commission that the choices of risks and targets for the implementation of the Precautionary Approach lies with fisheries managers. We are also responsible for the establishment of management and compliance measures that will ensure the safeguard of the resource.

In other Commissions, good progress in implementing the Precautionary Approach has been made by bringing resource managers and fisheries scientists together. Such sessions have helped to generate a pragmatic understanding of management approaches to give practical effect to the Precautionary Approach. Once we have benefitted from the results of the FAO Expert consultations on the Precautionary Approach, have further advice from the SCRS working group, it would be appropriate for this Commission to consider sponsoring a joint meeting of scientists and fisheries managers.

STATEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

The delegation of the European Community would like to present its compliments to the chairman, the organizers and all participants of this Sixteenth Regular Meeting of the Commission. We would like to thank the Brazilian government for giving us the opportunity to hold this meeting in this magnificent city of Rio de Janeiro.

We are conscious of the growing importance of the management of tuna fisheries in general, and very particularly within ICCAT. As we approach a new millennium, the challenges we face are ever increasing, and so is the need for participation and co-operation amongst all of us.

In this year's meeting, there are in our view several especially prominent issues: the management of swordfish and bigeye, and compliance issues.

We are also conscious of the importance of the on-going work of the working group on Allocation Criteria. The experience of the first meeting in Madrid has been very encouraging. All participants showed a clear willingness to find a common ground of understanding, and what we achieved in Madrid is a very good start on this difficult matter.

For a successful conclusion of this working group, we must strike a reasonable balance between the rights of traditional fleets and the legitimate aspirations of States wishing to develop their fishing industries. Achieving this balance will not be easy. It will take time and good will from everyone. It will have to be based on the evolution of the important established basis of ICCAT, not on their disruption. We want a good agreement. We should not rush our work simply to get a quick agreement. At the same time, we must not unduly prolong the process. In this respect too, a reasonable balance must be found. These discussions should proceed without delay, but outside the framework of this annual meeting, in order to provide sufficient time to the working group to develop a consensus on the fundamental issues.

The management of swordfish is another fundamental issue at this meeting. As was the case with Bluefin Tuna in 1998, the Community considers that the management measures adopted by ICCAT should guarantee a reasonable balance between the conservation of resources and the legitimate interests of fishermen. On this basis, the TAC on swordfish should take into account:

- The degree of uncertainty of the scientific evaluation,
- The acceptability to fishermen of the limitation measures, which is fundamental to achieve effective control, and
- The socio-economic importance of fishing activities to certain communities that are highly dependent on their fisheries.

Let us avoid extreme positions. ICCAT can only work properly on the basis of co-operation and well balanced, equitable solutions. We should we get away from dogmatic positions and try to strike a balance between conservation and the economic viability of our fishing industries. The Community hopes that a spirit of co-operation and consensus will prevail, allowing us to arrive to equitable and realistic solutions.

On the question of the allocation of these TACs we believe that the status quo should prevail until the working group on allocation criteria concludes its work.

Concerning tropical tuna, the Community wishes to reiterate its position that an adequate management measure should be workable and non discriminatory. Measures that cannot practically be applied, or which are applicable only to certain fleets, cannot constitute effective and balanced solutions. The problems are real; we are particularly concerned about the dramatic increase in fishing effort by long-liners in recent years. Given the characteristics of fisheries for tropical tunas, the best type of solution should be the establishment of capacity ceilings to limit total effort; combined with time/area closures as the best instrument to reduce catches of juveniles. In fact, measures on capacity have already been taken by ICCAT, and the time/area closure for the FAD fishery in the Gulf of Guinea has already demonstrated its effectiveness.

The question of compliance is of growing importance in ICCAT, and elsewhere. Compliance represents, no doubt, one of the most difficult and vital challenges that ICCAT must face in the next millennium. We understand that in this fundamental issue there is much to improve, especially in certain areas and by many, if not all Parties. And the problem of flags of convenience, still largely unresolved, represents the most serious threat to the effectiveness of our organization. Action on this problem is a priority for the Community.

The Community is fully committed to make progress in ICCAT's compliance measures so as to substantially improve the general adherence with ICCAT recommendations in all areas. To this end, and in line with the need to update ICCAT measures following the most recent developments in international law, we wish to promote the adoption of an updated, specific and comprehensive control and inspection scheme for ICCAT, adapted to the characteristics of tuna fisheries and to the specific problems of certain areas.

The Community also wishes to take advantage of this opportunity to welcome all new Contracting Parties of ICCAT. We look forward to a fruitful co-operation with all these new contracting parties and specially with Panama, whose efforts to co-operate with ICCAT must be appreciated and welcomed. We would also like to encourage other countries, with an obvious interest in ICCAT tuna fisheries, to join the new contracting parties in our organization so that we all co-operate to achieve the common goals of ensuring sustainable exploitation of tuna resources.

Finally, the Community understands that international law is changing, and ICCAT cannot turn a blind eye to these changes. However, we should also duly appreciate the importance of ICCAT's traditional asset of measures and practices. Any necessary updating of ICCAT measures, like some of the ongoing ones (working group on allocation criteria, control scheme, precautionary approach) should be based on an evolutionary, non-disruptive approach. ICCAT has achieved considerable progress in ensuring sustainable management of tuna fisheries. These achievements cannot be thrown overboard. They should be the basis which the ICCAT of the 21st century should build upon.

STATEMENT BY FRANCE (St. Pierre & Miquelon)

We should like, first of all, to thank the Brazilian authorities for having organized this 16th Regular Meeting of ICCAT in Rio de Janeiro.

This is the second time which France has participated on behalf of Saint-Pierre and Miquelon. We had two reasons for joining ICCAT:

The first is a legitimate concern to benefit from the possibilities offered to coastal communities which depend essentially on fishing, within the competent international structure.

The second is a desire to participate in the development of international cooperation against illegal fisheries, both on the High Seas and in Exclusive Economic Zones.

In relation to this second point, we remind you that France is present, on behalf of its overseas territories not covered by Community fisheries policy, in many parts of the world. We consider that a coherent approach should be taken by the various fisheries organizations in the framework of international law, respecting the regional characteristics of each species and the geographic areas concerned.

The first path to cooperation is, it seems to us, the communication of accurate catch data, even if only very small catches are made, as is the case with Saint Pierre and Miquelon.

The second way is the establishment of ICCAT's own monitoring scheme, adapted to the characteristics of the fisheries in the areas concerned, as provided for in the New York Agreement on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks.

We are ready to participate actively in the work which could be carried out in this context

STATEMENT BY JAPAN

In response to concerns of the international community with the sustainability of commercial fishery resources world wide, the committee on Fisheries of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) adopted in February this year, an International Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity in order to rectify excess fishing capacity on a global basis. World tuna fisheries, including those subject to ICCAT regulations, fit perfectly in the situation which the FAO Plan of Action tried to address.

The Plan of Action, in particular, requires urgent measures to be taken by international fisheries, and refers specifically to a 20 to 30 percent reduction for large-scale tuna longline fleet. Japan has, in accordance with the letter and spirit of the Plan of Action, implemented a 20 percent or 132 vessel reduction and scrapping of its tuna longline fleet. We sincerely and strongly request that other nations and entities with large-scale tuna longline fleet do likewise.

It is quite ironic and deplorable that the reduction of tuna longline fleet made by Japan and to be made by others is being more than offset by the ever-increasing activities of flags-of-convenience (FOC) and other unreported/unregulated vessels. As you remember, Japan submitted at the last year's Commission meeting, the list of 190 FOC vessels which we had derived from import data. We will distribute a revised list of such vessels at an appropriate time during this Commission meeting. The new number is as high as 300. My Government and Japanese fishermen cannot endure such a situation where most of tuna caught by these vessels come to the Japanese Sashimi market and owners of these vessels profit at the expense of our fishermen losing their jobs. More fundamentally, FOC activities undermine or even torpedo the conservation and the management measures which this Commission adopted through hard negotiations among its members.

No one sensible can disagree that such irresponsible fishery operations must be ended. This is a time when ICCAT, if it wishes to be a responsible regional fishery organization, must initiate concrete actions with teeth to this end.

Fortunately, this Commission has been very cognizant of the seriousness of this problem. It adopted last year a *Resolution Concerning the Unreported and Unregulated Catches of Tunas by Large-Scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area.* We must follow up what this Resolution required us to do by identifying and giving clear warning to countries which have allowed FOC owners to fly their flags intentionally or inadvertently. Those countries so identified would be required to report to us what actions they would have taken, or otherwise they would face such sanctions as the Commission deems appropriate.

The Commission must also make a very strong policy statement, in the form of it's new resolution, to tackle the problem from a broader perspective. Up to the present time, we have tried to deal with the issue by way of requiring more enforced flag-state responsibility. The Commission must make this point in a more action-oriented fashion, i.e. requesting each country not to allow problematic vessels into their vessel registration.

But, as we see many vessel owners have shopped around for various flags, the approach based solely on the flag-state responsibility proved too insufficient. Importers and consumers should be alerted appropriately so that they can avoid associating themselves with tunas and tuna products caught and produced by FOC or unreported/unregulated activities. Simply put, let us declare that there will be no vessel registration or market for these vessels.

Countries and entities where owners or real controllers of FOC vessels reside should also bear a certain burden to rectify the situation.

Japan looks forward very much to working together with other members at this Commission meeting so that this Commission can produce a really effective mechanism to eliminate these misconducts.

STATEMENT BY NAMIBIA

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Good morning, I am very pleased to advise you that Namibia has now deposited its instrument of ratification to the ICCAT Convention with the Secretary General of FAO, and is now a member of the Commission. This makes Namibia, as one of the world's newest nations, also the newest ICCAT member.

Mr. Chairman, we are conscious of the great responsibilities that follow from becoming a member of ICCAT, and we are ready to meet those responsibilities.

The fisheries sector is very important to Namibia. It is already the second biggest sector in the Namibian economy, contributing 10% of our GDP, and over 20% of our exports, and we expect it to grow substantially in importance in the future. We know that there are important resources of tuna and other highly migratory species within our Exclusive Economic Zone. We already have a significant tuna industry based on catches of albacore tuna, and we are planning for substantial development of our fisheries for tuna and other highly migratory species.

Mr. Chairman, Namibia is now joining ICCAT because we have ratified the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement, and we see that Agreement as providing a new basis for the management and conservation of highly migratory species which properly recognize the interests of coastal states, especially of developing coastal states.

Our participation in ICCAT will be based on the principles set out in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea relating to the sovereign rights and duties of coastal states, and the duties of all states to cooperate in the management of highly migratory species, and the high seas generally, as further detailed in the new UN Fish Stocks Agreement.

Mr. Chairman, I am also pleased to advise that Namibia will participate in the work of Panels 1, 3 and 4.

May I close by extending our thanks to the Government of Brazil for hosting this meeting in this beautiful city. During our short period of involvement with ICCAT, we have come to appreciate the great contribution of Brazil to the workings of ICCAT, and we thank the Government of Brazil for this continuing contribution.

STATEMENT BY PANAMA

This is the first time that Panama has attended an ICCAT meeting as a Contracting Party and we are pleased to be hear. At this time, we would like to comment on the efforts Panama has made to comply with the Commission's recommendations.

In 1997, a fishing license system was created which is the authorization that the Panamanian government grants for high seas fishing. This marked the start of the "clean up" of the Panamanian vessel registry to eliminate and withdraw licenses from those vessels that do not observe the conservation and management measures of multilateral fishing organizations. It also requires that those vessels provide catch statistics.

A satellite monitoring system (VMS) has been established which it required by all the fishing vessels with an international fishing license.

Panama has accepted the ICCAT Port Inspection Scheme.

Panama has established an inspection system of Panamanian flag vessels in order to comply with the HACCP rules, and which is obligatory for all vessels.

With the assistance of Dr. Peter Miyake, a document was prepared on Panama's responses to the Commission recommendations, which outlines the history of the Panamanian fleet, its recent changes, and its catch statistics.

Panama responded to the note from the Head Delegate of Japan concerning nine different vessels that were assumed to be Panamanian vessels and the presentation of legal which indicate that these vessels are no currently in Panama's vessel registry.

Additionally, the plans of the Maritime Authority of Panama contemplate a tax levied per ton of fish caught, and the observer program.

All these activities represent additional costs to the vessels that are registered to Panama for which the panorama of a tax paradise is now excluded for Panamanian flag vessels. The flag of Panama is not a cheap one, it has high costs which signify benefits to Panama in one way or another.

Finally, we cite the words expressed in the letter that the United States sent to ICCAT regarding this meeting: ICCAT is facing a new and challenging situation with respect to the decision that it had to adopt with Panama. The Panamanian delegation with respect to this matter clearly sees an opportunity that the message be clear to the rest of the nations that have not done anything to rectify their fishing practices and for this reason it invites the Commission plenary to recognize the efforts that Panama has put forth to comply with the ICCAT recommendations.

STATEMENT BY THE UNITED KINGDOM (Overseas Territories)

The United Kingdom, in respect of its overseas territories participating in ICCAT, is grateful to the Government of Brazil for hosting this meeting in the fine location of Rio de Janeiro.

The number of United Kingdom overseas territories participating in ICCAT has increased since the 15th meeting. There are now five: Bermuda, Anguilla, Turks and Caicos Islands, St Helena and its dependencies of Tristan da Cunha and Ascension Island, and the Falkland Islands. Unfortunately, due to the cost and difficulty of travel from some of the territories, only the Government of Bermuda has been able to send representatives this year. The other territories send their regrets that they cannot be here. They wish other ICCAT members well with the meeting and will look at the results closely.

As other delegates will be aware, the United Kingdom's membership of ICCAT in respect of the overseas territories is quite separate from the representation of the United Kingdom mainland through its membership of the European Community.

The five overseas territories, for reasons of geography and economic development, bring varied interests in the stocks managed by ICCAT. This year, for example, we will join Panel 3 for the first time, to take account of St Helena's interest in southern tuna. As a result, we will henceforth be a member of all four Panels. This wide membership reflects the diversity

of our interest in ICCAT. In comparison to many other members, our actual catches are very small. They are however very important to the territories involved.

We look forward to participating in discussions this week. I would like to comment briefly now on just three of the points on the draft agenda.

On Agenda item 7, the implementation of the Madrid Protocol: the United Kingdom in respect of its overseas territories looks forward to the entry into force of the Protocol and the revised assessment of budgetary contributions based inter alia on the economic status of each ICCAT member. We look forward to paying our due contributions on the basis of the economic status five overseas territories represented, which is not related to the economic status of the UK mainland.

On item 8, the report of the Working Group on allocation criteria. The United Kingdom in respect of its overseas territories fully supports the work of this group, the conclusion of which should be a priority. We look forward to a further meeting of the group as soon as possible. The five territories have among them interests in both the existing ICCAT allocations and in appropriate provision to enable future entrants to ICCAT fisheries to develop such fisheries in a manner fully compatible with ICCAT recommendations.

On item 9, ICCAT responsibilities in relation to international fishery agreements, the United Kingdom in respect of its overseas territories believes that is important for ICCAT to act in a constructive way in relation to these agreements. Some good work has already been done. It is important that ICCAT, which has a lot to offer from its long years and established measures, demonstrates its flexibility to respond to the changing world situation and to take into account generally recommended international minimum standards.

Finally, I would like to say that although small, the United Kingdom's overseas territories take international obligations seriously. I am pleased to inform this meeting that political approval has now been given for the United Kingdom acting in respect of its overseas territories to ratify the U.N. Agreement on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks. Our instrument of ratification will be deposited later this month, We look forward to the early entry into force and the positive impact on world fisheries which implementation of this Agreement will have.

STATEMENT BY THE UNITED STATES

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am Robert L. Mallet, Deputy Secretary of Commerce, and I am pleased and honored to be addressing you on behalf of the United States of America, at this, the start of the Sixteenth Regular Meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas.

As all of you know, the fisheries under ICCAT’s purview are important global resources and it is in our collective interest to keep these fisheries healthy and sustainable. Yet, sadly, this organization has presided over the decline of many of the resources it was created to conserve and manage. This has happened despite the goal of the Convention to maintain stocks at levels that will produce the maximum sustainable catch. As ICCAT members, we must renew our commitment to the Convention’s goal. Among the significant challenges facing ICCAT, this is the one that needs to be addressed first and foremost.

I am encouraged by the steps taken last year by the Commission to begin the rebuilding process for one heavily exploited ICCAT stock – western Atlantic bluefin tuna. This year, the situation of North Atlantic swordfish is offering us a unique opportunity to rebuild a stock in a relatively short period of time. We think that a 10-year rebuilding period will produce the best result for the species. If we take this opportunity, we can preside over the recovery of a fishery as opposed to its decline. We should seize this opportunity to develop and implement a credible rebuilding program, and in doing so we will witness a rapid recovery of North Atlantic swordfish.

In addition to the will to take bold conservation actions, rebuilding fish stocks requires a strong commitment to compliance with ICCAT management measures. The progress made by ICCAT in recent years to ensure compliance is significant, but problems remain. For ICCAT to be effective, making meaningful agreements and holding to them is essential. We know, for example, that there are large overages in harvests of undersized fish, failure to report fishery statistics in a timely fashion, and illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing. We must be creative in finding ways to address these threats. Unfortunately, our hand is weakened by continued and significant non-compliance by some ICCAT members as well as the hesitance of members to lead the way in conservation.

We recognize that in developing conservation measures we must consider the socio-economic situation of harvesting nations. Nevertheless, our goal should be sustainable fisheries that comprise both healthy stocks and viable fishing fleets. If we make the commitment to rebuild our stocks, we will enjoy both.

Thank you for your attention, and I wish you all a successful meeting.

ANNEX 4-2

Statements By Observers:

STATEMENT BY THE OBSERVER FROM DENMARK (Faroe Islands)

I want to thank ICCAT for inviting the Faroe Islands to attend your Commission meetings. My government regards this step by ICCAT as recognition of the Faroe Islands as a pertinent co-operating partner to ICCAT.

The Faroe Islands are a small nation in the North Atlantic totally dependent on fisheries. The fishing industry is fundamental for the economy of the Faroe Islands. Therefore, in order to uphold its economy, the Faroe Islands have to exploit all accessible fish resources in its fishery zone.

The Atlantic bluefin tuna is one of the fish resources that are accessible in the Fishery Zone of the Faroe Islands. With reference to pertinent provisions in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), the Faroe Islands reserve its rights to utilize this resource in its own fishery zone.

In accordance with this assertion, the authorities of the Faroe Islands have accommodated requests from Japanese vessel owners, in co-operation with Faroese partnerships, to undertake an exploratory fishery for Atlantic bluefin tuna in Faroese waters since 1997. The exploratory fishery was expanded in 1998 by also granting Faroese vessel licenses.

The fishery has been under supervision of the Fisheries Laboratory of the Faroe Islands, where admission of observers on-board has been a prerequisite for obtaining a license. In addition, a strict reporting procedure to the Faroese Coast Guard has been requested. Another important requirement for obtaining licenses has been full compliance with pertinent adopted recommendations by ICCAT with regard to the Atlantic bluefin tuna, in particular, the Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document.

The Japanese vessels have been requested to provide the Faroese authorities with documentation for possessing licenses from Japanese authorities to fish for Atlantic bluefin tuna.

In 1997, the catches of Atlantic bluefin tuna in the Faroese zone were 228 MT, in 1998 they amounted to 237 MT and the preliminary catch figures for this year are 162 MT.

The exploratory fishery has persuasively outlined a significant distribution of the Atlantic bluefin tuna in the Faroese waters. Based on these findings and in harmony with legal instruments such as the UNCLOS and the UN Agreement on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, the Faroe Islands have to be respected as a coastal state with regard to the Atlantic bluefin tuna.

This status should entitle the Faroe Islands to an appropriate share of the adopted quota for this species.

The Faroe Islands has considered the possibility of becoming a Contracting Party to ICCAT. As the present allocation key for the Atlantic bluefin tuna does not take into account the status of the Faroe Islands as a coastal state and as a newcomer to this fishery, such a movement cannot be realized under the current circumstances. With regard to newcomers, I would like to draw your attention to Article 11 of the U.N. Agreement on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks.

However, the Faroe Islands welcome that ICCAT has initiated a first step in a process away from this position by setting up the Working Group on Allocation Criteria.

The Faroe Islands follow this process very carefully and would like to thank you for the opportunity to attend the meeting of this Working Group in Madrid in May/June, 1999.

At the meeting, we supported a draft proposal for elements of allocation criteria submitted by Brazil. In this regard, I would like to refer to Article 1-e, f, j and Article 4. These proposed provisions take into account the interests of coastal states whose economies are overwhelmingly dependent on exploitation of living marine resources.

The Faroe Islands are fully aware of the concern ICCAT is faced with in regard to the fishing activities of non-contracting parties to ICCAT.

We share your concern.

In this context, I would like to emphasize that the authorities of the Faroe Islands, in order to co-operate with ICCAT, have refused admittance to vessels from non-contracting Parties of ICCAT to transship their catches in Faroese ports.

I would also like to inform you that the Faroe Islands, in accordance with recommendations made by NAFO and by NEAFC, in which the Faroe Islands are an active partner, have prohibited and refused admittance to vessels from non-contracting parties of these organizations to transship their catches in Faroese ports.

Although the Faroe Islands under the current conditions cannot apply to become a Contracting Party to ICCAT, the Faroe Islands will continue to request foreign vessels fishing for tuna in Faroese waters to comply with ICCAT recommendations as well as its own vessels.

Taking into account the presence of Atlantic bluefin tuna in Faroese waters and the conception of the Faroe Islands as a coastal state in this respect, the Faroe Islands are willing to continue the discussion with ICCAT with a view to have its rights accommodated.

SECOND STATEMENT BY THE OBSERVER FROM DENMARK (Faroe Islands)

The Faroe Islands have been pleased to participate in this 16th Regular meeting of ICCAT. The main interests for the Faroe Islands for attending your meetings are related to the eastern bluefin tuna.

As stated in our opening statement the distribution pattern of the eastern Atlantic bluefin tuna qualify the Faroe Islands as a coastal State in respect to this stock. An experimental longline fishery in the Faroese Fishery Zone by Japanese and Faroese vessels has demonstrated that this stock is fishable in a viable and sustainable way in our zone.

It is the view of my Government that the status as a coastal State should entitle the Faroe Islands an appropriate share of the TAC adopted for this stock.

The Faroe Islands are concerned over the over-fishing of this stock, which has taken place for many years and are ready to support management measures, which can stop this unfortunate development.

The Faroe Islands, however, are not responsible for the mistakes of the past and cannot accept being excluded from the allocation because of these mistakes.

The Faroe Islands is considering the possibility of becoming an ICCAT Contracting Party.

The Recommendation by ICCAT on the limitation of catches of bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean (Ref: 98-5), however, gives rise for concern in this regard, as it may be interpreted as having the effect of prohibiting fishery for those Contracting Parties which have not been fishing for this stock in 1993 or 1994, irrespective of the actual distribution of the stock in question and the status of Contracting Parties as coastal States.

Therefore, as the recommendation ignore the rights of the coastal States, the Faroe Islands cannot associate itself with this Recommendation on limitation of the catches of bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic.

Although, in our view, this inappropriate decision by ICCAT, I will emphasize the gratitude of the Faroe Islands to ICCAT by establishing the Working Group on Allocation Criteria. The Faroe Islands carefully follows the work of this group. We look forward to this process paving the way for the rights of coastal States as well as those states with economies overwhelmingly dependent on fishing being fully respected with regard to future allocation of TACs adopted within ICCAT.

Having said this the Faroe Islands want to stress their willingness otherwise to cooperate with ICCAT and comply with its management measures.

STATEMENT BY THE OBSERVER FROM ICELAND

Iceland has participated in the meetings of ICCAT as an observer since the year 1995 and will continue this participation.

Iceland is a coastal state regarding eastern Atlantic bluefin tuna. It has been emphasized in this forum before that this gives Iceland clear interests and rights as well as giving those who currently harvest tuna in the Atlantic duties towards Iceland under international law.

Iceland strongly supports the principle of the need for co-operation between coastal states and distant water fishing states in managing fishing from straddling and highly migratory fish stocks such as tuna. However, since the special position of coastal states which is recognized in international law is not respected in ICCAT, it is impossible for Iceland to join the Commission under the current circumstances.

We are hopeful that the work of the ICCAT Working Group on Allocation Criteria will change those circumstances and make it possible for Iceland to become a member of ICCAT. Iceland will continue its participation as observers in the Working Group with great interest.

Iceland is committed to acting responsibly in tuna fisheries as it is in all other fisheries. To this end Iceland will continue to refuse vessels which have been fishing for tuna access to Icelandic ports unless they are flying the flag of a coastal state or fishing from ICCAT quotas.

Iceland will also continue carrying out scientific research on bluefin tuna and informing ICCAT of our findings.

Finally, Iceland would like to stress the need for responsible management measures for Atlantic tunas. Those measures should take account of the need to conserve the tuna stocks so they can be harvested at MSY-level and give coastal states room to develop their tuna fisheries.

STATEMENT BY THE OBSERVER FROM MEXICO

In the name of Mexico, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to participate, as we have in other years, in the Regular Meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, and to thank the Government of Brazil for its hospitality and kindness to our delegation.

During this meeting, my delegation has expressed its concerns on a number of items to which it assigns particular importance for their implications in the conservation and sustainable use of living marine resources and in the development of fishing in Mexico.

At the 15th Regular Meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, Mexico explained that there is a Mexican tuna longline fishery in the Gulf of Mexico that is directed at yellowfin tuna, but which catches bluefin tuna incidentally. In view of this, Mexico requested a bluefin tuna quota of 120 MT for the Mexican fleet, which we reiterate at this the 16th Regular Meeting.

On the other hand, considering the distribution of swordfish in the North Atlantic throughout the Mexican Exclusive Economic Zone and the potential that these resources represent, Mexico is carrying out the necessary work to develop a swordfish fishery. Furthermore, swordfish is a species that is caught incidentally in the yellowfin fishery. In this sense, Mexico has requested a quota of 200 MT of swordfish to be able to catch this species, both as a directed fishery and as by-catch, within Mexico's Exclusive Economic Zone.

As regards other issues, Mexico has reiterated its concern for the generalized use of fish aggregating devices (FADs) and for the transfer of fishing effort with this fishing method towards other seas. Besides, Mexico proposed that the Commission conduct studies aimed at defining, in the short-term, additional measures to reduce mortality on juveniles (such as the prohibition of the use of FADs), carry out scientific research to quantify the incidental catches of other species that are not targeted by this fishery, and which lead to the adoption of measures to avoid such catches.

Mr. Chairman, Mexico has cooperated for more than 20 years with the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, implementing management and conservation measures that are compatible with those adopted by the Commission. Mexico has reiterated and has clearly demonstrated its concern in continuing this cooperation, not only by transmitting statistical information, but also through bilateral cooperation with other countries to carry out scientific research projects which broaden the knowledge on the fish populations under ICCAT mandate.

Finally, Mexico wishes to express the importance it gives to the work of the Working Group on Allocation Criteria and its participation in the Group, as well as the urgency of arriving at a consensus, which includes all the pertinent elements expressed in the proposal presented by Brazil, and which Mexico supports as a Cooperating Party. If no solution is reached that takes into account the interests and concerns of everyone, then the efforts made in favor of the conservation and sustainable use of the living marine resources in the Atlantic are at risk, and thus the future of this Commission.

Mexico reiterates its willingness to continue cooperating in the work of the Commission aimed at assuring the sustainable development of fishing.

Thank you.

STATEMENT BY THE OBSERVERS FROM THE NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL, WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY, AND SEAWEB

Swordfish in the North Atlantic are seriously over-fished and are seriously over-fished and have declined precipitously over the last three decades. This year's ICCAT meeting marks a crucial opportunity to reverse the long history of over-fishing and depletion of north Atlantic swordfish and begin rebuilding. Conservation organizations call on ICCAT to adopt a rebuilding program for north Atlantic swordfish beginning in 2000 that will rebuild the population in ten years or less to a level necessary to produce maximum sustainable yield with a high probability of success, based on:

-- an 8,000-9,000 MT quota for the next ten years in order to ensure that the total mortality, including discards and overages, does not exceed 10,000 MT as recommended by the ICCAT Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS);

-- provision for updated stock assessments every two years to ensure the recovery is on track, and establishment of precautionary reference points, as specified in the United Nations Agreement on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, that will trigger pre-agreed management corrections to ensure recovery targets are met within the prescribed recovery period; and

-- Supplemental international management measures, including time-area closures, to provide additional protection for spawning and juvenile swordfish, encouraging individual nations to take action domestically to protect swordfish nursery areas.

In October, 1999, the ICCAT scientific committee concluded that quota reduction adopted to date have slowed and perhaps even stopped the hemorrhaging; now the question is how to get the patient back on his feet. The ICCAT scientific committee estimated that the total mortality, including discards and any overages, needs to be reduced from roughly 12,000 MT to 10,000 MT in order to have only about a 50% change -the same as a flip of a coin- of restoring swordfish within 10 ten years. In order to prevent the total mortality level from exceeding 10,000 MT, the quota will have to be reduced below that figure to account for discards and overages.

A quota level of 8,000-9,000 MT will help ensure that the total catch will not exceed 10,000 MT.

According to the SCRS, the total catch, including discards and overages, ha exceeded the quota by about 10% per year. According to the SCRS, the recovery of north Atlantic swordfish is extremely sensitive to even small overages, and a 10% increase beyond 10,000 MT is likely to spell the difference between recovery and no recovery. Now is not the time to take chances - quotas during the rebuilding period should be sufficiently precautionary to ensure a high probability of success. A quota level of 8,000 to 9,000 MT is the only way to be confident that the actual catch will not exceed 10,000 MT, and will provide a margin of safety that will help ensure the recovery is actually achieved.

Updated stock assessment and precautionary reference points will help keep the recovery on track.

Swordfish are at a critical juncture, with the population vulnerable to further declines if catches exceed recommended

amounts by even a small margin. Updated stock assessments every two years will be essential to monitoring the success of the recovery plan. The recovery plan should build in precautionary reference points that trigger pre-agreed management strategies if the recovery appears to be faltering, as provided for in the UN Agreement on Straddling Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stock, which has been ratified by the United States and Canada, and signed by the European Union and Japan. Measures to protect juvenile swordfish are essential.

An increasing proportion of the catch - as high as 58% and more in some nations - consists of juvenile swordfish that have not had the opportunity to spawn and replenish the population. An essential element of recovery is protection of small fish through time-area closures and other measures. Supplemental measures to protect swordfish nursery areas should be included, without jeopardizing the ability of the United States and other nations to take action domestically to protect swordfish nursery areas within their own waters.

ANNEX 4-3

Draft Proposals:

BY THE UNITED STATES: Resolution Concerning Atlantic Sharks (Not adopted)

Noting that more than 350 shark species inhabit both the pelagic and coastal areas and that information on stock sizes, biological parameters, by-catch levels and effects of by-catch are insufficient;

Further noting that some shark species are incidentally caught in fisheries targeting tuna and tuna-like species in the Convention Area;

Recognizing the growing concern that some of these species are fully exploited or over-exploited;

Further recognizing, in this regard, the potential negative impact that increased shark catches may have on populations of particular shark species, given their unique biological and reproductive characteristics;

Reaffirming the obligation of all Contracting Parties, Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities to provide data on shark catch and harvest levels in fisheries for tuna and tuna-like species in the Convention Area;

Concerned that relatively few Contracting Parties, Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities have provided such data thus far;

Welcoming the International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks, adopted in November 1999 by the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO);

Noting that the International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks expressly calls upon States to cooperate internationally, including through regional fishery organizations and arrangements such as ICCAT;

Recognizing that at present sharks are generally not subject to specific conservation and management measures by regional fishery organizations or arrangements;

Recalling the *Resolution on Cooperation with FAO with Regard to Study on the Status of Sharks and By-catch of Shark Species,* adopted by ICCAT in 1995;

ICCAT RESOLVES THAT:

Contracting Parties, Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities should:

1 Fulfill their obligations to provide data on shark catch and harvest levels in fisheries for tuna and tuna-like species in the Convention Area to the ICCAT SCRS Sub-Committee on By-Catches.

2 Participate actively in the efforts of FAO to collect biological data, such as stock abundance and by-catch levels, as well as trade data, on shark species, as called for in the 1995 *Resolution on Cooperation with FAO with Regard to Study on the Status of Sharks and By-catch of Shark Species*.

3 Prepare and submit their respective National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks to the 2001 session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries, as set forth in the International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks.

4 Adopt domestic management measures that prohibit the practice of finning sharks and protect juvenile sharks in coastal pupping and nursery areas.

5 Promote and encourage the live release of juvenile sharks incidentally caught in fisheries for tuna and tuna-like species in the Convention Area.

6 Be prepared to consider, at the 2000 ICCAT meeting, further actions that ICCAT could take to address to conservation and management of sharks.

BY THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY: Resolution Concerning the Development of an Integrated Monitoring Scheme and its Implementation (Not adopted)

Considering that monitoring of the effective implementation of conservation and management efforts is a fundamental element to the success of such measures;

Noting that there are already various elements relating to monitoring and implementation within ICCAT;

Considering that it would be more efficient to assemble and complete these measures in order to establish a complete, coherent scheme of our own;

Considering that such a scheme should take into account the nature of the fisheries and the characteristics of the geographical areas in which these fisheries operations take place;

Recognizing that this is a complex task which should be undertaken without delay,

ICCAT RESOLVES:

1 To create a Working Group to establish a monitoring scheme, the terms of reference of which will be:

a) To review the existing measures and examine their relevance with regard to the evolution of ICCAT objectives

- To create a monitoring and implementation scheme, incorporating the existing relevant measures and complementing them with any measures which appear necessary

2 In the exercise of its functions, the Working Group:

a) Will receive assistance from the ICCAT Secretariat
b) Will establish a work schedule in cooperation with the Secretariat
c)Will make every effort to hold at least one inter-sessional meeting before the next Commission meeting

and

3 Invite observers to ICCAT meetings, FAO and other regional fishery organizations to participate in the Working Group meetings.

ANNEX 5

RECOMMENDATIONS & RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION

ANNEX 5-1

RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CLOSED AREA/SEASON FOR THE USE OF FISH-AGGREGATION DEVICES (FADs)

RECALLING that in 1998 ICCAT adopted a *Recommendation Concerning the Establishment of a Closed Area/Season for the Use of Fish Aggregation Devices (FADs)* between 1 November 1999 and 31 January 2000;

RECALLING that the strict application of the minimum weight of 3.2 kg for bigeye and yellowfin would entail the loss of very important catches of adult skipjack;

NOTING that the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) has considered that this type of measure can significantly contribute to the reduction of the catches of juvenile bigeye;

NOTING that SCRS has considered that the effect of this measure would be higher if all the surface fleets fishing on FADs participate in this closure;

CONSIDERING that, for the first time in 2000, SCRS will analyze the impact of the measure on the stocks as well as the area and the dates of this measure, and will recommend any change that may be deemed necessary to improve its effectiveness;

CONSIDERING that for this measure to be most effective it has to be applied by all surface fleets fishing on FADs,

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

1 Fishing by surface fleets flying the flag of Contracting Parties, Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities over floating objects, shall be prohibited during the period and the area specified in paragraphs 2 and 3 below:

2 The area referred to in paragraph 1 is the following:
-- Southern limit: parallel 4° South latitude
-- Northern limit: parallel 5° North latitude
-- Western limit: meridian 20° West longitude
-- Eastern limit: the African coast

3 The period covered by the prohibition of paragraph 1 will be from 1 November of one year to 31 January of the following year.

4 The prohibition referred to in paragraph 1 includes:
-- Prohibition to launch all floating objects;
-- Prohibition to fish over artificial objects;
-- Prohibition to fish over natural objects;
-- Prohibition to fish with auxiliary vessels;
-- Prohibition to set at sea artificial floating objects with or without buoys;
-- Prohibition to charge buoys in the floating objects found at sea;
-- Prohibition to remove floating objects and to wait that associated fish to the objects will be associated to the boat;
-- Prohibition to tug floating objects outside the zone.

5 The Commission requests SCRS to analyze, for the first time in 2000, the impact of this measure on the stocks and to recommend any change that may be deemed necessary to improve its effectiveness, in order to evaluate the possible modifications to apply to the closure.

6 Contracting Parties, Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities shall ensure that all surface fleets concerned by this measure have an observer on board, during the whole duration of the period, who shall observe the respect of the prohibition referred to in paragraphs 1 to 4. The biological data collected on the fleet as a whole by these observers should be provided to the SCRS for the purpose of carrying out analyses identified in paragraph 5.

7 Contracting Parties, Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities will establish internal procedures to penalize surface fleets flying its flag that do not comply with the closure. They will present an annual report on their implementation to the Secretariat. The Executive Secretary will make a report to the Commission.

8 The observers should possess the following skills in order to discharge their duties:
- -- Sufficient experience to identify species and gear
- – Navigational skills
- -- A satisfactory knowledge of the ICCAT conservation measures
- -- The ability to carry out elementary scientific tasks e.g collecting samples, as requested and observe and record accurately,
- – A satisfactory knowledge of the language of the flag of the vessel observed.

ANNEX 5-2

RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT TO ESTABLISH A REBUILDING PROGRAM FOR NORTH ATLANTIC SWORDFISH

RECOGNIZING that the Commission's Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) has indicated in the 1999 stock assessment that the North Atlantic swordfish stock is over-exploited (B<Bmsy, F>Fmsy, i.e. current biomass is 65% of the biomass at MSY and current fishing mortality is 1.34 times that of the MSY level), and that the expected 1999 catch level of 11,800 MT, with a greater than 50% probability, will result in a decline in stock status;

NOTING that the current base case assessments indicate that the decline in the North Atlantic swordfish biomass appears to have been slowed or arrested due to recent reductions in reported catch;

NOTING FURTHER that there are positive signs from the fishery in terms of catch rates with just two years of management action under the strict quota scenarios introduced in 1997;

NOTING that the observed high recruitment of age one fish in 1997 and 1998 should allow for increases in spawning biomass in the future and a more optimistic outlook, if these year classes are not heavily harvested;

RECALLING the resolution of ICCAT 98-17 relative to the elaboration of recovery scenarios for north and south Atlantic swordfish, adopted in 1998.

CONSIDERING the recovery scenario to reestablish the stocks of north Atlantic swordfish developed by the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) in 1999 pursuant to paragraphs 1 and 2 of the *Resolution on Recovery Scenarios for North and South Atlantic Swordfish*;

RECALLING that the objective of the Convention is to maintain stocks of fish at levels which permit the maximum sustainable yield (MSY);

NOTING that dead discards of swordfish may occur due to compliance with minimum size and catch of predator-damaged fish;

RECALLING that a rebuilding plan must account for all sources of fishing mortality, and that dead discards of North Atlantic swordfish reported to ICCAT have averaged 500 MT over the past three years;

RECALLING that the 1995 recommendation establishing percentage shares of Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for nations fishing for north Atlantic swordfish did not include the amount of each nation's dead discards reported to SCRS in the calculation of national quota shares, nor have such dead discards counted against national quotas since 1995;

STRESSING the immediate need to improve small fish conservation;

DESIRING to achieve, with greater than 50% probability, stock and catch levels consistent with the objectives of the Convention within 10 years;

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

1 The Contracting Parties, Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities whose vessels have been actively fishing for swordfish in the North Atlantic will implement a 10-year rebuilding program with the goal to achieve Bmsy, with greater than 50% probability, beginning in 2000 and continuing through 2009.

2 For this purpose, a total allowable catch (TAC), inclusive of dead discards, of 10,600 MT, 10,500 MT, and 10,400 MT for the years 2000, 2001 and 2002, respectively, is established. Starting in 2003 and thereafter, the TAC may be adjusted according to SCRS advice and in a manner consistent with paragraph 1.

3 The allocation of the annual TAC, inclusive of dead discards, will be as indicated below:

a A dead discard allowance will be deducted from the TAC in the first three years as follows:

YEAR	DEAD DISCARD ALLOWANCE
2000	400 MT
2001	300 MT
2002	200 MT

The dead discard allowance will be phased out by 2004. The TAC, minus this allowance for dead discards, is the amount of catch that can be retained;

b The United Kingdom (Overseas Territories) receives a quota (for catch that can be retained) of 24 MT;

c The remainder of the TAC, after subtracting the allowance for dead discards and the quota for the United Kingdom (Overseas Territories), will be allocated according to the 1996 *Recommendation on Establishment of Percentage Shares of Total Allowable Catch (TAC) and Overage and Underage Provisions for Nations Fishing for North Atlantic Swordfish* adopted by the Commission in 1995:

ALLOCATION OF CATCH THAT CAN BE RETAINED AND TOTAL DEAD DISCARD ALLOWANCE

Country	Share	2000	2001	2002
European Community	49.85%	5073 MT	5073 MT	5073 MT
United States	29%	2951 MT	2951 MT	2951 MT
Canada	10%	1018 MT	1018 MT	1018 MT
Japan	6.25%	636 MT	636 MT	636 MT
Others	4.9%	498 MT	498 MT	498 MT
UK (Overseas Territories)		24 MT	24 MT	24 MT
Total Catch to be Retained		**10,200 MT**	**10,200 MT**	**10,200 MT**
Dead Discard Allowance		400 MT	300 MT	200 MT
TOTAL		**10,600 MT**	**10,500 MT**	**10,400 MT**

• *Includes all EC Member States, including those that were "Others" in the previous management recommendations. Percentage shares for EC and "Others" have been adjusted accordingly.*

d The Other Parties (Contracting Parties, Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities) shall each reduce their landings from their allowed levels under the *1997 Supplemental Recommendation to ICCAT Regarding Catches of North Atlantic Swordfish for 1998 and 1999*, by an amount proportional to the reduction necessary to achieve the reduction in total catches that can be retained under "Others." The caps for these years were based on a 45% reduction in each country's 1996 landings as reported in the 1997 SCRS report, unless landings were less than 100 MT, in which case the landings were capped at 1996 levels.

e The allocations in this paragraph will be reviewed in the light of recommendations from the Working Group on Allocation Criteria.

4 The distribution of the allowance of dead discards will be 80% for the United States and 20% for Canada. If a Contracting Party's fishing activity results in an amount of dead discards in excess of the Contracting Party's allowance, it must deduct the amount in excess of the allowance from its allocation of catch that can be retained in the following year. If a Contracting Party's fishing activity results in fewer dead discards than its allowance, the difference between the amount of dead discards and the allowance shall be added to the total catch that may be retained by all Contracting Parties, Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities in subsequent years, as calculated by the Commission.

5 Unused quota from the previous year may be added to the subsequent year's quota that can be retained, consistent with the *Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding Compliance in the Bluefin Tuna and Atlantic Swordfish Fisheries*, adopted at the 1998 Commission meeting.

6 Provisions of the *Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding Compliance in the Bluefin Tuna and North Atlantic Swordfish Fisheries* adopted at the 1996 Commission Meeting, and the *Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding Compliance in the Bluefin Tuna and Atlantic Swordfish Fisheries*, adopted at the 1998 Commission meeting, shall be applied to the implementation of the country quotas in paragraph 3 and for over-harvests that occurred in 1998 and/or 1999, for each Contracting Party, Non-Contracting Party, Entity and Fishing Entity. Each year is considered a separate management period, as that term is used in the *Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding Compliance in the Bluefin Tuna and North Atlantic Swordfish Fisheries*, except for Japan, for which the management period is five years (e.g. 1997-2001). Japan is provided a second five-year management period for 2002-2006, pending satisfactory review of Japan's landings at the 2000 Commission meeting.

7 If Japan's landings exceed its quota in any year, the overage shall be deducted in subsequent years such that total landings for Japan shall not exceed its total quota for the five-year period commencing in 1997. When annual landings by Japan are less than its quota, the underage may be added to the subsequent years' quota, such that total landings for Japan do not exceed its total for the same five year period. Any underages or overages from the first five-year management period will be applied to the second five-year management period. Japan's quota for 1997, 1998 and 1999 was 706.25 MT, 687.5 MT, and 668.75 MT, respectively. At the Commission meeting in the year 2000, the Commission shall conduct a comprehensive review of Japan's landings.

8 All Contracting Parties, Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, and Fishing Entities catching swordfish in the North Atlantic shall endeavor to provide annually the best available data to the SCRS, including catch, catch at size, location and month of capture on the smallest scale possible, as determined by the SCRS. The data submitted shall be for the broadest range of age classes possible, consistent with minimum size restrictions, and by sex when possible. The data should also include discards and effort statistics, even when no analytical stock assessment is scheduled. The SCRS should review these data annually.

9 In the year 2002, and thereafter every three years, SCRS will conduct a stock assessment and provide advice relative to paragraphs 2 and 3.

10 In order to protect small swordfish, Contracting Parties, Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, and Fishing Entities 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, or in the alternative, 125 cm lower jaw fork length (LJFL); however, the Contracting Parties, Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities 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 swordfish per landing of the total swordfish catch of said boats.

11 Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 10, any Contracting Parties, Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities may choose, as an alternative to the minimum size of 25 kg/125 cm LJFL, to take the necessary measures to prohibit the taking by its vessels in the Atlantic Ocean, as well as the landing and sale in its jurisdiction, of swordfish and swordfish parts, less than 119 cm LJFL, or in the alternative 15 kg, provided that, if this alternative is chosen, no tolerance of swordfish smaller than 119 cm LJFL, or in the alternative 15 kg, shall be allowed. A Party which chooses this alternative shall require appropriate record keeping of discards.

12 Notwithstanding the provisions of Article VIII, paragraph 2, of the Convention, with respect to the annual country quotas established above, the Contracting Parties, Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities whose vessels have been actively fishing for North Atlantic swordfish shall implement this recommendation as soon as possible in accordance with the regulatory procedures of each Contracting Party, non-Contracting Party, Entity and Fishing Entity.

ANNEX 5-3

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 The Contracting Parties, non Contracting Parties, entities or fishing entities should support national and international research programs in order to reduce the current uncertainties about the structure, mixing and boundaries of the swordfish stocks. These research programs should, as recommended by the SCRS in 1999, be based on genetic analysis, tag-recapture study and other techniques scientifically appropriate for this goal.

2 The SCRS should co-ordinate the efforts developed by the different Contracting Parties, non Contracting Parties, entities or fishing entities and evaluate the results of the programs. The results of these programs for the refinement of the stock structure and boundaries will be considered in the next swordfish assessment.

ANNEX 5-4

RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT REGARDING BELIZE AND HONDURAS PURSUANT TO THE 1995 SWORDFISH ACTION PLAN RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING the authority and responsibility of ICCAT to manage populations of swordfish in the Atlantic Ocean and its adjacent seas, at the international level;

NOTING the need for all non-Contracting Parties, Entities, and Fishing Entities fishing for swordfish in the Atlantic Ocean and its adjacent seas to join ICCAT or cooperate with ICCAT's conservation and management measures;

RECALLING the Commission's past actions over many years to encourage Belize and Honduras to cooperate with ICCAT conservation and management measures for Atlantic swordfish;

CONSIDERING the import data submitted to the Commission by its Contracting Parties, in recent years, including 1999, which reveals significant exports of Atlantic swordfish by Belize and Honduras;

EXPRESSING CONCERN with regard to the over-fished status of swordfish in the Atlantic Ocean;

RECALLING the Commission's *Resolution for an Action Plan to Ensure the Effectiveness of the Conservation Program for Atlantic Swordfish*, adopted in 1995, to ensure the effectiveness of the conservation for Atlantic swordfish;

RECOGNIZING that effective management of swordfish stocks cannot be achieved by Contracting Parties of ICCAT whose fishermen are forced to reduce their catches of Atlantic swordfish unless all non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities cooperate with ICCAT in connection with its conservation and management measures;

CALLING ATTENTION to the 1998 decision by the Commission identifying Belize and Honduras as countries whose vessels have been fishing for Atlantic swordfish in a manner which diminishes the effectiveness of the ICCAT swordfish conservation measures, and recognizing that the decision was based on trade and vessel sighting data;

CAREFULLY REVIEWING information regarding the efforts by the Commission to get the collaboration of Belize and Honduras over the past year, including recognition of the fact that there has been an unsatisfactory response from Belize to ICCAT requests, no response from Honduras, and no substantive action from either nation to rectify the situation and,

NOTING that this Recommendation does not prejudice the rights and obligations of Contracting Parties based on other international agreements; Therefore,

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

a Contracting Parties take appropriate measures, consistent with provisions of the *Resolution by ICCAT for an Action Plan to Ensure the Effectiveness of the Conservation Program for Atlantic Swordfish*, to the effect that the import of Atlantic swordfish and its products in any form from Belize and Honduras be prohibited, effective from the time this Recommendation enters into force.

b The Commission again request that Belize and Honduras cooperate with ICCAT by ensuring that these vessels fish in a manner and extent consistent with ICCAT conservation and management measures and by providing catch statistics to ICCAT in accordance with ICCAT procedures.

c The Commission continue to encourage participation by Belize and Honduras in all ICCAT meetings.

d Contracting Parties lift the import prohibitions on either of the two countries referred to in paragraph (a) above, upon the decision of the Commission and receipt of notification from the ICCAT Executive Secretary that fishing practices of that country have been brought into consistency with ICCAT measures.

ANNEX 5-5

RESOLUTION BY ICCAT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF POSSIBLE TIME/AREA CLOSURES FOR NORTH AND SOUTH ATLANTIC SWORDFISH AND GEAR MODIFICATIONS TO REDUCE UNDERSIZED SWORDFISH CATCH AND FISHING MORTALITY

NOTING the need to take measures regarding the gears used during periods when their impact is more pronounced on undersized swordfish than on adults;

CONSIDERING the continued need for Contracting Parties to reduce their catches of undersized swordfish in accordance with prior Recommendations by the Commission;

ALSO CONSIDERING the need for action to ensure the effectiveness of ICCAT objectives to conserve and manage North and South Atlantic swordfish;

RECALLING the highly migratory characteristics of swordfish, including undersized swordfish, as well as the difference in the abundance of these undersized swordfish at different times and in different areas of the Atlantic;

NOTING that the Commission's Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) has considered time/area closures and gear modifications for other ICCAT species as an effective approach to reduce catches of undersized fish;

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

1 The SCRS shall analyze and identify times and areas for possible closure in the Atlantic that would contribute to the protection of undersized North and South Atlantic swordfish.

2 In order for SCRS to analyze effectively possible time/area closures in the Atlantic, Contracting Parties, Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, and Fishing Entities shall provide data on catch at size, by sex, location, and month of capture on the smallest scale possible as determined by SCRS.

3 The SCRS shall conduct the necessary studies to determine whether modifications in longline gear configurations and use can reduce catches of undersized swordfish.

4 The SCRS should provide a report on this topic at the Commission Meeting in 2002.

ANNEX 5-6

RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT CONCERNING POSSIBLE MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR NORTHERN ALBACORE

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

RECALLING that SCRS has recommended over the last years that fishing mortality on this stock should not be increased with regard to the current level;
assert

CONSIDERING that, in order to prevent a further increase in fishing mortality, it is necessary to limit the fishing capacity at the level of recent years or to implement any other appropriate management measures;

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

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

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

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

1 The Commission reiterates its Recommendation of 1998 concerning the limitation of fishing capacity of vessels, exclusive of recreational vessels, fishing for northern albacore from 1999 onwards, through a limitation of the number of vessels to the average number in the period 1993-1995.

2 The Commission requests the SCRS to carry out an evaluation of the fishing capacity of the different fleets/gears that participate in the fishery with a view to establishing effective fishing effort correspondence, taking as the reference period the years 1993-1995. Contracting Parties, Non-Contracting Parties/Entities/Fishing Entities which have directed fisheries for northern albacore will provide SCRS with all the information required to establish fishing effort correspondence. In the event of the continuation of the lack of data, the SCRS should estimate the missing data from those available.

3 In the event that SCRS will not be able to ascertain the correspondence of effective fishing effort among gears, or if the SCRS feels that the existing management measures are insufficient to limit fishing mortality, it may suggest any other appropriate management measures, including different possible stock recovery scenarios, as necessary, taking into account the scientific assessment of the stock at that time.

4 Contracting Parties will provide the best available Task I and Task II data that will enable the SCRS to accomplish these analyses.

ANNEX 5-7

RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT TO EXTEND THE SOUTHERN ALBACORE MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENT AND TO IMPROVE MONITORING

RECALLING the 1998 *Recommendation on Revision, Implementation and Sharing of the Southern Albacore Catch Limit* which called for countries, entities and fishing entities actively fishing for southern albacore to adopt a management arrangement for this species, and calling for other countries to limit their southern albacore catch;

NOTING that the actively fishing countries, entities and fishing entities have indicated that their projected catch in 1999 will likely be within the 27,200 MT limit set for these four parties;

FURTHER NOTING that control of this fishery is necessary to avoid overexploitation of the stock;

RECOGNIZING that the establishment of a long-term sharing arrangement should be negotiated once there is further progress in the efforts of the ICCAT Working Group on Allocation Criteria;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING that problems were experienced in reporting in 1999 and desiring to improve such reporting;

DESIRING to improve timely monitoring of the fishery, particularly in those four "actively fishing" countries, entities and fishing entities;

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

1 The United States endeavor to limit its total catch of southern albacore to no more than 4% by weight of its total longline swordfish catch in the Atlantic Ocean south of 5 degrees North.

2 The 1998 recommendation be amended as noted in point 1, and extended to include the 2000 fishing year.

3 Countries, Entities and Fishing Entities improve their monitoring systems for southern albacore catches so as to ensure that catches are reported to the designated Contracting Party within two (2) months of such catches having been made.

ANNEX 5-8

RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT CONCERNING THE IMPORTATION OF BLUEFIN TUNA AND ITS PRODUCTS FROM PANAMA

RECALLING the adoption of the *Resolution by ICCAT Concerning an Action Plan to Ensure Effectiveness of the Conservation Program for Atlantic Bluefin Tuna* in 1994;

RECALLING as well the 1995 decision by ICCAT identifying Panama as a country whose vessels have been fishing for Atlantic bluefin tuna in a manner which diminishes the effectiveness of the ICCAT bluefin tuna conservation measures;

NOTING the adoption in 1996 of the *Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding Panama Pursuant to the 1994 Bluefin Tuna Action Plan Resolution*, pursuant to which Contracting Parties took appropriate measures to the effect that the import of Atlantic bluefin tuna and its products in any form from Panama have been prohibited, effective from 1 January 1998;

FURTHER RECALLING the 1998 decision by ICCAT identifying Panama as a country whose vessels have been fishing for Atlantic swordfish in a manner which diminishes the effectiveness of the ICCAT swordfish conservation program;

RECOGNIZING the steps that the Government of Panama has recently taken to reduce substantially the activities of its fishing vessels that were identified as diminishing the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation measures relating to Atlantic bluefin tuna and Atlantic swordfish;

ALSO RECOGNIZING, in this regard, the letter of 25 October 1999 from the Maritime Authority of Panama, which identifies the measures the Government of Panama has adopted to comply with its commitments under the Convention, including, since November, 1997, not authorizing the registration of any bluefin tuna fishing vessel in the ICCAT area; reducing the Panamanian registry to 85 vessels with an authorized International Fishing License; compiling data on fishing area, method, and species that can be caught for all vessels with an International Fishing License; refusal to validate any Bluefin Tuna Statistical Documents since 1997; and undertaking efforts to apply the ICCAT Port Inspection Scheme to Panamanian flag vessels that carry out fishing activities in the ICCAT Convention Area;

CONCERNED nevertheless that evidence still exists to indicate that some Panamanian vessels may be fishing in a manner that diminishes the effectiveness of these measures;

WELCOMING the fact that, in December, 1998, Panama became an ICCAT Contracting Party;

NOTING the commitment of the Government of Panama to comply with all ICCAT resolutions and recommendations, including those relating to the conservation and management of bluefin tuna;

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

1 Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities shall lift the import prohibition on Atlantic bluefin tuna and its products that was imposed pursuant to the *Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding Panama Pursuant to the 1994 Bluefin Tuna Action Plan Resolution* .

2 Notwithstanding the provisions of Article VIII, paragraph 2, of the Convention, the Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities shall implement this recommendation as soon as possible in accordance with the regulatory procedures of each Contracting Party and Cooperating Non-Contracting Party, Entity and Fishing Entity.

ANNEX 5-9

RESOLUTION BY ICCAT ON IMPROVING RECREATIONAL FISHERY STATISTICS

RECOGNIZING that in accordance with the terms of the Convention, it is the responsibility of each Contracting Party to provide annually on a timely basis, data relating to fishing activities in the Convention Area for species of interest to the Commission;

RECALLING that the Commission, through its Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS), has established minimum data reporting requirements comprised of Task I and Task II, and length sampling annual statistics for all tunas and tuna-like fishes as defined by the Convention, by flag vessels, by fishing area and time, and by gear (e.g., longline, purse seine, baitboat, trap, troll, other methods, and by recreational gears);

CONSIDERING that lack of compliance with the minimum data reporting requirements established diminishes the effectiveness of the Commission;

CONSIDERING that ICCAT managed species provide important benefits to recreational fishery activities and that these benefits may not be achieved through management that relies primarily on quotas, effort and access limitations, and commercial fishing gear limitations;

RECOGNIZING that the scientific information that can be obtained from recreational fishing can be substantial; for example fish can be tagged and released without adversely affecting the recreational experience.

NOTING that information and scientifically collected data concerning the extent of and participation in recreational fishery activities are generally lacking;

RECOGNIZING that these activities generally occur almost exclusively within waters outside the high seas;

DESIRING that significant improvements be made in the routine, standardized submission of data concerning the use of ICCAT-managed species;

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

1 Beginning in 2000, each Contracting Party, Cooperating Non-Contracting Party, Entity, or Fishing Entity provide specific data to SCRS that allow the Commission to determine separately the magnitude of recreational fisheries of each species of Atlantic tuna and tuna-like fish.

2 Beginning in 2000, each Contracting Party, Cooperating Non-Contracting Party, Entity, or Fishing Entity should include a discussion in their annual national reports to ICCAT of the techniques used to manage these fisheries.

3 The Commission urge all Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities not referred to above to act in conformity with operative paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Resolution.

4 That SCRS carry out an examination of the extent of recreational fisheries and their effects on Atlantic tuna and tuna-like resources.

ANNEX 5-10

RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT REGARDING EQUATORIAL GUINEA PURSUANT TO THE 1996 *RECOMMENDATION REGARDING COMPLIANCE IN THE BLUEFIN TUNA AND NORTH ATLANTIC SWORDFISH FISHERIES*

RECOGNIZING the authority and responsibility of ICCAT to manage populations of tuna and tuna-like species in the Atlantic Ocean, and its adjacent seas, at the international level;

EXPRESSING CONCERN with regard to the over-fished status of bluefin tuna in the Atlantic Ocean;

NOTING the obligation of all Contracting Parties to comply with ICCAT conservation and management measures;

RECOGNIZING that effective management of bluefin tuna stocks cannot be achieved unless all Contracting Parties comply with ICCAT conservation and management measures;

RECALLING the actions of the Commission over many years in calling upon Equatorial Guinea to comply with ICCAT conservation and management measures for Atlantic bluefin tuna;

RECALLING the Commission's *Resolution for an Action Plan to Ensure the Effectiveness of the Conservation Program for Atlantic Bluefin Tuna*, adopted in 1994 to ensure effective conservation of Atlantic bluefin tuna;

RECALLING FURTHER the 1996 *Recommendation Regarding Compliance in the Bluefin Tuna and North Atlantic Swordfish Fisheries*, which provides for the possibility of imposing import restrictions, consistent with each Contracting Party's international obligations;

CONSIDERING the import data and other compelling information submitted by ICCAT Contracting Parties for 1997, 1998, and 1999, which reveal significant exports of Atlantic bluefin tuna by Equatorial Guinea, despite the fact that, for those years, Equatorial Guinea has had a catch limit of zero for both east and west Atlantic bluefin tuna stocks;

MINDFUL of the repeated efforts of the Commission to express its concerns to, and seek the cooperation of, Equatorial Guinea over the past several years;

NOTING with concern the fact that Equatorial Guinea has not responded to the expressions of concern from the Commission and has reported no bluefin tuna catch data; and

FURTHER NOTING that this Recommendation does not prejudice the rights and obligations of Contracting Parties based on other international agreements; Therefore,

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

a Contracting Parties take appropriate measures, consistent with provisions of the 1996 *Recommendation Regarding Compliance in the Bluefin Tuna and North Atlantic Swordfish Fisheries* to the effect that the import of Atlantic bluefin tuna and its products in any form from Equatorial Guinea be prohibited, effective from the time this Recommendation enters into force.

b The Commission again call upon Equatorial Guinea, as a Contracting Party to ICCAT, to comply with all the ICCAT conservation and management measures.

c Contracting Parties lift the import prohibitions on Equatorial Guinea, upon the decision of the Commission that fishing practices of Equatorial Guinea have been brought into compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures.

ANNEX 5-11

RESOLUTION BY ICCAT CALLING FOR FURTHER ACTIONS AGAINST ILLEGAL, UNREGULATED, AND UNREPORTED FISHING ACTIVITIES BY LARGE SCALE LONGLINE VESSELS IN THE CONVENTION AREA AND OTHER AREAS

RECALLING that ICCAT adopted at its 1998 meeting a *Resolution Concerning Unreported and Unregulated Catches of Tunas by Large Scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area*, and a *Recommendation Concerning Registration and Exchange of Information of Bigeye Tuna Fishing Vessels*,

BEING CONCERNED that illegal, unregulated, and unreported fishing activities by large scale tuna longline vessels activities in the Convention Area have continued and increased, and that such activities diminish the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures,

RECOGNIZING that there is evidence to indicate that many owners of vessels engaged in such fishing activities have reflagged their vessels to avoid compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures and to evade the non-discriminatory trade restrictive measures that ICCAT has adopted,

BEING CONCERNED that many of these vessels are shifting their flag from Non-Contracting Parties to Contracting Parties,

BEING INFORMED that most of these vessels are owned and operated by Chinese Taipei's business entities while almost all of their products are being exported to Japan,

BEING AWARE that a majority of these vessels used to be Japanese vessels and were exported, whereas most of the remaining vessels were built in Chinese Taipei,

SUPPORTING the joint effort by Japan and Chinese Taipei to eliminate large-scale tuna longline vessels engaged in illegal, unregulated, and unreported fishing, i.e. scrapping of Japanese origin vessels and reflagging of Chinese Taipei built vessels to Chinese Taipei under its own registration,

RECOGNIZING with grave concern that a number of large-scale tuna longline vessels which are currently under construction in the Chinese Taipei's shipping yards with equipment/devices largely supplied from Japan, have high potential of engaging in illegal, unregulated, and unreported unregulated fishing activities,

BEING AWARE that further action must be taken to deter unreported and unregulated fishing activities in the Convention Area and other areas,

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

1 The Contracting Parties, Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities shall ensure that large-scale tuna longline vessels under their registry do not carry out illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing activities in the Convention Area and other areas (e.g. by means of denying such vessels a license to fish).

2 The Contracting Parties, Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities shall take every possible action, consistent with the relevant laws,

   i to urge their importers, transporters and other concerned business people to refrain from engaging in transaction and transshipment of tunas and tuna-like species caught by vessels carrying out illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing activities in the Convention Area and other areas.

ii to inform their general public of illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing activities by tuna longline vessels which diminish the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures and urge them not to purchase fish harvested by such vessels, and

iii to urge their manufacturers and other concerned business people to prevent their vessels and equipment/devices from being used for the illegal, unregulated and unreported longline fishing operations in the Convention Area and other areas.

3 The Commission urges all Non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities not referred to above to act in conformity with operative paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Resolution.

4 Notwithstanding paragraph 1, the Commission praises Chinese Taipei's effort to establish a proper scheme to allow the registration of Chinese Taipei built vessels which have engaged in illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing activities and urges Chinese Taipei to continue and strengthen this effort. The Commission also urges Japan, in cooperation with Chinese Taipei, to scrap Japan-built vessels engaged in illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing activities in the Convention Area and other areas.

ANNEX 5-12

RESOLUTION BY ICCAT CONCERNING THE NEED FOR NEW APPROACHES TO DETER ACTIVITIES THAT DIMINISH THE EFFECTIVENESS OF ICCAT CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES

RECOGNIZING that ICCAT has adopted a wide variety of conservation and management measures designed to attain the goal of the Convention of maximum sustainable catches of tuna and tuna-like species in the ICCAT Convention Area;

CONCERNED that, despite the adoption of these measures, more than half of the major stocks of species managed by the Commission continue to be at levels below that necessary to provide maximum sustainable catch, while most other stocks appear to be at or near full exploitation levels;

REAFFIRMING the responsibility of flag States to ensure that vessels flying their flags do not engage in fishing activities that diminish the effectiveness of international conservation and management measures, such as those adopted by ICCAT;

NOTING that the 1995 Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 Relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks and the 1993 Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measure by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas, which set forth in detail the responsibility of flag States in this regard, have not yet entered into force;

AWARE that some flag States remain unable or unwilling to fulfill this responsibility;

ENDORSING, in this regard, paragraph 33 of the International Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity, adopted in 1999 by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations ("FAO"), which provides that "States should recognize the need to deal with the problem of those States which do not fulfill their responsibilities under international law as flag States with respect to their fishing vessels, and in particular those which do not exercise effectively their jurisdiction and control over their vessels which may operate in a manner that contravenes or undermines relevant rules of international law and international conservation and management measures";

CONVINCED that, to deal with this problem successfully, Contracting Parties, Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities need to consider new measures and approaches beyond those that have been adopted by ICCAT to date;

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

1 The Commission fully endorse the initiative of the FAO to develop an international plan of action to combat illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing and encourages all Contracting Parties, Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities to participate actively in this undertaking.

2 All Contracting Parties that have not yet done so should consider becoming party to the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 Relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, as well as the Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measure by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas as soon as possible.

3 The Commission encourages each Contracting Party, Non-Contracting Party, Entity and Fishing Entity to participate in efforts to ensure the sustainability of marine living resources in the Convention Area, as called for in the International Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity.

ANNEX 5-13

RESOLUTION BY ICCAT ENDORSING THE INTERNATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF FISHING CAPACITY (IPOA)

RECALLING that the FAO Committee on Fisheries adopted the International Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity (IPOA) in February 1999,

FURTHER RECALLING that the Rome Declaration on the Implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (the Code) adopted by the FAO Ministerial Meeting on Fisheries in March 1999 underlines the important role of regional fishery management organizations in respect of the implementation of the Code,

NOTING that Japan's initiative to implement the reduction in the number of large-scale tuna longline fishing vessels by 20% (132 vessels) by scrapping of those vessels in accordance with the IPOA,

ALSO NOTING that Chinese Taipei's previous efforts of reducing by 136 vessels, or 16%, its large-scale longline fleet during 1991-1995, and its commitment to take further reduction of large-scale tuna longline fishing vessels in accordance with the IPOA,

ALSO NOTING that the European Community has introduced a Multi Annual Program for the management of its fishing capacity,

ALSO NOTING Korea's previous efforts of reducing its large-scale tuna longline fleet by 73 vessels, since 1991,

RECALLING that the ICCAT is now undertaking a measure to limit the fishing capacity for bigeye tuna,

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

1 Endorse the FAO International Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity (IPOA) and attaches high priority to its implementation,

ANNEX 6

REPORT OF THE 1ST MEETING OF THE ICCAT WORKING GROUP ON ALLOCATION CRITERIA

Madrid, Spain - May 31 to June 2, 1999

1. Opening of the Meeting

1.1 The meeting of the ICCAT Working Group on Allocation Criteria was opened by the Commission Chairman, Mr. Rafael Conde de Saro. The Chairman welcomed the delegations and wished them an enjoyable stay, and he also thanked the Government of Spain for hosting this meeting.

1.2 The Chairman stressed the importance of this meeting both to ICCAT and to other regional fisheries management organizations. He stated that he expected the development of points to be a slow, deliberate process, and called for patience and careful consideration of these issues.

1.3 The Chairman then welcomed the large representation of Contracting Parties (Brazil, Canada, China, Croatia, Equatorial Guinea, European Community, Japan, Libya, Morocco, Panama, South Africa, Tunisia, United Kingdom (Overseas Territories), United States, Uruguay, and Venezuela and many observers (Belize, Colombia, Faroe Islands, Guatemala, Iceland, Malta, Mexico, Namibia, Norway, Philippines, Turkey, Chinese Taipei, Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) and the Latin American Organization for Fishery Development (OLDEPESCA) The List of Participants is attached as **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 6**.

1.4 Panama was welcomed as a new member of the Commission.

2. Adoption of Agenda

2.1 The Tentative Agenda, circulated in advance of the meeting, was introduced and some changes were introduced. The Agenda was adopted and is attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 6**.

3. Nomination of Rapporteur

3.1 The United States proposed Mr. David Kerstetter to serve as Rapporteur for the meeting. The Brazilian Delegation offered to cooperate in the rapporteur effort and proposed Mr. Sergio Gomes de Mattos. The Chair recognized the departure with this method from other years, but approved both nominations, noting that two Rapporteurs should result in a more polished product.

4. Opening Statements

4.1 The following Contracting Party Delegations made opening statements: Brazil, the European Community (EC), Japan, South Africa, and the United States, as well as the following Observers: Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands), Guatemala, Iceland, Mexico, Namibia, Norway, the United States, CARICOM and OLDEPESCA.

4.2 The opening statements made and submitted in writing from the European Community, Japan, and the United States, and the observers from Iceland, Namibia, Turkey, and OLDEPESCA are included as **Appendix 3** to this report.

4.3 The Delegate from Brazil thanked the Secretariat for the organization of this meeting. He noted his awareness of the importance of this meeting and commented that this meeting is an occasion to exchange substantive ideas with colleagues. Other delegations were urged to keep the dialogue open during this process. The position of Brazil is that

international legal agreements must be examined with other allocation criteria, and the results of this meeting will affect other international organizations.

4.4 The Observer from Mexico stated that management is important, but that there needs to be a greater negotiable distribution of the quotas between all countries, including Contracting Parties and cooperating parties and entities. He noted that compliance and cooperation is important to the allocation issue. In addition, he commented that the needs of states developing fisheries were important. He suggested that the practice of basing allocation on catch history should be improved and stressed the need for more accurate statistics. The allocation criteria discussed at this meeting need to be general in nature, but with emphasis on scientific and statistical data. The Delegate of Mexico noted that Mexico's cooperation with ICCAT will continue.

4.5 The Observer from Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands) opened with a statement that it is a small community in the North Atlantic that is totally dependent on fisheries resources. Recent changes in the migratory patterns of bluefin tuna into their waters have caused them to take interest in ICCAT. The Faroese Delegate also stated the importance of the rights of coastal states in this discussion and their continuing support of sustainable management.

4.6 The Observer from CARICOM thanked ICCAT for the invitation to the meeting and stated that this organization recognizes this important issue of allocation. The Delegate of CARICOM noted that the members of this organization are all coastal states in which fisheries are important to social, cultural, and economic development, and stressed sustainable marine and human resources.

4.7 The Observer from Guatemala also thanked ICCAT, and noted that this is the first time that he was participating in an ICCAT meeting. While Guatemala does not have a lengthy fishing history for ICCAT species, fishery resources have been of increasing importance to the country since the end of their armed conflict. He expressed his country's willingness to participate in the management of these resources as well as the Guatemalan commitment to sustainable management.

4.8 The Observer from Norway thanked ICCAT for the opportunity to participate in this meeting as an observer, and expressed best wishes for this meeting. The Norwegian Delegate noted that the various U.N. agreements require parties to cooperate in the management of highly migratory species. She also commented on the importance of getting fishing effort under control in the high seas.

4.9 The Delegate from South Africa briefly thanked ICCAT for the arrangements of this meeting and commented on the history resulting in this meeting. He specifically referred to the 1997 inter-sessional meeting of Panel 4 meeting in Brazil and the Multi-lateral Consultation in South Africa in 1998. Two important issues emerged from the Panel 4 meeting: one, that coastal and developing states received either a small percentage share or no allocation, and two, that Contracting Parties and others were not to increase catch above recent levels. This resulted in certain states not being able to develop their fisheries. The South African Delegate suggested a number of possible allocation criteria, such as adherence to conservation measures, needs of developing coastal states, and the dependence of the state on the fishery, among others. The four countries present at the Cape Town meeting in April, 1998, concurred with these criteria, but no formal quota agreement was reached or established. The Delegate suggested that there may be a paradigm shift needed to provide for developing fisheries.

5. Review of the Mandate of the Working Group on Allocation Criteria

5.1 The Delegate of the European Community noted concern that this Working Group will question current allocations rather than its mandate of examining criteria to apply to future allocations. The EC Delegate also noted that ICCAT jurisdiction applies to both outside and inside Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) waters.

5.2 The Delegate from Morocco stated that they were part of ICCAT and favorable to the Working Group mandate. He raised the issue that in regards to the future of ICCAT, the current situation raises concern, and also expressed hope that delegates remain open to all proposals, and that a good methodology for review of the allocation issue is developed. The Delegate of Morocco added that the allocation criteria that will be adopted should be applied to the stocks of all the species managed by quota schemes in the ICCAT Convention area. To this effect, he recalled that the 1998 recommendation relative to bluefin tuna in the east Atlantic and Mediterranean provides the possibility that the quotas established for the year 2000 would be revised in light of the results of this Working Group.

5.3 The Chairman responded that the mandate for the working group did not include the review of current allocations. The discussion should include criteria to be used for allocating quotas in future decisions on a case-by-case basis.

5.4 The Delegate of Brazil noted that the importance of international law was included within the mandate itself and should be conserved fully during this process.

5.5 The Observer from Iceland appreciated that it may be difficult to reach a consensus within the Working Group on terms of reference, but noted that the footnote in the 1998 Recommendation on quotas for the eastern Atlantic/Mediterranean bluefin tuna fishery did indicate that the results of this allocation working group process could affect current allocations.

5.6 The Chairman noted that this item would be more appropriate for discussion at the 1999 Commission meeting.

6. Existing International Agreements in Relation to Allocation Criteria and Determination, and Analysis of Factors to be Taken into Account When Considering New Allocation Criteria

6.1 The Delegate of the United States referred to a paper on allocation criteria originally prepared for negotiations of a new multi-lateral fisheries management Convention covering highly migratory species in the central and western Pacific Ocean. (This paper is available from the Secretariat upon request).

6.2 The Observer from Mexico commented that in the eastern Pacific, there is a global quota but this was not assigned by country. However, the coastal states continue to have the right to develop their fisheries and, in response to a point in the U.S. report, pointed out that the agreement on limits of fishing capacity of tunas in the eastern Pacific gave special consideration to the coastal states in the allocation of capacity limits independently of whether or not these states have a fleet.

6.3 The Delegate of the United States replied that this special consideration was only one factor addressed in the consideration of capacity limits.

6.4 The Delegate of Brazil presented a paper on its view of how international law applies to allocation criteria in general, but especially to coastal states, incorporating within the paper five suggested criteria to be used for allocation. The Brazilian Delegate also stated that this meeting was critical to the future of ICCAT.

6.5 The Observer from Mexico commented that Mexico shares the principle that the criteria used in international agreements cannot be selectively applied, nor should historical catches be the only criteria applied.

6.6 The Delegate of the EC raised a concern on Agenda item 6, noting that these criteria must be referred to future allocations. The EC Delegate suggested that there are three issues that must be addressed first: (1) if the criteria of Article 11 of UNIA are applicable only to new members or also to existing ones; (2) if the criteria to be agreed will be applicable to all allocations or only to the allocations of stocks not previously allocated; and (3) if it would be advisable to define a qualification for countries to benefit from a quota. In this connection, a definition of real interest would be necessary. Once these questions have been decided, three types of criteria should be discussed: (a) criteria to be applied to stocks already allocated; (b) the interpretation of Article 11 of the UNIA; and possible additional criteria to those of Article 11. Whatever set of criteria is used must reflect a balance between coastal states and high seas fishing nations. The EC Delegate expressed the view that international law does not recognize preferential rights for coastal states. The EC Delegate also reminded the Delegate of Brazil that historical catches have not been the sole criteria for some previous allocations.

6.7 The Delegate of Japan thanked Brazil for its contribution, and while recognizing the rights of states to develop fisheries and the need of small-scale artisanal fisheries, and expressed its concern that a small-scale fishery may easily grow to the level of an industrial fishery if not checked properly. The Delegate of Japan noted that coastal state preferential rights for highly migratory species is not seen in any existing international legal instruments and should not constitute a factor of an allocation scheme. He noted that international instruments also reference traditional fishing patterns and that there is a reason for the prominence of its use in allocation decisions by ICCAT and other fishery organizations. He indicated that historical catch should be weighted clearly above other factors. Contributions to scientific research and data collection is also important. The Delegate of Japan referred to the way other international organizations have allocated fishing rights but noted that ICCAT is a special case due to its record of national allocations and its diverse participation. Thus, ICCAT's situation represents a very complicated problem. The Japanese Delegate also suggested the need to

consider the status of the resource in the allocation process. He commented that the poor condition of the stock could be attributed to those states that developed the fishery, but that the costs and management burdens associated with developing these fisheries was also important.

6.8 The Delegate of Morocco commented on two points. First, that he supports the Brazilian position in that a consensus should be reached on certain details of the paper presented by Brazil. The Delegate of Morocco also expressed hope that the Working Group would be more innovative and find equitable solutions. The scientific data collected by ICCAT for studies on the geographic distribution of tunas should be a factor so that the criteria for distribution can be considered for the allocation of quotas. Secondly, he raised a question on the need of granting to coastal countries a quota on the boats authorized to fish temporarily in its EEZ when these boats cease their activities in these zones. Therefore, there should be shared responsibility between countries that contribute to total stock decline, and historical catch should not be the only criteria used in quota allocations.

6.9 The Delegate of Uruguay reminded the meeting that Uruguay is a small coastal state, with a developing export fishery, and so wishes to endorse the Brazilian proposal. The Delegate expressed hope that the meeting will achieve consensus on this issue.

6.10 The Observer from Namibia expressed deep dissatisfaction with the current allocation, and feels it unwise to look at past history for new criteria. He agreed with Brazil that the key issues are found within the legal principles. four main criteria were suggested: (1) the sovereign rights of the coastal states; (2) the right of all states to engage in fishery resource development; (3) the duty of all states to cooperate in the use of these resources, and (4), the special status of developing states under UNCLOS and UNIA. The process should recognize (a) the respect for the rights, duties and interests of the coastal state, (b) the respect for high seas fisheries, (c) cooperation and agreement between those involved, (d) bring into application the provisions of Article 11 in an appropriate manner, (e) and above all ensuring the long-term sustainable use of these resources. He suggested the establishment of criteria allowing for the transfer of fishing opportunities from developed states that over-harvested to developing states, but that this transition should be gradual and need not be drastic, nor should it preclude access to those rights.

6.11 The Observer from Turkey expressed agreement with some of the intentions of Namibia and others, but recognized that it must still comply fully with ICCAT requirements. Noting that, he indicated that the interests and rights of states need to be recognized or there will not be consensus in future.

6.12 The Observer from Iceland supported Brazil and commented on five main suggested allocation criteria: (1) the zonal attachment of stocks, namely that coastal states be allowed to fish in accordance with the extent that the stocks occur within these EEZs (2) In this context, he referred to Article 7.2.d of the UNIA, the extent that a given state is dependent on fisheries especially referring to provisions for states overwhelmingly dependent on fisheries in UNCLOS and UNIA; (3) the consideration of traditional fishing, taking into account historical excessive fishing pressure leading to depleted resources; (4) the level of contribution to fisheries management fora and with compliance and control e.g. by closure of port; and (5) willingness to provide data, noting that it is important that states supply this information.

6.13 The Delegate of the United States commented that Brazil had put forward an important paper, and that delegations needed time to understand fully the included provisions. The U.S. Delegate expressed concurrence with many of the thoughts, but not the legal justifications and mandates. The U.S. felt that it would be unproductive to look at international law, since many of the quoted articles also apply to the rights of developed states and rights regarding high seas fisheries and that time would be better spent developing specific criteria to be used in future allocations.

6.14 The Observer from OLDEPESCA agreed with the U.S. position of not holding in-depth discussions of legal aspects at this time. He also indicated support for the concepts expressed by Namibia and Turkey for gradual phases and avoiding critical or traumatic situations that could create instability.

6.15 The Delegate of the EC expressed two concerns. First, the rights of coastal states are enshrined in international law, but the notion of sovereign rights could be interpreted as if coastal states had sovereignty over resources, while they only have a jurisdiction over these resources. It is to be reminded that Article 64 of UNCLOS does not give preferential rights to coastal states vis à vis high seas fishing states. The notion of sovereign rights can only distort the principle of compatibility between the measures adopted by coastal states and those adopted by fishing states, a principle which is enshrined in Article 7 of the UNIA. Second, landings taken by another fag state within the EEZ of another state should be allocated to the coastal state only if there is an agreement to that effect.

6.16 The Chairman summarized the morning session and suggested common ground on fishing rights subject to conservation and cooperation. He continued by stating that the issue of being a coastal state should not be considered the most important factor, since most representatives at this meeting were coastal states, although there were perhaps legitimate complaints relative to developmental rights, subsistence and artisanal fisheries needs, and of basing allocation on historical rights, since this last item only covers those already in the fishery. The Chairman further noted that the legal arguments advanced in preferential treatment of coastal states may have been too selective of the provisions of the international agreements. He commented that international law is useful to this discussion, but not be quoted partially. He noted the need to move forward with a balanced approach.

6.17 The Delegate of the EC noted that the Brazilian paper could not be the basis for this discussion. The EC also had specific objections to this paper: (1) that international organizations require cooperation between coastal states and fishing states (Articles 64 of UNCLOS and 7 of UNIA) instead of coastal states preference; and (2) that there is an ICCAT asset. One cannot simply blame ICCAT members, since their activity has been carried out in this framework of respect of the ICCAT measures.

6.18 The Delegate of the EC indicated that a similar debate carried out in NAFO shows how complex this issue is. The EC Delegate also indicated that the IATTC quota system was developed on the basis of capacity and not catch quota. The Delegate noted that the question of real interest was central to this debate. The issue of real interest should include the capacity for control and enforcement. On the contrary, quota trading and vessel chartering would be contrary to the notion of real interest.

6.19 The Chairman noted that even if not completely agreeable, the Brazilian proposal does create debate. Therefore, it should be taken into account for debate for discussion purposes.

6.20 The Delegate of China described the recent history of his country's distant water fleet, adding that China is also a developing country. The Delegate of China also commented that one system of allocations would not work for everyone.

6.21 The Delegate of Japan suggested that they had not exhausted the countering legal arguments to the Brazilian proposal, many elements of which they could not support. It was noted that the SCRS recently reported that all the tunas are currently at fully- or over-exploited levels, except for certain stocks of skipjack. While ICCAT should not close the door on newcomers, it is difficult and unrealistic to give a generous pie to them out of fully or over-exploited stocks, and one suggested solution was to look at how prospective members have assisted with compliance. The Delegate of Japan further noted that definitions need to be refined for subjective terms such as dependence, artisanal fisheries, and assessment of growth. He also commented that although he agreed with the need for coastal states and small-scale fisheries to be taken into consideration, he also had concern that growing artisanal or small-scale fisheries may eventually take the form of industrial fisheries, taking fish from other members given the "ceiling" of conservation.

6.22 The Delegate from Croatia commented that in listening to the discussion, most have only considered the legal perspective. While acknowledging that this Working Group has a sensitive mandate given limited fishery resources and unlimited demand, the Croatian Delegate suggested that the issues are also moral in nature, not solely legal, and concern fairness and honesty.

6.23 The Observer from Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands) agreed with the Japanese suggestion of a ceiling metaphor, and restated the national dependence on fisheries resources.

6.24 The Observer of Mexico stated that international agreements are dependent on the will of the states, whether members or not, to implement regulations, or else management is chaotic.

6.25 The Delegate of Brazil indicated that the legal questions must be resolved.

6.26 The Chairman suggested that since there is no consensus on the question of whether coastal states have preferential rights, so perhaps a new starting point would be to begin a discussion of actual criteria without attempting to prioritize the list.

6.27 The Delegate from Brazil volunteered that the legal aspects of allocations were suggested to continue along existing agreements from previous meetings, not to necessarily create additional disagreement.

6.28 The U.S. Delegate noted that the United States has different views on the legal positions of Brazil, and suggested that the laws could support different interpretations. The U.S. Delegate suggested that it might be better to discuss criteria, including the suggestions of Brazil, and create a composite document.

6.29 The Canadian Delegate agreed that legal interpretations could be used to identify different perspectives and therefore it would be better to continue work on the list of criteria.

6.30 The Observer from Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands) supported the idea of a "qualified coastal state" given that the Faroe Islands are heavily dependent on living marine resources.

6.31 The Chairman suggested that the discussion could move toward the creation of two lists of prospective criteria: one of "historical" or "classic" criteria, and one of new or "creative" criteria, including those of reward-based systems. He offered "historical rights" and rights of coastal states" for discussion along these lines.

6.32 The Delegate of Brazil explained the first two criteria in their proposal.

6.33 The Delegate of the EC suggested that before new criteria be discussed, the criteria of Article 11 of the UNIA should be interpreted. The Chair replied that his suggested method was to develop the preliminary list of criteria first, rather than to debate whether any of these criteria applied to new members.

6.34 The Japanese Delegate expressed concern on the task of listing without prioritizing, and noted that they were unwilling to accept any preferential right to coastal states for any highly migratory species. Additional concern was expressed on the distribution area proposal, and that such a proposal would act in effect as an ad hoc TAC attached to particular sea areas. Such a proposal would, he argued, eliminate the need for regional fisheries management organizations. This prompted the Chair to comment that the meeting should address building a list of possible criteria rather than a specific allocation key.

6.35 The Observer from Iceland replied that it agreed with Brazil on the first suggested criteria.

6.36 The Delegate of Canada questioned whether others would agree with the Brazilian contention that coastal state rights extended beyond the 200-mile EEZ out to the high seas. The Canadian Delegate suggested that there appeared to be come confusion over one of the criteria suggested by Brazil and that perhaps there are two issues: acreage, the area covered by coastal state jurisdiction and the high seas and biological considerations, the distribution of the stock. The Chair replied that "coastal states" only refers to being on the coast.

6.37 The Japanese Delegate commented that Article 71 of UNCLOS, which the Icelandic Delegation repeatedly referred to, only exempts those listed states from Articles 69 and 70, and is not relevant to the discussion. He further stated that the clause "overwhelmingly dependent" in Article 11 of the UNIA is only one of six factors, not the main or only one.

6.38 The Delegate of Brazil clarified its position that preferential status of coastal states only extends to the 200-mile EEZ. He further noted that conservation measures must include entire ranges of highly migratory species, but that management regimes inside and outside of EEZs are different.

6.39 The Chairman replied that Contracting Parties accepting binding recommendations must not make a distinction between these two areas given the biology of the stocks in question. He asserted that there were no bases for allocation preferences within areas of national jurisdiction.

6.40 The Delegate from South Africa suggested that there was not a proper allocation balance currently and that there should be two "pies" for allocation purposes, one for coastal states and one for the high seas, which could also include coastal states. This does not imply preferential treatment, but allows for an equitable split.

6.41 Returning to the list of criteria, the EC Delegate suggested that it might be better to interpret Article 11 provisions in relation to new allocation criteria.

6.42 The Delegate of Canada noted that Article 11 only looks at new member requirements, not quota allocation criteria for current Contracting Parties, although it could accept the six provisions from the Article in the list.

6.43 The U.S. Delegate commented that Article 11 is not sufficient in and of itself for discussion, but that its provisions may still be useful.

6.44 The Japanese Delegate stated that the condition of the stock must be taken into account. He considered that the dependency of developing countries on such stocks could only be allowed to give consideration if the stock is in good condition, but disagreed that there should be any distinction between high seas and areas under national jurisdiction in setting the TAC, since the stocks migrate freely and such a proposal has no historical precedent or merit.

6.45 The Delegate of Brazil explained that their suggestion did not mean that management would be different inside and outside EEZs, but rather that there should be an allocation preference within the EEZ.

6.46 The Observer from Mexico suggested for the list of criteria that the degree of compliance is important, whether by a Contracting or non-Contracting Party.

6.47 The Delegate of the EC commented that the changing distribution of tuna biomass makes the "zonal attachment" proposal very difficult to implement from a practical perspective.

6.48 The Delegate of Brazil agreed with the level of difficulty in applying this criteria, but noted that this should not be cause to exclude the idea from the list.

6.49 The Observer from Mexico recognized the difficulty, but noted that such an idea could also apply to all species.

6.50 The Delegate of Japan replied that, aside from technical difficulties of the zonal approach suggestion, these highly migratory fish do not belong to one zone, but that those areas through which they migrate instead represent a "transitional route" only, and he therefore cannot accept the zonal approach as a concept for the conservation and management of tunas.

6.51 The EC Delegate noted that there were many practical difficulties involved in such a zone-based suggestion. He also noted that stock biomass is not uniformly distributed, either through the range or within EEZ waters. The Delegate added that tunas are not easily assessed like demersal species, and therefore the assessments are based mainly on fishery-collected data.

6.52 The Chairman listed the criteria that could be put on the list: historical rights, coastal states, zonal attachment, catch areas, compliance, and the six articles of Article 11 from the UNIA. After Brazil suggested that the five suggested criteria from their paper also be considered for discussion, they were added without objection.

6.53 The Observer from Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands) suggested that the issue of dependence also be included, but the Chair replied that those considerations were already included in the Article 11 provisions.

6.54 The Chairman noted that two documents were available that referenced allocation criteria, one prepared by the EC and another by the United States on items which can be considered in terms of allocation criteria.

6.55 The Chairman commented that there was a need for consensus on allocation criteria. Questions remained on the feasibility of some of the suggested criteria, for example, the proposals involving the use of EEZs and zonal attachments. No consensus had been reached due in part to practical concerns and technical considerations.

6.56 The Delegate of the EC presented its draft proposal on allocation criteria (attached as Appendix 4), stating that the purpose of the paper was to help make progress on this criteria issue. As a general reminder, the EC restated its perspective that these criteria should follow a general approach and not a stock-specific one. There must also be a balance between the historic fishing states and new members. The EC Delegate stated that a gradual phasing-in process was needed in reference to quota sharing. The EC proposal noted that there are differences between each fishery. He also indicated that cooperation quota was necessary to encourage new-comers to join or to cooperate with ICCAT by offering them catch possibilities.

6.57 In explaining the provisions of its paper, the EC Delegate commented on specific points: (1) that the status of the stocks is relevant to allocations since ICCAT cannot allocate what it does not have; (2) that affected states should have a "real interest" in the fisheries in question, and that this provision is relative to the existing level of effort and cooperation; (3) the state must be able to manage its fisheries and to use the allocated resource; (4) states who have made past sacrifices should receive some benefits; and (5) the need to minimize the dislocations of existing fleets. The Delegate

from the EC commented that he did not know if this was a complete list, but that some reference must be first established for discussion. He stated that although **Appendix 4 to ANNEX 6** is an EC proposal views of other Parties had been reflected therein.

6.58 The Delegate of the United States presented a proposal (attached as **Appendix 5 to ANNEX 6**) which was a provisional list of compiled allocation criteria pursuant to the meeting discussions. The U.S. Delegate stated that this paper was completed at the instruction of the Chair and that it did not necessarily reflect the views of the United States. He noted that, among other things, the paper took Article 11 of UNIA into account, and that there were no established priorities within this list. He continued by adding that any agreed criteria should not affect allocation schemes already in place, but would be applicable to future allocation discussions for all fisheries.

6.59 The Delegate from Japan asked the EC to explain the relationship of paragraphs one and two of the EC proposal **(Appendix 4 to ANNEX 6)** , as the present language suggests that stocks under current allocation schemes would not be subject to these new criteria, even though the various recommendations with national allocation would eventually expire. There was also a comment to the U.S. proposal **(Appendix 5 to ANNEX 6)** that the relationship between paragraphs 3 and 4 was vague, and that paragraph 4 could either supersede or supplement paragraph 3.

6.60 The Delegate of the EC responded that this EC proposal would allow room for fishery development but would not reopen existing allocations. The criteria under consideration would only be applicable to future allocation discussions regarding stocks without allocation schemes in place.

6.61 The U.S. Delegate responded to the questions raised by Japan by noting that paragraph 4 of **Appendix 5 to ANNEX 6** would simply supplement paragraph 3, not supercede those provisions. He expressed willingness to consider the elements of that paragraph as additional criteria.

6.62 The Delegate of Morocco noted that it was premature to have the Allocation Working Group decide how the allocation criteria will be applied. He also commented that there was no mention of the biological factors in the EC proposal, yet these were important provisions to Brazil and Morocco. He supported the language on this point in the U.S. proposal **(Appendix 5 to ANNEX 6)**.

6.63 The Delegate of Brazil made a series of comments on both documents. With regard to the EC proposal, the Brazilian Delegate stated his belief that these criteria should apply to all species, otherwise the discussion was pointless. He also stressed that developing countries had different abilities for data collection and management, as recognized by UNCLOS and UNIA articles pertaining to developing states. Therefore, the ability for data collection should not be used as a criteria. In the third paragraph of the EC proposal which mentions that this proposal would not address vessel chartering and quota trading, the Delegate of Brazil noted that quota trading was an inappropriate practice and it should not be discussed at this time, but that he sees vessel chartering as a means to develop coastal state fisheries. Such a chartering system in Brazil must comply with the national laws.

6.64 In specific comments to the EC proposal, the Delegate of Brazil continued by stating that fully- or over-exploited status of stocks should not be used as a means to exclude Contracting Parties members from quota. Many of the provisions of the EC proposal were acceptable, except for the points that item (i) should include small-scale fisheries, item (k) uses language from an inappropriate UNCLOS article and so should be excluded, and that item (l) was a very contentious issue and should not be addressed here. Items (h) and (m) were noted as unclear and needed further explanation. The Delegate of Brazil continued by stating that any weighting of these criteria should be done in the future, not in this forum.

6.65 The Delegate of Brazil remarked that the U.S. proposal **(Appendix 5 to ANNEX 6)** was more in line with the instructions from the Chair and was more complete, but he expressed concerns similar to those with the EC paper. Such concerns included the need for criteria to be compatible with developing state interests and the need to include high seas fisheries in these provisions. Although item (i) was slightly modified from the Brazilian proposal, it was acceptable. Paragraph 4 was considered especially important, however, and must be taken into consideration, and the Delegate of Brazil expressed hope for similar opinions from other developing states.

6.66 The Delegate of Japan commented on the EC proposal, stating that, in principle, these provisions should apply in the future to all fish stocks, although allocation schemes currently in effect should remain unchanged. He commented that the need to minimize economic dislocation of existing fleets should apply equally to both coastal states and high seas states. The contribution of scientific research should remain important, and perhaps should not be based on scientific capacity but scientific research history. The Delegate of Japan stated that such research is expensive, yet stressed that it

is also very important to ICCAT as a whole. There was also a suggestion that there be two lists of criteria, one prioritized and one without prioritization, and that historical catch have a higher priority. He noted, however, that the respective Panels should decide the exact magnitude of weight to be applied to the criteria.

6.67 The Delegate of China commented on the U.S. proposal stating that all historical participants in the fisheries, even as non-Members, should get a quota share. Additionally, the Delegate of China did not like the open space in the third paragraph referring to the unanswered length to time of "probationary membership." He commented on the EC proposal by asserting that vessel chartering and quota trading were beyond the scope of the Working Group mandate and should be discussed y the Commission.

6.68 The Delegate from Croatia noted that the third paragraph of the U.S. proposal needed to be clarified to reflect newly independent states and new states communities.

6.69 The Observer from Mexico remarked that these two proposals are a "step forward," and expressed hope that the proposals could be merged. He indicated concern that the U.S. proposal appeared to exclude new members from access to the resource.

6.70 The Observer from Namibia shared the concern of Mexico regarding the exclusionary nature of the relevant paragraph, which seemed to defeat the spirit of cooperation expressed in international legal instruments and could potentially cause management problems. The Observer commented that the "real interest" and vessel chartering provisions of the EC proposal potentially interfere with fisheries development by nations, and that he had reservations with the fourth paragraph of the U.S. paper because of remaining biological questions. He requested clarification of the issue by the SCRS Chairman.

6.71 The Observer of Turkey expressed reservations with the US proposal because of the matter of new member exclusion, especially given the perception that the long standing members are responsible for the depleted stock status. He supported the need to include the views of Brazil in both the US and the EC proposals.

6.72 The Observer from Chinese Taipei suggested splitting the list of potential allocation criteria into two lists, based on "tangible" and "intangible" factors, to move the discussion forward and build consensus. The Observer noted that historical records could be considered a scientific contribution, since these are important data and would result in better management.

6.73 The Observer from Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands) commented that the U.S. proposal sent a negative signal to prospective new members, especially since it has no clear membership process even for compliant states. He expressed the view that the EC proposal was more open in reference to the new member issue. The Observer from Denmark further stressed the element of dependency on the fishery resources and supported the inclusion of UNIA Article 11 provisions in the EC proposal.

6.74 The Observer from CARICOM reminded the meeting that all states of CARICOM are developing, including small island states and that many of these look forward to future ICCAT membership. He expressed concern that new, previously complying, members may be excluded from quotas. The Delegate of CARICOM further reminded the meeting that many states use the vessel chartering as part of their development process and that it can serve to manage over-capacity. The Observer noted that scientific contributions under UN instruments also include social sciences along with the biological sciences.

6.75 The Observer from Iceland commented extensively on the EC proposal and expressed the following concerns: (1) that these allocation criteria should be applied to all stocks as widely as possible; (2) that the ability of states to provide scientific data was not equal; (3) that under some circumstances, quota sharing may be effort efficient; and (4) that vessel chartering should not be discussed at this meeting. He also was concerned that the allocation criteria of historic catches would reward long standing members for unsustainable fishing practices. The Delegate of Iceland was also concerned that both papers lacked reference to the "zonal attachment" idea despite international precedent and suggested that scientists discuss data as they become available. The Observer from Iceland also noted that migratory tunas may be a factor because they prey on local, non-migratory stocks. He expressed preference for the EC proposal, but commented that it must contain a clear reference to Article 11 of the UNIA.

6.76 The Chairman of the SCRS, Dr. Joseph Powers, spoke on some of the biological considerations raised during this meeting. He noted that the stock biomass estimates are inferred from catch data, and that it is nearly impossible to make

precise predictions of the proportion of a stock that will be in a particular area, especially given the yearly changes in migratory patterns. Dr. Powers also commented that allocations based on catches from specific areas are feasible from the perspective that they involve quantifiable data, but that these would also change through time as the migration patterns shift. Finally, he expressed concern that using the SCRS to estimate the percentages of the stock within areas would mean that the ICCAT SCRS would *de facto* be making the allocation when using scientific judgements and this would impact the SCRS process.

6.77 The Delegate from Brazil admitted the biological limitations, but remarked that some data are known and could, in theory, support area-based management. He noted that the percentage of catches inside and outside the EEZ are known by position (latitude and longitude) recorded in the logbooks and could be calculated. This is not meant to separate biomass by area, but to stress the importance that EEZ has in stock distribution.

6.78 The Observer from Mexico noted that some geographical management measures based on distribution of biomass have been adopted and implemented, such as closed areas. The Chair replied that closed areas are used as a management tool, not a basis for quota allocation.

6.79 The Chairman summarized the main issues to be discussed further as; vessel chartering, quota trading, "real interest," research and scientific data contributions given coastal and developing state limitations, the development of a two-tiered allocation criteria list along the "tangible" and "intangible" lines, and the support expressed for both "rewarding" and "restrictive" allocation techniques. He charged the Contracting Parties to work together and try to develop one document by consensus.

6.80 The EC Delegate commented that the hope that such a document would emerge may be optimistic given the conceptual hurdles to overcome, and suggested informal meetings instead of a drafting group format.

6.81 The U.S. Delegate thanked the participants for their feedback and remarked that there were still fundamental differences between the basic perspectives of the two papers. The U.S. Delegate reiterated his view that any criteria accepted should apply to all stocks at the appropriate time.

6.82 The Delegate from Canada suggested that the group be careful before redrafting elements contained in Article 11 of the UNIA.

6.83 The Delegate from Venezuela expressed agreement with Canada.

6.84 The Chair noted that while Article 11 may provide a basis for discussion, it was not necessary that it be a model *per se* of a list of allocation criteria.

6.85 There was a suggestion from the Delegate of Panama to hold a structured meeting, but the general consensus was to decline in favor of the informal meeting format as long as it was inclusive.

6.86 The Chairman expressed appreciation for the previous work done by the various meeting participants and invited reports from the Delegates.

6.87 The U.S. Delegate reported that he did meet with the EC, but that fundamental differences remained regarding the EC and the US proposals (**Appendices 4 and 5 to ANNEX 6**, respectively). After discussion, the two parties developed a list of criteria that included the UNIA Article 11 provisions, the historical catch criteria, and other elements. Text that could not be agreed upon at this time in the US proposal were: (item c) on compliance and (item i) on over-exploitation, (item h) because of the "small scale fisheries" omission, and paragraph 4 on biological characteristics, as well as the following items in the EC proposal: "fishing traditions," "direct consumption," and "control mechanisms." It was further agreed that item f of the U.S. proposal could be moved to the chapeau of the agreed document on allocation criteria. The issues of quota trading and vessel chartering were not agreed upon pending further clarification. The U.S. Delegate suggested that, depending on how the term is defined, vessel chartering could be another relevant criterion to consider.

6.88 The Delegate of the EC agreed that this report reflected the discussion from the previous afternoon.

6.89 The Delegate of Brazil presented a proposal, developed in conjunction with several other Contracting Parties and supported by several observer delegations, and introduced some editorial changes (attached as **Appendix 6 to ANNEX 6**). The Brazilian Delegate called attention to the attempt to build upon previously tabled documents by adding

clarification to specific suggested allocation criteria. He noted that the mandate of ICCAT demands that all species be included in the new allocation criteria, and provided additional review of the points of the proposal. The Delegate of Brazil remarked that, in the same way that the historical catch criterion is important for non-coastal states, the criteria contained in paragraph 2 of the proposal are of great importance to coastal states.

6.90 The Observers from OLDEPESCA and CARICOM supported the Brazilian proposal.

6.91 The Chairman informed the meeting that, after the contacts maintained with different delegations, the most appropriate way to move forward would be to adopt the report, which would include opening statements, together with the three proposals (**Appendices 4, 5 and 6 to ANNEX 6**) that had been discussed during the sessions, as well as the written closing statements that might be presented. This report would then be presented to the Commission's Plenary Session in November, 1999, for further discussion.

6.92 Before opening the floor to closing statements, the Chairman underlined the importance of the meeting of this Working Group, not only with respect to the results obtained, but perhaps more so because it was a patent example of multi-lateral cooperation and commitment by Contracting Parties of ICCAT to work together to find solutions to the problems which the Organization has to face and resolve in order to ensure its conservation and management objectives.

6.93 The willingness of all Parties to pursue this dialogue had permitted concrete results, as made evident by the three texts discussed, and the fact that although there were still clear differences in positions, there was also a discernible perception that a number of important elements could eventually find consensus.

6.94 The Chairman noted that it would be consistent with this spirit of understanding, dialogue and compromise for those Contracting Parties who had lodged objections to certain ICCAT recommendations to reconsider their decisions, in the interests of conservation.

6.95 A number of delegations commended the participants for the good results obtained during this meeting, underlining that the results achieved had, to a certain extent, exceeded expectations, and done much in the pursuit of solutions to the problems faced by ICCAT. Although it was evident that much work would have to be done to achieve future consensus, this meeting was a good example of multi-lateral cooperation and dialogue.

6.96 The Chairman thanked the Secretariat, the rapporteurs, and the interpreters, as well as all the participants for their efforts in making this meeting a success.

6.97 Following the Chairman's address, closing statements were presented by Brazil, the EC, Japan, Morocco, UK (Overseas Territories), the United States and the Observers from Namibia and CARICOM (attached as **Appendix 7 to ANNEX 6**).

7. Other matters

7.1 No other matters were discussed.

8. Date and place of next meeting

8.1 It was suggested that another meeting of this *ad hoc* group be held on Saturday, November 13, prior to the opening of the 1999 Commission Meeting in Brazil. Another opinion was expressed that this report should first be presented to the Commission Plenary for review and final adoption. Further discussion could take place under the appropriate Commission Agenda item. In view of these two suggestions, the Chairman asked for written opinions, through the Secretariat, and indicated that a decision on holding another *ad hoc* working group meeting will be reached before the Commission Meeting opens.

9. Adoption of the Report

9.1 The Report was reviewed and adopted by the Working Group, with the understanding that changes presented at the time of adoption would be incorporated and that further changes, of an editorial nature, could be introduced.

10. Adjournment

10.1 The meeting of the Working Group on Allocation Criteria was adjourned on Wednesday, June 2, 1999.

Appendix 1 to ANNEX 6

1st MEETING OF THE ICCAT WORKING GROUP ON ALLOCATION CRITERIA
Madrid, Spain - May 31 to June 2, 1999

AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Nomination of Rapporteur
4. Opening statements
5. Review of the mandate of the Working Group on Allocation Criteria
6. Existing international agreements in relation to allocation criteria and determination and analysis of factors to be taken into account when considering new allocation criteria
7. Other matters
8. Date and place of next meeting
9 Adoption of the Report
10 Adjournment

Appendix 2 to ANNEX 6

1ST MEETING OF THE ICCAT WORKING GROUP ON ALLOCATION CRITERIA

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

ICCAT CONTRACTING PARTIES

BRAZIL

CALZAVARA DE ARAUJO, G.
Director do Departamento de Pesca e Aquicultura
Ministerio de Agricultura e Abastecimento
Esplanada dos Ministerios, Bloco "D" Sala 950
Brasilia D.F., CEP 70 043-900
Tel: +55 61-218 2112
Fax: +55 61-226 4882
E-mail: calzavara@tba.com.br

DATOGUIA, S.C.
Camara Setorial de Pescado do Estado de Sao Paulo (SAPESC)
Secretaria da Agricultura e Abastecimento
R. Cel. Pedro Arbues 230, AP.11, Santos S.P.
Tel: +55 13 358 2621
Fax: +55 13 358 2807
E-mail: itafish@nutecnet.com.br

GOMES DE MATTOS, S.
SUDENE - Recursos Naturais Renovaveis
Pc.Min. Joa Gonçalves de Souza s/n
Engenho do Meio
Recife-PE 50670-900
Tel: +55 81 416 2527
Fax: +55 81 271 2310
E-mail: smgmattos@base.com.br

HAZIN, R.
Coordenador, Camara de Atuns e Afins
Conselho Nacional de Pesca Empresarial (CONEPE)
Rua Chile 216, Ribeira
Natal, RN, CEP 59.012-250
Tel: +55 84 211 9554
Fax: +55 84 201 2278
E-mail: norpesca@cabugisat.com.br

HAZIN, H.V.F.
Ministerio de Agricultura e Abastecimento
Esplanada dos Ministerios, Bloco "D" Sala 950
Brasilia D.F., CEP 70 043-900
Tel: +55 81 441 7276
Fax: +55 81 441 7276
E-mail: fhvhazin@elogica.com.br

MUÑOZ ECHEVERRIA, H.S.
Rua Monsenhor Walfredo Leal 104
Cabedelo, Paraibal, CEP 58310-00
Tel: +55 83 228 2600
Fax: +55 83 228 4183
E-mail: tunamar@elogica.com.br

PERCIAVALLE, G.V.
CONEPE FAPESC
SCN-Q.02-Lote "D" Salas 626/628
Ed.Centro Empresarial Encol
Torre A - Liberty Mall
Brasilia DF 70.710-500
Tel: +55 61 328 8147
Fax: +55 61 328 8236
E-mail conepe@tba.com.br

TABAJARA DE OLIVEIRA, N.
Ministerio das Relaçoes Exteriores
DMAE - Sala 736 - Anexo I
Brasilia D.F., CEP 70170-900
Tel: +55 61 411 6282
Fax: +55 61 411 6906
E-mail: tabajara@mre.gov.br

ZAPATA, J.
R/Presidente Joao Pessoa, Centro
Cobedelo P/B
Brasilia
Tel: +55 83 228 4010
Fax: +55 83 228 1918
E-mail: capesca@elogica.com.br

CANADA

ALDOUS, D.
41 Armitage Road, Newport
Hants Co., Nova Scotia B0N 2A0
Tef: +1 902 757 3915
Fax: +1 902 757 3979
E-mail: aldous@fox.nstn.ca

ALLEN, C.J.
Resource Management-Atlantic
Department of Fisheries & Oceans
200 Kent St.
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0E6
Tel: +1 613 990 0105
Fax: +1 613 990 7051
E-mail: allenc@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

DUSSAULT, E.
Directrice
Division des Relations Bilatérales
Division Générale des Affaires Intenationales
200 Kent St.
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0E6
Tel: +1 613 993 5316
Fax: +1 613 993 5995
E-mail: dussaultE@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

TELLIER, A.
Dept. of Foreign Affair and International Trade
125 Sussex Drive
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0G2
Tel: +1 613 992 1360
Fax: +1 613 992 6483

WISEMAN, E.
Department of Fisheries & Oceans
200 Kent St.
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0E6
Tel: +1 613 993 1873
Fax: +1 613 993 5995
E-mail: wisemane@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

CHINA

LIU, X.B.
Assistant Director, Bureau of Fisheries
Ministry of Agriculture
No.11 Nongzhanguan Nanli
Beijing 100026
Tel: +86 10 641 92928
Fax: +86 10 641 92961
E-mail: inter-coop@agri.gov.cn

CROATIA

DUJMUSIC, A.
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
Directorate of Fisheries
Ul. Grada Vukovara 78
10000 Zagreb
Tel: +38 51 610 6684
Fax: +38 51 610 9208
E-mail: adujmusic@mps.hr

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

EKO ADA, J.B.
Ministerio de Agricultura, Pesca y Ganaderia
Carretera de Luba s/n
Malabo B.N.
Tel: +240 92 556
Fax: +240 93 408

MICHA, A.N.
Ministerio de Agricultura, Pesca y Ganaderia
Carretera de Luba s/n
Malabo B.N.
Tel: +240 93 464
Fax: +240 92 905

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY (EC)

ANGULO ERRAZQUIN, J.A.
Asociación Nacional de Armadores de Buques Atuneros Congeladores
Fernández de la Hoz 57, 5° - Apt.10
28003 Madrid (Spain)
Tel: +34 91 442 6899
Fax: +34 91 442 0574

ARO, M.
Représentation Permanente de la Finlande auprès de l'Union Européenne
Rue de Trève, 100
1040 Bruxelles (Belgium)
Tel: +32 2 287 8464
Fax: +32 2 287 8407
E-mail: markku.aro@formin.fi

CADENAS DE LLANO CORTÉS, M.C.
Subdirección General de Organismos Multilaterales de Pesca
Secretaría General de Pesca Marítima
Ortega y Gasset, 57
28006 Madrid (Spain)
Tel: +34 91 402 5000
Fax: +34 91 402 0212
E-mail: orgmul-sgpm@virtual.sw.es

CALVO, M.
CALVOPESCA S.A.
Príncipe de Vergara 108, Planta 11
28002 Madrid (Spain)
Tel: +34 91 562 1614
Fax: +34 91 561 5304
E-mail: calvopesca@oem.es

CAMPOS QUINTEIRO, A.
Presidente de la Asociación Nacional de Armadores de Buques Palangreros de Altura (ANAPA)
Venezuela 49, 5° A
36204 Vigo (Pontevedra, Spain)
Tel: +34 98 642 0511
Fax: +34 98 641 4920
E-mail: tusapesca@ont.servicom.es

CONDE DE SARO, R.
Embajada de España
2375 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, DC 20035 (United States)
Tel: +1 202 728 2340
Fax: +1 202 833 5670

DELLA SETA, G.
Ministero Politiche Agricole
Direzione Generale Pesca e Acquacoltura
Viale dell'Arte 16
00144 Roma (Italy)
Tel: +39 06 590 84746
Fax: +39 06 590 89176
E-mail: pesca2@politicheagricole.it

DI NATALE, A.
Aquastudio
Via Trapani 6
98121 Messina (Italy)
Tel: +39 090 346 408
Fax: +39 090 364 560
E-mail: aquauno@box1.tin.it

DOMINGUEZ DIAZ, C.
Embassy of Spain
1-3-29 Roppongi, Minato-Ku
Tokyo 106-0032 (Japan)
Tel: +81 33 583 8533
Fax: +81 33 582 8627
E-mail: esptokio@twics.com

FERNANDEZ BELTRAN, J.M.
Organización de Productores Pesqueros de Lugo
Avda. da Ribeira - Casa del Mar 1ª Pª
Foz, (Lugo, Spain)
Tel: +34 98 213 3603
Fax: +34 98 213 3593
E-mail: oplugo@interbook.net

FIGUEIREDO, H.
Direccao Geral das Pesca e Aquicultura
Ed. Vasco da Gama
Alcantara, Lisboa (Portugal)
Tel.: +351 1 391 3560
Fax: +351 1 391 3560

FLORINDO GIJON, F.
Conseil des Communautés Européennes
175 rue de la Loi
B 1048 Bruxelles (Belgium)
Tel: +32 2 285 6196
Fax: +32 2 285 6910
E-mail: fernando.florindo@consilium.eu.int

GIANNELLA, P.
Ministerio Politiche Agricole
Direzione Generale Pesca e Acquacoltura
Viale dell'Arte 16
00144 Roma (Italy)
Tel: +39 06 590 84749
Fax: +39 06 590 89176

GOMEZ VILLEGAS, J.
ALBACORA S.A.
Capitán Haya, 1
Edificio Eurocentro - Planta 12
28020 Madrid (Spain)
Tel: +34 91 597 4965
Fax: +34 91 597 0015

KEATINGE, M.
Bord Iascaigm Mnara (BIM)
Crofton Road
Dun Laghaire, Dublin (Ireland)
Tel: +353 1 254 1544
Fax:
E-mail: keatinge@bim.ie

LAINÉ, V.
Commission des Communautés Européennes
DG XIV B-1
200 Rue de la Loi
1049 Bruxelles (Belgium)
Tel: +32 2 296 5341
Fax: +32 2 296 3986
E-mail: valerie.laine.@dg14.cec.be

MARTÍ DOMINGUEZ, C.P.
Subdirección General de Organismos Multilaterales de Pesca
Secretaría General de Pesca Marítima
Ortega y Gasset, 57
28006 Madrid (Spain)
Tel: +34 91 402 5000
Fax: +34 91 309 3967
E-mail: cmartido@mapya.es

MARTÍN FRAGUEIRO, J.C.
Puerto Pesquero s/n - Apt.3
Edificio Anexo Lonja
36900 Marín (Pontevedra, Spain)
Tel: +34 98 688 2169
Fax: +34 98 688 3178

MASTRACCHIO, E.
Directeur
DG XIV-B
Commission Européenne
200 Rue de la Loi - I99 - 3/10
1049 Bruxelles (Belgium)
Tel: +32 2 295 5568
Fax: +32 2 296 5951
E-mail: emilio.mastracchio.@dg14.cec.be

MORAIS, P.
Governo Regional dos Açores
Rua Carvalho Araujo 33
9500 Ponta Delgada, Sao Miguel - Açores (Portugal)
Tef: +351 9 628 6517
Fax: +351 9 628 1055
E-mail: paulom@virtualazores.com

O'NEILL, M.
Department of the Marine and Natural Resources
Leason Lane, Dublin 2 (Ireland)
Tel.: +353 1 619 9200
Fax: +353 1 676 1303
E-mail: odonoghs@indigo.ie

ORTEGA MARTINEZ, C.
Gerente-Adjunta
Organización de Palangreros Guardeses (ORPAGU)
Avda. Manuel Alvarez 16, bajo
La Guardia (Pontevedra, Spain 36780)
Tel: +34 98 661 1809
Fax: +34 98 661 1667
E-mail: orpagu@interbook.net

PENAS, E.
Commission Européenne
Direction Générale XIV, B.4
200 Rue de la Loi
1049 Bruxelles (Belgium)
Tel: +32 2 296 3744
Fax: +32 2 295 5700
E-mail: ernesto.penas-lado@dg14.cec.be

PEREIRA, J.
Universidade dos Açores
Departamento de Oceanografía e Pescas
9900 Horta, Faial - Açores (Portugal)
Tel: +351 9 229 2945
Fax: +351 9 229 2659
E-mail: pereira@dop.uac.pt

POVEDANO INCERA, J.A.
Federación Nacional de Cofradías de Pescadores
Barquillo 7, 1° dcha., 28004 Madrid (Spain)
Tef: +34 91 531 9804
Fax: +34 91 531 6320

SIHVO, J.
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
Department of Fisheries and Game
Kluuvikatu 4A - P.O. Box 232
00171 Helsinki (Finland)
Tel: +358 91 608 8902
Fax: +358 91 604 285
E-mail: jukka.sihvo@mmm.fi

TEJEDOR URANGA, J.
Organización de Productores de Pesca de Bajura de Guipúzcoa (OPEGUI)
Miraconcha 9, Bajo
20007 San Sebastián (Guipúzcoa, Spain)
Tel: +34 94 345 1782
Fax: +34 94 345 5833

TSELAS, S.
Ministry of Agriculture
General Direction of Fisheries
Athens (Greece)
Tel: +30 1 211 1715
Fax: +30 1 211 1719

TURENNE, J.
Direction des Pêches Maritimes
Ministère de l'Agriculture et de la Pêche
3 Place de Fontenoy, 75007 Paris (France)
Tel: +33 014 955 8236
Fax: +33 014 955 8200
E-mail: julien.turenne@agriculture.gouv.fr

ULLOA ALONSO, E.
Secretario Técnico
Asociación Nacional de Armadores de Buques Palangreros de Altura (ANAPA)
Puerto Pesquero, Edificio Vendedores, Of.1-6
Apartado 1078
36202 Vigo (Pontevedra, Spain)
Tel: +34 98 643 3844
Fax: +34 98 643 9218

VIERECK, A.
Ministry of Agriculture
Rochustr.1, D-53123 Bonn (Germany)
Tef: +49 228 529 4498
Fax: +49 228 5294410

YBAÑEZ RUBIO, I.
Subdirector General de Organismos Multilaterales de Pesca
Secretaría General de Pesca Marítima
Ortega y Gasset, 57
28006 Madrid (Spain)
Tef: +34 91402 5000
Fax: +34 91 309 3967
E-mail: orgmul-sgpm@virtualsw.es

JAPAN

FURUHATA, T.
Embassy of Japan
c/Serrano, 109
Madrid 28006 (Spain)
Tel: +34 91 590 7600
Fax: +34 91 590 1329

NOMURA, I.
Director, Far Seas Fisheries Division
Fisheries Agency of Japan
1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 100
Tel: +81 33 502 2443
Fax: +81 33 591 5824

OZAKI, E.
Deputyt Manager
Federation of Japan Tuna Fisheries
Cooperative Associations
2-3-22 Kudankita, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 102
Tel: +81 33 284 6167
Fax: +81 33 234 7455
E-mail: ldr4602@niftyserve.or.jp

TAKASE, M.
Assistant Director
Far Seas Fisheries Division
Fisheries Agency of Japan
1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 100
Tel: +81 33 502 2443
Fax: +81 33 591 5824
E-mail: miwako_takase@nm.maff.go.jp

TANAKA, K.
Deputy Director
InternatiFonal Affairs Division
Fisheries Agency of Japan
1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 100
Tel: +81 33 591 1086
Fax: +81 33 502 0571
E-mail: kengo_tanaka@nm.maff.go.jp

LIBYA

ABUKHDER, A.
Sector of Marine Wealth
P.O. Box 30830
Tajura, Tripoli
Tel: +218 21 369 0003
Fax: +218 21 3690002
E-mail: abukdir@yahoo.com

MOROCCO

AKHOUYA, M.
Ambassade du Royaume du Maroc
c/Serrano, 179
Madrid 28002 (Spain)
Tel: +34 91 563 1090
Fax: +34 91 561 7887

EL KTIRI, T.
Ministère des Pêches Maritimes
Nouveau Quartier Administratif
Agdal, Rabat
Tel: +212 7 688 118
Fax: +212 7 688 134
E-mail: elktiri@mp3m.gov.ma

IDELHAJ, A.
Institut National de Recherche Halieutique
2 rue de Tiznit
Casablanca
Tel: +212 2 200 863
Fax: +212 2 266 967
E-mail: idelhaj@inrh.org.ma

JOUKER, A.
Ministère des Pêches Maritimes
Nouveau Quartier Administratif
Agdal, Rabat
Tel: +212 7 688 243
Fax: +212 7 688 213
E-mail: jouker@mp3m.gov.ma

OUALIT, A.
Chambre des Pêches Maritimes de la Mediterranée
3 rue El Jerraoui
Tanger
Tel: +212 9 993 2162
Fax: +212 9 993 8736

SROUR, A.
Institut National de Recherche Halieutique
Centre Régional de Recherche en Méditerranée
B.P. 197 BNINSAR - Nador
Tel: +212 6 604 020
Fax: +212 6 603 828
E-mail: srour@nadornet.net.ma

TALEB, S.
Institut National de Recherche Halieutique
2 rue de Tiznit
Casablanca
Tel: +212 2 220 249
Fax: +212 2 266 967
E-mail: taleb@inrh.org.ma

PANAMA

FRANCO, A.L.
Antigua Escuela Diablo High
Panamá
Tel: +507 232 7510
Fax: +507 232 6477
E-mail: digerema@sinfo.net

HERRERA VELIZ, G.
Embajada de Panamá
c/Claudio Coello 86, bajo dcha.
Madrid (Spain)
Tel: +34 91 576 7668
Fax: +34 91 576 5001
E-mail: panaemba@teleline.es

SANCHEZ DE PIRRO, V.
Antigua Escuela Diablo High
Panamá
Tel: +507 232 6416
Fax: +507 232 5527
E-mail: ginny.pirro@usa.net

SOUTH AFRICA

MOLONEY, C.
Marine and Coastal Management
Private Bag X2
Rogge Bay , Cape Town 8012
Tel: +27 21 402 3171
Fax: +27 21 421 7406
E-mail: cmoloney@sfri.wcape.gov.za

VAN ZYL, J.A.
Director
Sea Fisheries
Private Bag X2
Rogge Bay , Cape Town 8012
Tel: +27 21 402 3020
Fax: +27 21402 3217

TUNISIA

CHOUAYAKH, A.
Ministère de la Pêche
Direction Générale de la Pêche
32 rue Alain Savary
1002 Tunis
Tel: +216 1 890 784
Fax: +216 1 799 401

UNITED KINGDOM (Overseas Territories)

BARNES, J.A.
Director
Department of Agriculture & Fisheries
P.O. Box HM 834
Hamilton HM CX - Bermuda
Tel: +1 441 236 4201
Fax: +1 441 2367582
E-mail: agfish@ibl.bm

JACKSON, A.
Aviation and Maritime Department
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
King Charles St., London SW1A 2AH (England)
Tel: +44 171 270 2628
Fax: +44 171 270 3189
E-mail: and.fco@gtnet.gov.uk

UNITED STATES

BEIDEMAN, N.
Blue Water Fishermen's Association
910 Bayview Avenue
P.O. Box 579
Barnegat Light, New Jersey 08006
Tel: +1 609 361 9229
Fax: +1 609 494 7210
E-mail: bwfa@usa.net

BLANKENBEKER, K.
Foreign Affairs Specialist
Office of Sustainable Fisheries
International Fisheries Division
NMFS/NOAA
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910
Tel: +1 301 713 2276
Fax: +1 301 713 2313
E-mail: kimberly.blankenbeker@noaa.gov

DELANEY, G.
601 Pennsylvania Av., NW
Suite 900
Washington, D.C. 20004
Tel: +1 202 434 8220
Fax: +1 202 639 8817
E-mail: grdelaney@aol.com

HALLMAN, B.S.
Deputy Director, Office of Marine Conservation
Department of State, Room 5806
22nd & C St., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20520
Tel: +1 202 647 2335
Fax: +1 202 736 7350

KERSTETTER, D.
NOAA/NMFS
1315 East-West Highway
Silverspring, Maryland 20910
Tel: +1 301 713 2337
Fax: +1 301 713 2313
E-mail: david.kerstetter@noaa.gov

LENT, R.
Chief, Highly Migratory Species
Management Division
National Marine Fisheries Service
NOAA-DOC-F/SF1
1315 East-West Highway
Silverspring, Maryland 20910
Tel: +1 301 713 2347
Fax: +1 301 713 1917
E-mail: rebecca.lent@noaa.gov

McCALL, M.
NOAA-GCF
1315 East-West Highway
Silverspring, Maryland 20910
Tel: +1 301 713 2231
Fax: +1 301 713 0658
E-mail: mariam.mccall@noaa.gov

POWERS, J. (SCRS Chairman)
Southeast Fisheries Science Center
NMFS
75 Virginia Beach Drive
Miami, Florida 33149
Tel: +1 305 361 4295
Fax: +1 305 361 4219
E-mail: joseph.powers@noaa.gov

RUAIS, R.P.
Executive Director, East Coast Tuna Association
28 Zion Hill Road
Salem, New Hampshire 03079
Tel: +1 603 898 8862
Fax: +1 603 898 2026
E-mail: rruais@aol.com

SCHMITTEN, R.
Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Affairs
NOAA, 14th St. and Constitution Ave.
Washington D.C.
Tel: +1 202 482 6076
Fax: +1 202 482 6000
E-mail: rolland.schmitten@noaa.gov

URUGUAY

BERTULLO, E.
Director General, Instituto Nacional de Pesca (INAPE)
Constituyente 1497
11200 Montevideo
Tel: +598 42 409 2969
Fax: +598 42 401 3216
E-mail: bertullo@inape.gov.uy

VENEZUELA

BELTRAN, C.
Ministerio de Agricultura y Cria
Torre M.R.E., Piso 13, Esquina Carmelitas
Caracas
Tel: +58 2 509 0285
Fax: +58 2 571 4889
E-mail: beltran.carolina@hotmail.com

LOPEZ ROJAS, H.
Apartado Postal 47058, Los Chaguaramos
Caracas 1041-A
Tel: +58 2 605 2309
Fax: +58 2 605 2204
E-mial: helopez@strix.ciens.ucv.ve

PULVENIS, J.F.
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores
Torre M.R.E., Piso 13, Esquina Carmelitas
Caracas
Tel: +58 2 862 8886
Fax: +58 2 819 3732
E-mail: dgsfun@mre.gov.ve

OBSERVERS

BELIZE

GONZALEZ SOLIS, S.
IMMARBE
Marina Towers 204, Newtown Barracks Road
Belize City
Tel: +501 2 350 26/31
Fax: +501 2 350 48/70
E-mail: immarbe@btl.net

PEREZ, J.
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Cooperatives
Fisheries Department
P.O. Box 148
Princess Margaret Drive
Belize City
Tel: +501 2 44 552
Fax: +501 2 32 983
E-mail: species@btl.net

COLOMBIA

PLATA GONZALEZ, J.
Avenida Jimenez 765
Bogotá
Tel: +57 1 334 199 (Ext.440)
Fax: +57 1 284 5805
E-mail: pllatta@usa.net

DENMARK (Faroe Islands)

PEDERSEN, M.H.
Minister Counsellor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
2 Asiatisk Plads
1448 Copenhagen
Tel: +298 453 392 0000
Fax: +298 453 154 0633
E-mail: mogped@um.dk

GUATEMALA

VILLAGRAN, E.
Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Alimentación
5 Av. 8-06 Zona 9, 01009 Guatemala
Tel: +502 360 4425/28
Fax: +502 361 7783
E-mail: evillag@infovia.com.gt

ICELAND

ASMUNDSSON, S.
Ministry of Fisheries
Skulagata 4, 150 Reykjavik
Tel: +354 560 9670
Fax: +354 562 1853
E-mail: stefas@hafro.is

GUDNASON, E.
Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Raudararstigur 25
150 Reykjavik
Tel: +354 560 9941
Fax: +554 560 9979
E-mail: eidur.gudnason@utn.stjr.is

HALLDORSSON, A.
Ministry of Fisheries
Skulagata 4
150 Reykjavik
Tel: +354 560 9670
Fax: +354 562 1853
E-mail: arnor@hafro.is

THORARINSSON, K.
LIU , P.O. Box 893
121 Reykjavik
Tel: +354 552 9500
Fax: +354 561 6056
E-mail: k@lf.is

MALTA

AGIUS, C.
Department of Biology
University of Malta (MSIDA)
Malta
Tel: +356 3 290 2375/45271
Fax: +356 3 290 451271
E-mail: cagi2@um.edu.mt

GRUPPETTA, A.
Director of Fisheries and Aquaculture
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries
Fort San Lucjan
Marsaxlokk, BBG 06
Tel: +356 685 525
Fax: +356 688 380
E-mail: grupa001@magnet.mt

MEXICO

CAMACHO GAOS, C.
Subsecretario de Pesca
Periférico Sur No.4209, 5° piso
Colonia Jardines en la Montaña
México D.F., C.P. 14210
Tel: +52 5 628 0610
Fax: +52 5 628 0656
E-mail: ccamacho@buzon.semarnap.gob.mx

COMPEAN JIMENEZ,A.
FIDEMAR
Campus CICESE
22860 Ensenada
Baja California
Tel: +52 61 745 637/38
Fax: +52 61 745 639
E-mail: atundeli@cicese.mx

ROSIÑOL LLITERAS, A.
Presidente
CANAINPESCA
Manuel Maria Contreras 133-401
Colonia Cuauhtémoc
México D.F., C.P.06500
Tel: +52 5 705 1888
Fax: +52 5 705 6990
E-mail: canainpe@dfl.telmex.net.mx

SUAREZ GUTIERREZ, A.
Presidente
GRUPOMAR
Hamburgo 241, Col. Juarez
México D.F., C.P. 06600
Tel: +52 5 208 7258
Fax: +52 5 208 7501
E-mail: grupomar@mps.net.com.mx

NAMIBIA

COPPIN, R.
c/o Corvima Investments (PTY) Ltd.
P.O. Box 3427, Walvis Bay
Tel: +264 642 05610
Fax: +264 642 05603
E-mail: corvima@iafrica.com.na

HAMUKUAYA, H.
Ministry of Fisheries
Private Bag 13355
Windhoek
Tel: +264 61 205 3911
Fax: +264 61 220 558
E-mail: hhamukuaya@mfmr.gov.na

JURGENS, J.
Consultant
P.O. Box 22497
Windhoek
Tel: +264 61 222 163
Fax: +264 61 222 163

KASHINDI, M.S.
Ministry of Fisheries
Private Bag 13355
Windhoek
Tel: +264 61 205 3043
Fax: +264 61 224 566
E-mail: mkashindi@mfmr.gov.na

NORWAY

LARSEN, K.
Fiskerdirektoratet
PB 185 - Sentrum
N-5002 Bergen
Tel: +47 552 38351
Fax: +47 552 38090
E-mail: kirsti.larsen@fiskeridir.dep.telemax.no

PHILIPPINES

CHEN, S.
Room 601, 321 Dasmarinas St.
Binondo, Manila
Tel: +63 2 244 5563
Fax: +63 2 2445566

CHOO, G.
Room 701/71F, 321 Dasmarinas St.
Binondo, Manila
Tel: +63 2 244 5565
Fax: +63 2 244 5566

GANADEN, R.A.
Bureau of Fisheries & Aquatic Resources
860 Quezon Ave., Quezon City
Tel: +63 2 372 5058
Fax: +63 2 373 7447
E-mail: rganaden@vlink.net.ph

SY, R.
Room 701/71F, 321 Dasmarinas St.
Binondo, Manila
Tel: +63 2 244 5565
Fax: +63 2 244 5566
E-mail: sunwarm@netasia.net

TAN, D.
Room 601, 321 Dasmarinas St.
Binondo, Manila
Tel: +63 2 244 5563
Fax: +63 2 244 5566

TURKEY

KAYABASI, Y.
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs
General Directorate of Protection and Control
Akay Cad. N° 3, Bakanliklar, Ankara
Tel: +90 312 425 5013
Fax: +90 312 419 8319

ORAY, I.K.
University of Istanbul, Faculty of Aquatic Products
Ordu Cad No.206, Laleli - Istanbul
Tel: +90 212 514 0388
Fax: +90 212 514 0379
E-mail: oray@istanbul.edu.tr

******

CHINESE TAIPEI

CHANG, S.K.
Director, Information Division
Overseas Fisheries Development Council
No.19 Lane 113 Sect.4
Roosevelt Road, Taipei
Tel: +886 2 273 81522
Fax: +886 2 273 84339
E-mail: skchang@ofdc.org.tw

CHEN, C.L.
Fisheries Administration, Council of Agriculture
17th floor, N°9 Hsiang Yang Rd.
Taipei
Tel: +886 2 234 97033
Fax: +886 2 233 16408
E-mail: phylla@mail.coa.gov.tw

CHERN, Y.C.
Fisheries Administration
Council of Agriculture
17th floor, N°9 Hsiang Yang Rd.
Taipei
Tel: +886 2 234 97030
Fax: +886 2 233 16408
E-mail: yuhchen@mail.coa.gov.tw

HU, N.T.
Office for Marine Policy Studies
National Yat-Sen University, Kaohsiung
Tel: +886 7 525 5799
Fax: +886 7 525 5799
E-mail: omps@mail.nsysu.edu.tw

LIN, W.C.
Tuna Association
3F-2, No.2 Yu-Kang Middle 1st. Rd.
Chien-Chen District, Kaohsiung
Tel: +886 7 841 9606
Fax: +886 7 831 3304
E-mail: kevin@tuna.org.tw

TAI, P.Y.
No.8, Sect.1, Chung-Hsiao E Road
Taipei
Tel: +886 2 232 19511
Fax: +886 2 234 16286

YEH, S.Y.
National University
No.1, Sect.4, Roosevelt Road
Taipei
Tel: +886 2 363 7753
Fax: +886 2 239 25294
E-mail: sheanya@ccms.ntu.edu.tw

Intergovernmental Organizations

Carribean Community & Common Market (CARICOM)

McCONNEY, P.
Director of Fisheries, Fisheries Division
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
Princess Alice Highway, Bridgetown, Barbados
Tel: +1 246 426 3745
Fax: +1 246 436 9068
E-mail: fishbarbados@caribsurf.com

Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)

ANGANUZZI, A.
Fishing Port, P.O. Box 1011
Victoria, Seychelles
Tel: +248 225 494
Fax: +248 224 364
E-mail: aanganu@seychelles.net

OLDEPESCA

MAZAL, C.
OLDEPESCA
Las Palomas 422, Lima 34, (Perú)
Tel: +51 1 421 0245
Fax: +51 1 221 0161
E-mail: oldepesca@bellnet.com.pe

Appendix 3 to ANNEX 6

1st MEETING OF THE ICCAT WORKING GROUP ON ALLOCATION CRITERIA

Madrid, Spain - May 31 to June 2, 1999

-- OPENING STATEMENTS --

OPENING STATEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

Mr. Chairman,

The European Community wishes to thank the government of Spain for hosting this very important meeting. Without this generous offer, this meeting perhaps would not have taken place.

The European Community is very supportive of this working group. In this regard, we certainly wish to contribute actively to the discussions. And, in order to make the upcoming discussions as fruitful as possible, we suggest that regard be given to the following general principles:

The sustainable management of tuna resources must always constitute the objective of ICCAT. This objective should always be borne in mind during the discussions of the working group.

- The problem at issue is very complex, and all relevant elements must be carefully examined. We should therefore favor a general approach, comprising all relevant elements. This should result in a package of criteria, agreed by all Contracting Parties.

- In this package we should try to strike a reasonable balance between the interests of countries traditionally involved in tuna fisheries and the legitimate aspirations of other countries to develop their fishing activity.

- The package should also reflect the necessary balance of rights and obligations between Coastal States and those States fishing in the High Seas.

- The contribution of ICCAT and its Contracting Parties to the conservation and management of the tuna stocks constitute a very important asset, which must be stressed and taken into consideration in the definition of allocation criteria.

This exercise may be difficult and may take some time to conclude, but we should not be discouraged by the difficulties. The future of tuna fisheries and that of this very organization demand that we come to a reasonable agreement, acceptable to all Parties, on this fundamental question.

OPENING STATEMENT BY JAPAN

At the outset, Japan reiterates its commitment to continued utmost cooperation, within the framework of ICCAT and in bilateral association with respective nations, for the effective conservation and management of all tuna resources in the entire Atlantic. We are very well aware that ICCAT member nations and other members of the international community see and expect Japan to continue taking constructive initiatives not only to act as a responsible fishing nation but also to make ICCAT become a type of salient regional tuna management organization which other tuna management organizations wish to follow. For these reasons, we have established strict domestic measures to implement each and every conservation and management measure which was adopted by ICCAT.

The issue of establishment of TAC for respective tuna species and subsequent national allocation is, of course, one of the most significant ICCAT conservation and management measures. Japan fully recognizes the dissatisfaction and frustration on the part of not a few member nations that past ICCAT practices of determining national allocations were mainly and sometimes in their words, solely based on historical catch. We also understand that this practice would inevitably work disadvantageously to the interest not only of new comers but also of existing member nations which did not participate actively in tuna fisheries in the past but wish to develop them in the future. Japan has not been and will not be blind to their causes and quests. This is exactly why Japan supported at the last Commission meeting the establishment of this Working Group for which we are here. We assure you all Japan's active and constructive participation in the discussion.

At the same time, Japan wishes to sincerely request that those nations which complain that the current allocation practice is unfair and allege that the current resource problems were caused by developed member nations see the other side of coin. In the face of the need for very stringent conservation measures adopted by ICCAT and subsequent sharp reduction in the amount of fish available to them, it is also undoubtedly true that those members with substantive past fishing history contributed to scientific study of ICCAT tuna resources with significant budgetary burdens, complied with ICCAT regulations and suffered much from the consequences. I do not think, therefore, that criticizing the current ICCAT allocation practices only and demanding give-away from the currently active fishing participants would lead to any equitable solutions.

Having said these points, I now would like to touch on some aspects relating to the terms of reference of this Working Group.

1 As the Resolution adopted at the last year's ICCAT meeting clearly stipulates, the main terms of reference of this Working Group is "To analyze and consider recommending criteria for quota allocation". Japan considers that the instruction given by the Commission to this Working Group is general in nature so that, based on whatever guideline and factors to be taken into consideration in making national allocation which this Working Group has agreed and is subsequently approved by the Commission, respective Panels must follow these guidelines and factors in actually recommending concrete national allocations. In other words, it is not this Working Group but Panels which should apply criteria for respective species in accordance with whatever agreed-on guidelines or factors. The reason is simple. Respective Panels are best suited for dealing with allocation matters in light of biological characteristics and stock condition of respective tuna species as well as modes of fishery operations of respective member nations.

2 For the same reason, it is neither realistic nor workable if we are to agree on any simple allocation criteria which will be applicable to all ICCAT species. Variance in biological feature, modes of fishery patterns and diversity of participants in relation to respective tuna species will not allow for strict universal application of a single set of allocation criteria.

3 When we agree on guidelines and factors to be taken into account in making allocation, prioritizing and weighting each factor should be, if necessary, discussed at respective Panels for the reasons as stated before.

4 Japan can not support the concept of preferential right to be granted to the coastal state in the allocation of highly migratory species, in particular. Such concept is not seen in any existing international legal instrument and, in our view, not palatable to the spirit of international cooperation for the conservation and management of highly migratory species which migrate indiscriminately within national jurisdiction and on the high seas.

5 With respect to participatory right of new members, we are fully cognizant of the criteria stipulated in Article 11 of the UN Fish Stock Agreement. We would like to remind you of the first item in that Article, that is the status of the stock concerned. In a real world, this factor is more critical. In a situation where existing members suffer from significant loss of allocation for depleted species, it is questionable in theory and reality if we allocate some pie automatically to any new comers.

On the other issue not directly but indirectly related to the allocation issue, Japan is deeply concerned that during the last single year we observed that as many as 4 member nations had lodged objections to the ICCAT Recommendations which had been adopted in the Commission by consensus. While Japan fully recognizes the right of each Contracting Party under the Convention, it cannot see the act of objecting as a light issue. In other international fora, Japan made and has maintained objections to the decisions of these organizations. But we did so because we thought their decisions were in violation of the Conventions themselves or totally lacked scientific justification. We did not object simply because their decision were so damaging to our interest. In the past, ICCAT made several decisions which could have caused destructive effects on our industry. For example, the 3.2 kg minimum size regulation for yellowfin tuna made our government withdraw the Japanese pole and line fleet from the Atlantic in the mid 70's. In 1982, ICCAT drastically reduced Japan's quota of western Atlantic bluefin tuna from previous annual catch of 3,771 to 305 tons. In neither case did Japan choose to object since we could not dismiss certain element of science backing these measures and since we thought our government should not act as a puppet of our industry. The Recommendations in question which were objected by some members were the culmination of arduous negotiations and efforts within ICCAT and were once again adopted by consensus. I simply would like to register our delegation's strong concern that should objections proliferate for ICCAT decisions, it would only work to weaken the credibility of ICCAT.

Lastly, Japan sincerely hopes that the discussion in the three days' Working Group will deepen mutual understanding among Contracting Parties and between Contracting Parties and Non-Contracting Parties in a good spirit and in no way go to the direction of conflict and mistrust among us. The latter would merely diminish the effectiveness of ICCAT as a responsible fishery organization and aggravate its problems facing us such as flag-of-convenience vessels' operations and other illegal, unreported and unregulated fisheries.

Thank you for your patience in listening to my statement which is quite lengthy.

OPENING STATEMENT BY THE UNITED STATES

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is a pleasure to see everyone again so soon after our very productive fall ICCAT meeting. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Executive Secretary and the members of his staff for their, as usual, outstanding work in organizing and supporting this very important meeting. We could not do what we do without you.

The United States is looking forward to a productive three day session. We would like to have a very open and frank dialogue at this working group meeting. We are very interested in hearing the views of other parties on the issue at hand.

Allocation matters are among the most difficult that any management body can address. While the United States supports the initiative of looking at allocation needs of developing countries, at the same time we are very aware of the delicate balance of those countries that have pioneered the ICCAT fisheries.

Tunas, swordfish and other highly migratory fish species covered by the ICCAT Convention are special creatures. Given the migratory nature of these animals, international cooperation is critical if they are to be conserved and managed effectively throughout their range. Relevant international instruments recognize this fact and call on states to cooperate in the management of these species in order to maintain or restore their populations to maximum sustainable yield levels. These same instruments speak generally to the needs of historical fisheries and coastal fishing communities, the special requirements of developing states, the right of states to fish on the high seas as well as the needs of those high seas fishing states.

The drafters of the ICCAT Convention understood that tuna and tuna-like fishes do not respect boundaries, and the Convention does not draw a distinction between the high seas and waters within the jurisdiction of states. The Convention applies to all waters of the Atlantic Ocean and adjacent seas equally for catch reporting, scientific research matters, and conservation measures, such as the determination of total allowable catches. These issues do not, of course, touch on the question of jurisdiction or access--which is solely within the prerogative of the coastal state. There can be no other way to ensure effective conservation and management of highly migratory species.

ICCAT has never before taken a comprehensive look at the quota allocation issue. In the past, the primary basis for making allocation decisions among existing members, as in other international fisheries conventions, has been historical catch. That is not to say that other factors cannot or should not be taken into account when determining allocations, but it is not realistic to expect significant deviation from historical catch, particularly if this would cause extensive termination of existing fishing operations. While, not yet in force, the U.N. Agreement on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, Article 11, gives some guidance relative to the participatory rights of new members to a fisheries management organization. These criteria, as well as some others, may also be relevant for allocations among current members. We believe relevant allocation criteria that should be included are:

1 The status of the resource;

2 Historical catch;

3 The contribution and cooperation of the ICCAT member with respect to the ICCAT conservation program, including cooperation in scientific research and data collection;

4 The record of compliance with ICCAT's conservation program;

5 The economic importance of the fishery to the ICCAT member, including the importance of minimizing economic dislocations;

6 The importance of ensuring equitable fishing opportunities;

7 The respective dependence of the coastal states and the states fishing on the high seas on the stocks concerned.

In summary, we must seek an appropriate balance of the needs of the parties to this organization so that, consistent with the guidance provided by other international instruments and with the objective of the Convention, we can maintain or restore the stocks under our purview to allow for maximum sustainable catch. The work of this body will be central to this task. The challenge that faces us is significant; we must meet it squarely.

I wish everyone a productive meeting. Thank you.

OPENING STATEMENT BY THE OBSERVER FROM ICELAND

Iceland is pleased to participate in this meeting of the ICCAT Working Group on Allocation Criteria. Iceland has attended the annual meetings of ICCAT, as an observer, since 1995.

The economy of Iceland is overwhelmingly dependent on the exploitation of living marine resources. The presence of bluefin tuna in Icelandic waters has long been known, tuna being occasionally caught as a by-catch in another fishery.

In 1994, fishing confirmed the presence of exploitable concentrations of bluefin tuna in areas adjacent to the Icelandic EEZ. This has led to increased interest of our fishing industry in exploiting this resource. So far, one Icelandic vessel has participated in this fishery, both inside and outside the Icelandic EEZ.

By agreements between the Icelandic Marine Research Institute and a Japanese company, Japanese vessels have conducted research fishing for bluefin tuna in the Icelandic EEZ. This research fishing has been under the supervision of the Icelandic Marine Research Institute. The primary purpose of the research was to gather information on the migration patterns of bluefin tuna in relation to environmental factors and to collect biological and ecological information on the stock, including samples for genetic analysis. Icelandic observers were stationed on-board each vessel. The result is that we now know that there are large exploitable schools of bluefin tuna in our waters. This research will be continued.

Over the last few years, there has been increasing concern about the state of the bluefin stock. As a coastal state, Iceland shares this concern. Therefore, Iceland has chosen to contribute to the conservation of this stock by denying requests received from vessels flying the flags of several countries to enter Icelandic ports for the purpose of landing bluefin tuna.

We welcome the opportunity to participate in this meeting and contribute to the dialogue. In this dialogue, we assume that due regard will be given to the rights and interests of coastal states, as stipulated by established international law and further supported by recent developments in international law and contemporary practice in regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements.

OPENING STATEMENT BY THE OBSERVER FROM NAMIBIA

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates:

On behalf of the Namibian delegation, I would like also to express our gratitude to the ICCAT Secretariat for making all the necessary arrangements to make this meeting possible.

Namibia is fully committed to the management and utilization of the ocean marine living resources on a sustainable basis.

Namibia is participating in this ICCAT Working Group for four main reasons:

1 As one of the sponsors of the Resolution on Allocation Criteria that was passed at the ICCAT meeting last year in Santiago de Compostela.

2 As a nation and people whose future to a large extent is dependent on the long-term conservation and sustainable use of fish resources of the southeast Atlantic Ocean, including the tuna resources.

3 The Government of Namibia is now a signatory to the ICCAT Convention and is in the process or arranging for the ratification.

4 As a coastal fishing state, the Namibian tuna industry is in its infancy in the medium to long-term prospects.

Mr. Chairman, it should be noted that Namibia would never have joined ICCAT if it were not for the anticipated ratification and subsequent implementation of the U.N. Agreement on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (UNIA) which, in our opinion, would result in much fairer sharing arrangements of the high seas resources.

It is our view that the key principles that should guide conservation of this issue of quota allocation for tunas are those put forward in relevant international legal frameworks, in particular, UNCLOS and the UNIA. Although the UNIA is not yet in force, its ratification by the required majority is eminent.

Mr. Chairman, Namibia strongly believes that this meeting constitutes a fundamental step towards achieving fairness, and we are committed to working together in our efforts to achieve this end.

OPENING STATEMENT BY THE OBSERVER FROM TURKEY

On behalf of the Turkish Delegation, we are grateful to attend this very important meeting on allocation criteria of bluefin tuna. We express our thanks to ICCAT and the organizer of this meeting.

Turkey, with a coastline of about 8,300 km on four seas, has modern and efficient boats with an historical catch of bluefin tuna since many years ago, is ready as in the future to comply fully with the ICCAT regulations.

Turkey has been carrying out intensive research on tunas in Turkish waters for many years and has also been collaborating with EU, U.S. and Japanese research institutions for many years.

We are confident the rights of the coastal states fishing bluefin tuna in their waters will be respected.

Bearing in mind that Turkey's economy is dependent on Atlantic bluefin tuna, we strongly hope that this meeting will achieve a consensus and will draw attention to the problems of the coastal states fishing tuna stocks in their waters.

OPENING STATEMENT BY THE OBSERVER FROM THE ORGANIZATION FOR FISHERY DEVELOPMENT (OLDEPESCA)

The Conference of Ministers of the Latin American Organization for Fishery Development (OLDEPESCA), has reviewed the Resolution by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) which created the Working Group on Allocation Criteria, which is to meet in Madrid between May 31 and June 2, 1999.

The Council of Ministers considered that the current rules of international law recognize the preeminence of the rights and interests of the coastal states to assure the conservation and utilization of the straddling and highly migratory fish stocks in the zones under their national jurisdiction and adjacent high seas.

It also considered that this preeminence results from the existing close relationship between the aforementioned stocks of fish and the conditions of the eco-systems in the areas under the jurisdiction of the coastal states, as well as the relation between those species and others depending on or associated with them, from which emanates an authority not subject to the fact that such states are or are not exploiting the resources in question.

The Council of Ministers of OLDEPESCA further considered that these factors should be reflected in the assignment of catch quotas in the framework of the organizations and regional and sub-regional fishery management arrangements established or which are established in this region.

The Council of Ministers of OLDEPESCA resolved the following in its Resolution No. 170-CM-99, which was signed in Lima, Peru on April 30, 1999:

To recommend that the competent authorities of the Member States review the following principles that should be applied, among others, in the management of fisheries of the stocks of straddling fish and stocks of highly migratory fish in high seas areas of the region:

a) The coastal states have the right and the responsibility to develop fishing, both within the areas under their national jurisdiction, as well as the high seas areas adjacent to them, in a manner that assures the conservation and management of the straddling fish stock and the high migratory fish stocks, to the effect that the measures that are adopted by the organizations or sub-regional or regional agreements of fisheries management should respect the recognized preferential status in favor of those states.
b) Subsistence, artisanal and small-scale fishing should receive preferential treatment.
c) The increase in the catch quotas of the coastal states, including new ICCAT members, should be given, in a gradual manner, from the equivalent reduction in the quotas of the states with the major historical catches.

Appendix 4 to ANNEX 6

PROPOSAL BY THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY ON ELEMENTS FOR ALLOCATION CRITERIA

The criteria to be agreed upon are to be applied on a case by case basis, for future allocation of non-allocated stocks.

For species already subject to an allocated TAC, applying existing keys combined with a cooperation quota for newcomers in the fishery (contracting Parties and cooperating non-contracting Parties).

Access to quotas should be reserved to those Parties qualified as having a real interest in the fishery. This real interest should include inter alia the capacity to implement conservation measures, and should exclude quota trading and vessel chartering.

In this context, the following criteria can be examined but not in priority order :

a The status of the fish stocks and the existing level of fishing effort in the fishery
b The respective interests, fishing patterns and fishing practices of new and existing members or participants
c The respective contributions of new and existing members or participants to conservation and management of the stocks, to the collection and provision of accurate data and to the conduct of scientific research on the stocks
d The needs of coastal fishing communities which are dependent mainly on fishing for the stocks
e The needs of coastal states whose economies are overwhelmingly dependent on the exploitation of living marine resources.
f The interests of developing states from the subregion or region in whose areas of national jurisdiction the stocks also occur.
g Historical catches
h Fishing effort limitations
i Interests of artisanal and subsistence fisheries
j Contribution to the establishment of control mechanisms
k The need to minimize economic dislocation in states whose fishing vessels have habitually fished in the zone
l Dependence from the fishery for direct domestic consumption
m Fishing traditions

Once the list of criteria is agreed upon, a second phase should try to agree on a common interpretation of these criteria. Furthermore, the implementation of the criteria will require agreement on such questions as possible weightings, reference periods, duration of the allocation keys, etc. Biological characteristics of the stocks and geographic particularities may also be taken into account.

Appendix 5 to ANNEX 6

PROPOSAL BY THE UNITED STATES ON ALLOCATION CRITERIA

New Contracting Parties

1 As a general matter, new ICCAT members should not expect to receive allocations of a stock that is over-exploited. If catch quotas are increasing, an appropriate allocation may be considered for new members. New members must be able to demonstrate an ability to ensure compliance with ICCAT recommendations (including monitoring and reporting) before any allocation can be considered.

Non-Contracting Parties/Cooperating Parties/Fishing Entities

2 As a general matter, catch allocations should not be made to non-ICCAT parties. ICCAT Cooperating Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities may fish pursuant to catch limits established by ICCAT. Catches by non-parties should be reported to ICCAT and taken into account in stock assessments and in establishing the allowable catch levels for ICCAT members.

Current Contracting Parties

3 [For parties that have been ICCAT members for [ ] years,] the allocation of catch quotas should be considered on a case-by-case basis, according to each fishery under consideration, and should be made taking into account a number of factors, including (not in priority order):

a The status of the resource relative to maximum sustainable catch;
b Historical catches;
c The record of compliance with ICCAT's conservation and management recommendations;
d The contribution and cooperation of the ICCAT member with respect to ICCAT's conservation and management of the stock, including cooperation in scientific research and data monitoring, collection and reporting;
e The economic importance of the fishery to the ICCAT member, including the importance of minimizing economic dislocations;

f The importance of ensuring equitable fishing opportunities for all members;
g The respective dependence of the coastal states and the states fishing on the high seas on the stocks concerned;
h The extent to which fisheries are fished by subsistence, artisanal, or small-scale fishermen; and
i The extent to which states have contributed to over-exploitation of the stocks due to their failure to abide by ICCAT's conservation program (TAC, minimum size recommendations).

4 If appropriate to the fishery under consideration, the allocation of catch quotas in accordance with paragraph 3 should take into account the biological characteristics of the stocks, and the relationships between the distribution of the stocks, the fisheries, and the geographical particularities of the region concerned, including the extent to which the stocks occur and are fished in areas under national jurisdiction and on the high seas.

Appendix 6 to ANNEX 6

PROPOSAL BY BRAZIL ON ELEMENTS FOR ALLOCATION CRITERIA (Supported by Morocco, Libya, Panama, South Africa, Venezuela and Uruguay)

1 Catch allocation should be considered on a case-by-case basis, according to each fishery under consideration and should take into account the following factors and criteria:

a With respect to new Contracting Parties to ICCAT and new cooperating non-Contracting Parties / Entities / Fishing Entities, the status of the fish stocks and the existing level of fishing effort in the fishery;
b The respective interest and fishing practices of new and existing Contracting Parties or cooperating non-Contracting Parties / Entities / Fishing Entities;
c The respective contributions of new and existing members or cooperating non-Contracting Parties / Entities / Fishing Entities to conservation and management of the stocks, to the collection and provision of accurate data and to the conduct of scientific research on the stocks, taking into account their relative capacity in this respect;
d The record of compliance with ICCAT's conservation and management recommendations, including the contribution to the adoption of legal measures aimed at the establishment of control mechanisms;
e The needs and fishing traditions of coastal communities that are dependent mainly on fishing of the stocks;
f The needs of coastal states whose economies are overwhelmingly dependent on the exploitation of living marine resources;
g The interests of developing states of the sub-region or region in whose areas of national jurisdiction the stocks also occur;
h The potential social and economic contribution of the fisheries to developing coastal states, particularly in small island developing states;
i Historical catches;
j The extent to which members or cooperating non-Contracting Parties / Entities / Fishing Entities have contributed to overexploitation of the fish stocks in the Convention area;
k Interests of subsistence, artisanal or small scale fisheries;
l The need to minimize economic disruptions in states whose fishing vessels have fished in the high seas of the Convention area;
m The importance of ensuring equitable fishing opportunities for all Contracting Parties or cooperating non-Contracting Parties / Entities / Fishing Entities;

2 Catch allocation should fully take into account the relationships between the distribution of the stocks, the fisheries, and the geographical characteristics of the region concerned, including the extent to which the stocks occur or are fished in areas under national jurisdiction and the high seas.

3 In applying the factors and criteria above-listed, it is understood that the Commission should take into account such questions as possible weightings, reference periods, duration of the allocations, among others.

4 The mechanism for catch allocation should include the establishment of cooperation quotas for new Contracting Parties or cooperating non-Contracting Parties / Entities / Fishing Entities and should exclude practices leading to non-utilization of quotas by the members to which the quota has been assigned, such as quota trading.

NOTE: This proposal was also supported by the Observers from Belize, Colombia, Faroe Islands, Guatemala, Iceland, Mexico, Namibia, Norway, and Turkey.

Appendix 7 to ANNEX 6

– CLOSING STATEMENTS –

CLOSING STATEMENT BY BRAZIL

The Brazilian Delegation expressed congratulations to all the Contracting Parties and Observers that participated in this meeting. The results attained at this Working Group did more than try to identify new allocation criteria for the distribution of quotas of tuna and tuna-like fishes in the Atlantic Ocean. It also represented a practical exercise for negotiation and the acknowledgment of rights as well as a compromise for the sustainability of renewable resources. Those are fundamentally important elements to maintain the equilibrium of fish stocks. Even more, these results represent a strengthening of ICCAT as a very important international organization for the tuna fishery in the future, from an economic standpoint.

We would like to thank all delegations that worked together to achieve a proper document in respect to global rights. We would also like to thank all those that supported the document. We believe that a paper was prepared that incorporated important elements from the drafts prepared by the EC and the United States, with some adjustment for our beliefs and opinions, that could give way to a fourth document of consensus. All Parties worked to reach an agreement. Some elements have not been agreed upon, but as a whole, a lot was achieved.

CLOSING STATEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

The European Community wishes to congratulate all the participants in this Working Group. The European Community is pleased with the progress achieved during these discussions and the constructive interventions of all the Parties.

These results and the degree of progress are positive in itself and notable in comparison to the parallel work carried out within the framework of other organizations such as North Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) and the Multi-lateral High Level Conference on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stock in the Western and Central Pacific (MLHC).

The three documents that have been presented represent an important contribution which demonstrates the agreement of some positions, but also the existence of differences.

Today has been a time of reflection rather than compromise and we should continue our discussions.

The Community wishes to be constructive and will show proof of flexibility on some points in order to arrive at an equitable compromise.

The progress achieved shows the degree of cooperation that exists within ICCAT and the will of the Parties to attain the consensual results in order to protect the conservation of the stocks and the future of ICCAT

CLOSING STATEMENT BY JAPAN

We appreciate the constructive efforts of those delegations in presenting the Brazilian proposal to incorporate many elements of the proposals and active discussions during the last two sessions. There is no doubt as to the faithfulness and eagerness on the part of the drafters of this document to reach a solution acceptable to all. Having said this, however, does not imply that Japan can go along with the content and spirit embodied in this document.

In order to avoid any misunderstanding of the words of my statement earlier, it seems appropriate and helpful to reiterate again the Japanese basic position on this very important issue.

1 The recognition on the part of Japan of the complaints and frustration shared by some members and non-members with regard to the current allocation practice does not mean in any way that Japan is willing to accept a situation whereby any future allocation scheme and practices will deviate too much from the current practices and subsequent results therefrom. The stability and accountability of ICCAT as a responsible fishery organization stem mainly, though not entirely, from a perception on the part of existing member nations that their fishing operations in conformity with ICCAT regulations will be foreseeable and stable in the future. With that perception, have they contributed to making ICCAT a salient regional fishery organization conserving and managing tuna resources in the Atlantic, by conducting scientific research with budgetary burden, compiling fishery and biological data for several decades and complying with the ICCAT regulations. Rewards to be given to these existing members in the quota allocation can not and should not be diminished easily simply because we come to have more players in the field.

2 The best and probably the only way to measure the practice and contribution of existing members and to evaluate the reward to be granted to them is to give substantial weight to the historical catch record above other various allocation key factors we may agree on. Japan insists on this point. Failing to give such guidance from the Commission and providing just a numerous shopping list would just make crucial negotiations on actual numbers at respective Panels stray into muddy and unguided seas.

3 We are not dealing with tuna resources which have been little or light exploited. All of these are fully exploited and some are even over-exploited. In reality, we cannot afford in this situation to grant generously a substantial pie to newcomers without sacrificing the rewards which have rightfully been granted to the existing member nations for the sake of their past and current fishery practices and contributions. This is another justification for giving substantial weight to historical catch record in the allocation scheme.

4 Japan does not see it appropriate to apply the elements of Article 11 of the UN Straddling Fish Stocks Agreement (UNIA) as they are to those element to be used for allocation among existing members. Article 11 of the UNIA deals with participatory rights to new members only. The UNIA is silent on the scheme of allocation among existing members. The fact that those elements as incorporated into Article 11 are tilted toward the interest of coastal states cannot be used for arguing that similar interest should prevail in the allocation scheme to be used among existing members.

Regarding some specific points in the Brazilian proposal, the following are our preliminary observations:

-- Is it appropriate to treat the interests of cooperating non-members in a manner equal to those of members? This question can be further studied at a later stage.

-- Four elements as stipulated in items (e), (f), (g), (h) in the Brazilian proposal refers only to the interests of either coastal states or developing states while all other elements apply to all nations equally. For the reasons stated in point 4 above, it lacks balance of interests among nations concerned and Japan cannot accept this way of imbalance.

-- Paragraph 2 of the proposal seems to recapitulate a certain UNIA Article and, if so, is short of one crucial element, i.e. "biological characteristics of the stocks". This element seems indispensable since we are dealing with highly migratory species which have special biological characteristics.

On the question of the objections which some members lodged, we see the issue in a similar line to which the Chairman alluded. With reasons for the objections in question being allegedly linked to the allocation of particular species to those member nations, we believe it is incongruous to negotiate an allocation key scheme while maintaining the objections.

Japan's readiness to discuss a new allocation scheme is based on its belief that any existing quota arrangement in force remains unchanged until its expiration date.

CLOSING STATEMENT BY MOROCCO

The Delegation of Morocco congratulates the Chairman for leading the discussions of our Working Group and all the Parties for their efforts that they have shown.

Morocco considers that the results of the Working Group constitute a platform and a desire that a consensus could be adopted through an intermediate meeting of this Working Group prior to the work of the next Commission.

Morocco emphasizes that ICCAT's strength lies in the interest which the different Parties accord to our organization. In this respect, it would be wiser to encourage the adherence of new parties.

Therefore, it is desirable that ICCAT arrive at an equitable quota allocation scheme that guarantees the interests of the different parties and that, with a view towards avoiding that the ICCAT recommendations are the object of reservations and objections.

CLOSING STATEMENT BY THE UNITED KINGDOM (Overseas Territories)

The United Kingdom, in respect of its Overseas Territories participating i ICCAT, fully supports the establishment of this Working Group on Allocation Criteria and is grateful to you, Mr. Chairman, for all participants, both ICCAT Contracting Parties and observers, for their contributions to constructive discussion this week.

There are now five United Kingdom Overseas Territories which participate in ICCAT; Bermuda, Anguilla, Turks and Caicos Islands, St. Helena and its dependencies of Tristan da Cunha and Ascension Island, and the Falkland Islands. These different territories have among them interests in both the exiting ICCAT allocations and in appropriate provision to enable future entrants to ICCAT fisheries to develop such fisheries in a manner fully compatible with ICCAT recommendations.

We have made a good start this week and look forward to further productive discussion of the issues before this Working Group.

CLOSING STATEMENT BY THE UNITED STATES

As I noted in my earlier statement, the United States feels that the results of this meeting exceeded our expectations. We are convinced that this was due to the hard work of numerous delegations, as well as the leadership of our Chairman. In particular, we pay our respect to the delegates of the EC and Brazil, who submitted documents. The United States wishes to emphasize its view that the new allocation criteria should apply to future allocation after the existing agreements expire. We also want to reiterate that, of the many important allocation criteria, the three most important in our view are the status of the stocks (relative to MSC), the record of compliance, and historical catches. The United States re-emphasizes our concern that, in most cases, potential new entrants to ICCAT should not expect to receive allocations of stocks that are already over-fished. Finally, we remind our fellow delegations seeking guidance on the allocation issue from relevant international instruments that they should take into account the entire text of these agreements, which indeed attempts to strike a balance between various user groups - coastal vs. high seas, developing vs. developed, artisanal vs. large scale. As we progress towards our goal of reviewing ICCAT's criteria for quota allocation, we expect that those members who had filed objections to previous ICCAT recommendations recognize that these objections are incongruent with the spirit and purpose of these discussions. We look forward to the opportunity to continue this discussion, and reiterate our commitment to continuing this important dialogue. We remain convinced that this debate is critical to the future of ICCAT. We again wish to thank the ICCAT Secretariat as well as our hosts.

CLOSING STATEMENT BY THE OBSERVER FROM NAMIBIA

Namibia appreciates the efforts that have been made to reform the system of quota allocations and comments the progress that has been made in identifying the new criteria. Namibia believes that the future approaches must see a balance in the relationship that would reflect a greater respect for the rights and interests of coastal states in whose waters these resources occur, especially where developing states are involved.

The new process should provide for opportunity for developing coastal states to increase their participation. Clearly where fisheries are fully exploited, any increase in catches by developing coastal states must be balanced by reductions in catches by other states, especially developed states outside the region.

It is Namibia's position that any coastal state in whose waters the stocks occur has a real interest in the fishery.

Namibia recognizes the positions expressed by other participants, however, we would like to stress our expectations that there should be a new and fair system of criteria for allocation established in accordance with accepted international legal agreements.

This would above all ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the resources.

In closing, the Namibian delegation would like to express its sincere appreciation to the ICCAT Secretariat, the Government of Spain, and all participants for making this historic Madrid meeting a constructive one.

I thank you.

CLOSING STATEMENT BY THE OBSERVER FROM THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (CARICOM)

CARICOM fully supports the establishment of an ICCAT Working Group on Allocation Criteria, trusting that it reflects ICCAT's ability to respond to the varying needs and interests of all tuna-harvesting countries of the Atlantic, and ICCAT's recognition of, and desire to put into effect, the important principles of major world fisheries agreements.

CARICOM wishes to confirm its interest in participating in the activities of the Working Group on Allocation Criteria, so that its Member States are able to secure and maintain equitable shares of the tuna resources and to access these resources for various uses. CARICOM countries recognize that there are provisions in support of the special needs of developing countries and the sovereign rights of coastal states in international fisheries agreements such as the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), the 1995 U.N. Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982, relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, and other international instruments. In consequence, CARICOM countries request that their interests and needs as developing countries, countries with developing fisheries, and their sovereign rights as coastal states, be noted by ICCAT, and be given due consideration at the first and all subsequent meetings of the ICCAT Working Group on Allocation Criteria.

REPORTS OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES

ANNEX 7

REPORT OF THE 8TH MEETING OF THE PERMANENT WORKING GROUP FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF ICCAT STATISTICS AND CONSERVATION MEASURES (PWG)

1. Opening of the meeting

1.1 The Permanent Working for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG) met at the Hotel Rio Othon Palace in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on the occasion of the 16th Regular Meeting of the Commission. The meeting was opened by the PWG Chairman, Mr. J. Pulvenis (Venezuela).

2. Adoption of Agenda and appointment of rapporteur

2.1 The Tentative Agenda, circulated in advance of the meeting, was modified slightly. Following the introduction of these changes, the Agenda was adopted and is attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 7.**

2.2 Mr. R. Howarth (United States) served as rapporteur.

3. Status of implementation of ICCAT Recommendations adopted by the Commission relative to the Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document

3.1 The Assistant Executive Secretary presented Document COM-SCRS/99/10, a compendium of the texts of the management recommendations and resolutions as adopted by ICCAT which are currently in force or which have a direct bearing on current measures. He explained that all the recommendations and resolutions adopted in the past have been assigned numbers to identify the year in which the measures were adopted and to facilitate referencing. It was noted that this compendium will shortly replace the previous compendium on the ICCAT web site. Document COM-SCRS/99/10 also included an historical summary of ICCAT's conservation and management measures which should be considered informal and merely serves as a quick reference. This Table summarizes the year of implementation, quotas, catch limits and other management measures, as well as the assigned reference number.

3.2 The Permanent Working Group was reminded of the provision of the ICCAT Resolution on the Interpretation and Application of the Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document (Ref: 94-4), whereby it is the responsibility of the Contracting Parties to transmit information to the Secretariat (not directly to the importing countries) on the validation of the BTSDs (including original signatures and seals of validators), which will in turn be transmitted to the importing countries. Such information should be maintained up to date so as to avoid any delay in the movement of bluefin tuna products. Document COM/99/21 provides a summary of information currently available in the Secretariat files for both Contracting and non-Contracting Parties.

3.3 The Working Group noted that Japan and the United States had provided biannual reports on the BTSDs they received in 1998 and in the case of Japan, from January, 1998, up to June 1999. In 1998, Japan collected 9,061 BTSDs, accompanying 11,617 MT of bluefin imports, of which 4,985 documents or 1,537 MT were from non-contracting parties, entities and fishing entities. It was noted that no bluefin documents validated by Belize, Honduras or Panama had been received in recent years, while substantial amounts of bluefin tuna had been imported from Equatorial Guinea and Turkey through June, 1999, and from Guinea (Conakry) at least until 1998. Japan reported that the validation of re-exportation of bluefin tuna had commenced, in accordance with the 1997 *Recommendation Concerning the Implementation of the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program on Re-Export* (Ref: 97-4).

3.4 It was brought to the attention of Working Group that 13 MT of bluefin tuna, originating from a vessel registered to St. Vincent and leased by Brazil, had been imported to Japan accompanied by a BTSD validated by Brazil. It was clarified that the vessel was fishing under a charter agreement for Brazil and the fishing operations of this vessel were

controlled by the Brazilian Government to the same extent as the Brazilian national fleet. The discussions reflected that such problem was not foreseen, when the scheme was first drafted. The BTSD Program provides that validation must be done by the flag state of the harvesting vessel. A suggestion was made that the current regime be modified to allow countries leasing vessels to validate bluefin tuna caught by such vessels. However, at the same time, the Working Group considered that great care should be exercised on this point due to the complexity of the issue which involves many legal aspects. There are various types of joint venture agreements and the Working Group was reminded that the FAO Legal Department had developed criteria whereby the catches can be registered to countries other than the flag countries (in the case of joint venture arrangements), the text of which is available in COM-SCRS/99/15.

3.5 The PWG reviewed the proposed Resolution Regarding Validation of the Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document. The purpose of the resolution was to establish a reporting exception under the Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document for chartered vessels used to augment a local fishery in waters of a foreign country. The chartered vessel would be considered a local fishing vessel, and the obligation to report bluefin tuna catches would be the responsibility of the host country under the BTSD. It was noted, however, that this action could create a significant legal problem in validating bluefin tuna catches. The PWG decided to postpone further action on the Resolution until the 2000 meeting.

4. Review of responses to the Commission's letters concerning compliance

4.1 The Executive Secretary presented Document COM/99/20, a compendium of the responses to all the special letters sent by ICCAT (which had been adopted at the 1998 Commission meeting). He explained that non-contracting parties (i.e. Guinea Bissau, Singapore, Vanuatu, Kenya, Sierra Leone, Belize, Honduras, Philippines, Barbados, Chile, Costa Rica, and Equator) will be discussed.

4.2 A summary of the discussions, by country, follows:

Guinea Bissau: In view of the cessation of imports of bluefin tuna from Guinea Bissau, which implied no more bluefin fishing by its vessels, the Working Group agreed that no stricter action was needed at the present time. However, it was noted that there was some evidence that a vessel registered to this country is fishing in the Atlantic and that Guinea Bissau should continue to be monitored.

Singapore: The Group agreed that a letter of identification (see **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 7**) was warranted under the Swordfish Action Plan Resolution (Ref: 95-13), and that Singapore should be asked to rectify its fishing practices.

Vanuatu: The PWG agreed that another letter (see **Appendix 3 to ANNEX 7**) should be sent to Vanuatu to express the Commission's continued concerns, to urge Vanuatu to monitor its fishing vessels, and to request Vanuatu to submit fishing data to the Secretariat.

Kenya: The Working Group noted that one Kenyan vessel appeared to be fishing in the Atlantic. It was agreed that a follow up letter (see **Appendix 4 to ANNEX 7**) requesting information on this vessel was warranted.

Sierra Leone: The PWG recommended that a letter (see **Appendix 5 to ANNEX 7**) be sent acknowledging their response, but stressing that further action was required, and requesting clarification of the fishing practices of the vessel *"Starlet No. 901"*.

Belize: It was noted that vessels of Belize continue to operate in the Convention Area and continue to harvest swordfish. The PWG also noted that no catch data have been reported by Belize. Therefore, the PWG recommended that non-discriminatory, trade restrictive measures be imposed against Belize in accordance with the Swordfish Action Plan Resolution, for their lack of cooperation in rectifying the fishing activities of their vessels regarding ICCAT swordfish conservation measures. (See **Appendix 6 to ANNEX 7**)

Honduras: The PWG noted there had not been any response from Honduras to the ICCAT letter identifying Honduras as fishing in a manner that diminishes the effectiveness of the Commission's conservation measures on swordfish. The PWG also noted that vessels of Honduras continued to operate in the Convention Area and harvest swordfish. Consequently, the Working Group recommended that non-discriminatory, trade restrictive measures be imposed against Honduras, in accordance with the Swordfish Action Plan Resolution. (See **Appendix 6 to ANNEX 7**)

Philippines: The PWG recommended that a letter (see **Appendix 7 to ANNEX 7**) be sent to the Philippines identifying them, in accordance with the Bluefin Action Plan Resolution, as a country that is fishing in a manner that diminishes the

effectiveness of the Commission's conservation measures. It was noted that a Philippine flagged vessel had been sighted in the Mediterranean during the closed season. It was further noted that swordfish has been harvested in the Atlantic Ocean by Philippine vessels.

Barbados, Chile, Costa Rica and Equador: The PWG agreed that no formal action was required at this time as regards Chile, Costa Rica and Equador. However, it was recommended that a letter (see **Appendix 8 to ANNEX 7**) be sent to Barbados expressing concern about North Atlantic swordfish harvests that may be inconsistent with the ICCAT-recommended quotas for this stock.

4.3 It was noted that the Working Group must recognize that several Caribbean nations are still developing their fishery sectors and are working to improve their data reporting systems.

4.4 At its final session, the PWG concluded its discussion of the special letters and agreed to all of these, as amended, to Non-Contracting Parties (i.e. Barbados, Sierra Leone, Philippines, Singapore, Belize, Honduras, Kenya and Vanuatu). The PWG also agreed that the letters to Barbados, Belize, and Honduras include the material reviewed by ICCAT regarding the fishing activities of vessels of these Non-Contracting Parties.

5. Review of the applications for Cooperating Party/Entity/Fishing Entity status

5.1 In accordance with the provisions of the 1997 *Resolution by ICCAT on Becoming a Cooperating Party, Entity, or Fishing Entity* (Ref: 97-17), the Working Group recommended maintaining "Cooperating Party/Entity/Fishing Entity"status for Chinese Taipei for another year and while it expressed satisfaction with the nature of Chinese Taipei's commitment to ICCAT, the PWG stressed more cooperation is necessary.

5.2 In response to some expression of concern regarding the contents of the letter sent by Mexico, the Delegate of Mexico clarified that it was not their intention to establish preconditions for continuing its cooperating status. In addition, Mexico outlined the measures it has taken to comply with ICCAT, such as data reporting, 100% observer coverage of its fleet, limits on the number of vessels, swordfish and shark catch limits, which are all aimed at strengthening conservation measures and go beyond the requirements for Cooperating Party status. Mexico pointed out the measures that it has taken regarding the implementation of the ICCAT management measures which, in some cases, are stricter, such as the reporting of catch data, 100% observer coverage of the yellowfin fishing fleet in the Gulf of Mexico, limits on the number of vessels in this fishery, and limits on by-catches of swordfish and sharks in the yellowfin fishing in this area. Besides, Mexico indicated its intention to continue cooperating with ICCAT.

5.3 The PWG agreed to maintain cooperating status for Mexico for another year. The Chairman recommended, and the PWG agreed, that a letter was warranted to invite Mexico to become a Contracting Party as soon as possible.

5.4 The letters to Chinese Taipei and Mexico concerning Cooperating Party / Entity / Fishing Entity Status are attached as **Appendices 9 and 10 to ANNEX 7**, respectively.

6. Review of unreported catches estimated, vessel sighting reports and other information concerning fishing activities of non-contracting parties, entities, and fishing entities.

6.1 The Working Group reviewed two documents provided by Japan and the United States for purposes of better identifying unregulated or unreported vessels operating in the ICCAT Convention area: (1) List of Unregulated and Unreported Tuna Longline Vessels in 1999, and (2) List of Vessels from the National Fisheries Compound, Trinidad & Tobago. Japan used the following criteria: (1) flag country is not reporting its catch data to ICCAT; (2) flag country of the vessel being different from the country of owner's address; (3) flag country of the vessel being changed to another country within one year; and (4) vessels with Chinese names, but registered in non-Chinese speaking countries. The Working Group noted that between 1998 and 1999, there was a considerable increase in the number of such vessels registered by several flag countries, particularly, the Philippines and St. Vincent.

6.2 The PWG was informed that 345 vessels from 14 countries cited in the Japanese list operated in the Atlantic, Pacific and/or Indian Oceans, and of those vessels, 135 from 11 countries alone operated in the Atlantic. Most of these vessels are owned and managed by Chinese Taipei enterprises.

6.3 The PWG considered the composite list of illegal, unregulated and unreported longline vessels, which was developed from lists referred to above. In reviewing this list, it was noted by Panama, Brazil and Chinese Taipei that certain named vessels on the composite list should be removed. Specifically, Panama submitted a letter to the Secretariat that included details on the removal of specific vessels from the Panamanian registry and listed the boats included in their registry at present, and indicated that these vessels are closely monitored by Panama. Brazil noted that certain vessels on the list are chartered by Brazil, and that regulations are in place that prohibit catches to be landed outside of Brazil. Finally, Chinese Taipei noted that a number of vessels should be removed because they are registered to Chinese Taipei and are regulated and reported by Chinese Taipei. The PWG agreed to the changes requested by Panama, Brazil and Chinese Taipei. The "List of Large-scale Longline Vessels Believed to be Engaged in Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported Fishing Activities in ICCAT Convention Areas and Other Areas" was amended and is attached as **Appendix 11 to ANNEX 7.**

6.4 Although Japan noted that there are many unique problems between Japan and Chinese Taipei concerning unregulated and unreported tuna longline vessel activities (i.e., most of the vessels were built in Japan, vessels exported from Japan now belong to Chinese Taipei, equipment for these vessels has been exported from Japan to Chinese Taipei, etc.), a number of initiatives have been implemented to reduce the problem.

6.5 The Working Group was informed that the regional tuna fishery management organizations met and agreed to exchange the lists of "flag of convenience" (FOC) vessels operating in their areas of competence (COM-SCRS/99/17) and this initiative was supported by the PWG.

6.6 The Working Group considered a draft "Resolution Calling for Further Actions Against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing Activities by Large Scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area and Other Areas". While many in the PWG supported the strong language of the document, many others expressed concern that the consequence of the resolution would mean that vessels operating illegally would have no other option but to continue operating illegally and never be able to come into conformance with ICCAT conservation measures. The PWG noted that each State is responsible for the vessels that are registered to it.

6.7 It was noted that a Boat owners Association was established in Chinese Taipei9 and that Chinese Taipei is attempting to establish a mechanism to incorporate the FOC vessels built in Chinese Taipei shipyards in order to replace its fleet and reduce illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing activities. However, in return for these actions, Chinese Taipei wishes to have an increase of their quota. The statement by Chinese Taipei concerning re-incorporating FOC vessels is attached as **Appendix 12 to ANNEX 7.**

6.8 The Permanent Working Group reviewed the *Resolution by ICCAT Calling for Further Actions Against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing Activities by Large-Scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area and Other Areas.* After introducing some changes to the proposed draft, the Resolution was adopted, as amended, and was forwarded to the Commission for final approval (attached as **ANNEX 5-11** to the Commission Proceedings).

7. Review of compliance by non-contracting parties, entities or fishing entities, and application of relevant actions to improve compliance.

7.1 In reviewing this Agenda item, the PWG referred to three specific Non-Contracting Parties: Turkey, Faroe Islands (Denmark), and Iceland, relative to fishing activities on eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna.

Turkey: The observer from Turkey explained his country's recent revision of statistics and the fisheries on bluefin tuna. The PWG expressed serious concern about the recent rapid increase in Turkey's bluefin tuna harvest in the Mediterranean and Aegean Seas since 1993. While there were opinions that the PWG should identify Turkey immediately, the PWG agreed that a strongly worded letter of concern (see **Appendix 13 to ANNEX 7**) would be sent to Turkey requesting that it reduce its catch levels to within the ICCAT recommendations. The PWG further agreed that should Turkey not take this action, the next step would be for ICCAT to identify Turkey under the provisions of the Bluefin Tuna Action Plan Resolution (Ref: 94-3). The statement by Turkey to the PWG is attached as **Appendix 14 to ANNEX 7.**

Denmark (Faroe Islands): The matter was raised that the Faroe Islands are harvesting bluefin tuna despite having no allocation. The PWG was not persuaded by the argument that the Faroe Islands are a coastal state and have historically harvested bluefin tuna, and therefore it has the right to exploit its resource. However, it was pointed out that many ICCAT Contracting Parties are also coastal States and they have imposed strict regulations on their fisheries. The PWG agreed

that a letter was warranted and would be sent to Denmark (Faroe Islands) (see **Appendix 15 to ANNEX 7**) to express concern over its harvest of bluefin tuna.

Iceland: Similar to the case of the Faroe Islands, the PWG expressed concern about Iceland's harvest of bluefin tuna outside the regime of ICCAT. The observer from Iceland addressed the Working Group, and noted that if Iceland were to become a Contracting Party to ICCAT under the current fishing regime, it would receive a zero catch limit of bluefin tuna, despite being a coastal State relevant to stock. Therefore, Iceland requested recognition of its rights and its interests as a coastal State from the ICCAT Working Group on Allocation Criteria prior to becoming a Contracting Party. The PWG was not satisfied with the explanation and agreed that a letter was warranted (see **Appendix 16 to ANNEX 7**) and would be sent to Iceland expressing concern over the continued harvest of bluefin tuna.

7.2 The Permanent Working Group also agreed that identification of the following countries as warranted under the 1998 *Resolution By ICCAT Concerning the Unregulated and Unreported Catches of Tunas by Large-Scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area* (Ref: 98-18) and that the relevant letters should be sent to Belize, Cambodia, Honduras, Kenya, Philippines, Sierra Leone, Singapore and St. Vincent and The Grenadines. The draft letters were reviewed and adopted by the PWG and are attached as **Appendices 17-a to 17-h to ANNEX 7**.

7.3 The PWG considered a proposed draft "Recommendation Regarding Belize and Honduras Pursuant to the 1995 Swordfish Action Plan Resolution". It was noted that in 1998, the PWG had identified Belize and Honduras as countries whose vessels have been fishing for Atlantic swordfish in a manner which diminishes the effectiveness of the ICCAT swordfish conservation measures, recognizing that the decision was based on trade and vessel sighting information. The PWG further noted that the response from Belize to the Commission's letter was unsatisfactory and that Honduras did not respond. Therefore, the PWG adopted a Recommendation by consensus that would impose non-discriminatory , trade restrictive measures on swordfish products in any form from these two countries. The *Recommendation Regarding Belize and Honduras Pursuant to the 1995 Swordfish Action Plan Resolution* is attached as **ANNEX 5-4** to the Commission Proceedings.

8. Repercussions of various international fishery agreements on the work of the PWG

8.1 The PWG stressed the importance that all ICCAT Contracting Parties and Non-Contracting Parties (where applicable) ratify the United Nations Fishing Agreement (1995) and the FAO Compliance (1993) Agreement as soon as possible, as such agreements are extremely helpful to this Commission's work. The PWG also noted that the relevant provisions of the United Nations Law of the Sea (1992) constitute the basic legal framework of the activities of ICCAT and other similar bodies.

9. Measures to improve fishery statistics requested by ICCAT

9.1 The PWG considered a draft "Resolution on Improving Recreational Fishery Statistics". The purpose of the Resolution is to assist the SCRS in collecting more statistical data to determine the effects of recreational fisheries in the ICCAT Convention Area, since such data are important to the Commission's data base. After amending the Resolution to include that the SCRS should carry out an examination of the extent of recreational fisheries, and their effects on Atlantic tuna and tuna-like resources, the *Resolution on Improving Recreational Fishery Statistics* was adopted and is attached as **ANNEX 5-9** to the Commission Proceedings.

10. Future work and meetings of the Permanent Working Group

10.1 There was no discussion of the future work and meetings of the PWG.

11. Election of PWG Chairman

11.1 Brazil nominated Mr. Ernesto Penas (European Community) to chair the PWG for the next biennial period and the nomination was seconded by Venezuela. Mr. Penas was elected by acclamation.

12. Other matters

12.1 The Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) asked Japan to inform ICCAT that the CCSBT will be considering matters such as trade measures and information schemes relative to southern bluefin tuna at its meeting to be held at the end of November, 1999.

13. Adoption of Report

13.1 The Report was adopted, including all the modifications presented at the time of adoption.

14. Adjournment

14.1 The 1999 meeting of the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG) was adjourned on Monday, November 21.

Appendix 1 to ANNEX 7

1999 PWG AGENDA

1 Opening of the meeting
2 Adoption of Agenda and appointment of rapporteur
3 Status of implementation of ICCAT **Recommendations** adopted by the Commission relative to the Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document
4 Review of responses to the Commission's letters concerning compliance
5 Review of the applications for Cooperating Party/Entity/Fishing Entity status
6 Review of unreported catches estimated, vessel sighting reports and other information concerning fishing activities of Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities
7 Review of compliance by Non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities, and application of relevant actions to improve compliance
8 Repercussions of various international fishery agreements on the work of the PWG
9 Measures to improve fishery statistics requested by ICCAT
10 Future work and meetings of the Permanent Working Group
11 Election of PWG Chairman
12 Other matters
13 Adoption of Report
14 Adjournment

Appendix 2 to ANNEX 7

LETTER IDENTIFYING SINGAPORE AS HAVING VESSELS THAT ARE DIMINISHING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF ICCAT SWORDFISH CONSERVATION MEASURES

Subsequent to its 1995 meeting, the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) announced that it had adopted a *Resolution Concerning on Action Plan to Ensure Effectiveness of the Conservation Program for Atlantic Swordfish*. The Action Plan sets forth a process to seek the cooperation of Non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities with the Commission's conservation program for Atlantic swordfish. The process requires the Commission to identify Non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities with vessels fishing for Atlantic swordfish in a manner which diminishes the effectiveness of the relevant conservation measures of the Commission, and to request any Party, so identified to rectify its fishing activities within one year. As a last resort, this process can result in recommendations for Contracting Parties to take non-discriminatory trade restrictive measures, consistent with their international obligations, on Atlantic swordfish products from Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities whose flag vessels continue to fish for Atlantic swordfish in a manner which diminishes the effectiveness of the Commission's conservation measures for this species.

During the 1998 and 1999 annual meetings, the Commission received evidence indicating that there are at least three vessels flying the flag of Singapore (*Sheng Fan No. 6*, *Shun Kuo*, and *Yu Hsiang 7*), operating in the Atlantic, which do not appear to be regulated by Singapore and whose catches are not being reported to the Commission. A letter was sent to you on February 26, 1999, after the 1998 Commission meeting indicating the concerns of the Commission. The Commission received no response from the Government of Singapore but did receive a response on April 22, 1999, from the JCP Marine, an environmental and safety consultancy group. This letter did not provide any substantive information to the Commission regarding the activities of the aforementioned vessels flying the flag of Singapore in the ICCAT Convention Area or indicating efforts to rectify the situation.

Consequently, at its 1999 meeting, the Commission identified Singapore, pursuant to paragraphs *c* and *d* of the aforementioned Action Plan, as a Non-Contracting Party with vessels fishing for Atlantic swordfish in a manner which diminishes the effectiveness of the ICCAT swordfish conservation program. The Commission is hereby requesting the Government of Singapore to rectify the fishing activities of its flag vessels so as not to diminish further the effectiveness of the ICCAT swordfish conservation program, and to advise the Commission of actions taken in that regard.

During the 2000 annual meeting, ICCAT will review the situation and consider any actions which may have been taken by Singapore to rectify the fishing activities of its flag vessels, and if it is determined that these activities have not been rectified, the Commission will, in accordance with the Action Plan referred to above, recommend that Contracting Parties take non-discriminatory trade restrictive measures, consistent with their international obligations, on Atlantic swordfish products in any form from Singapore.

For your information, I am enclosing herewith copies of each of the regulatory measures as well as the resolutions relative to the activities of fishing vessels of Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, and Fishing Entities, which have been adopted by the Commission.

The Commission would be pleased to provide any further information or clarification on this issue, which your authorities may require. Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Commission Chairman

Appendix 3 to ANNEX 7

LETTER OF WARNING TO VANUATU REGARDING ATLANTIC SWORDFISH

During the 1999 annual meeting, the Commission reviewed information in order to identify vessels that may be engaged in fishing activities that diminish the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation measures. In 1995, ICCAT adopted a *Resolution Concerning an Action Plan to Ensure Effectiveness of the Conservation Program for Atlantic Swordfish*. The Action Plan sets forth a process to seek the cooperation of Non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities with vessels fishing for Atlantic swordfish in a manner which diminishes the effectiveness of the relevant conservation measures of the Commission, and to request any party, entity or fishing entity so identified to rectify its fishing activities. As a last resort, this process can result in recommendations for Contracting Parties to take non-discriminatory trade restrictive measures, consistent with their international obligations, on Atlantic swordfish products from the Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities whose flag vessels continue to fish for Atlantic swordfish in a manner which diminishes the effectiveness of the Commission's conservation measures for this species.

In 1998, as part of its review of trade and sighting data, ICCAT learned that at least one vessel flying the flag of Vanuatu appeared to have fished for Atlantic swordfish in 1997 without regard to the ICCAT conservation and management measures. The Commission also received evidence that longline vessels flying the flag of Vanuatu have been fishing for Atlantic swordfish in a manner inconsistent with ICCAT recommendations. Letters were sent to you on February 26, 1999, and July 26, 1999, indicating the concerns of the Commission over the vessels *Chance 2* and the *Sun-Rise #1*. The Commission received responses that provided more information on the fishing activities of the *Chance 2* but raised concerns regarding the acknowledged fishing activities in the Atlantic of the *Sun-Rise #1*. The Commission is concerned about the fishing activities of the *Sun Rise #1* and that Vanuatu has not taken steps to address those concerns.

The Commission therefore requests Vanuatu to advise what actions it will take to provide catch data to ICCAT and to ensure that the *Sun Rise #1* operates in a manner that does not diminish the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures of the Commission. During the 2000 annual meeting, ICCAT will review the situation and consider any actions which may have been taken by Vanuatu to rectify the fishing activities of its flag vessels. If it is determined that these activities have not been rectified, the Commission will, in accordance with the Action Plan referred to above, identify Vanuatu as a Non-Contracting Party whose vessels have been fishing for Atlantic swordfish in a manner which diminishes the effectiveness of the relevant conservation and management measures of the Commission.

For your information, I am enclosing herewith copies of each of the regulatory measures, including the aforementioned Action Plan, as well as the resolutions relative to the activities of fishing vessels of Non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities, which have been adopted by the Commission.

The Commission would be pleased to provide any further information or clarification on this issue, which your authorities may require.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Commission Chairman

Appendix 4 to ANNEX 7

LETTER OF WARNING TO KENYA REGARDING ATLANTIC SWORDFISH FISHING

During the 1999 annual meeting, the Commission reviewed information in order to identify vessels that may be engaged in fishing activities that diminish the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation measures. In 1995, ICCAT adopted a *Resolution Concerning on Action Plan to Ensure Effectiveness of the Conservation Program for Atlantic Swordfish*. The Action Plan sets forth a process to seek the cooperation of Non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities with vessels fishing for Atlantic swordfish in a manner which diminishes the effectiveness of the relevant conservation measures of the Commission, and to request any Non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity so identified to rectify its fishing activities. As a last resort, this process can result in recommendations for Contracting Parties to take non-discriminatory trade restrictive measures, consistent with their international obligations, on Atlantic swordfish products from the Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities whose flag vessels continue to fish for Atlantic swordfish in a manner which diminishes the effectiveness of the Commission's conservation measures for this species.

In 1998, as part of its review of trade and sighting data, ICCAT learned that at least one vessel flying the flag of Kenya appeared to have fished for Atlantic swordfish in 1997 without regard to the ICCAT conservation and management measures. The Commission also received evidence that at least one longline vessel flying the flag of Kenya ("*Hsiang Chang No. 606*") is operating in the Atlantic, which does not appear to be regulated by Kenya and whose catch is not being reported to ICCAT. A letter was sent to you on February 26, 1999, indicating the concerns of the Commission. ICCAT has received no response from the Government of Kenya indicating efforts to rectify the situation. We are concerned that Kenya has failed to respond to our earlier requests for information and appears to have taken no action to address the concerns of the Commission.

The Commission therefore again requests Kenya to advise what actions it will take to provide catch data to ICCAT and to implement the conservation and management measures of the Commission. During the 2000 annual meeting, ICCAT will review information concerning the fishing activities of your vessels and consider any actions which may have been taken by Kenya to rectify those activities. If it is determined that these activities have not been rectified, the Commission will, in accordance with the Action Plan referred to above, identify Kenya as a non-Contracting Party whose vessels have been fishing for Atlantic swordfish in a manner which diminishes the effectiveness of the relevant conservation and management measures of the Commission.

For your information, I am enclosing herewith copies of each of the regulatory measures, including the aforementioned Action Plan, as well as the resolutions relative to the activities of fishing vessels of Non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities, which have been adopted by the Commission.

The Commission would be pleased to provide any further information or clarification on this issue that your authorities may require. Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Commission Chairman

Appendix 5 to ANNEX 7

LETTER TO SIERRA LEONE SEEKING INFORMATION ON FISHING ACTIVITIES OF ONE VESSEL

At its 1999 annual meeting, the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) reviewed the fishing activities of various Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities under its *Resolution for an Action Plan to Ensure the Effectiveness of the Conservation Program for* ***Atlantic Bluefin Tuna*** and its *Resolution for an Action Plan to Ensure the Effectiveness of the Conservation Program for* ***Atlantic Swordfish***. You will recall from the Commission's letter of February 26, 1999, the Action Plans se t forth a process designed to seek cooperation with the conservation program of ICCAT by Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities.

At the 1999 meeting, the Commission also reviewed all available information regarding the fishing activities of vessels of Sierra Leone and noted the actions taken by your country to respond to the concerns of the Commission as expressed in the above-mentioned letter from the ICCAT sent to Sierra Leone after the 1998 meeting.

Although the Commission is pleased with the efforts of Sierra Leone to respond to the Commission's concerns by de-registering certain vessels, we remain concerned about the fishing activities of the Sierra Leone longline vessel *Starlet No. 901*, which appears to be fishing for tuna and tuna-like species in the ICCAT Convention Area. The Commission requests Sierra Leone to take similar appropriate action with regard to this vessel and to advise the Commission what actions it will take to provide catch data to ICCAT and to implement the conservation and management measures of the Commission in the future.

At its 2000 annual meeting, the Commission will once again review information concerning the fishing activities of your vessels to determine how to proceed, including the possibility of implementing the aforementioned Action Plans. For your information, we also enclosed a compilation of all current ICCAT conservation and management measures. We would be pleased to provide any other information should you desire it.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter and the Commission looks forward to your reply.

Commission Chairman

Appendix 6 to ANNEX 7

LETTER TO BELIZE AND HONDURAS REGARDING NON-COMPLIANCE WITH ICCAT CONSERVATION MEASURES

Subsequent to its 1995 meeting, the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) adopted a *Resolution For an Action Plan to Ensure the Effectiveness of the Conservation Program for Atlantic Swordfish*. The Action Plan sets forth a process designed to seek cooperation of Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities with the Commission's conservation program for Atlantic swordfish. The process requires the Commission to identify Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities with vessels fishing for Atlantic swordfish in a manner which diminishes the effectiveness of the relevant conservation measures of the Commission, and to request any Party so identified to rectify its fishing activities within one year. As a last resort, this process can result in a recommendation from the Commission that Contracting Parties take non-discriminatory trade restrictive measures, consistent with their international obligations, on Atlantic swordfish products from Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities whose flag vessels continue to fish for Atlantic swordfish in a manner which diminishes the effectiveness of the Commission's conservation measures for this species.

During the 1997 and 1998 annual meetings, the Commission reviewed trade and sightings information that indicates that flag vessels of [Belize] [Honduras] have been fishing for Atlantic swordfish in a manner inconsistent with ICCAT regulatory measures. In 1998, consistent with the 1995 Swordfish Action Plan Resolution, the Commission identified [Belize] [Honduras] as a nation with vessels fishing for Atlantic swordfish in a manner which diminishes the effectiveness of the ICCAT swordfish conservation program. The Commission informed the Government of [Belize] Honduras] of its identification under the Swordfish Action Plan Resolution and requested [Belize] [Honduras] to rectify the activities of its flag vessels so as not to continue to diminish the effectiveness of the ICCAT swordfish conservation program. As in past years, the Commission also provided [Belize] [Honduras] with specific ICCAT conservation measures for Atlantic swordfish. The Commission also requested to be informed of rectifying actions taken in order to make this information available for review at the 1999 annual meeting of the Commission. Reports of catch data have also been requested by the Commission but not received and [Belize] [Honduras] have been invited to participate in ICCAT meetings.

During its 1999 annual meeting, the Commission examined additional information that indicated that vessels of your country continue to operate in the Convention Area in a manner that diminishes the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation measures for swordfish. ICCAT adopted the enclosed recommendation that will have the effect of requiring action by Contracting Parties that will result in a prohibition on the import of Atlantic swordfish and its products thereof from [Belize] [Honduras] upon entry into force of the recommendation on [date], unless objections are received from the Contracting Parties.

Specifically, the Commission desires to collaborate with [Belize] [Honduras], as with other Non-Contracting parties, to ensure:

a establishment of binding requirements on [Belizean] [Honduran] fishing vessels to fish consistently with the ICCAT Atlantic swordfish catch limitations and size limits throughout the Atlantic Ocean; and

b reporting to ICCAT of all catches of Atlantic swordfish by vessels under its flag.

Information received by ICCAT from [Belize] [Honduras] will be communicated to all Contracting Parties for a decision, on the basis of documentary evidence, as quickly as possible that the activities of [Belizean] [Honduran] fishing vessels meet the points in the paragraph above and thus no longer diminish the effectiveness of the ICCAT Atlantic swordfish conservation program. Such decision will be communicated to the Contracting Parties by the ICCAT Executive Secretary with a request that actions with the effect of prohibiting trade in Atlantic swordfish be lifted immediately.

For your information, I am enclosing herewith copies of the ICCAT conservation and management measures for Atlantic swordfish, the ICCAT Atlantic Swordfish Action Plan Resolution and other resolutions relative to the activities of fishing vessels of Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities.

Commission Chairman

Appendix 7 to ANNEX 7

LETTER IDENTIFYING PHILIPPINES AS FISHING NOT IN COMPLIANCE WITH ICCAT ATLANTIC BLUEFIN TUNA CONSERVATION MEASURES

Subsequent to its 1995 meeting, the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) announced that it had adopted a *Resolution Concerning an Action Plan to Ensure Effectiveness of the Conservation Program for Atlantic Bluefin Tuna*. The Action Plan sets forth a process to seek the cooperation of Non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities with the Commission's conservation program for Atlantic bluefin tuna. The process requires the Commission to identify Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities with vessels fishing for Atlantic bluefin tuna in a manner which diminishes the effectiveness of the relevant conservation measures of the Commission, and to request any Party so identified to rectify its fishing activities within one year. As a last resort, this process can result in recommendations from the Commission that Contracting Parties take non-discriminatory trade restrictive measures, consistent with their international obligations, on Atlantic bluefin tuna products from the Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities whose flag vessels continue to fish for Atlantic bluefin tuna in a manner which diminishes the effectiveness of the Commission's conservation measures for this species.

During the 1998 annual meeting, the Commission received evidence that longline vessels with flags of the Philippines may have been fishing for Atlantic bluefin tuna in a manner inconsistent with ICCAT recommendations. In addition, at the 1999 annual meeting, the Commission received evidence indicating that there are a number of longline vessels flying the flag of the Philippines operating in the Atlantic, which do not appear to be regulated by the Philippines and whose catch is not being reported to the Commission. Letters were sent to you on October 22, 1998, and February 24, 1999, indicating the concerns of the Commission. The Commission received responses that did not provide any substantive information to the Commission regarding the activities of the aforementioned vessels flying the flag of the Philippines in the ICCAT Convention Area or indicating efforts to rectify the situation.

Consequently, at its 1999 meeting, the Commission identified the Philippines, pursuant to paragraphs *c* and *d* of the aforementioned Action Plan, as a Non-Contracting Party with vessels fishing for Atlantic bluefin tuna in a manner which diminishes the effectiveness of the ICCAT bluefin tuna conservation program. The Commission is hereby requesting the Government of the Philippines to rectify the fishing activities of its flag vessels so as not to diminish the effectiveness of the ICCAT bluefin tuna conservation program, and to advise the Commission of actions taken that regard.

During the 2000 annual meeting, ICCAT will review information concerning the fishing activities of your country's vessels and consider any actions which may have been taken by the Philippines to rectify the fishing activities of its flag vessels. If it is determined that these activities have not been rectified, the Commission will, in accordance with the Action Plan referred to above, recommend that Contracting Parties take non-discriminatory, trade restrictive measures, consistent with their international obligations, on Atlantic bluefin tuna products in any form from the Philippines.

For your information, I am enclosing herewith copies of each of the regulatory measures as well as the resolutions relative to the activities of fishing vessels of non-contracting parties, entities, and fishing entities, which have been adopted by the Commission.

The Commission would be pleased to provide any further information or clarification on this issue that your authorities may require. Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Commission Chairman

Appendix 8 to ANNEX 7

LETTER TO BARBADOS REQUESTING INFORMATION ON SWORDFISH CATCHES

At its 1999 annual meeting, the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) reviewed the fishing activities of various Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities under its 1995 *Resolution for an Action Plan to Ensure the Effectiveness of the Conservation Program for Atlantic Swordfish*. You will recall from the January, 1998, letter sent to you by the Commission, the swordfish Action Plan sets forth a process designed to seek cooperation with the conservation program of ICCAT by Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities.

At the 1999 meeting, the Commission once again reviewed all available information regarding the fishing activities of vessels of Barbados and noted that catch data showed continued exports of Atlantic swordfish to certain ICCAT Contracting Parties from your country. As these catches of Atlantic swordfish could be in excess of ICCAT conservation and management measures, the Commission is once again seeking clarification of the situation from your country.

Although the Commission recognizes the efforts of Barbados to monitor the fishing activities of its vessels and provide catch data, it is critical for the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures that your vessels abide by all ICCAT conservation and management measures. Enclosed are the current ICCAT recommendations and resolutions, including those that limit the catches of Atlantic swordfish. Given the apparent continued interest of Barbados in the harvest of ICCAT species, the Commission once again requests that you become a Contracting Party, Cooperating Party, Entity, or Fishing Entity. Also enclosed are the relevant ICCAT provisions relating to seeking and maintaining such status.

At its 2000 annual meeting, the Commission will once again review the information regarding the fishing activities of your country's vessels to determine how to proceed, including the possibility of implementing the aforementioned Action Plan. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

The Commission looks forward to receiving your reply.

Commission Chairman

Appendix 9 to ANNEX 7

LETTER TO CHINESE TAIPEI REGARDING COOPERATING STATUS

The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) welcomes your continued interest in promoting close cooperation in the work of ICCAT in accordance with the terms of the 1997 *Resolution by ICCAT on Becoming a Cooperating Party, Entity or Fishing Entity*. Pursuant to Paragraph 3 of that Resolution, ICCAT has evaluated the situation of Chinese Taipei and has decided to continue, for an additional year, the status afforded by that Resolution.

Chinese Taipei should continue to note that such status requires actions in conformity with all of the conservation, management and compliance decisions of ICCAT in their entirety, including the current measures that have been agreed to, as well as all future Resolutions and Recommendations adopted by ICCAT. Attached is the complete, updated compilation of ICCAT's current management Recommendations and Resolutions that have been adopted and that Chinese Taipei will be expected to follow. Included in these Recommendations are several conservation measures which are of particular concern in 2000, namely:

- North Atlantic swordfish: catch ti be counted against tlie 498 MT allotted to the "Others" category in the Recommendation, adopted by ICCAT in 1999, *To Establish a Rebuilding Program for North Atlantic Swordfish*.

- South Atlantic swordfish: catch to be counted against the 1169.6 MT allotted to the "Others" category in the *1997 Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Establishment of Percentage Shares of Total Allowable Catch (TAC) and 1998-2000 Catch Quotas for South Atlantic Swordfish*;

- Atlantic blue marlin and Atlantic white marlin: maintain the required 1999 landings level reduction (at 75% of your 1996 landings level) and promote the voluntary release of blue marlin and white marlin;

- Western Atlantic bluefin tuna: no directed fishery allowed;

- Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna: no fishing by longline vessels in tlie Mediterranean from June 1 through July 31 and a catch limit of 658 MT allotted under Paragraph 6 of the 1998 *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Limitation of Catch of Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean*;

- Bigeye tuna: a limit on catches of bigeye tuna to 16,500 MT. and the number of vessels fishing for bigeye tuna to 125, under paragraph 6 of the 1998 *Recommendation by ICCAT on Bigeye Tuna Conservation Measures for Fishing Vessels Larger Than 24 Metres Length Overall (LOA)*;

In addition, the Commission requests that you strengthen your efforts to address the problem of vessels engaged in unregulated and unreported fishing activities, owned and operated by Chinese Taipei business entities, which are conducting fishing activities in the ICCAT Convention Area. The Commission will expect Chinese Taipei to provide a report on your activities to address this problem at the 2000 annual meeting of ICCAT, including a list of vessels that are involved in such fishing activities on species under the purview of ICCAT.

We take this opportunity to note that, under the 1997 Resolution, ICCAT must annually evaluate those applicants that receive Cooperating Party, Entity or Fishing Entity status with a view to determining whether that status should be continued.

As before, ICCAT will expect Chinese Taipei to provide thorough annual reports of ICCAT-required statistics regarding your fishing and research activities in the ICCAT Convention Area.

We are pleased with your continued interest in closer cooperation with ICCAT and would appreciate confirmation that you share the understandings expressed in this letter as to your obligations under the status afforded by the 1997 Resolution.

Commission Chairman

Appendix 10 to ANNEX 7

LETTER TO MEXICO REGARDING COOPERATING STATUS

The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) welcomes your continued interest in promoting close cooperation in the work of ICCAT in accordance with the terms of the 1997 *Resolution by ICCAT on Becoming a Cooperating Party, Entity or Fishing Entity*. Pursuant to Paragraph 3 of that Resolution, ICCAT has evaluated the situation of Mexico and has decided to continue, for an additional year, the status afforded by that Resolution.

The Government of Mexico should continue to note that such status requires actions in conformity with all of the conservation, management and compliance decisions of ICCAT in their entirety, including the current measures that have been agreed to, as well as all future Resolutions and Recommendations adopted by ICCAT. Attached is the complete, updated, compilation of ICCAT's current management Recommendations and Resolutions that have been adopted and that Mexico will be expected to follow. Included in these Recommendations are several conservation measures applying to areas where Mexican fishing vessels are fishing at levels currently consistent with ICCAT conservation measures.

As before, ICCAT will expect the Government of Mexico to provide thorough annual reports of ICCAT-required statistics regarding your fishing and research activities in the ICCAT Convention Area.

We take this opportunity to note that, under the 1997 Resolution, ICCAT must annually evaluate those applicants that receive Cooperating Party, Entity or Fishing Entity Status with a view to determining whether that status should be continued. In the case of Mexico, ICCAT believes that this status should be viewed as transitional in nature and hopes that the Government of Mexico will become an ICCAT Contracting Party in the near future.

We are pleased with your continued interest in closer cooperation with ICCAT and would appreciate confirmation that you share the understandings expressed in this letter as to your obligations under the status afforded by the 1997 Resolution.

Commission Chairman

LIST OF LARGE-SCALE LONGLINE VESSELS BELIEVED TO BE ENGAGED IN ILLEGAL, UNREGULATED AND UNREPORTED FISHING ACTIVITIES IN ICCAT CONVENTION AREAS AND OTHER AREAS *

	Flag Country	Name of Vessel	Owners Name	Owners Address	Expected Area of Catch
1	BELIZE	ALLAN NO.627	SEVEN SEAS MARINE S.A.	SINGAPORE	ATLANTIC&INDIAN
2	BELIZE	ANDREW NO.708	SEVEN SEAS MARINE S.A.	SINGAPORE	ATLANTIC&INDIAN
3	BELIZE	BOB NO.227 (波福227)	SEVEN SEAS MARINE S.A.	SINGAPORE	ATLANTIC&INDIAN
4	BELIZE	CHEN CHIEH NO.88 (振傑88)	FESQUERA CHEN CHIN CHKRN S.A.	BELIZE	ATLANTIC&INDIAN
5	BELIZE	CHEN FA NO.1 (鎮發1)	CHEN FA S.A.	BELIZE	INDIAN
6	BELIZE	CHI YANG (吉洋)	CHIN FU FISHERY CO.LTD.S.A.	SINGAPORE	ATLANTIC
7	BELIZE	CHIEN CHANG NO.126 (建昶126)	CHIEN CHANG FISHERY CORP.	PANAMA	ATLANTIC&INDIAN
8	BELIZE	CHIEN CHANG NO.136 (建昶136)	CHIEN CHANG FISHERY CORP.	PANAMA	ATLANTIC&INDIAN
9	BELIZE	CHIEN CHUN NO.8 (建群8)	GREAT OCEAN ENTERPRISE S.A.	BELIZE	ATLANTIC&INDIAN
10	BELIZE	CHIEN CHUNG NO.602 (建中602)			ATLANTIC
11	BELIZE	CHIN CHENG MING (金誠鳴)	CHIN FU FISHERY CO.LTD.S.A.	SINGAPORE	ATLANTIC
12	BELIZE	CHIN I WEN (金億福)	CHIN HSIANG MING FISHERY CO.LTD.	BELIZE	ATLANTIC
13	BELIZE	CHIN YOU MING (金友鳴)	CHIN FU FISHERY CO.LTD.S.A.	SINGAPORE	ATLANTIC
14	BELIZE	CHUN I NO.307 (鎮億307)	CHUN HUEA FISHERRY S.A.	BELIZE	PACIFIC
15	BELIZE	CHUN I NO.316 (鎮億316)	CHUN JINN FISHERY S.A.	BELIZE	PACIFIC
16	BELIZE	CHUN YING NO.636 (春盈636)	HER JYE OCEANIC S.A.	BELIZE	INDIAN
17	BELIZE	CHUN YING NO.777 (春鎣777)	CHUN YING FISHERY S.A.	BELIZE	PACIFIC
18	BELIZE	CITI NO.8	SEVEN SEAS MARINE S.A.	SINGAPORE	PACIFIC&INDIAN
19	BELIZE	DAI HO (大和)	DAI HO FISHERY S.A.	BELIZE	ATLANTIC&INDIAN
20	BELIZE	FONG KUO NO.16 (豐国16)	F.K.OVERSEAS FISHERY S.A.	BELIZE	PACIFIC
21	BELIZE	FONG KUO NO.3 (豐国3)	F.K.OVERSEAS FISHERY S.A.	BELIZE	PACIFIC
22	BELIZE	FONG KUO NO.33 (豐国33)	F.K.OVERSEAS FISHERY S.A.	BELIZE	PACIFIC
23	BELIZE	FONG KUO NO.36 (豐国36)	F.K.OVERSEAS FISHERY S.A.	BELIZE	PACIFIC
24	BELIZE	FONG KUO NO.6 (豐国6)	F.K.OVERSEAS FISHERY S.A.	BELIZE	PACIFIC
25	BELIZE	FU YUAN NO.11 (富元11)	FU YUAN FISHING OVERSEAS S.A.	BELIZE	INDIAN
26	BELIZE	FU YUAN NO.3 (富元3)	FU YUAN FISHING OVERSEAS S.A.	BELIZE	INDIAN
27	BELIZE	FWU JI (福禩)	FWU JI FISHERY CO.LTD	CHI.TAIPEI	ATLANTIC&INDIAN
28	BELIZE	GENNY NO.8	PESQUERA CHIN CHENG S.A.	BELIZE	INDIAN
29	BELIZE	HAU SHEN NO.202	HAU YOW FISHERY CO.LTD.	CHI.TAIPEI	ATLANTIC&INDIAN
30	BELIZE	HENG FA NO.18			INDIAN
31	BELIZE	HSIANG CHANG NO.101	KWO-JENG MARINE SERVICES LIMITED	TRIN.&TOBAGO	
32	BELIZE	HSIANG FA NO.18 (翔發18)	HSIANG FA FISHERY S.A.	BELIZE	INDIAN
33	BELIZE	HSIANG FA NO.26 (翔發26)	HSIANG FA FISHERY S.A.	BELIZE	INDIAN
34	BELIZE	HSIANG PAO	KWO-JENG MARINE SERVICES LIMITED	TRIN.&TOBAGO	
35	BELIZE	HSIANG SHENG	CONTINENTAL HANDLERS LIMITED	TRIN.&TOBAGO	
36	BELIZE	HSIEH YUNG NO.636 (協榮636)	HSIEH YUNG FISHERY S.A.	BELIZE	PACIFIC&INDIAN
37	BELIZE	HUNG CHIA NO.202			INDIAN
38	BELIZE	HUNG CHING NO.212 (鴻進212)	HUNG CHING FISHERY S.A.	BELIZE	INDIAN
39	BELIZE	HWA CHIN NO.202			ATLANTIC
40	BELIZE	JACKY NO.11 (傑克11)	SEVEN SEAS MARINE S.A.	SINGAPORE	ATLANTIC
41	BELIZE	JAIN YUNG NO.202 (禎永202)	JAIN YUNG FISHERY S.A.	BELIZE	ATLANTIC&INDIAN
42	BELIZE	JEFFREY NO.131	SEVEN SEAS MARINE S.A.	SINGAPORE	PACIFIC&INDIAN
43	BELIZE	JEFFREY NO.168	FULLING TUNA FISHERY S.A.	BELIZE	INDIAN
44	BELIZE	JEFFREY NO.28	SEVEN SEAS MARINE S.A.	SINGAPORE	ATLANTIC
45	BELIZE	JEFFREY NO.328	SEVEN SEAS MARINE S.A.	SINGAPORE	INDIAN
46	BELIZE	JEFFREY NO.618	SEVEN SEAS MARINE S.A.	SINGAPORE	INDIAN
47	BELIZE	JEFFREY NO.816	SEVEN SEAS MARINE S.A.	SINGAPORE	INDIAN
48	BELIZE	JOHNNY NO.137	SEVEN SEAS MARINE S.A.	SINGAPORE	ATLANTIC
49	BELIZE	JUI YING NO.666 (屘盈666)	RUEY SHING OCEANIC S.A.	BELIZE	PACIFIC
50	BELIZE	LIEN HORNG NO.777 (連鴻777)	LIEN HORNG FISHERY S.A.	BELIZE	PACIFIC
51	BELIZE	LIEN TAI (連太)	LIEN TAI CORP.	CHI.TAIPEI	ATLANTIC
52	BELIZE	LUNG CHANG NO.3 (隆昌3)	UNION OCEAN FISHERY CO.LTD.	BELIZE	ATLANTIC&INDIAN
53	BELIZE	LUNG SOON NO.22 (隆順22)			INDIAN
54	BELIZE	NATIONAL NO.21	CONTINENTAL HANDLERS LIMITED	TRIN.&TOBAGO	
55	BELIZE	NATIONAL NO.101(HUI TA NO.101	KWO-JENG MARINE SERVICES LIMITED	TRIN.&TOBAGO	
56	BELIZE	NATIONAL NO.202	CONTINENTAL HANDLERS LIMITED	TRIN.&TOBAGO	
57	BELIZE	NATIONAL NO.206	CONTINENTAL HANDLERS LIMITED	TRIN.&TOBAGO	
58	BELIZE	NATIONAL NO.236(HSIANG YI NO.236)	KWO-JENG MARINE SERVICES LIMITED	TRIN.&TOBAGO	
59	BELIZE	PETER NO.617 (振德617)	SEVEN SEAS MARINE S.A.	SINGAPORE	ATLANTIC
60	BELIZE	PING SHIN NO.201 (屏新201)	PING SHIN OVERSEAS S.A.	BELIZE	INDIAN
61	BELIZE	PING YUAN NO.201 (屏源201)	PING SHIN OVERSEAS S.A.	BELIZE	INDIAN
62	BELIZE	SHANG YUN (上鋆)	OVERSEAS FISHERY CO.	BELIZE	ATLANTIC
63	BELIZE	SHINE YEAR (上裕)	CHEN JING CHOU	SINGAPORE	ATLANTIC&INDIAN
64	BELIZE	SHINN MANN NO.11 (信滿11)	SHINN MANN FISHERY S.A.	BELIZE	PACIFIC
65	BELIZE	SHINN MANN NO.21 (信滿21)	SHINN MANN FISHERY S.A.	BELIZE	PACIFIC
66	BELIZE	SHINN MANN NO.666 (信滿666)	SHINN MANN FISHERY S.A.	BELIZE	PACIFIC
67	BELIZE	SHUN KUO (順国)	CHIN FU FISHERY CO.LTD.S.A.	SINGAPORE	ATLANTIC
68	BELIZE	SHUN LIEN (順聯)	CHIN FU FISHERY CO.LTD.S.A.	SINGAPORE	ATLANTIC
69	BELIZE	SHUN MEI (順美)	CHIN FU FISHERY CO.LTD.S.A.	SINGAPORE	ATLANTIC
70	BELIZE	SHUN YING (順盈)			ATLANTIC
71	BELIZE	SHUN YU (順裕)	SHUN YU FISHERY S.A.	BELIZE	ATLANTIC
72	BELIZE	SI HONG NO.128			INDIAN
73	BELIZE	SI TAI NO.326 (四泰326)	SI UNION FISHERY S.A.	BELIZE	INDIAN
74	BELIZE	SOUTH STAR	GRAND FOREST MARITIME S.A.	BELIZE	PACIFIC
75	BELIZE	TRANS CARIBBEAN NO.116	FISHERIES INT. SEAFOOD HANDLERS LTD.	SPAIN	ATLANTIC
76	BELIZE	TRANS CARIBBEAN NO.127	FISHERIES INT. SEAFOOD HANDLERS LTD.	SPAIN	ATLANTIC
77	BELIZE	TRANS CARIBBEAN NO.137	FISHERIES INT. SEAFOOD HANDLERS LTD.	SPAIN	ATLANTIC
78	BELIZE	TRANS CARIBBEAN NO.21	FISHERIES INT. SEAFOOD HANDLERS LTD.	SPAIN	ATLANTIC
79	BELIZE	TRANS CARIBBEAN NO.701	FISHERIES INT. SEAFOOD HANDLERS LTD.	SPAIN	ATLANTIC
80	BELIZE	VICTORY NO.8	VICTORIA FISHERY S.DE R.L.	HONDURAS	INDIAN
81	BELIZE	VICTORY NO.88	VICTORIA FISHERY S.DE R.L.	HONDURAS	ATLANTIC&INDIAN
82	BELIZE	WEN SHENG NO.16 (福盛16)			ATLANTIC&INDIAN
83	BELIZE	ZHONG XIN NO.16 (中信16)	ZHONG XIN FISHERY CO.LTD.	CHI.TAIPEI	PACIFIC
84	CAMBODIA	EVER LUCK	EVER LUCK FISHERY CO.LTD.	MALAYSIA	ATLANTIC
85	CAMBODIA	FWU JI NO.1 (福禩1)	FWU JI FISHERY CO.LTD	CHI.TAIPEI	ATLANTIC
86	CAMBODIA	LONG THE	CHARNG HER FISHERY CO.LTD.	HONDURAS	INDIAN
87	E.GUINEA	ABUNDANCIA	PESQUERA EXITO S.A.	E.GUINEA	INDIAN
88	E.GUINEA	CHANG YOW NO.212 (昌祐212)	PESQUERA CHANG YOW S.A.	E.GUINEA	ATLANTIC

List of vessels (Continued)

	Flag Country	Name of Vessel	Owners Name	Owners Address	Expected Area of Catch
89	E.GUINEA	CHEN CHIEH NO.726 (振傑726)	CHEN CHIN CHENG FISHERY CO.LTD.S.A.	E.GUINEA	ATLANTIC
90	E.GUINEA	CHEN CHIEH NO.736 (振傑736)	CHEN CHIN CHENG FISHERY CO.LTD.S.A.	E.GUINEA	ATLANTIC
91	E.GUINEA	CHEN CHIEH NO.8 (振傑8)			INDIAN
92	E.GUINEA	CHI MAN (啓滿)	CHI MAN FISHERY S.A.		ATLANTIC
93	E.GUINEA	CHIA YING NO.6 (嘉盈6)	PESQUERA HAPPY SUN S.A.	E.GUINEA	ATLANTIC&INDIAN
94	E.GUINEA	COLUMBUS	PESQUERA COLUMBUS S.A.	E.GUINEA	PACIFIC
95	E.GUINEA	DONG YIH NO.688 (東億688)	DONG YIH FISHERY S.A.	E.GUINEA	INDIAN
96	E.GUINEA	EVER RICH	LIN CHING ISANG	E.GUINEA	PACIFIC
97	E.GUINEA	EXITO	PESQUERA EXITO S.A.	E.GUINEA	INDIAN
98	E.GUINEA	FORTUNA NO.1 (初仲1)	NAVIERA FORTUNA S.DE R.L.		ATLANTIC&INDIAN
99	E.GUINEA	HAI MING NO.1 (海銘1)	HAI MING FISHERY S.A.	E.GUINEA	PACIFIC&INDIAN
100	E.GUINEA	HAI ZEAN NO.11 (海仁11)	HAI ZEAN FISHERY S.DE R.L.	E.GUINEA	ATLANTIC
101	E.GUINEA	HAI ZEAN NO.3 (海仁3)	HAI ZEAN FISHERY S.DE R.L.	E.GUINEA	ATLANTIC
102	E.GUINEA	HAI ZEAN NO.31 (海仁31)	PESQUERA HUNG LIN S.A.	E.GUINEA	ATLANTIC
103	E.GUINEA	HSIANG JANG NO.11 (翔貴11)	ATLANTIC FISHERY S.A.	E.GUINEA	ATLANTIC
104	E.GUINEA	HSIANG JANG NO.111 (翔貴111)	KWO JENG PRODUCTOS MARINOS S.A.	E.GUINEA	ATLANTIC
105	E.GUINEA	HSIANG JANG NO.112 (翔貴112)	KWO JENG PRODUCTOS MARINOS S.A.	E.GUINEA	ATLANTIC
107	E.GUINEA	HSIANG JANG NO.66 (翔貴66)	ATLANTIC FISHERY S.A.	E.GUINEA	ATLANTIC
108	E.GUINEA	HSIN HUA NO.103 (信華103)	PESQUERA HSIN HUA FISHERY CO.LTD.	E.GUINEA	INDIAN
109	E.GUINEA	HUNG YU NO.212 (鴻祐212)	PESQUERA COLUMBUS S.A.	E.GUINEA	INDIAN
110	E.GUINEA	HUNG YU NO.606 (鴻祐606)	HUNG YU FISHERY CO.LTD.	KOREA	INDIAN
111	E.GUINEA	HWA MAO NO.202 (華懋202)	HWA MAO FISHERY CO.S.A.	E.GUINEA	INDIAN
112	E.GUINEA	I MAN HUNG NO.166 (億瑞鴻166)	CHUN FAR FISHERY S.A.	E.GUINEA	ATLANTIC
113	E.GUINEA	JIN CHENG HORNG (金成鴻)	NAVIERAGE KO YUAN FISHERY S.A.	E.GUINEA	ATLANTIC&INDIAN
114	E.GUINEA	JIYN HORNG NO.116 (鎔鴻116)	JIYN HORNG OCEAN ENTERPRISE CO.LTD.	HONDURAS	INDIAN
115	E.GUINEA	JIYN HORNG NO.116 (鎔鴻116)	JIYN YEONG FISHERY S.A.	E.GUINEA	INDIAN
116	E.GUINEA	KAE SA	CHIN CHING FISHERY CO.LTD.	E.GUINEA	ATLANTIC
117	E.GUINEA	KAE SHYUAN	CHIN MAN FISHERY CO.LTD.	E.GUINEA	ATLANTIC
118	E.GUINEA	KUANG HORNG (光鴻)	CHUEN SONG FISHERY S.DE R.L.	E.GUINEA	ATLANTIC&INDIAN
119	E.GUINEA	LUNG SOON NO.212 (隆順212)	EXITO FISHERY S.A.	E.GUINEA	PACIFIC&INDIAN
120	E.GUINEA	LUNG SOON NO.282 (隆順282)	EXITO FISHERY S.A.	E.GUINEA	PACIFIC
121	E.GUINEA	LUNG SOON NO.662 (隆順662)	EXITO FISHERY S.A.	E.GUINEA	INDIAN
122	E.GUINEA	PESQUERA NO.68	CHOYU FISHERY S.A.	E.GUINEA	ATLANTIC
123	E.GUINEA	SHANG SHUN NO.622 (興順622)	EXITO FISHERY S.A.	E.GUINEA	PACIFIC
124	E.GUINEA	SHIN KAI NO.6	SHIN KAI FISHERY S.A.	E.GUINEA	PACIFIC
125	E.GUINEA	SHING YANG (幸洋)	CHEN CHONG HSIN	E.GUINEA	ATLANTIC
126	E.GUINEA	SHUN YING (順盈)	CHEN CHONG HSIN	E.GUINEA	ATLANTIC
127	E.GUINEA	SUN RISE NO.313	SINGAROPE CORP.	E.GUINEA	ATLANTIC&INDIAN
128	E.GUINEA	VIKING NO.1	VIKING FISHERY S.A.	E.GUINEA	ATLANTIC&PACIFIC
129	E.GUINEA	WEI CHING	WEI CHING OCEAN ENTERPRISE S.A.	E.GUINEA	ATLANTIC&INDIAN
130	E.GUINEA	WEN SHENG NO.202 (穩昇202)	WEN SHENG FISHERY S.A.	E.GUINEA	ATLANTIC&INDIAN
131	E.GUINEA	YI HSIN NO.101 (益新101)	YI FA FISHERY S.DE R.L.	E.GUINEA	ATLANTIC
132	E.GUINEA	YIH SHUEN NO.212 (億順212)			INDIAN
133	E.GUINEA	YUH HUNG NO.212			INDIAN
134	E.GUINEA	ZAHRA NO.1	OFFSHORE RESOURCES S.A.	E.GUINEA	ATLANTIC
135	E.GUINEA	ZHONG I NO.63 (中義63)	ZHONG I FISHERY S.A.	E.GUINEA	PACIFIC
136	E.GUINEA	ZHONG I NO.83 (中義83)	ZHONG I FISHERY S.A.	E.GUINEA	PACIFIC
137	E.GUINEA	ZHONG I NO.85 (中義85)	PESQUERA ZHONG I S.A.	E.GUINEA	PACIFIC
138	GHANA	HSIANG PAO NO.601	KWO-JENG MARINE SERVICES LIMITED	TRIN.&TOBAGO	
139	GUINEA	AL RABAT AL AMAMI	ACDC COMMERCIAL PANAMA	PANAMA	ATLANTIC
140	GUINEA	CHEN CHIEH NO.736 (振傑736)	SRION COMMERCIAL LTD.	SPAIN	ATLANTIC
141	GUINEA	JIN FENG NO.6 (金豐6)			ATLANTIC
142	GUINEA	SEA QUEEN NO.16	THIANGUI S.A.	GUINEA	ATLANTIC
143	GUINEA	ZARQA AL YAMAMA	ACDC COMMERCIAL PANAMA	PANAMA	ATLANTIC
144	HONDURAS	(川億1)			ATLANTIC&INDIAN
145	HONDURAS	(龍福)			INDIAN
146	HONDURAS	AMBER NO.9	VENUS MARINES LTD.	VIRGIN IS.	PACIFIC
147	HONDURAS	ANDREW NO.132	YU AN FISHERY CO.LTD.	HONDURAS	INDIAN
148	HONDURAS	ATLANTIC KAEI NO.25	ATLANTIC PEZ S.DE R.L.	HONDURAS	ATLANTIC
149	HONDURAS	BOBBY NO.3	CHIANG CHUNG HUNG	HONDURAS	INDIAN
150	HONDURAS	CHANG SHENG NO.1 (昌昇1)	CHANG SHENG FISHERY CO.LTD.	CHI.TAIPEI	INDIAN
151	HONDURAS	CHI FUW NO.6 (啓福6)	SONG MAW FISHERY S.DE R.L.	HONDURAS	INDIAN
152	HONDURAS	CHI HUNG NO.121 (啓宏121)	CHI HUNG S.DE R.L.	HONDURAS	ATLANTIC&INDIAN
153	HONDURAS	CHI HUNG NO.21 (啓宏21)			ATLANTIC
154	HONDURAS	CHIEN CHANG NO.66 (建祺66)	CHIEN CHANG PESCA S.A.	HONDURAS	ATLANTIC&INDIAN
155	HONDURAS	CHIN CHANG MING (金良明)	CHIN HSIANG MING FISHERY S.DE R.L.	HONDURAS	ATLANTIC
156	HONDURAS	CHIN CHENG MING (金誠明)			ATLANTIC
157	HONDURAS	CHIN CHIN MING (金進明)	CHIN YUAN HORNG S.DE R.L.	HONDURAS	ATLANTIC&PACIFIC
158	HONDURAS	CHIN HSIANG MING (金翔明)	CHIN HSIANG MING FISHERY S.DE R.L.	HONDURAS	ATLANTIC
159	HONDURAS	CHIN I MING (金億明)	CHIN YUAN HORNG S.DE R.L.	HONDURAS	ATLANTIC
160	HONDURAS	CHIN YUAN HORNG (金元鴻)	CHIN YUAN HORNG S.DE R.L.	HONDURAS	ATLANTIC
161	HONDURAS	CHO YU NO.3 (長友3)	ARMADORA PESQUERA CHOYU S.DE R.L.	AMERICA	ATLANTIC&INDIAN
162	HONDURAS	CHUN FA (春發)	CHUN FA FISHERY S.A.	HONDURAS	INDIAN
163	HONDURAS	DAE SUNG NO.16	INTER SURGO S.A.	SPAIN	PACIFIC
164	HONDURAS	EDEN NO.18	KINGFISH FISHERY S.DE R.L.	HONDURAS	INDIAN
165	HONDURAS	FELIZ NO.103	SOCIEDAD FELIZ FISHING S.DE R.L.	HONDURAS	ATLANTIC
166	HONDURAS	FLAIR NO.3	KINGFISH FISHERY S.DE R.L.	HONDURAS	ATLANTIC&INDIAN
167	HONDURAS	FORTUNA NO.1 (和春1)	FORTUNA FISHERY S.A.	HONDURAS	PACIFIC
168	HONDURAS	FORTUNA NO.11 (和春11)	FORTUNA FISHERY S.A.	HONDURAS	PACIFIC
169	HONDURAS	FORTUNA NO.12 (和春12)	FORTUNA FISHERY S.A.	HONDURAS	PACIFIC
170	HONDURAS	FORTUNA NO.2 (和春2)	FORTUNA FISHERY S.A.	HONDURAS	PACIFIC
171	HONDURAS	FORTUNA NO.21 (和春21)	FORTUNA FISHERY S.A.	HONDURAS	PACIFIC
172	HONDURAS	FORTUNA NO.22 (和春22)	FORTUNA FISHERY S.A.	HONDURAS	PACIFIC
173	HONDURAS	FU AN NO.6 (富安6)	FU AN OCEAIC ENTERPRISE S.DE R.L.	HONDURAS	PACIFIC
174	HONDURAS	FWU HUAN (福環)	FWU HUAN FISHERY S.DE R.L.	HONDURAS	INDIAN
175	HONDURAS	GOLDEN LAKE NO.23	GOLDEN LAKE CO.LTD.	SPAIN	PACIFIC
176	HONDURAS	HAW HUA (豪華)	HAW HUA FISHERY S.DE R.L.	HONDURAS	ATLANTIC&INDIAN
177	HONDURAS	HER HSIANG (合祥)	HER MAN FISHERY CO.LTD.	CHI.TAIPEI	INDIAN

List of vessels (Continued)

	Flag Country	Name of Vessel	Owners Name	Owners Address	Expected Area of Catch
178	HONDURAS	HER MAN	HER MAN FISHERY CO.LTD.	CHI.TAIPEI	INDIAN
179	HONDURAS	HO MAN NO.3 (台滿3)			INDIAN
180	HONDURAS	HO MAN (台滿)			INDIAN
181	HONDURAS	HONG SHUN NO.66 (鴻順66)	HONG SHUN FISHERY CORP.	SINGAPORE	ATLANTIC&INDIAN
182	HONDURAS	HORNG SHIN			ATLANTIC
183	HONDURAS	HSIANG CHANG NO.102	KWO-JENG MARINE SERVICES LIMITED	TRIN.&TOBAGO	
184	HONDURAS	HSIANG CHANG NO.132 (翔昌132)	DAIWA MARINE INTERNATIONAL S.DE R.L.	JAPAN	PACIFIC
185	HONDURAS	HSIANG CHANG NO.606 (翔昌606)	DAIWA MARINE WORLD S.DE R.L.	JAPAN	PACIFIC
186	HONDURAS	HSIANG PAO NO.101	KWO-JENG MARINE SERVICES LIMITED	TRIN.&TOBAGO	
187	HONDURAS	HSIANG PAO NO.102	KWO-JENG MARINE SERVICES LIMITED	TRIN.&TOBAGO	
188	HONDURAS	HSIEH YUNG NO.366 (協榮366)			INDIAN
189	HONDURAS	HSIN I CHANG NO.326 (信宜昌326)	DALIAN OVERSEAS FISHERY S.DE R.L.	HONDURAS	ATLANTIC&INDIAN
190	HONDURAS	HUA CHUNG NO.707 (華成707)	HUA I FISHERY CO.LTD.	CHI.TAIPEI	ATLANTIC&INDIAN
191	HONDURAS	HUA CHUNG NO.808 (華成808)	HUA CHUNG PESCA S.A.	CHI.TAIPEI	ATLANTIC&INDIAN
192	HONDURAS	HUNG YU NO.112 (鴻裕112)	HUNG WOEI FISHERY S.A.	CHI.TAIPEI	INDIAN
193	HONDURAS	JAIN LIH NO.202 (禎立202)	JAIN LIH FISHERY S.A.	HONDURAS	INDIAN
194	HONDURAS	JAIN YUNG NO.202 (禎永202)	JAIN YUNG FISHERY S.A.	BELIZE	ATLANTIC&INDIAN
195	HONDURAS	JASMINE NO.9	KOJE ENGINEERING&TRADING PTE.LTD.	SINGAPORE	PACIFIC
196	HONDURAS	JI CHIN NO.2 (吉慶2)	HUNG CHIN FA	CHI.TAIPEI	ATLANTIC&INDIAN
197	HONDURAS	JIN CHENG HORNG (金成鴻)			INDIAN
198	HONDURAS	JIYN HORNG NO.106 (錦鴻106)	JIYN HORNG OCEAN ENTERPRISE CO.LTD.	HONDURAS	ATLANTIC&INDIAN
199	HONDURAS	LU SOON (裕順)	LUNG SOON SHIPPING CORP.	SINGAPORE	INDIAN
200	HONDURAS	LUNG SOON NO.122 (隆順122)	SIONG SOON SHIPPING CORP.	CHI.TAIPEI	INDIAN
201	HONDURAS	LUNG SOON NO.126 (隆順126)			INDIAN
202	HONDURAS	LUNG SOON NO.22 (隆順22)	SIONG SOON SHIPPING CORP.	CHI.TAIPEI	INDIAN
203	HONDURAS	MENG LI NO.101 (猛立101)	MENG LI FISHERY S.DE R.L.	HONDURAS	INDIAN
204	HONDURAS	MENG LI NO.201 (猛立201)	MENG LI FISHERY S.DE R.L.	HONDURAS	INDIAN
205	HONDURAS	MENG LI NO.301 (猛立301)	MENG LI FISHERY S.DE.R.L.	HONDURAS	ATLANTIC&INDIAN
206	HONDURAS	NEW STAR NO.1	MISHIMA FISHERY CO.LTD.	PANAMA	PACIFIC
207	HONDURAS	OCEAN MASTER NO.1	OCEAN MASTER FISHERIES S.DE R.L.	HONDURAS	INDIAN
208	HONDURAS	ORIENTE NO.7	EL ORIENTE S.DE R.L.	HONDURAS	ATLANTIC
209	HONDURAS	PAI YU NO.6	PAILUNG FISHERY S.DE R.L.	HONDURAS	ATLANTIC&INDIAN
210	HONDURAS	PENG SHIN	PENG SHIN FISHERY S.DE R.L.	HONDURAS	ATLANTIC
211	HONDURAS	PESQUERA NO.68	ARMADORA PESQUERA CHOYU S.DE R.L.	HONDURAS	ATLANTIC
212	HONDURAS	RYH CHUN NO.1 (日春1)	FA CHUEN OCEAN FISHING S.DE R.L.	HONDURAS	INDIAN
213	HONDURAS	RYH CHUN NO.21 (日春21)	RYH CHUN OCEAN FISHERY INC.	CHI.TAIPEI	INDIAN
214	HONDURAS	SHANG SHUN NO.166 (興順166)	LUNG SOON SHIPPING CORP.	SINGAPORE	INDIAN
215	HONDURAS	SHANG SHUN NO.66 (興順66)	LUNG SOON SHIPPING CORP.	CHI.TAIPEI	INDIAN
216	HONDURAS	SHENG HSING NO.606 (勝興606)			ATLANTIC
217	HONDURAS	SHENG PAO NO.7 (聖宝7)	SAINT POWER FISHERY S.DE R.L.	HONDURAS	PACIFIC
218	HONDURAS	SHUE YUNG NO.366	DALIAN OVERSEAS FISHERY S.DE R.L.	HONDURAS	ATLANTIC&INDIAN
219	HONDURAS	SHUN CHUAN NO.6 (順泉6)	CHIN HSIANG MING FISHERY S.DE R.L.	HONDURAS	ATLANTIC&PACIFIC
220	HONDURAS	SHUN HORNG (順鴻)	CHIN YUAN HORNG S.DE R.L.	HONDURAS	ATLANTIC
221	HONDURAS	SHUN SHENG (順勝)	CHIN YUAN HORNG S.DE R.L.	HONDURAS	ATLANTIC&PACIFIC
222	HONDURAS	SHUN TAI (順泰)	CHIN YUAN HORNG S.DE R.L.	HONDURAS	ATLANTIC
223	HONDURAS	SUN RISE NO.607	YELLOW FIN FISHERY S.DE R.L.	HONDURAS	ATLANTIC
224	HONDURAS	TA YU NO.11 (大佑11)	TA YU OCEAN ENTERPRISE S.DE R.L.	CHI.TAIPEI	PACIFIC
225	HONDURAS	TAMARA NO.8	MARINEX S.DE R.L.	HONDURAS	INDIAN
226	HONDURAS	TIM NO.1 (提姆1)	HOUNG KOU CHING	HONDURAS	INDIAN
227	HONDURAS	TUNG ZHAN NO.6 (東展6)	TUNG ZHAN FISHERY CORP.	CHI.TAIPEI	PACIFIC&INDIAN
228	HONDURAS	WEN CHANG NO.66 (楚昌66)	CHIEN CHANG PESCA S.A.	HONDURAS	INDIAN
229	HONDURAS	WIN FAR NO.236 (穩発236)	WIN FAR MARINE INC.	CHI.TAIPEI	INDIAN
230	HONDURAS	WIN FAR NO.266 (穩発266)	WIN FAR MARINE INC.	CHI.TAIPEI	INDIAN
231	HONDURAS	YI HSIN NO.101 (義新101)	YI FA FISHERY S.DE R.L.	CHI.TAIPEI	ATLANTIC&INDIAN
232	HONDURAS	YIH SHUEN NO.212 (億順212)	YIH SHUEN FISHERY S.A.	HONDURAS	INDIAN
233	HONDURAS	YING CHIN HSIANG NO.66 (瀛晋祥66)	YING TSI SHYANG FISHERY S.DE.R.L.	HONDURAS	INDIAN
234	HONDURAS	YOHA NO.9	VENUS MARINES LTD.	VIRGIN IS.	PACIFIC
235	HONDURAS	YU CHA NO.201 (裕発201)	DAIWA MARINE INTERNATIONAL S.DE R.L.	HONDURAS	PACIFIC
236	HONDURAS	YU CHA NO.606 (裕発606)	DAIWA MARINE INTERNATIONAL S.DE R.L.	HONDURAS	PACIFIC
237	HONDURAS	YU HSIANG NO.7 (裕祥7)	YU HSIANG FISHERY S.DE R.L.	HONDURAS	ATLANTIC&INDIAN
238	HONDURAS	YU SUAN NO.102 (裕弦102)	YUNG HONG MARINE S.DE R.L.	JAPAN	PACIFIC
239	HONDURAS	YU YAO NO.201	KWO-JENG MARINE SERVICES LIMITED	TRIN.&TOBAGO	
240	HONDURAS	YU YAO NO.202	KWO-JENG MARINE SERVICES LIMITED	TRIN.&TOBAGO	
241	HONDURAS	YUNG HUANG NO.606	KWO-JENG MARINE SERVICES LIMITED	TRIN.&TOBAGO	
242	HONDURAS	YUNG SHU NO.606	KWO-JENG MARINE SERVICES LIMITED	TRIN.&TOBAGO	
243	HONDURAS	YUNG YING NO.606	KWO-JENG MARINE SERVICES LIMITED	TRIN.&TOBAGO	
244	HONDURAS	YUNG YU NO.102	DAIWA MARINE INTERNATIONAL S.DE R.L.	JAPAN	PACIFIC
245	HONDURAS	ZHONG XIN NO.1 (中信1)	DALIAN OVERSEAS FISHERY S.DE R.L.	HONDURAS	PACIFIC
246	HONDURAS	ZHONG XIN NO.26 (中信26)	DALIAN OVERSEAS FISHERY S.DE R.L.	HONDURAS	PACIFIC
247	INDONESIA	DHALIA NO.8(HSIANG CHANG NO.136)	KWO-JENG MARINE SERVICES LIMITED	TRIN.&TOBAGO	
248	KENYA	ALANA NO.1			INDIAN
249	KENYA	HSIANG CHANG NO.606 (翔昌606)			ATLANTIC
250	KENYA	UCHUMI	DONG HAW SHIP BUYLITN CO.	KOREA	INDIAN
251	MAURITTUS	HSIN HUA NO.101 (信華101)			INDIAN
252	PHILIPPINES	BOBBY NO.3	SUN WARM FISHING SERVICE INC.	PHILIPPINES	INDIAN
253	PHILIPPINES	CHIN CHIEH NO.888 (振傑888)	SUN WARM FISHING SERVICE INC.	PHILIPPINES	INDIAN
254	PHILIPPINES	FONG KUO NO.6 (豊国6)	SUN WARM FISHING SERVICE INC.	PHILIPPINES	PACIFIC
255	PHILIPPINES	FU YUAN NO.11 (富元11)	SUN WARM FISHING SERVICE INC.	PHILIPPINES	INDIAN
256	PHILIPPINES	FU YUAN NO.3 (富元3)	SUN WARM FISHING SERVICE INC.	PHILIPPINES	INDIAN
257	PHILIPPINES	JAIN YUNG NO.202 (禎永202)	SUN WARM FISHING SERVICE INC.	PHILIPPINES	INDIAN
258	PHILIPPINES	JEFFREY NO.131	SUN WARM FISHING SERVICE INC.	PHILIPPINES	ATLANTIC&INDIAN&PACI
259	PHILIPPINES	JEFFREY NO.168	SUN WARM FISHING SERVICE INC.	PHILIPPINES	ATLANTIC
260	PHILIPPINES	JEFFREY NO.28	SUN WARM FISHING SERVICE INC.	PHILIPPINES	ATLANTIC&INDIAN
261	PHILIPPINES	JEFFREY NO.128	SUN WARM FISHING SERVICE INC.	PHILIPPINES	ATLANTIC
262	PHILIPPINES	JEFFREY NO.618	SUN WARM FISHING SERVICE INC.	PHILIPPINES	INDIAN
263	PHILIPPINES	JEFFREY NO.816	SUN WARM FISHING SERVICE INC.	PHILIPPINES	ATLANTIC&INDIAN
264	PHILIPPINES	JOHNNY NO.137	SUN WARM FISHING SERVICE INC.	PHILIPPINES	ATLANTIC&INDIAN
265	PHILIPPINES	KAO FENG NO.1 (高豊1)	SUN WARM FISHING SERVICE INC.	PHILIPPINES	INDIAN

List of vessels (Continued)

	Flag Country	Name of Vessel	Owners Name	Owners Address	Expected Area of Catch
266	PHILIPPINES	PING SHIN NO.201 (屏新201)	SUN WARM FISHING SERVICE INC.	PHILIPPINES	INDIAN
267	PHILIPPINES	PING YUAN NO.201 (屏鎳201)	SUN WARM FISHING SERVICE INC.	PHILIPPINES	INDIAN
268	PHILIPPINES	SHINN MANN NO.11 (信滿11)	SUN WARM FISHING SERVICE INC.	PHILIPPINES	PACIFIC
269	PHILIPPINES	SHINN MANN NO.21 (信滿21)	ISTMARK INTERNATIONAL FISHING INC.	PHILIPPINES	PACIFIC
270	PHILIPPINES	SHYE SHIN NO.1 (協信1)	SUN WARM FISHING SERVICE INC.	PHILIPPINES	INDIAN
271	PHILIPPINES	SUNG HUI	SUN WARM FISHING SERVICE INC.	PHILIPPINES	INDIAN
272	PHILIPPINES	YU HSIANG NO.7 (裕祥7)	SUN WARM FISHING SERVICE INC.	PHILIPPINES	ATLANTIC&INDIAN
273	SEYCHELLES	DEVELOP NO.1			INDIAN
274	SEYCHELLES	GREAT NO.1		E.GUINEA	PACIFIC&INDIAN
275	SEYCHELLES	VICTORY NO.1			INDIAN
276	SIERRALEONE	STARLET NO.901	ESUORIM TRADE S.A.	PANAMA	ATLANTIC
277	SINGAPORE	GHAZI NO.608			INDIAN
278	SINGAPORE	LU SOON (裕順)			INDIAN
279	SINGAPORE	NEW STAR NO.1	MISHIMA FISHERY CO.LTD.	PANAMA	INDIAN
280	SINGAPORE	SHANG SHUN NO.66 (興順66)			INDIAN
281	SINGAPORE	SHENG FAN NO.6 (勝帆6)			ATLANTIC
282	SINGAPORE	SHUN KUO (順国)			ATLANTIC
283	SINGAPORE	YU HSIANG NO.7 (裕祥7)			ATLANTIC
284	SRILANKA	LANKA STAR NO.102	KWO-JENG MARINE SERVICES LIMITED	TRIN.&TOBAGO	
285	SRILANKA	LANKA STAR NO.21	KWO-JENG MARINE SERVICES LIMITED	TRIN.&TOBAGO	
286	SRILANKA	SHENG PAO NO.5 (盛宝5)	FISHING VESSEL/MOTOR DRIVEN	CHLTAIPEI	PACIFIC
287	SRILANKA	YU SUAN NO.101 (裕弦101)	LANKA INTERCON TRADERS LTD.	SRILANKA	PACIFIC
288	ST.VINCENT	CHANG YOW NO.212		TRIN.&TOBAGO	
289	ST.VINCENT	CHANG YOW NO.212 (昌祐212)			ATLANTIC
290	ST.VINCENT	DHALIA NO.8	KWO-JENG MARINE SERVICES LIMITED	TRIN.&TOBAGO	
291	ST.VINCENT	HSANG YU	CONTINENTAL HANDLERS LIMITED	TRIN.&TOBAGO	
292	ST.VINCENT	HSIANG HER	CONTINENTAL HANDLERS LIMITED	TRIN.&TOBAGO	
299	ST.VINCENT	HSIANG JANG NO.22	CONTINENTAL HANDLERS LIMITED	TRIN.&TOBAGO	
300	ST.VINCENT	HSIANG JANG NO.22 (翔賛22)	CONTINENTAL LIMITED	ST.VINCENT	ATLANTIC
310	ST.VINCENT	HSIANG PAO	KWO-JENG MARINE SERVICES LIMITED	TRIN.&TOBAGO	
311	ST.VINCENT	HSIANG PAO NO.101	KWO-JENG MARINE SERVICES LIMITED	TRIN.&TOBAGO	
312	ST.VINCENT	HSIANG PAO NO.102	KWO-JENG MARINE SERVICES LIMITED	TRIN.&TOBAGO	
313	ST.VINCENT	HSIANG PAO NO.601	KWO-JENG MARINE SERVICES LIMITED	TRIN.&TOBAGO	
314	ST.VINCENT	MING TAY NO.1 (明泰1)	HO HSIN FISHING CO.LTD.	CHLTAIPEI	INDIAN
315	ST.VINCENT	NATIONAL NO.101	KWO-JENG MARINE SERVICES LIMITED	TRIN.&TOBAGO	
316	ST.VINCENT	NATIONAL NO.236	KWO-JENG MARINE SERVICES LIMITED	TRIN.&TOBAGO	
317	ST.VINCENT	PANALOX NO.501	LOXFORD OVERSEAS INC.	PANAMA	PACIFIC
318	ST.VINCENT	PANALOX NO.502	LOXFORD OVERSEAS INC.	PANAMA	PACIFIC
319	ST.VINCENT	PANALOX NO.503	LOXFORD OVERSEAS INC.	PANAMA	PACIFIC
320	ST.VINCENT	PANALOX NO.505	LOXFORD OVERSEAS INC.	PANAMA	PACIFIC
321	ST.VINCENT	PANALOX NO.506	LOXFORD OVERSEAS INC.	PANAMA	PACIFIC
322	ST.VINCENT	WEN SHUN NO.101	CONTINENTAL HANDLERS LIMITED	TRIN.&TOBAGO	
323	ST.VINCENT	WEN SHUN NO.102	CONTINENTAL HANDLERS LIMITED	TRIN.&TOBAGO	
324	ST.VINCENT	WEN SHUN NO.111	CONTINENTAL HANDLERS LIMITED	TRIN.&TOBAGO	
325	ST.VINCENT	WEN SHUN NO.112	CONTINENTAL HANDLERS LIMITED	TRIN.&TOBAGO	
326	ST.VINCENT	WEN SHUN NO.121	CONTINENTAL HANDLERS LIMITED	TRIN.&TOBAGO	
327	ST.VINCENT	WEN SHUN NO.122	CONTINENTAL HANDLERS LIMITED	TRIN.&TOBAGO	
328	ST.VINCENT	WEN SHUN NO.211	CONTINENTAL HANDLERS LIMITED	TRIN.&TOBAGO	
329	ST.VINCENT	WEN SHUN NO.212	CONTINENTAL HANDLERS LIMITED	TRIN.&TOBAGO	
330	ST.VINCENT	WEN SHUN NO.22	CONTINENTAL HANDLERS LIMITED	TRIN.&TOBAGO	
334	ST.VINCENT	WEN SHUN NO.621	CONTINENTAL HANDLERS LIMITED	TRIN.&TOBAGO	
335	ST.VINCENT	WEN SHUN NO.622	CONTINENTAL HANDLERS LIMITED	TRIN.&TOBAGO	
336	ST.VINCENT	WEN SHUN NO.626	CONTINENTAL HANDLERS LIMITED	TRIN.&TOBAGO	
337	ST.VINCENT	WEN SHUN NO.66	CONTINENTAL HANDLERS LIMITED	TRIN.&TOBAGO	
338	ST.VINCENT	YU YAO NO.201	KWO-JENG MARINE SERVICES LIMITED	TRIN.&TOBAGO	
339	ST.VINCENT	YU YAO NO.202	KWO-JENG MARINE SERVICES LIMITED	TRIN.&TOBAGO	
340	TRINIDAD&	HSIANG CHANG NO.101 (翔強101)			ATLANTIC
341	TRINIDAD&	HSIANG CHANG NO.102 (翔強102)			ATLANTIC
342	TRINIDAD&	HSIANG CHANG NO.136 (翔強136)			ATLANTIC
343	TRINIDAD&	NAM SUN NO.27 (南宋27)			ATLANTIC
344	UNKNOWN	HSANG JANG NO.202	CONTINENTAL HANDLERS LIMITED	TRIN.&TOBAGO	
345	UNKNOWN	SHENG LUNG NO.9	KWO-JENG MARINE SERVICES LIMITED	TRIN.&TOBAGO	

- Those vessels included on this list that have the same name, but for which other information provided is different (i.e. owner's name, owner's address, area of catch) are shown as a separate entry. Hence, there could be some double entries. The differences in the information could be due to the sources of the data.

Appendix 12 to ANNEX 7

STATEMENT BY CHINESE TAIPEI CONCERNING RE-FLAGGING OF FLAG OF CONVENIENCE (FOC) VESSELS

Mr. Chairman,

First of all, I would like to submit a clarification concerning the FOC Boat owners Association, as referred to by the distinguished delegate of Japan as approved by our government. This is a wrong perception. Please understand that this Association is a non-governmental civil organization legalized by registration in the District Court, and it was, in fact, not approved by the Fisheries Administration. This Association is protected by our Constitution as a freedom of assembly enjoyed by all the citizens and our administration has nothing to do with nor is involved with the operation of this Association.

Furthermore, we would like to acknowledge the appreciation expressed by the United States, Japan, the EU, and other delegations about the complexity of the FOC problems. Not to further complicate this problem, we'd like you to share your views with respect to this issue.

While various nations are implementing measures to conserve and manage the fisheries resources in accordance with the recommendations of the international fisheries organizations, we are aware that there are still a number of FOC vessels continuously fishing in an unregulated and unreported (UU) manner, thereby seriously diminishing the effectiveness of management measures. Presumably, some of these vessels are under the ownership of our entrepreneurs. Under the general rules of international law, flag States shall be responsible for the activities of these vessels. The UU activities of some 300 FOC vessels operating in the three oceans of the world are, in fact, occurring as a result of the irresponsibility and lack of strict management of their flag States. As for our part, in order to solve the FOC problem so as to prevent negative consequential impact on the sustainable use of resources, and to protect the rightful interests of legitimate boat owners, we have had a series of consultations with Japan recently. A bilateral understanding was reached that Japan will deal with those vessels it exported, while we shall provide those FOC vessels originally built in Chinese Taipei with a legal framework for them to be re-flagged and managed under our administration.

From our point of view, those FOC fishing vessels are foreign vessels since they have been under foreign flags from the very first day since they were built. With a strict legal sense, "repatriation" or "call-back" carry the implications of returning to the original nationality. It is our view that "re-flagging" is a legally proper term to be used in this situation. "Re-flagging" is not necessarily a negative term when we consider that these vessels are to be re-flagged and turned over to the administration of a more responsible fishing nation from their "original" flag nations. What we are preparing to do is to establish a proper mechanism and to provide necessary incentives for the owners of these FOC vessels to re-flag their vessels under our administration. However, this is by no means an easy task and we also need favorable ambient conditions to foster its implementation.

Mr. Chairman and dear colleagues, the main difficulty of this undertaking is that we have long ago adopted measures to limit the fleet size. The re-flagging of these FOC vessels will have adverse impact on our existing policy on vessel building restriction as well as jeopardize the interests of the legitimate operators. This no doubt will be of great challenge to our fleet size limitation policy objective. Moreover, with the present situation of limited catch quota available to us, and with no increase of quota in sight, to share the already insufficient quota by all the existing legitimate boats and those re-flagged will make the situation even more difficult, and also unfair to the existing boat owners. Thus, the re-flagging of FOC vessels for them to gain our flag and to be managed under our administration carries very sensitive socio-economic consequences as well as social justice implications.

Through numerous consultations and persuasion, and taking into account the objective of long-term conservation of resources, we have considered permitting the re-flagging of FOC vessels. Please be aware, Mr. Chairman and dear colleagues, by implementing such a re-flagging program unilaterally, the global or universal fishing capacity will remain unchanged, but rather, these FOC vessels will be move from irresponsible flag nations to a more responsible administration so as to effectively reduce the possible occurrence of UU activities. And yet, the inclusion of FOC vessels into our existing fleet will inevitably increase our fishing capacity on the short run. But, this is a trade-off that all of us have to face.

Mr. Chairman, it is our hope that our approach will be helpful in solving the matter of FOC vessels. It is also hoped that when we are making our all-out effort with all available financial resources, this Commission can consider favorably granting us the corresponding catch quota so as to institute and constitute as an international incentive for their re-flagging and to facilitate proper management of our fisheries as a whole. Meanwhile, we do not wish to see that due to the lack of supplemental support of this community, our efforts and sacrifices will be in vain. Therefore, as we did at the last meeting, we continue to urge all the flag States, port States, and trading States to take concerted actions, along with ICCAT's adoption of trade restrictive measures to eliminate FOC vessels altogether. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your attention.

Appendix 13 to ANNEX 7

LETTER TO TURKEY REQUESTING INFORMATION ON EASTERN ATLANTIC AND MEDITERRANEAN BLUEFIN TUNA CATCH OVERAGES

At its 1999 annual meeting, the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) reviewed the fishing activities of various Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities under its 1994 *Resolution For an Action Plan to Ensure the Effectiveness of the Conservation Program for Atlantic Bluefin Tuna*. The Bluefin Tuna Action Plan sets forth a process designed to seek cooperation with the conservation program of ICCAT by Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities with vessels fishing for Atlantic bluefin tuna in a manner which diminishes the effectiveness of the relevant conservation measures of the Commission, and to request any Non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity so identified to rectify its fishing activities. As a last resort, this process can result in recommendations for Contracting Parties to take non-discriminatory trade restrictive measures, consistent with their international obligations, on Atlantic bluefin tuna products from the Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities whose flag vessels continue to fish for Atlantic bluefin tuna in a manner which diminishes the effectiveness of the Commission's conservation measures for this species.

At the 1999 meeting, the Commission reviewed all available information regarding the fishing activities of vessels of Turkey and noted that catch and trade data indicate that vessels of Turkey are harvesting eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna. The catches of bluefin tuna reported by Turkey in 1998 are in excess of levels established by relevant ICCAT conservation and management measures for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Bluefin tuna. The Commission is very concerned about this and is seeking clarification of the situation from your country.

The 1994 *Recommendation on Bluefin Catch Limits in the Eastern Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea* capped 1995 harvests at the higher of 1993 or 1994 level and required reductions, beginning in 1996, of 25% to be achieved by 1998. Application of this recommendation would result in a 1998 allowable catch level well below catch levels as reported by Turkey to the ICCAT Standing Committee on Research and Statistics in 1998.

The Commission appreciates the efforts of Turkey to monitor the fishing activities of its vessels, provide catch data to the Commission, and participate in ICCAT meetings. We are also encouraged by Turkey's efforts to revise and update its fisheries statistic collection methods. However, it is critical for the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures that your vessels abide by all ICCAT conservation and management measures. Enclosed are the current ICCAT Recommendations and Resolutions, including those referred to above that limit the catches of eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna. Given the apparent continued interest of Turkey in the harvest of ICCAT species, the Commission requests that you become a Contracting Party, Cooperating Party, Entity, or Fishing Entity. Also enclosed are the relevant ICCAT provisions relating to seeking and maintaining such status.

At its 2000 annual meeting, the Commission will once again review the information regarding the activities of your country's vessels to determine how to proceed, including the possibility of implementing the aforementioned Action Plan.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Commission Chairman

Appendix 14 to ANNEX 7

STATEMENT BY TURKEY TO THE PWG

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Turkey has been known for a long time as one of the major tuna fishing nations in the Mediterranean, Aegean and Black Seas and in the Sea of Marmara. In particular, Turkish catches of bonito have been the highest in the world as a single nation.

Bluefin tuna are also caught in the Black and in the Sea of Marmara by Dalians (traps) and lines for many years (Devedjian, 1926).

Turkey revised its historical bluefin tuna records. The data used for the revision were estimated from various reports from fishermen's associations, canning factory activities, and market declarations and therefore need to be validated to check for double counting.

Since 1993, the University of Istanbul, Faculty of Aquatic Products, has been carrying out intensive research on tunas in Turkish waters.

Doctoral theses and research on bluefin tuna, swordfish, little tuna and bullet tuna have been completed.

In 1998, two larval surveys covering the Sea of Marmara and the Aegean Sea were carried out on board the Faculty research vessel *R/V Yunus* within the framework of the ICCAT Bluefin Year Program (BYP). Funding for these research activities was provided by the Turkish scientific research fund, the University of Istanbul research fund, and ICCAT.

Collaboration on genetics research is being carried out between the University of Istanbul and the Universities of North and South Carolina (United States) and ICCAT. Collaboration with the Spanish Institutes of Oceanography (IEO) of Santander and Fuengirola, with the Universities of Bologna and Bari (Italy) is continuing. Turkey has also collaborated with the National Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries in Shimizu, Japan. In addition, Turkish research on bluefin tuna in the eastern Mediterranean Sea revealed interesting results.

The membership of Turkey in ICCAT is in the process of ratification by the Turkish Parliament. Despite the recent earthquakes in Turkey, it is hoped that this procedure will be completed soon.

In accordance with fisheries regulations adopted by Turkey, the catch of bluefin tuna less than 15 kg is prohibited. Research shows that no undersize bluefin tuna weighing less than 3.2 kg are caught by Turkish fishermen in Turkish waters.

During the summer months, the quality of bluefin tuna from the Mediterranean is relatively poor and the fishermen abstain from fishing for this species in June and July.

In the last two years, the fishery has also started in September in the Aegean and the Mediterranean areas. However, Turkish fishermen decided to close this month to fishing in order to protect other migratory fish (bonitos and bluefish) which come into the Sea of Marmara during this period in large quantities.

Up to now, no logbooks have been used on board Turkish purse seiners. Catch estimates should have been inaccurate. From September, 1999, the completion of logbooks is obligatory for fishing vessels.

Taking all of this into account, Mr. Chairman, I think Turkey deserves some appreciation. Thank you.

Appendix 15 to ANNEX 7

LETTER TO DENMARK (ON BEHALF OF THE FAROE ISLANDS) REQUESTING INFORMATION ON EASTERN ATLANTIC AND MEDITERRANEAN BLUEFIN TUNA CATCH OVERAGES

At its 1999 annual meeting, the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) reviewed the fishing activities of various Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities under its 1994 *Resolution For an Action Plan to Ensure the Effectiveness of the Conservation Program for Atlantic Bluefin Tuna*. The Bluefin Tuna Action Plan sets forth a process designed to seek cooperation with the conservation program of ICCAT by Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities with vessels fishing for Atlantic bluefin tuna in a manner which diminishes the effectiveness of the relevant conservation measures of the Commission, and to request any Non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity so identified to rectify its fishing activities. As a last resort, this process can result in recommendations for Contracting Parties to take non-discriminatory trade restrictive measures, consistent with their international obligations, on Atlantic bluefin tuna products from the non-Contracting Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities whose flag vessels continue to fish for Atlantic bluefin tuna in a manner which diminishes the effectiveness of the Commission's conservation measures for this species.

At the 1999 meeting, the Commission reviewed all available information regarding the fishing activities of vessels of Denmark (on behalf of the Faroe Islands) and noted that catch and trade data indicate that vessels of Denmark (on behalf of the Faroe Islands) are harvesting eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna. The 1998 catches of bluefin tuna reported by Denmark (on behalf of the Faroe Islands) are in excess of levels established by relevant ICCAT conservation and management measures for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Bluefin tuna. The Commission is seeking clarification of the situation from your country.

The 1994 *Recommendation on Bluefin Catch Limits in the Eastern Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea* capped 1995 harvests at the higher of 1993 or 1994 level and required reductions, beginning in 1996, of 25% to be achieved by 1998. According to ICCAT Standing Committee on Research and Statistics data, Denmark (on behalf of the Faroe Islands) had a catch level of zero for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna in 1993 and 1994.

The Commission appreciates the efforts of Denmark (on behalf of the Faroe Islands) to monitor the fishing activities of its vessels, provide catch data to the Commission, and participate in ICCAT meetings. However, it is critical for the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures that your vessels abide by all ICCAT conservation and management measures. Enclosed are the current ICCAT recommendations and resolutions, including those referred to above, that limit the catches of eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna. Given the apparent continued interest of Denmark (on behalf of the Faroe Islands) in the harvest of ICCAT species, the Commission requests that you become a Contracting Party, or Cooperating Party, Entity, or Fishing Entity. Also enclosed are the relevant ICCAT provisions relating to seeking and maintaining such status.

At its 2000 annual meeting, the Commission will once again review the information regarding the activities of your country's vessels to determine how to proceed. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. We look forward to your reply.

Commission Chairman

Appendix 16 to ANNEX 7

LETTER TO ICELAND REQUESTING INFORMATION ON EASTERN ATLANTIC AND MEDITERRANEAN BLUEFIN TUNA CATCH OVERAGES

At its 1999 annual meeting, the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) reviewed the fishing activities of various Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities under its 1994 *Action Plan Resolution to Ensure the Effectiveness of the Conservation Program for Atlantic Bluefin Tuna*. The Bluefin Tuna Action Plan sets forth a process designed to seek cooperation with the conservation program of ICCAT by Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities with vessels fishing for Atlantic bluefin tuna in a manner which diminishes the effectiveness of the relevant conservation measures of the Commission, and to request any Non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity so identified to rectify its fishing activities. As a last resort, this process can result in recommendations for Contracting Parties to take non-discriminatory trade restrictive measures, consistent with their international obligations, on Atlantic bluefin tuna products from those Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities whose flag vessels continue to fish for Atlantic bluefin tuna in a manner which diminishes the effectiveness of the Commission's conservation measures for this species.

At the 1999 meeting, the Commission reviewed all available information regarding the fishing activities of vessels of Iceland and noted that catch and trade data indicate that vessels of Iceland are harvesting eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna. The catches of bluefin tuna reported by Iceland in 1998 are in excess of levels established by relevant ICCAT conservation and management measures for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna. The Commission is seeking clarification of the situation from your country.

The 1994 *Recommendation on Bluefin Catch Limits in the Eastern Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea* capped 1995 harvests at the higher of 1993 or 1994 level and required reductions, beginning in 1996, of 25% to be achieved by 1998. According to ICCAT Standing Committee on Research and Statistics data, Iceland had a catch level of zero for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna in 1993 and 1994.

The Commission appreciates the efforts of Iceland to monitor the fishing activities of its vessels, provide catch data to the Commission, and participate in ICCAT meetings. However, it is critical for the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures that your vessels abide by all ICCAT conservation and management measures. Enclosed are the current ICCAT Recommendations and Resolutions, including those referred to above, that limit the catches of eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna. Given the apparent continued interest of Iceland in the harvest of ICCAT species, the Commission requests that you become a Contracting Party, or Cooperating Party, Entity, or Fishing Entity. Also enclosed are the relevant ICCAT provisions relating to seeking and maintaining such status.

At its 2000 annual meeting, the Commission will once again review the information regarding the activities of your country's vessels to determine how to proceed. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. We look forward to your reply.

Commission Chairman

Appendix 17-a to ANNEX 7

LETTER TO BELIZE
Pursuant to the1998 *Resolution Concerning the Unreported and Unregulated Catches of Tunas by Large Scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area*

At its 1999 annual meeting, the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) reviewed the fishing activities of various Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, and Fishing Entities under its 1998 *Resolution Concerning the Unreported and Unregulated Catches of Tunas by Large Scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area*, which is enclosed for your convenience. That Resolution calls upon ICCAT Contracting Parties, Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities to collect, examine and submit to ICCAT import and landing data and associated information on imported frozen tunas and tuna-like fish products. Based on an annual review of this and other data, ICCAT will identify those Contracting Parties, Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities whose large-scale longline vessels have been fishing for tuna and tuna-like species in a manner which diminishes the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures. ICCAT will request identified Contracting Parties, Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities to take all necessary corrective actions, and will review those actions at its subsequent annual meeting. If those actions are judged insufficient, ICCAT will recommend effective measures, if necessary including non-discriminatory trade restrictive measures, on the subject species for which there are currently no trade restrictions in place.

The information available to ICCAT at its 1999 meeting included trade data submitted by Contracting Parties, as well as other information. Enclosed for your convenience is a list of large-scale longline vessels compiled from this data, many of which are believed to have fished for tuna and tuna-like species in the ICCAT Convention Area. A number of these vessels are registered in Belize.

Based on this information, ICCAT decided to identify Belize under its 1998 *Resolution Concerning the Unreported and Unregulated Catches of Tunas by Large Scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area*. Accordingly, ICCAT hereby requests the Government of Belize to take all necessary measures to ensure that large-scale longline vessels registered in Belize do not continue to diminish the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures, including, if appropriate, the revocation of vessel registration or fishing licenses of the large-scale longline vessels concerned.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Commission Chairman

Appendix 17-b to ANNEX 7

LETTER TO CAMBODIA

Pursuant to the 1998 *Resolution Concerning the Unreported and Unregulated Catches of Tunas by Large Scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area*

At its 1999 annual meeting, the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) reviewed the fishing activities of various Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, and Fishing Entities under its 1998 *Resolution Concerning the Unreported and Unregulated Catches of Tunas by Large Scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area*, which is enclosed for your convenience. That Resolution calls upon ICCAT Contracting Parties, Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities to collect, examine and submit to ICCAT import and landing data and associated information on imported frozen tunas and tuna-like fish products. Based on an annual review of this and other data, ICCAT will identify those Contracting Parties, Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities whose large-scale longline vessels have been fishing for tuna and tuna-like species in a manner which diminishes the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures. ICCAT will request identified Contracting Parties, Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities to take all necessary corrective actions, and will review those actions at its subsequent annual meeting. If those actions are not sufficient, ICCAT will recommend effective measures, if necessary including non-discriminatory trade restrictive measures on the subject species.

The information available to ICCAT at its 1999 meeting included trade data submitted by Contracting Parties, as well as other information. Enclosed for your convenience is a list of large-scale longline vessels compiled from this data, many of which are believed to have fished for tuna and tuna-like species in the ICCAT Convention Area. A number of these vessels are registered in Cambodia.

Based on this information, ICCAT decided to identify Cambodia under its 1998 *Resolution Concerning the Unreported and Unregulated Catches of Tunas by Large Scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area*. Accordingly, ICCAT hereby requests the Government of Cambodia to take all necessary measures to ensure that large-scale longline vessels registered in Cambodia do not continue to diminish the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures, including, if appropriate, the revocation of vessel registration or fishing licenses of the large-scale longline vessels concerned.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Commission Chairman

Appendix 17-c to ANNEX 7

LETTER TO HONDURAS
Pursuant to the 1998 *Resolution Concerning the Unreported and Unregulated Catches of Tunas by Large Scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area*

At its 1999 annual meeting, the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) reviewed the fishing activities of various Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, and Fishing Entities under its 1998 *Resolution Concerning the Unreported and Unregulated Catches of Tunas by Large Scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area*, which is enclosed for your convenience.

That Resolution calls upon ICCAT Contracting Parties, Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities to collect, examine and submit to ICCAT import and landing data and associated information on imported frozen tunas and tuna-like fish products. Based on an annual review of this and other data, ICCAT will identify those Contracting Parties, Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities whose large-scale longline vessels have been fishing for tuna and tuna-like species in a manner which diminishes the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures. ICCAT will request identified Contracting Parties, Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities to take all necessary corrective actions, and will review those actions at its subsequent annual meeting. If those actions are judged insufficient, ICCAT will recommend effective measures, if necessary including non-discriminatory trade restrictive measures on the subject species for which there are currently no trade restrictions in place.

The information available to ICCAT at its 1999 meeting included trade data submitted by Contracting Parties, as well as other information. Enclosed for your convenience is a list of large-scale longline vessels compiled from this data, many of which are believed to have fished for tuna and tuna-like species in the ICCAT Convention Area. A number of these vessels are registered in Honduras.

Based on this information, ICCAT decided to identify Honduras under its 1998 *Resolution Concerning the Unreported and Unregulated Catches of Tunas by Large Scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area*. Accordingly, ICCAT hereby requests the Government of Honduras to take all necessary measures to ensure that large-scale longline vessels registered in Honduras do not continue to diminish the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures, including, if appropriate, the revocation of vessel registration or fishing licenses of the large scale longline vessels concerned.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Commission Chairman

Appendix 17-d to ANNEX 7

LETTER TO KENYA
Pursuant to the 1998 *Resolution Concerning the Unreported and Unregulated Catches of Tunas by Large Scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area*

At its 1999 annual meeting, the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) reviewed the fishing activities of various Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, and Fishing Entities under its 1998 *Resolution Concerning the Unreported and Unregulated Catches of Tunas by Large Scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area*, which is enclosed for your convenience. That Resolution calls upon ICCAT Contracting Parties, Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities to collect, examine and submit to ICCAT import and landing data and associated information on imported frozen tunas and tuna-like fish products. Based on an annual review of this and other data, ICCAT will identify those Contracting Parties, Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities whose large-scale longline vessels have been fishing for tuna and tuna-like species in a manner which diminishes the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures. ICCAT will request identified Contracting Parties, Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities to take all necessary corrective actions, and will review those actions at its subsequent annual meeting. If those actions are not sufficient, ICCAT will recommend effective measures, if necessary including non-discriminatory trade restrictive measures on the subject species.

The information available to ICCAT at its 1999 meeting included trade data submitted by Contracting Parties, as well as other information. Enclosed for your convenience is a list of large-scale longline vessels compiled from this data, many of which are believed to have fished for tuna and tuna-like species in the ICCAT Convention Area. At least one of these vessels is registered in Kenya.

Based on this information, ICCAT decided to identify Kenya under its 1998 *Resolution Concerning the Unreported and Unregulated Catches of Tunas by Large Scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area*. Accordingly, ICCAT hereby requests the Government of Kenya to take all necessary measures to ensure that large-scale longline vessels registered in Kenya do not continue to diminish the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures, including, if appropriate, the revocation of vessel registration or fishing licenses of the large-scale longline vessels concerned.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Commission Chairman

Appendix 17-e to ANNEX 7

LETTER TO THE PHILIPPINES
Pursuant to the 1998 *Resolution Concerning the Unreported and Unregulated Catches of Tunas by Large Scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area*

At its 1999 annual meeting, the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) reviewed the fishing activities of various Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, and Fishing Entities under its 1998 *Resolution Concerning the Unreported and Unregulated Catches of Tunas by Large Scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area*, which is enclosed for your convenience. That Resolution calls upon ICCAT Contracting Parties, Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities to collect, examine and submit to ICCAT import and landing data and associated information on imported frozen tunas and tuna-like fish products. Based on an annual review of this and other data, ICCAT will identify those Contracting Parties, Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities whose large-scale longline vessels have been fishing for tuna and tuna-like species in a manner which diminishes the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures. ICCAT will request identified Contracting Parties, Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities to take all necessary corrective actions, and will review those actions at its subsequent annual meeting. If those actions are not sufficient, ICCAT will recommend effective measures, if necessary including non-discriminatory trade restrictive measures on the subject species.

The information available to ICCAT at its 1999 meeting included trade data submitted by Contracting Parties, as well as other information. Enclosed for your convenience is a list of large-scale longline vessels compiled from this data, many of which are believed to have fished for tuna and tuna-like species in the ICCAT Convention Area. A number of these vessels are registered in the Philippines.

Based on this information, ICCAT decided to identify the Philippines under its 1998 *Resolution Concerning the Unreported and Unregulated Catches of Tunas by Large Scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area*. Accordingly, ICCAT hereby requests the Government of the Philippines to take all necessary measures to ensure that large-scale longline vessels registered in the Philippines do not continue to diminish the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures, including, if appropriate, the revocation of vessel registration or fishing licenses of the large-scale longline vessels concerned.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Commission Chairman

Appendix 17-f to ANNEX 7

LETTER TO SIERRA LEONE

Pursuant to the 1998 *Resolution Concerning the Unreported and Unregulated Catches of Tunas by Large Scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area*

At its 1999 annual meeting, the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) reviewed the fishing activities of various Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, and Fishing Entities under its 1998 *Resolution Concerning the Unreported and Unregulated Catches of Tunas by Large Scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area*, which is enclosed for your convenience. That Resolution calls upon ICCAT Contracting Parties, Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities to collect, examine and submit to ICCAT import and landing data and associated information on imported frozen tunas and tuna-like fish products. Based on an annual review of this and other data, ICCAT will identify those Contracting Parties, Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities whose large-scale longline vessels have been fishing for tuna and tuna-like species in a manner which diminishes the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures. ICCAT will request identified Contracting Parties, Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities to take all necessary corrective actions, and will review those actions at its subsequent annual meeting. If those actions are not sufficient, ICCAT will recommend effective measures, if necessary including non-discriminatory trade restrictive measures on the subject species.

The information available to ICCAT at its 1999 meeting included trade data submitted by Contracting Parties, as well as other information. Enclosed for your convenience is a list of large-scale longline vessels compiled from this data, many of which are believed to have fished for tuna and tuna-like species in the ICCAT Convention Area. At least one of these vessels is registered in Sierra Leone.

Based on this information, ICCAT decided to identify Sierra Leone under its 1998 *Resolution Concerning the Unreported and Unregulated Catches of Tunas by Large Scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area*. Accordingly, ICCAT hereby requests the Government of Sierra Leone to take all necessary measures to ensure that large scale longline vessels registered in Sierra Leone do not continue to diminish the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures, including, if appropriate, the revocation of vessel registration or fishing licenses of the large-scale longline vessels concerned.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Commission Chairman

Appendix 17-g to ANNEX 7

LETTER TO SINGAPORE

Pursuant to the 1998 *Resolution Concerning the Unreported and Unregulated Catches of Tunas by Large Scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area*

At its 1999 annual meeting, the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) reviewed the fishing activities of various Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, and Fishing Entities under its 1998 *Resolution Concerning the Unreported and Unregulated Catches of Tunas by Large Scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area*, which is enclosed for your convenience. That Resolution calls upon ICCAT Contracting Parties, Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities to collect, examine and submit to ICCAT import and landing data and associated information on imported frozen tunas and tuna-like fish products. Based on an annual review of this and other data, ICCAT will identify those Contracting Parties, Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities whose large-scale longline vessels have been fishing for tuna and tuna-like species in a manner which diminishes the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures. ICCAT will request identified Contracting Parties, Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities to take all necessary corrective actions, and will review those actions at its subsequent annual meeting. If those actions are not sufficient, ICCAT will recommend effective measures, if necessary including non-discriminatory trade restrictive measures on the subject species.

The information available to ICCAT at its 1999 meeting included trade data submitted by Contracting Parties, as well as other information. Enclosed for your convenience is a list of large- scale longline vessels compiled from this data, many of which are believed to have fished for tuna and tuna-like species in the ICCAT Convention Area. A number of these vessels are registered in Singapore.

Based on this information, ICCAT decided to identify Singapore under its 1998 *Resolution Concerning the Unreported and Unregulated Catches of Tunas by Large Scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area*. Accordingly, ICCAT hereby requests the Government of Singapore to take all necessary measures to ensure that large-scale longline vessels registered in Singapore do not continue to diminish the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures, including, if appropriate, the revocation of vessel registration or fishing licenses of the large scale longline vessels concerned.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Commission Chairman

Appendix 17-h to ANNEX 7

LETTER TO ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES
Pursuant to the 1998 *Resolution Concerning the Unreported and Unregulated Catches of Tunas by Large Scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area*

At its 1999 annual meeting, the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) reviewed the fishing activities of various Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, and Fishing Entities under its 1998 *Resolution Concerning the Unreported and Unregulated Catches of Tunas by Large Scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area*, which is enclosed for your convenience. That Resolution calls upon ICCAT Contracting Parties, Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities to collect, examine and submit to ICCAT import and landing data and associated information on imported frozen tunas and tuna-like fish products. Based on an annual review of this and other data, ICCAT will identify those Contracting Parties, Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities whose large-scale longline vessels have been fishing for tuna and tuna-like species in a manner which diminishes the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures. ICCAT will request identified Contracting Parties, Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities to take all necessary corrective actions, and will review those actions at its subsequent annual meeting. If those actions are not sufficient, ICCAT will recommend effective measures, if necessary including non-discriminatory trade restrictive measures on the subject species.

The information available to ICCAT at its 1999 meeting included trade data submitted by Contracting Parties, as well as other information. Enclosed for your convenience is a list of large- scale longline vessels compiled from this data, many of which are believed to have fished for tuna and tuna-like species in the ICCAT Convention Area. A number of these vessels are registered in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Based on this information, ICCAT decided to identify St. Vincent and the Grenadines under its 1998 *Resolution Concerning the Unreported and Unregulated Catches of Tunas by Large Scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area*. Accordingly, ICCAT hereby requests the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines to take all necessary measures to ensure that large- scale longline vessels registered in St. Vincent and the Grenadines do not continue to diminish the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures, including, if appropriate, the revocation of vessel registration or fishing licenses of the large-scale longline vessels concerned.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Commission Chairman

ANNEX 8

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

1. Opening of the meeting

1.1 The meeting of the Compliance Committee was opened by the Chairman, Mr. C. Dominguez (EC-Spain).

2. Adoption of the Agenda

2.1 The Agenda was adopted without modification, and is attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 8**.

3. Nomination of Rapporteur

3.1 Dr. F. Gauthiez (EC-France) was nominated and accepted to serve as Rapporteur for the Compliance Committee.

4. Status of compliance of the Contracting Parties as concerns statistics

4.1 The Secretariat drew attention to several documents which could assist the work of the Committee, particularly COM/99/12 on estimates of unreported Atlantic tuna catches, COM/99/20 regarding responses to special letters sent by ICCAT and COM/99/22 on the register of bigeye tuna and northern albacore fishing vessels. Document COM/99/10, a compendium of current management regulations, was also introduced. The Secretariat had also created detailed catch tables of Task I data. As regards the data, the Secretariat noted that many of the data could be used *a priori* by the Committee i.e. the data contained in the tables (referred to hereinafter as Reporting Tables) completed in accordance with the 1998 *Recommendation on the Application of Three Compliance Recommendations*, Task I and Task II data, and other types of available information such as catch and canning statistics.

4.2 Under this Agenda item, several delegates pointed out that efforts still needed to be made regarding the timely transmission of statistics and before that, in the collection of data. It was also noted that not all Contracting Parties had submitted their Reporting Tables. With regard to the data to be used for estimating compliance with the Recommendations, it was considered that using scientific data (e.g. Task I data) could risk compromising the independence and autonomy of the work of scientists.

4.3 The Committee reached an agreement about which statistics should be used for its work. The information shown in the Reporting Tables, as required by the 1998 *Recommendation on the Application of Three Compliance Recommendations* should be used where such tables are available. If not, Task I data could be used by the Committee to show comparisons of total catch and catch limits. Similarly, Task II data may be used to estimate the level of undersized fish where Reporting Tables are not submitted. In cases where there are neither Reporting Tables, Task I nor Task II data, the Committee noted that it could not fulfil its mandate.

5. National rules for the application of the ICCAT measures and the collection of catch data

5.1 The delegates highlighted the main points of their National Reports concerning this Agenda item.

6. Current ICCAT Port Inspection Scheme

6.1 The exchange of observers between the United States and Canada was discussed. Both Parties considered this experiment to have been beneficial.

7. Review of the application and compliance of the ICCAT conservation and management measures

7.1 A table showing the status of compliance, indicating the quotas, the catch limits, and the catches of the Contracting Parties, was prepared by the Secretariat for review by the Committee. In referring to the various Recommendations currently in effect, the Chairman recalled that when a quota has been exceeded during two consecutive management periods, a penalty should be imposed in the catch limit equal to 125% of the excess harvest.

Swordfish catch limits

7.2 It was explained that the data for Japan shown in this table (as well as those for other species) were by "fishing year", which began on August 1 of one year and ended on July 31 of the following year.

7.3 There was some debate, during which some Contracting Parties whose catches had been higher than their quota explained to the Committee the reasons for these overages, together with the steps being taken to avoid this problem in the future, as well as the penalties imposed.

7.4 With regard to the allocation for "others", a question was raised about how overages could be sanctioned. The Committee noted that the Parties concerned did not have an individual quota. It was noted, however, that the first paragraph of the 1997 *Recommendation on Supplementary Measures Regarding Catches of North Atlantic Swordfish for 1998 and 1999* foresaw the establishment of catch limits for parties without a swordfish quota. These limits were shown in the table for the Contracting Parties concerned. The case of Non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities would be discussed by the Permanent Working Group (PWG).

7.5 The complete table showing swordfish catches for north and south stocks, the corresponding catch limits (initial and adjusted with the overages), and the catch limits for 1999 taking into account the adjustments, is attached as **Compliance Table 1** - Swordfish catch limits and landings.

Bluefin tuna catch limits

7.6 There was some debate, during which some Contracting Parties whose catches had been higher than their quota explained to the Committee the reasons for these overages, together with the steps being taken to avoid this problem in the future.

7.7 The Committee examined the case of those Contracting Parties that had lodged an objection to the 1998 *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Limitation of Catches of Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean*. The delegate of Morocco, in referring to the 1994 *Recommendation by ICCAT for the Management of Bluefin Tuna Fishing in the Eastern Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea* whose provisions finalized at the end of 1998 and to Morocco's objection to Recommendation 98-5, made a commitment to establish an independent catch limit for 1999 and 2000 equal to Morocco's catch level in 1998, i.e. 2430 MT. His statement is attached as **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 8.** In this respect, the Delegate of Canada stated that they interpreted the *Recommendation by ICCAT for the Management of Bluefin Tuna Fishing in the Eastern Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea* as establishing a cap for bluefin tuna catches for each year after 1998, equal to a 25% reduction from the catch level of 1993 or 1994, whichever is higher. The Committee did not reach an agreement on this issue, and it was deferred to a future meeting.

7.8 In relation to eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna, the Committee also reviewed the question of the transfer of quota underages or overages to the quotas in subsequent years 2000. The Delegate of the European Community indicated, on the one hand, that the Community had not used its quota in 1998 (particularly due to the cancellation of the 1995 *Recommendation on Supplemental Managements Measures for Eastern Atlantic Bluefin Tuna*), and on the other hand, the amount of quota underage should be added to its quota for 2000. The Delegate of the United States expressed his disagreement with the points raised by the Delegate of the European Community. He noted that, unlike certain recommendations for other fisheries, none of the recommendations establishing catch limits in the eastern Atlantic bluefin tuna fishery expressly authorize Parties to carry over into subsequent years any under-harvested quota from previous years. The U.S. Delegate emphasized the U.S. view that the 1995 *Recommendation by ICCAT on Supplemental Management Measures for Eastern Atlantic Bluefin Tuna* did indeed apply in 1998. He stressed that the EC's interpretation would amount to a retroactive cancellation of an agreed harvest level and would be clearly inconsistent with the spirit of the recommendation, which was intended to reduce fishing mortality in the eastern Atlantic to scientifically justifiable levels. The Delegate of the United States maintained that the 1998 harvest of bluefin tuna by the EC exceeded its catch limit and that, pursuant to the ICCAT compliance recommendations, the EC should deduct 125% of this over-harvest from its 2000 quota. During this discussion, the Delegate of Canada also presented a statement, which is attached as **Appendix 3 to ANNEX 8**.

7.9 As concerns the issue of adding the quota underage to the quota of subsequent years, and considering the increases in quotas that would result, the Delegate of Tunisia suggested that the SCRS conduct a study on the most appropriate way to distribute these increases over time, in order to avoid jeopardizing the effectiveness of the conservation measures.

7.10 The tables showing east and west bluefin stocks, the corresponding catch limits (initial and adjusted), and the catch limits for 1999 taking the adjustments into account, are attached as **Compliance Table 2 -** Recommended catch limits and reported catches for east bluefin tuna, and **Compliance Table 3** - Recommended catch limits and reported catches for west bluefin tuna.

Management measures regarding minimum size

7.11 The Secretariat provided a summary table of information relating to the ICCAT Recommendations on minimum size. This table shows the total catch, as reported by Contracting Parties in the Reporting Tables, the amount of catch of undersized fish over the tolerance limit, and whether size data (catch at size or actual size) are submitted to the Secretariat.

7.12 The Committee noted with regret that in many cases "not available" had been filled in for this section on the Reporting Tables, and that this constituted a serious problem. It was recognized, however, that the submission of Task II data to the Secretariat was a useful source of information.

7.13 The Chairman concluded that, under these conditions, the Committee could hardly make progress on this issue. It was agreed that the Table provided by the Secretariat be attached to the Report (see **Compliance Table 4** - Information regarding compliance with minimum size regulations).

Submission of lists of vessels

7.14 The Secretariat briefly presented document COM/99/22, comprising a summary of the list of vessels targeting bigeye tuna, which had been submitted in accordance with the 1998 *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Registration and Exchange of Information on Bigeye Tuna Fishing Vessels*, and the 1998 *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Bigeye Tuna Conservation Measures for Fishing Vessels Larger than 24 Meters Length Overall (LOA)*, and a summary of the lists of vessels fishing for northern albacore, which had been submitted in accordance with the 1998 *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Limitation of Fishing Capacity on Northern Albacore*.

Establishment of satellite Vessel monitoring systems (VMS)

7.15 Following a provisional summary of the information contained in the National Reports and presented by the Secretariat, each delegation in turn gave an account of progress made on this program. The resulting information is shown in the table attached as **Appendix 4 to ANNEX 8**. The Delegate of South Africa made a statement regarding this matter, which is attached as **Appendix 5 to ANNEX 8.**

Establishment of observer programs

7.16 The Secretariat summarized the information which had been included in the National Reports in relation to the establishment of observer programs as provided in the 1996 *Recommendation by ICCAT on Bigeye and Yellowfin Tunas* and the 1998 *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Establishment of a Closed Area/Season for the Use of Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs).* Supplementary information was given by the delegations, and is summarized in **Appendix 6 to ANNEX 8**.

8. Date and place of the next meeting of the Compliance Committee

8.1 It was decided to hold the next meeting of the Compliance Committee at the same time and place as the next meeting of the Commission.

9. Election of Compliance Committee Chairman

9.1 The Delegate of Canada, nominated Mr. J. Pulvenis (Venezuela) for the next Chairman of the Compliance Committee, which was seconded by the United States. Mr. Pulvenis was unanimously elected, and accepted, to chair the Committee during the next biennial period.

10. Other matters

10.1 In response to a question raised in relation to the "fishing year" and the difficulties for the comparison which this time lag could cause between this time period and the calender year, the Delegate of Japan explained that his country has used this system for a very long time. He explained that this system should be maintained because licenses, quotas and other fishing authorizations are all issued on the basis of fishing year, and that furthermore this schedule allowed the fishing year to start just after the longline closed season in the Mediterranean Sea.

Proposals for new measures to improve compliance with Recommendations

10.2 The Committee noted that three Contracting Parties (Equatorial Guinea, Guinea Conakry, and Trinidad & Tobago) appeared to be engaged in activities that were not in compliance with ICCAT Recommendations. Some discussion ensued on actions which could be taken. The Committee concluded that a letter seeking clarification would be sent to two of the aforementioned Contracting Parties (Guinea-Conakry and Trinidad and Tobago). It was agreed that the draft of this letter, attached as **Appendix 7 to ANNEX 8**, be forwarded to the Commission for approval. In the case of Equatorial Guinea, the Committee noted that such action had already been taken in the past and it was therefore appropriate to take action in accordance with paragraph 3 of the 1996 *Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding Compliance in the Bluefin Tuna and North Atlantic Swordfish Fisheries*. The Committee therefore agreed to forward a *Recommendation Regarding Equatorial Guinea Pursuant to the 1996 Recommendation Regarding Compliance in the Bluefin Tuna and North Atlantic Swordfish Fisheries*, together with a letter of transmission, to the Commission for adoption. This Recommendation is attached as **ANNEX 5-10** to the Commission Proceedings. The letter to Equatorial Guinea is attached as **Appendix 8 to ANNEX 8**.

10.3 With regard to the activities of Panama, the Committee agreed that it would be appropriate to send out a positive signal to encourage Non-Contracting Parties to cooperate with ICCAT, but at the same time past actions could not totally be ignored. It was also noted that Panama should not be subjected to discriminatory treatment *vis a vis* the other Contracting Parties and the activities of the Panamanian vessels would be subject to review just as those of the other Contracting Parties, in accordance with the 1996 *Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding Compliance in the Bluefin Tuna and North Atlantic Swordfish Fisheries*. The Committee therefore agreed to forward *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Importation of Bluefin Tuna and its Products from Panama* to the Commission for adoption. This Recommendation is attached as **ANNEX 5-8** to the Commission Proceedings.

10.4 The question of ICCAT having a more comprehensive monitoring system was raised. In this regard the Chairman noted the need to review the consistency of ICCAT Recommendations.

10.5 The U.S. Delegation introduced a proposal concerning penalties to impose on Contracting Parties that do not submit basic data on catches. Due to lack of time for full discussion, it was agreed that the proposal should be considered at a future meeting.

10.6 The Delegate of the EC indicated that it was time to consider the implementation of an appropriate, integrated monitoring scheme, adapted to the context of the Atlantic tuna fisheries. He proposed that a meeting of a working group be held in 2000 to discuss this matter. The Committee took due note of this proposal, and considered there was insufficient time to develop the Terms of Reference of such a group. The EC's draft proposal for an integrated monitoring and inspection scheme is included in **ANNEX 4-3** to the Commission Proceedings, for future reference.

10.7 The Chairman concluded the discussions and reminded the Committee that in spite of the ambiguities that some ICCAT Recommendations may have, it was the Committee's job to arrive at convergent interpretations. He asked the

Contracting Parties to give this matter serious consideration.

11. Adoption of the Report

11.1 The Report of the Compliance Committee was adopted.

12. Adjournment

12. 1 The 1999 Meeting of the Compliance Committee was adjourned.

Appendix 1 to ANNEX 8

1999 COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE AGENDA

1 Opening of the meeting
2 Adoption of the Agenda
3 Nomination of Rapporteur
4 Status of the compliance of the Contracting Parties as concerns statistics
5 National rules for the application of the ICCAT measures and the collection of catch data
6 Current ICCAT Port Inspection Scheme
7 Review of the application and compliance of the ICCAT conservation and management measures
8 Date and place of the next Compliance Committee meeting
9 Election of Compliance Committee Chairman
10 Other matters
11 Adoption of Report
12 Adjournment

Appendix 2 to ANNEX 8

STATEMENT BY MOROCCO
TO THE COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE REGARDING CATCHES

It should be recalled that among the measures adopted by the Commission for the conservation of the stocks of bluefin tuna, particularly the 1994 *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Bluefin Catch Limits in the Eastern Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea* (Ref: 94-11), Morocco has fully adhered to the 25% reduction in catches, in which the period for this to be accomplished was the end of 1998.

As concerns the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Limitation of Catches of Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean* (Ref: 98-5), Morocco presented and confirmed an objection to this Recommendation.

In effect, the 1994 Recommendation aimed at assuring, that from 1996 and up to end of 1998, a 25% reduction in reported catches from those of 1994, should cover the active management period up to 1998, according to the interpretation of the text of the Recommendation.

The comparison between the reported catches and the catch limits shows an excess catch that Morocco is pledged to absorb, evidently within the conditions which should not totally compromise the activities of the artisanal fishing communities. This shows the good faith and willingness of Morocco to work actively within the framework of the Commission, notably in providing the necessary data and information, even if this reflects a situation of over-fishing.

Notwithstanding, Morocco expresses some reservation as regards the allocation of the quota allocated to us for the years

1999 and 2000, since the catch limits recommended in 1994 end in the 1998 management period, and because the objection has already been made regarding the manner in which those quotas are assigned, when this allocation is not based on equitable criteria.

Morocco hopes the Working Group on Allocation Criteria can work actively and quickly towards developing new criteria. This does not signify at all that Morocco intends to increase its catches in an uncontrolled manner, or fish contrary to ICCAT conservation measures.

It should also be recalled that Morocco, which has a strategic geographic position in the path of a large number of tuna resources, and in spite of not wanting to jeopardize the numerous employment linked to these tuna fishing activities, reiterates its firm commitment of subscribing to the principle of a rational management of resources, particularly the tuna resources.

Taking all these elements into account, Morocco accepts all the measures aimed a better control of the management of this species and continues to fight against all abuse of its exploitation.

In this context, Morocco has begun to review this issue relative to the resorption of the negative incidence of its catches for the 2000 and 2001 management years, reiterating that the base of the calculation for the years 1999 and 2000 is the subject of an objection on its part and that Morocco is determined to avoid making its fishermen, who only fish on an artisanal level, undergo severe measures aimed at a drastic limit on the catches.

Therefore, Morocco is willing to reduce over-fishing considering as a catch limit for the years 1999 and 2000, the catches made in 1998 (2430 MT), which correspond to the last management year for Recommendation 94-11.

Since this has been proposed by other delegations, Morocco hopes that the Working Group on Allocation Criteria can study this matter closely, in the shortest time possible, in order to bring out in the open all the matters relative to quotas.

Appendix 3 to ANNEX 8

STATEMENT BY CANADA TO THE COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of Canada, I would like to emphasize the high priority which my delegation, and indeed all of Canada's large pelagics fishermen, attached to the work of the this Commission, and particularly to this Committee. It provides a mechanism to reinforce our collective accountability to live within the rules set by the Commission. Compliance with these management measures is a prerequisite for effective conservation.

ICCAT has been in existence for 30 years. During this time, this organization has progressively adopted specific management measures to regulate harvest levels and harvest practices. These measures are a response to significant, and in some cases, to alarming declines in the fish stocks we are responsible for managing in a sustainable manner. Adoption of these measures represents a good start to reversing stock decline; but good intentions are not enough. Contracting Parties must also implement programs to ensure compliance. Failure to do so means continued stock declines which threaten the interests of all members. It also undermines the credibility of the Commission, and compromises our ability to impose restrictions on non-Contracting Parties.

I believe that all Parties are committee to the objectives of this organization, and that we are making some progress. But I am equally convinced that we need to do much better. Compliance must be improved if we are to succeed in our mandate and if we are to succeed as an organization.

A review of the SCRS Report again provides a very disappointing outlook on performance in adhering to measures which have been adopted. It is not my intent to highlight each specific situation at this time as to do so would unfairly intrude into the working time of this Committee.

However, I do wish to identify the particular problem areas which Canada will wish to see addressed during the meeting

of the Compliance Committee this year.

We will want to understand the reasons for lack of compliance with quotas in the eastern Atlantic bluefin fishery, and to learn about strategies to prevent a reoccurrence.

We will want to review measures for improved compliance with quotas in the south Atlantic swordfish fishery.

We will bee seeking assurances of improved adherence to the 1997 Recommendation for swordfish in the North and South Atlantic that required countries without specific quotas to reduce catch by 45% from 1996 catch levels.

We need to look for solutions to the continuing problem of high catches of undersized fish, a problem that is an impediment to stock rebuilding, and an embarrassment to this organization.

Finally, we need to address the status of adoption of vessel monitoring systems, an obligation that became mandatory on January 1 of this year and, I believe, has not been complied with by most Parties.

Mr. Chairman, those are the issues that Canada sees as important for this Committee to address during our Committee sessions this week. In closing, I would like to reiterate something I said last year - it is not acceptable that fishermen from some Contracting Parties be expected to adhere to restrictive management measures when fishermen from other Contracting Parties are not similarly subject to those measures that are applicable to them. Many of the stocks managed by ICCAT are in various levels of distress. I can fully appreciate the difficulty of imposing restrictions on fishermen, because of socio-economic reasons. Those same realities apply to Canadian fishermen, just as much as they elsewhere. Despite these challenges, the sustainability of these stocks must take precedence and all members of this Commission must have the will, and the capacity to meet our existing obligations.

I would conclude by noting that the actions taken by ICCAT are very much under scrutiny and have been for a number of years. All members must continue to take their obligations seriously. As responsible fisheries managers, we must ensure that today’s fisheries are sustainable in the long term so that future generations will reap the benefits of our decisions today.

Appendix 4 to ANNEX 8

Summary of information from National Reports or reported to the Compliance Committee regarding the 1997 *Recommendation Concerning a Vessel Monitoring System Pilot Program*

Contracting Party	***System established***	***Comments***
South Africa	Yes	Longliners
Brazil	Yes	Pilot system in place. Negotiations taking place regarding a more complete program
Canada	Yes	9 vessels fishing on High Seas have been equipped, in accordance with the Recommendation
European Community	Yes	System installed in 1999 on almost all vessels fishing on the High Seas. From January 1, 2000, all Community vessels more that 24m will be equipped
Japan	Yes	Almost all longliners equipped
Panama	Yes	45% of vessels equipped to date; 100% by January, 2000.
United States	Yes	The United States has been delayed in implementing the Recommendation, but the program will be 100% operative by June 1, 2000.
United Kingdom (OT) -Bermuda	Yes	
Venezuela	Mo	It is planned to establish the system for the whole fleet soon.
Others	No information given	

Appendix 5 to ANNEX 8

STATEMENT BY SOUTH AFRICA TO THE COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE REGARDING THE INCREASED USE OF VESSEL MONITORING SYSTEMS

South Africa wishes to report that we have implemented Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) on all of our pelagic longline vessels, as well as on foreign longline vessels permitted to fish on our waters. We have also introduced observer programs on these vessels.

However, over the past two years, South Africa has noted increasing fishing activity by high seas fleets in waters adjacent to our EEZ, with many of these vessels using South African ports to bunker or discharge their catches. Unfortunately, some of these vessels have been observed fishing illegally within our waters. While South Africa welcomes vessels fishing legally with our waters, we do not wish to provide port access to those vessels engaged in illegal fishing activities.

South Africa furthermore believes that it sis the responsibility of fishing vessels to prove where catches have been made. The easiest and most reliable way for this to be done is the implementation of vessel monitoring systems such as that envisaged in the 1997 ICCAT Recommendation on vessel monitoring. South Africa is therefore now considering options for making the carrying of a transmitting VMS a mandatory requirement for all high seas fishing vessels entering our ports.

South Africa believes that there are substantial compliance benefits to be derived from standardizing and extending VMS systems as widely as possible, We therefore urge the Compliance Committee to consider options for extending the VMS pilot program to all vessels larger than 24 metres operated by ICCAT Contracting Parties, Non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities or Cooperating Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities as soon as possible, as part of the implementation of an effective and comprehensive ICCAT at-sea monitoring system.

Appendix 6 to ANNEX 8

Summary of information from National Reports and reported to the Compliance Committee concerning observer programs in accordance with the 1996 *Recommendation by ICCAT on Bigeye and Yellowfin Tunas* and the 1999 *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Establishment of a Closed Area/Season for the Use of Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs).*

Contracting Party	***Establishment of observer program***	***Comments***
Angola	Yes	
Brazil	Not reported	
Canada	9.4% observers	
Cape Verde	Not reported	
China	Not reported	
Côte d'Ivoire	Not reported	
European Community	Yes	In 1998, 41 fishing trips were covered, for 1760 days of observation
Gabon	Not reported	
Ghana	Not reported	8 vessels
Japan	Yes	
Korea	Not reported	
Namibia	Not reported	
Panama	Not reported	
Russia	Not reported	
Sao Tome & Principe	Not reported	
South Africa	Yes	Longliners equipped with VMS system also have observers on board
Trinidad and Tobago	Not reported	
United Kingdom (OT)	Not reported	
United States	Yes	
Uruguay	Not reported	
Venezuela	Yes	Observer program on longliners since 1991; 18% coverage in 1998

Appendix 7 to ANNEX 8

LETTER TO THE REPUBLIC OF GUINEA & TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
Pursuant to the 1998 *Resolution Concerning the Unreported and Unregulated Catches of Tunas by Large-Scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area*

At its 1999 meeting, the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) reviewed the fishing activities of various ICCAT Contracting Parties, Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, and Fishing Entities under its *Resolution Concerning the Unreported and Unregulated Catches of Tunas by Large-Scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area*, adopted in 1998. This Resolution was previously supplied to you as a Contracting Party and is enclosed for your convenience.

The 1998 Resolution calls upon ICCAT Contracting Parties, Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities to collect, examine and submit to ICCAT import and landing data and associated information on imported frozen tunas and tuna-like fish products. Based on an annual review of these and other data, ICCAT will identify those Contracting Parties, Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities whose large scale-longline vessels have been fishing for tuna and tuna-like species in a manner which diminishes the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures. ICCAT will request identified Contracting Parties, Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities to take all necessary corrective actions, and will review those actions at its subsequent annual meeting. If those actions are not sufficient, ICCAT will recommend effective measures, if necessary including non-discriminatory trade restrictive measures on the subject species.

The information available to ICCAT at its 1999 meeting included landings and import data submitted by Contracting Parties, as well as other information. Enclosed please find a list of large- scale longline vessels compiled from these data, many of which are believed to have fished for tuna and tuna-like species in the ICCAT Convention Area. A number of these vessels are registered in [the Republic of Guinea] [Trinidad & Tobago].

Based on this information, ICCAT identified [the Republic of Guinea] [Trinidad & Tobago] under its *Resolution Concerning the Unreported and Unregulated Catches of Tunas by Large-Scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area*. Accordingly, ICCAT hereby requests the Government of [the Republic of Guinea] [Trinidad & Tobago] to take all necessary measures to ensure that large-scale longline vessels registered in [the Republic of Guinea] [Trinidad & Tobago] do not continue to diminish the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures, including, if appropriate, the revocation of vessel registration or fishing licenses of the large-scale longline vessels concerned.

At its 2000 meeting, the Commission will review information concerning the fishing activities of your country's vessels and consider any actions that may have been taken to control these activities. If it is determined that [the Republic of Guinea] [Trinidad & Tobago] has not taken appropriate steps to control its vessels, the Commission can, as described above, recommend that Contracting Parties take non-discriminatory trade restrictive measures on the subject species, consistent with their international obligations, to prevent those longline vessels from continuing the fishing operations that diminish the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation measures.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Commission Chairman

Appendix 8 to ANNEX 8

LETTER TO EQUATORIAL GUINEA
Pursuant to the Application of ICCAT's 1996 *Recommendation Regarding Compliance in the Bluefin Tuna and North Atlantic Swordfish Fisheries* and the 1998 *Resolution Concerning the Unreported and Unregulated Catches of Tunas by Large-Scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area*

At its 1999 meeting, the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) reviewed the fishing activities of vessels of Contracting Parties under its *Recommendation Regarding Compliance in the Bluefin Tuna and North Atlantic Swordfish Fisheries*, adopted in 1996. This Recommendation was previously supplied to you as an ICCAT Contracting Party and is enclosed for your convenience.

The subject Recommendation provides that if any Contracting Party exceeds its catch limit during any two consecutive management periods, the Commission will recommend appropriate measures, which may include trade restrictions. Any trade measures authorized will be import restrictions on the subject species and consistent with each Party's international obligations. In addition, the trade measures will be of such duration and under such conditions as the Commission may determine.

The Commission has been concerned about the fishing activities of vessels flagged by Equatorial Guinea for several years and has made a number of efforts to communicate these concerns to your country and to seek your collaboration in addressing them. On February 26, 1999, the Commission sent a letter to Equatorial Guinea requesting you to take the necessary action to ensure that your flag vessels do not fish for bluefin tuna since your country does not have a quota allocation for either stock of bluefin tuna. In agreeing to send this letter, the Commission noted specifically that trade data collected through the Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document (BTSD) Program indicated vessels flagged by your country were harvesting Atlantic bluefin tuna, although no catch data had been reported to ICCAT. In that letter, the Commission referenced the *Recommendation Regarding Compliance in the Bluefin Tuna and North Atlantic Swordfish Fisheries* and indicated that this Recommendation provides for the use of trade restrictive measures against ICCAT Contracting Parties to ensure compliance.

At its 1999 meeting, the Commission took note of BTSD statistics that indicate vessels of Equatorial Guinea are continuing to harvest considerable quantities of Atlantic bluefin tuna outside ICCAT's quota regimes and that your country has not reported any such harvests to the Commission. In addition, your government has not responded to the Commission's correspondence or concerns. Therefore, pursuant to the terms of paragraph 3 of the *Recommendation Regarding Compliance in the Bluefin Tuna and North Atlantic Swordfish Fisheries***,** the Commission adopted the enclosed Recommendation at its 1999 meeting that requires Contracting Parties to take appropriate measures to the effect that the import of Atlantic bluefin tuna and its products in any form from Equatorial Guinea is prohibited.

In a separate action, the Commission also reviewed the fishing activities of various ICCAT Contracting Parties, Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, and Fishing Entities under its *Resolution Concerning the Unreported and Unregulated Catches of Tunas by Large-Scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area*, adopted in 1998. This Resolution is also enclosed for your convenience. The 1998 Resolution calls upon ICCAT Contracting Parties, Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities to collect, examine and submit to ICCAT import and landing data and associated information on imported frozen tunas and tuna-like fish products. Based on an annual review of these and other data, ICCAT will identify those Contracting Parties, Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities whose large-scale longline vessels have been fishing for tuna and tuna-like species in a manner which diminishes the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures. ICCAT will request identified Contracting Parties, Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities to take all necessary corrective actions, and will review those actions at its subsequent annual meeting. If the actions taken are not sufficient, ICCAT will recommend effective measures, if necessary including non-discriminatory trade restrictive measures on the subject species.

The information available to ICCAT at its 1999 meeting included landings and import data submitted by Contracting Parties, as well as other information. Enclosed please find a list of large- scale longline vessels compiled from these data, many of which are believed to have fished for tuna and tuna-like species in the ICCAT Convention Area. A number of these vessels are registered in Equatorial Guinea.

Based on this information, ICCAT identified Equatorial Guinea in accordance with paragraph 2 of its *Resolution Concerning the Unreported and Unregulated Catches of Tunas by Large- Scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area*,

as a Contracting Party whose large-scale longline vessels have been fishing tuna and tuna-like species in a manner which diminishes the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures. Accordingly, ICCAT hereby requests the Government of Equatorial Guinea to take all necessary measures to ensure that its large-scale longline vessels do not continue to diminish the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures, including, if appropriate, the revocation of vessel registration or fishing licenses of the large-scale longline vessels concerned.

At its 2000 meeting, the Commission will review information concerning the fishing activities of your country's vessels and consider any actions that may have been taken to control these activities. If it is determined Equatorial Guinea has not taken appropriate steps to control its vessels, the Commission can, as described above, recommend that Contracting Parties take non-discriminatory trade restrictive measures on the subject species, consistent with their international obligations, to prevent those longline vessels from continuing the fishing operations that diminish the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation measures.

Thank you for your prompt attention to these matters.

Commission Chairman

Compliance Table 1. Swordfish catch limits and landings

	1997 Limit	1997 Catch	1997 Balance	1998 Limit **	1998 Adjusted ***	1998 Catch	1998 Balance	1999 Limit	1999 Adjusted limit ***	
NORTH ATLANTIC										
Total catch		12480				11690				
Total limits	11300			11000				10700		
Contracting Parties	*11499*	*12020*	*-521*	*10853*		*10438*	*-10438*	*10653*	*10634*	
CANADA	1130	1089	41	1100	1141	1115	26	1070	1096	7/
CHINA PR	55	30	25	99.6	124.6	253	-128.4	99.6	-28.8	
EC-ESPAÑA****	4661.25	5140	-472	4537.5	4065.5	4079	-13.5	4413.75	4400.25	
EC-FRANCE	97	164	-67	0	-67	110	-177	97	-80	
EC-IRELAND	15	15	0	0	0	26	-26	15	-11	
EC-PORTUAL****	847.5	903	-55.5	825	769.5	770	-0.5	802.5	802	
EC-UK****	5	11	-6	5	-1	11	-12	2.75	-9.25	
JAPAN*	706.25	1304	-597.75	687.5	89.75	695	-605.25	668.75		1/
KOREA	19	15	4	19	23	0	23	10.45	33.45	
MAROC	460	267	193	277.75	470.75	267	203.75	254.1	457.85	
SAO TOME & PRINCIPE****	0	14	-14	0	-14	14	-28	0	-28	2/
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	125	14	111	0	111	15	96	43	139	
UK-Overseas Terr.	28	5	23	27	50	43	7	26	33	3/
U.S.A.	3277	2975	446	3190	3636	3005	631	3103	3734	
VENEZUELA	73	74	-1	85	84	35	49	46.75	95.75	7/
All others including e.p and n.c.p.	676	*1204*	*-526*	*660*		*1101*	*-441*	*642*	*201*	6/
SOUTH ATLANTIC										
Total catch		18473				13476				
Total limits	21104			14620				14620		
Contracting Parties	*16466*	*15134*		*13430.4*		*12297.8*	*1214.5*	*13430.4*	*14603*	
BRASIL	2013	4100	-2087	2339.2		3846.8	-1507.6	2339.2	831.6	4/
CHINA PR	0	0	0	0		24				
COTE D'IVOIRE	250	16	234	0		13				
EC-ESPAÑA	7937	8461	-524	5848		5831	17	5848	5865	
EC-PORTUGAL	0	441	-441	385		384	1			
G.EQUATORIAL	0	2	-2	0		0				
GHANA	0	0	0	140		106				
JAPAN	4600	929	3671	3764.6		463	3301.6	3764.6		1/
KOREA	250	18	232	7		0				
S.AFRICA	250	1	249	1		169				5/
URUGUAY	260	760	-500	694.5		886	-191.5	694.5	503	
U.S.A.	250	396	-146	384		295	89			7/
Others				*804.1*		*866*	*-61.9*	*804.1*	*779*	6/
Non-Contracting Parties, Entitie	4638	2651		1169.6		1233	-63.4	1169.6	1106.2	

Bolded figures are those reported on the Reporting Tables required by Recommendation 98-14. Others are official Task I figures.
In this table, all the overages and underages are applied to the following year, which is not necessarily the case for some Parties.
Totals are from Task I data which may differ from the sum of figures that came from the Reporting Tables.

** For Parties which have no specific quota, the 1993 catch was used as the maximum level of catch, until 1997 (94-1).
Starting in 1998, the quota for these Parties is 55% of that of the 1996 level or is the 1996 level, if the catch is less than 100 MT, as reported by SCRS in 1997.

*** The adjusted catch limits are calculated based on Rec 95-11 and Rec 96-14 for the North Atlantic (since 1997) and Rec 97-7 for the South Atlantic (since 1998).
For Japan, the quota can be adjusted in a 5-year period, instead of a 3-year period. The catch is in the fishing year and 1998 data are incomplete (Aug-Dec, 1998).
For the South, 1998 over/under will be adjusted in the following 2 years; hence, the 1999 adjusted quota is still tentative.
Also in this calculation, discards are not included as part of the catches.
A penalty of a 125% reduction of the overage is applied since 1997 for the North Atlantic and since 1998 for the South Atlantic, except for those Parties that objected to Rec 97-8.

**** These Parties may be subject to penalties (Rec 96-14), depending on which year the overage is going to be applied (98-13).

1/ Catches (and the 1997) are by fishing year, based on biological data and hence are preliminary. The 1998 catch is partial (Aug-Dec, 1998).
2/ Application of overage would possibly be made after 2 years.
3/ The Reporting Table did not taken into account the 1997 balance.
4/ The 1998 overage will be added to the 2000 catch.
5/ South Africa reported that is catch in 1998 is within the combined quota for "others".
6/ According to Rec 96-7, the quota for all other countries other than those with individual quotas are set.
The catch of Contracting Parties that have no individual quotas are included and hence duplicated with the total for Contracting Parties.
7/ Reported discards are not included in the catch.

Compliance Table 2-Recommended catch limits and reported catches for east bluefin tuna

		1997			1998				1999			2000		
	BASE	Quota	Catch	Balance	Quota	Adj. quota	Catch	Balance	Quota	*Adj quota*	Catch	Quota	Catch	
Contracting	39461	39461	39269	-3870	29596	29597	26860	2737	31155					
CHINA.PR	84	84	43	41	63	63	74	-11	82			76		
CROATIA	1410	1410	1105	305	1058	1058	906	152	950			876		
EUROPEAN	27748	27748	28045	**-4029**	**20811**	**20811**	**18230**	**2581**	**20165**	**16136**		18590		1/ 2/ 5/
G.CONAKR	330	330	0	0	248	248	0	248	0					
JAPAN	**3554**	**3554**	**3631**	**-77**	**2666**	**2666**	**2143**	523	3199			2949		3/
KOREA	688	688	613	75	516	516	0	516	672			619		
LIBYA*	1332	1332	1029	303	**999**	**999**	**1331**	**-332**	**1331**			1331		1/ 4/
MAROC*	1812	1812	2603	-791	**1359**	**1359**	**2430**	**-1071**	**2430**	*1639*		2430		1/ 4/
PANAMA					0	0	0	0	0					
SOUTH AFR	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	-1	0		1			
TUNISIE	2503	2503	2200	303	1877	1877	**1745**	132	2326			2144		

Bolded figures are those reported on the Reporting Tables required by Recommendation 98-14 and others are from the official Task I figures.

BASE = 1993 or 1994 catch, whichever higher.

Overage is adjusted since 1997 (Rec 96-14, Rec 98-5).

In this table, all the overages were applied to the following year, which is not necessarily the case for some Parties (Rec 96-14 and Rec 98-13).

Discards are not included in the above calculations.

When an overage occurred in 2 consecutive years, 125% was subtracted from the quota.

* Objection to Rec 98-5 reaffirmed. Rec 94-11 was applied.

1/ At least part of the overage was applied on 2 years later.
2/ Compliance is evaluated as EC for years 1998 and thereafter. The country breakdown is just for reference and does not necessarily sum up to the EC formal figures.
3/ Catches (and BASE) are reported by fishing year, based on biological data and hence are preliminary. The 1998 catch is partial (Aug-Dec, 1998).
4/ The quotas in 1999 and 2000 are limits equivalent to 1998 catches, imposed by the country itself.
5/ With no prejudice to transfers, *vis a vis* paragraph of the current report.

Compliance Table 3-Recommended catch limits and reported catches for west bluefin tuna

	1997			1998				1999			
	Catch limit	Catch	Balance	Catch limit	*Adj. limit*	Catch	Balance	Catch limit	*Adj. limit*	Catch	
WEST ATL	2354	2309.5	44.5	2358	2419.5	2302.54	116.96	2421	2110.96		
CANADA	552.6	**504.5**	**48.1**	**552.6**	**600.7**	**596**	**4.7**	**573**	*577.7*		
FRANCE (O				4	4	**0.54**	3.46	4	*7.46*		
JAPAN	453	**470**	**-17**	**453**	**453**	**479**	**-26**	**453**			1/
U.S.A	1344.4	1333	11.4	1344.4	**1355.8**	**1226**	**129.8**	1387	*1516.8*		
UK-BERMU	4	2	2	4	*6*	1	5	4	*9*		

Bolded figures are those reported on the Reporting Tables required by Recommendation 98-14 and others are from the official Task I figures.

Adjustment of the quota according to Rec 91-1 (for West only) and Rec 96-14 (for both West and East) is not done until 1997.

Rec 96-14 has not provision for left over quota, which was well defined in Rec 91-1. The overage in 1997 was added to the 1998 quota in the above calculation.

In this table, all the overages and underages are applied to the following year, which is not necessarily the case for some Parties (Rec 96-14 and Rec 98-13).

Discards are not included in the above calculations.

When overages occurred in 2 consecutive years, 125% was subtracted from the quota.

1/ Catches are reported by fishing year, based on biological data and hence are preliminary. The 1998 catch is partial (Aug-Dec, 1998).

Compliance Table 4. Information regarding compliance with minimum size regulations

BIGEYE TUNA

	1998 CATCH	REPORTED ESTTIMATES OF CATCH OVER 15% TOLERANCE LIMIT (3.2KG)	SIZE DATA PROVIDED TO SECRETARIAT
BRASIL	644	0 MT	NO
CANADA	120	0 MT	NO
CAP-VERT	1	0 MT	YES
CHINA.PR	1330	NOT REPORTED	NO
EUROPEAN COMMUNIT	19198	NOT AVAILABLE	YES
GHANA	13252	NOT REPORTED	YES
JAPAN	22290	0 MT	YES (1997)
KOREA	163	0 MT	NO
NAMIBIA	16	NOT REPORTED*	NO
PANAMA	8307	NOT REPORTED	NO
RUSSIAN FEDERATION	4	0.75 MT**	YES
SOUTH AFRICA	41	0 MT	NO
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	4	NOT REPORTED	NO
U.S.A	928	0 MT	YES
UK-OVERSEAS TERR.	28	0 MT	NO
URUGUAY	59	0 MT	NO
VENEZUELA	222	0 MT	YES

* Namibia bacame a member of ICCAT just prior to the 1999 Commission meeting.
** Weight of total undersized fish. If they are more or less than 15 in number of fish is not known.

YELLOWFIN TUNA	1998 CATCH	REPORTED ESTTIMATES OF CATCH OVER 15% TOLERANCE LIMIT (3.2KG)	SIZE DATA PROVIDED TO SECRETARIAT
ANGOLA	115		NO
BRASIL	2514	0MT	YES
CANADA	57	0MT	NO
CAP-VERT	1417	0 MT	PARTIAL
CHINA.PR	618	NOT REPORTED	NO
EUROPEAN COMMUNIT	62764	NOT AVAILABLE	PARTIAL
GABON	295	NOT REPORTED	NO
GHANA	17807	NOT REPORTED	YES
JAPAN	5352	0 MT	YES(1997)
KOREA	65	0 MT	YES
NAMIBIA	3	NOT REPORTED	NO
RUSSIAN FED.	4931	NOT REPORTED	YES
SAO TOME & PRINCIPE	0	NO CATCH	NO
SOUTH AFRICA	229	0 MT	NO
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	23	NOT REPORTED	NO
U.S.A.	5619	0 MT	YES
UK-OVERSEAS TERR.	257	0 MT	NO
URUGUAY	88	0 MT	NO
VENEZUELA	13970	0 MT	YES

Compliance Table 4 (Continued)

SWORDFISH - NORTH	1998 CATCH	REPORTED ESTTIMATES OF CATCH OVER 15% TOLERANCE LIMIT (119 OR 125 CM)	SIZE DATA PROVIDED TO SECRETARIAT
CANADA	1115	0.4% (<119 CM)	YES
CHINA.PR	253	NOT AVAILABLE	NO
EC-ESPANA	4079	NOT AVAILABLE	YES
EC-FRANCE	110	NOT AVAILABLE	NO
EC-IRELAND	26	NOT AVAILABLE	NO
EC-PORTUGAL	770	NOT AVAILABLE	PARTIAL
EC-UK	11	NOT REPORTED	
JAPAN	695	0 MT	YES
KOREA	0	NO CATCH	
MAROC	267	NOT REPORTED	NO
SAO TOME & PRINCIPE	14	NOT REPORTED	NO
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	15	NOT REPORTED	NO
UK-OVERSEAS TERR.	43	0 MT	NO
U.S.A.	3005	NOT AVAILABLE	YES
VENEZUELA	35	NOT AVAILABLE	YES
SWORDFISH - SOUTH			
BRASIL	3846.8	0 MT	YES
CHINA PR	24	NOT REPORTED	NO
COTE DIVOIRE	13	NOT REPORTED	NO
EC-ESPANA	5831	NOT AVAILABE	YES
EC-PORTUGAL	384	NOT AVAILABLE	PARTIAL
GHANA	106	NOT REPORTED	YES
JAPAN	463	0 MT	YES
KOREA	0	NO CATCH	
S.AFRICA	169	0 MT	NO
URUGUAY	886	0 MT	PARTIAL
U.S.A	295	NOT REPORTED	YES

BLUEFIN -EAST

	1998 CATCH	REPORTED ESTTIMATES OF ATCH OVER 15% TOLERANCE LIMIT (6.4 KG OR 115 CM)	SIZE DATA PROVIDED TO SECRETARIAT
CHINA PR	74	NOT REPORTED	NO
CROATIA	950	NOT REPORTED	NO
EUROPEAN COMMUNIT	18320	NOT AVAILABLE	
EC DENMARK	1	NOT AVAILABLE	NO
EC ESPANA	5800	NOT AVAILABLE	YES
EC FRANCE	5319	NOT AVAILABLE	NO
EC GERMANY	0	NO CATCH	NO
EC GREECE	286	NOT AVAILABLE	NO
EC IRELAND	20	NOT AVAILABLE	NO
EC ITALY	4059	NOT AVAILABLE	NO
EC NETHERLANDS	0	NO CATCH	NO
EC PORTUGAL	377	NOT AVAILABLE	NO
EC SWEDEN	0	NO CATCH	NO
EC UK	0	NO CATCH	NO
GUINEA CONAKRY	0	NO CATCH	NO
JAPAN	2143	0 MT	YES
KOREA	0	NO CATCH	
LIBYA	1331	NOT REPORTED	NO
MAROC	2430	NOT REPORTED	NO
PANAMA	0	NO CATCH	NO
SOUTH AFRICA	1	0 MT	NO
TUNISIE	1745	0 MT	NO

BLUEFIIN - WEST

CANADA	596	0 MT	YES
FRANCE -OT	1	0 MT	NO
JAPAN	479	0 MT	YES
U.S.A	1226	0 MT	YES
UK-OVERSEAS TERR.	1	0 MT	NO

ANNEX 9

REPORTS OF THE MEETINGS OF PANELS 1 TO 4

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF PANEL 1

1. Opening of the meeting

1.1 The Panel Chairman, Dr. H. da Silva (EC-Portugal), opened the meeting of Panel 1.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

2.1 The agenda was adopted without change and is attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 9**.

3. Appointment of Rapporteur

3.1 Mr. T. Surette (Canada) was nominated as Rapporteur for Panel 1.

4. Review of Panel membership

4.1 Namibia and Panama became members of Panel 1. The Panel now comprises 21 members, as follows: Angola, Brazil, Canada, Cape Verde, China, Côte d'Ivoire, European Community, Gabon, Ghana, Japan, Korea, Libya, Morocco, Namibia, Panama, Russia, Sao Tome & Principe, Trinidad & Tobago, United Kingdom (Overseas Territories), United States and Venezuela. All the members, except Trinidad & Tobago, were present.

5. Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics

5.a) Bigeye

5.a.1 Dr. Powers, (United States) Chairman of the SCRS, presented the main points relevant to bigeye tuna and indicated that there was a significant increase in landings in the 1990's, attributed in part to illegal, unregulated and unreported fisheries. He drew attention to the estimate of small fish as a percentage of the reported catch. The data indicate that 55% of the of total bigeye tuna catch in number of fish for 1996 to 1998 comprises under-sized fish (less than 3.2 kg) whereas the regulation allows a tolerance of only 15%. He reported that an important input to the assessment is the Japanese longline fleet and noted a decline in this CPUE. Production model analysis indicates a MSY level of 79,000 to 94,000 MT. Management advice takes into consideration current mortality being above MSY levels and a catch reduction to 80,000 MT is recommended to maintain the current level of biomass, with a further reduction in catch being required to rebuild the stock. The SCRS is concerned about the high level of under sized fish in the catch.

5.b) Skipjack

5.b.1 The SCRS Chairman presented the SCRS Report on skipjack. He indicated that most of the catch in the Atlantic is from the east, with lower catch levels in the west. This is primarily a coastal fishery conducted mainly in the Gulf of Guinea, while the essential part of the catch comes from the high seas. Assessment of this stock is difficult, as there is no reliable method of measuring fishing effort. He reported that there has been a decline in several indices and indicators. Due to the lack of sufficient data, an estimate of stock status could not be provided, nor could MSY be estimated for either the east or the west Atlantic.

5.c) Yellowfin

5.c.1 Dr. Powers reported that with no new assessment, the SCRS estimates an MSY of 150,000 MT, close to the present catch level. He commented that annual catch series had increased by approximately 15,000 MT, due to the addition of estimates of illegal, unregulated and unreported fisheries.

5.d Questions from the delegates to the SCRS Chairman

5.d.1 Dr. Powers responded to a question with respect to the sustainability of the skipjack stock given the present data by indicating that data do not exist to answer this point. Dr. Powers was complimented on his presentation of bigeye tuna. The Panel noted the high percentage of undersized fish, 55% of the total bigeye catch, despite preliminary conclusions of the SCRS that the FAD moratorium has apparently had a positive reduction on the catches of juveniles during the area/time closure, relative to previous years in the same area/time. Dr. Powers commented that it is premature to assess the effects of the moratorium on the use of FADs for the stock as a whole, but that catches of juvenile fish had decreased in those fleets which applied the time/area closure, but not in those which did not respect the closure. [EC]

5.d.2 The SCRS Chairman indicated that the SCRS was unable to provide rebuilding scenarios for bigeye stocks at this time, as required by the Commission. However, he indicated that a reduction in catches to 80,000 MT is required to prevent further stock decline but that further reduction would be required for rebuilding. He also noted that Chinese Taipei had reduced its fishing effort since it had been limiting its catch pursuant to an ICCAT resolution.

5.d.3 It was clarified that recreational fishery catches account for a small proportion of the total bigeye tuna catch. While recognizing that reported data on recreational fisheries was probably incomplete, the amount of the unreported recreational catch from this fishery would not have a significant impact on the stock. In surface fisheries, undersized fish predominate the catch in number, but not in weight. The fish caught by longline are bigger and therefore represent fewer fish per tonnage. It was also confirmed that there were few sources of data to estimate the abundance of small fish, because the major source of abundance indices was the CPUE of the Japanese longline fleet, which caught larger fish. In response to a further question regarding the mortality rate of bigeye, he stated that while a high rate of natural mortality of juvenile bigeye exists, this is not well understood and can be highly variable.

5.d.4 It was pointed out that the increases in longline catches in recent years was due to an increase in the activities of illegal, unregulated or unreported vessels, while the Japanese fleet is reducing its catch.

6. Measures for the conservation of stocks:

a) Bigeye

6.a.1 The Chairman summarized the management measures taken to date by ICCAT to preserve and rebuild stocks since 1993.

6.a.2 The US delegation made an opening statement in which they indicated that it is of great concern that the production model analysis indicates that the current biomass is below MSY. They are extremely concerned with the taking of 55% small fish of the total reported removals. They reported that the US has established a regulation prohibiting the taking of small fish at 6.4 kg, which is twice the ICCAT limit. These concerns were shared by some other delegations.

6.a.3 The measures taken over the last two years were recalled, and it was noted that a further restriction on small fish would simply encourage discarding and has little positive effect on conservation. Community shipowners voluntarily avoided the use of FADS in the Gulf of Guinea, and some delegations expressed the opinion that the ban in the Gulf of Guinea must be enforced on all fishing vessels if it is to be more efficient. Ghana suggested that a total ban be imposed on the use of FADs, as this fishing method brought about over-fishing and increased the capture of juvenile fish, as had been pointed out in a scientific research document in 1985. The phasing out of the use of FADs would allow a more natural life process for the fish. It was also suggested that further research was also needed on by-catches.

6.a.4 Mexico, as a cooperating party, expressed their concern about the general use of FADs and the transfer of fishing effort using this method to other seas. Mexico proposed that the Commission carry out studies which would enable it to determine, in the short term, additional measures to reduce the mortality of juveniles, and undertake scientific research to quantify by-catch of other species not targeted by this fishery, which would lead to the adoption of measures to avoid such

by-catch. The statement by the observer from Mexico is attached as **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 9**.

6.a.5 It was agreed that the component of small fish was also a matter for concern, but the Panel was reminded of the 1998 *Resolution by ICCAT on the Bigeye Tuna Conservation Measures for Fishing Vessels Larger Than 24 Meters Length Overall (LOA)*, with respect to the limits on the number of vessels. It was considered too early to draw conclusions, and it was proposed that the closure on FADs continue for another year in the selected time and area, and that a yellowfin assessment will be carried out by the SCRS in 2000, and a bigeye tuna assessment will be conducted in 2001, as planned.

6.a.6 Concern was also expressed that the FAD moratorium did not address fishing effort outside the closed area which could be targeting small fish. It was noted that studies have indicated that so far redirection effects have been minimal.

6.a.7 Ghana informed the Panel that there were six Ghanian purse seine vessels and 49 from other countries operating in the Gulf of Guinea, using 100 and 2000 FADs, respectively.

6.a.8 The Panel noted that the Russian fleet will respect the moratorium in the Gulf of Guinea during the closed season.

6.a.9 The Panel reviewed several draft proposals for regulatory measures; one regarding the limitation of catches of bigeye tuna by the United States delegation, one on the establishment of a closed season/area for the use of fishing aggregating devices by the European Community, and one on a similar issue proposed by Ghana. It was agreed that EC and Ghana would work together to revise these later to present a joint proposal.

6.a.10 At a later session, the proposal drafted by the EC for a *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Establishment of a Closed Area/Season for the Use of Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs)* was presented. After a brief discussion, the Panel agreed to forward this proposal to the Commission for its consideration (attached as **ANNEX 5-1** to the Commission Proceedings).

6.a.11 It was noted that the proposal previously made by Ghana had been withdrawn, as the essence of this proposal was included in the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Establishment of a Closed Area/Season for the Use of Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs).*

6.a.12 The U.S. proposal on bigeye tuna included the following principles; lower overall catches to replacement yield and regulated expansion of new effort; develop a rebuilding plan with the SCRS; expand the limited access program and allow the restriction of sale from only vessels listed; eliminate the 15% small fish tolerance and finally continue and possibly expand the Gulf of Guinea closure to FADs. The statement to Panel 1 by the United States is attached as **Appendix 3 to ANNEX 9**.

6.a.13 It was stressed that any new measures must be logical and achieve conservation with reasonable limits. To eliminate small fish tolerance would result in further discarding at sea, which would be of no advantage to the stock or the industry.

6.a.14 While recognizing the need to reduce bigeye catches, many delegations felt that this Recommendation could not be accepted until the work of the Working Group on Allocation Criteria was finished, as it contained issues relating to the quota share principle while others felt that the proposal was redundant as the Commission had already committed itself to reviewing the stock in 2001 in earlier deliberations.

6.a.15 It was clarified that the intent of the draft US proposal was to address a serious stock decline in the bigeye biomass and not to treat any party unfairly. The current catch level is 95,000 MT. It was pointed out that compliance measures are not working as only one major harvester of bigeye tuna complied with the reporting requirements and no action has been taken with respect to the high level of juvenile fish in catches.

6.a.16 A modified draft of this proposal was discussed at a later session. The Panel, however, decided not to support this proposal, as many delegations felt that the Recommendation was too repetitive in the light of existing Recommendations and Resolutions, and may not be in accordance with international trade law currently in effect. The U.S. delegation expressed their disappointment, and believed that the proposed Recommendation was consistent with international law and indicated that they would continue to press for appropriate management measures on this important stock. The draft Recommendation proposed by the United States is attached as **Appendix 4 to ANNEX 9.**

6.a.17 A draft recommendation on the conservation measures for tropical tunas fished by vessels greater than 24 m was proposed by the EC. After considerable discussion this proposal was not accepted by the Panel. Of particular concern to

many delegations were that effort limits were being proposed not only for bigeye but also for yellowfin and skipjack. On the other hand these delegations agreed that this issue should be discussed after the Working Group on Allocation Criteria had reached their conclusions. The text of the draft Recommendation proposed by the EC is attached as **Appendix 5 to ANNEX 9**.

7. Research

7.1 The Chairman of the SCRS informed the panel that a high priority had been placed on developing the data base for tropical tunas. Assessment tools will also be developed through the bigeye tuna year program, as well as biological parameters such as tagging and natural mortality. The change in the purse seine fishery strategy will also be reviewed.

8. Date and place of next Panel meeting

8.1 It was agreed that the next meeting of Panel 1 would beheld at the same time and place as the next Commision meeting.

9. Election of Panel Chairman

9.1. It was unanimously agreed that Cape Verde would chair Panel 1 for the next biennial period.

10.Other matters

10.1 No other matters were discussed.

11. Adoption of the Report

11.1 The Report of Panel 1 was adopted.

12. Adjournment

12.1 The 1999 meeting of Panel 1 was adjourned.

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF PANEL 2

1. Opening

1.1 The meeting was opened by the chairman of Panel 2, Mr. J. Barnes (United Kingdom–Overseas Territories).

2. Adoption of Agenda

2.1 The Agenda was reviewed and was adopted without any modification; it attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 9**.

3. Appointment of Rapporteur

3.1 Dr. N. Miyabe (Japan) was nominated to serve as Rapporteur of this Panel.

4. Review of Panel membership

4.1 Panel 2 is currently comprised of the following12 members: Canada, China, Croatia, European Community, France (St. Pierre et Miquelon), Japan, Libya, Morocco, Panama, Tunisia, United Kingdom-Overseas Territories, and the United States. All the Panel members were present.

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

a) Bluefin (North)

5.a.1 Dr. J. Powers, the Chairman of the SCRS, reported that no new stock assessment was conducted in 1999 for bluefin tuna although fisheries information, including catch data, was updated.

5.a.2 Dr. Powers stated that the catch was around 2,600 MT and 42,000 MT for the west Atlantic and east Atlantic (including Mediterranean) stocks, respectively. One problem encountered this year was that a significant amount of catch data for 1998 were reported late or were not reported by many countries, especially for the east stock. The magnitude of that unreported catch was about 9,000 MT. The SCRS Chairman stressed the importance of providing these basic data in a timely manner. He also introduced a major catch revision made on the historical catch data for Turkey.

5.a.3 On-going research topics, such as electronic tagging, studies to address the mixing of fish and stock structure were also briefly mentioned.

5.a.4 The SCRS Chairman further noted that there was no change in terms of the management recommendation from the SCRS since 1999 is the first year of the stock rebuilding plan.

5.a.5 Responding to a question on basic data, the SCRS Chairman informed the Panel that the quality of the catch data in the Mediterranean area had greatly improved through the joint GFCM/ICCAT meeting held in 1998. The scientists had made every effort to provide their best estimates on catch.

5.a.6 A question was raised on the magnitude of the catch revision between 1998 and 1999 for the east Atlantic and Mediterranean and its consequence on the assessment. The SCRS Chairman stated that the revision was on the order of 20% or more, but it was hard to tell how that amount affects the stock status.

5.a.7 The Chairman of SCRS noted that it was difficult to obtain indices of abundance for small fish for the east Atlantic and Mediterranean stock, and this difficulty resulted in a fundamental difference in the assessment between the two stocks.

5.a.8 The question was asked as to why the SCRS preferred to carry out the next bluefin assessment in 2001 instead on 2000, as originally envisaged. The Chairman of SCRS replied that considerable data preparatory work was necessary

in order to carry out meaningful assessments, although the SCRS would conduct assessments at any time if instructed to do so by the Commission. The SCRS indicated, however, that assessments would be better in the year 2001, if data and inputs are improved in 2000.

b) Albacore (North)

5.b.1 The Chairman of the SCRS commented that no new stock assessment had been conducted in 1999 since a full stock assessment was conducted in 1998. It was noted that overall landing in 1998 were 28,000 MT, which was slightly lower than the previous two years, but higher than that of 1995.

5.b.2 Referring to the more pessimistic bench marks (F-ratio and B-ratio) of North Atlantic albacore, as compared to North Atlantic swordfish, it was asked why the management recommendation was different between the two species. The SCRS Chairman explained that those were based on the results of the latest assessments but there were some differences of opinion between the working groups.

6. Measures for the conservation of stocks

a) Bluefin (North)

6.a.1 The Delegate of the United States made a statement, attached as **Appendix 6 to ANNEX 9**, in which he stressed that his country's commitments resulted from the rebuilding plan adopted at the 1998 meeting, concerns about catches made by non-Contacting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities, concerns about the substantial catch of under-sized fish, and objections to the quota recommendation for the east Atlantic and Mediterranean stock. He also emphasized the importance of all Contracting Parties working together for the better implementation of newly-established quotas so that the overfished stock can be improved.

6.a.2 There was an enquiry as to whether the prohibition of the use of aircraft for the purse seine fishing in the Mediterranean Sea, as specified in the 1996 *Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT on East Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Concerning the Mediterranean Closed Season*, was still in effect or if it had been superceded by the 1998 *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Changes of Closed Season for the Purse Seine Fishery Fishing for Bluefin Tuna in the Mediterranean Sea*. None of the participants questioned the view that the prohibition of the use of aircraft in June was still in effect.

6.a.3 With regard to the quota allocation for the east Atlantic and Mediterranean stock, it was confirmed that the quota has already been agreed for 1999 and 2000 except for those counties which had presented an objection, and that there would be no change, as the Working Group on Allocation Criteria held this year could not reach an agreement.

6.a.4 The Delegate of Morocco stated the reasons why his country could support all the regulations except the 1998 *Recommendation on the Limitation of Catches of Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean* (Rec 98-5). He also introduced the actions taken towards the increased scientific activities, improved monitoring and regulation enforcement for the fisheries operated by Morocco.

6.a.5 Mexico, as a Cooperating Party, reiterated the request made at the 1998 Commission meeting for a bluefin tuna quota of 120 MT Mexico's fishing fleet. Other non-Contracting Parties (Denmark-Faroe Island and Iceland) expressed their views that the legitimate right of fishing for bluefin as coastal States should be acknowledged and considered, and the respective quotas should be given to them by the ICCAT. The statements made by Mexico and Denmark-Faroe Islands are attached as **Appendices 7 and 8 to ANNEX 9**, respectively.

b) Albacore (North)

6.b.1 The Delegation of the United States stated that a draft resolution, requesting the SCRS to create a stock rebuilding plan in 2000, would be circulated, taking into consideration the status of the North Atlantic albacore stock, which is over-fished.

6.b.2 The Delegate of EC presented a draft recommendation, which was in line with the1998 *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Limitation of Fishing Capacity on Northern Albacore*. The new recommendation asked the SCRS to analyze fishing performance for different fisheries with a view towards establishing possible management measures.

6.b.3 The Delegate of the EC further proposed to integrate the draft resolution put forward by the United States and that

of the EC into a single recommendation, as they both address related issues.

6.b.4 After consultation with several delegations, this new draft recommendation was presented to the Panel. The Panel approved the proposal and agreed that it be forwarded to the Commission for adoption. The *Recommendation Concerning Possible Management Measures for Northern Albacore* is attached as **ANNEX 5-6** to the Commission Proceedings.

7. Research

a) Bluefin (North)

7.a.1 The SCRS Chairman emphasized various research activities scheduled for the immediate future. In the case of the west stock, such activities include better prediction of future recruitment and better estimation of MSY proxies. For the east stock, biological basic inputs to the assessment, i.e. CPUE and catch, are essential, as well as the improvement in methodology. He also endorsed the need for research on spawning site fidelity, mixing and migration.

b) Albacore (North)

7.b.1 The SCRS Chairman indicated the need to develop and improve the indices of abundance from as many fisheries as possible. He also referred to the requests made by the Commission to provide effective effort for each component of the fisheries.

8. Date and place of next Panel meeting

8.1 Panel 2 agreed to hold its next meeting at the same time and place as the Thirteenth Special Meeting of the Commission in 2000.

9. Election of Panel Chairman

9.1 It was unanimously agreed that the European Community would chair Panel 2 for the next biennial period. The Panel thanked the outgoing Chairman, Mr. J. Barnes, for his excellent work during his tenure as Chairman.

10. Other matters

10.1 No other matters were discussed.

11. Adoption of Report

11.1 The Report of Panel 2 was adopted.

12. Adjournment

12.1 The 1999 Meeting of Panel 2 was adjourned.

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF PANEL 3

1. Opening of the meeting

1.1 The meeting of Panel 3 was opened by the Chair, Dr. R. Lent (United States), who welcomed all the delegates and observers.

2. Adoption of Agenda

2.1 The Agenda was adopted without modification, and is attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 9**.

3. Appointment of Rapporteur

3.1 Mr. S. M.G. Mattos (Brazil) was asked to serve as Rapporteur.

4. Review of Panel Membership

4.1 Panel 3 currently comprises six members, as follows: European Community, Japan, Korea, Namibia, South Africa, and the United States. All the members were present. Namibia was welcomed as a new member of the Panel.

5. Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics

5.1 Dr. J. Powers, Chairman of the SCRS, summarized the findings of the SCRS relevant to the Panel, noting that more detailed information on the current status of the stocks could be found in the SCRS Report.

5.2 He stated that current total world catch of southern bluefin tuna is around 19,000 MT, with about 1,500 MT being taken in the south Atlantic. The total catch for southern albacore was around 30,000 MT in 1998, while the TAC was 28,200 MT for 1999.

6. Measures for the conservation of stocks

6.1 Following her summary of the current management measure in place for southern albacore, the Chair asked for comments on management measures and recommendations that are being conducted and implemented by each Party.

6.2 The Panel 3 members then discussed the implementation of the 1998 *Recommendation by ICCAT on Revision, Implementation and Sharing of the Southern Albacore Catch Limit*, calling for regular reporting of southern albacore catches to one Contracting Party. Some comments underscored the difficulties in implementing this system due to delays or omissions in reporting. The various active participants shared information with other Panel 3 members regarding the monitoring mechanisms and procedures in place in their countries.

6.3 It was noted that the1998 catches were greater than the TAC and MSY. There was also some discussion of the caps established in the "gentlemen's agreement" at the end of April 1998, at the informal multi-lateral consultation on southern albacore. The Chair noted that landings were within these limits for three out of four of the actively fishing countries, entities and fishing entities. It was noted that since southern albacore is a by-catch fishery for the United States, an arrangement similar to that of Japan would facilitate their management of the fishery, particularly since their cap is extremely low.

6.4 The Chair noted that because the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Revision, Implementation and Sharing of the Southern Albacore Catch Limit* only covered the 1999 fishery, it would be necessary for the Panel 3 participants to develop a new recommendation this year. Although there was some support for attempting to secure a quota allocation agreement, several Panel 3 participants indicated that they preferred to wait until the completion of the Working Group on Allocation

Criteria. There was, therefore, general consensus that the Panel recommend to the Commission that the current management scheme should be extended for one calender year.

6.5 Namibia presented a draft Recommendation that would extend the 1998 recommendation for one year, call for improved fishery monitoring, and provide the United States with a cap for southern albacore based on 2% of their south Atlantic swordfish catch. After some discussion, the text was modified to include an increase in the United States by-catch allowance to 4%, consistent with that of Japan, and forwarded to the Commission for adoption. Th *Recommendation to Extend the Southern Albacore Management Arrangement and to Improve Monitoring* is attached as **ANNEX 5-7** to the Commission Proceedings.

6.6 South Africa volunteered to continue to be responsible for bi-monthly collection and dissemination, of catches reported by actively fishing parties, entities or fishing entities, as specified in the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Revision, Implementation and Sharing of the Southern Albacore Catch Limit*. The statement of by South Africa is attached as **Appendix 9 to ANNEX 9.**

7. Research

7.1The SCRS Chairman hoped that all those targeting albacore and southern bluefin tuna would implement a monitoring system to improve data collection to support the research conducted by the SCRS.

8. Date and place of next meeting

8.1 It was agreed that the next meeting of Panel 3 would be held at the same time and place as the next Commission meeting.

9. Election of Panel Chairman

9.1 It was unanimously agreed that South Africa would chair Panel 3 for the next biennial period.

10. Other matters

10.1 No other matters were discussed.

11. Adoption of the Report

11.1 The Report of Panel 3 was adopted.

12. Adjournment

12.1 The 1999 meeting of Panel 3 was adjourned.

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF PANEL 4

1. Opening of the meeting

1.1 The 1999 meeting of Panel 4 was opened by the Chairman, Mr. Ichiro Nomura (Japan). Mr. Nomura referred to the four species categories managed by Panel 4 including Atlantic bonito, swordfish, billfishes, and other species, and urged delegations to cooperate in accomplishing the Panel's full agenda.

2. Adoption of Agenda

2.1 The agenda was adopted without modification, and is attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 9**.

3. Appointment of rapporteur

3.1 Ms. Catherine Wanamaker (United States) was designated rapporteur.

4.Review of Panel membership

4.1 The Chairman reviewed the membership of Panel 4, which includes the following 13 members: Angola, Brazil, Canada, European Community, Japan, Morocco, Namibia, South Africa, Trinidad & Tobago, United Kingdom (Overseas Territories), United States, Uruguay, and Venezuela. All the Panel members, except Trinidad & Tobago, were present. The Chairman welcomed Namibia as the newest member of the Panel.

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

5.1 The Chairman of the SCRS, Dr. J. Powers, presented the report of the 1999 SCRS meeting concerning the stocks managed by Panel 4.

5.2 Dr. Powers reviewed the SCRS report on Atlantic bonito, for which there had been no assessment. He indicated that the available information was based on catch data, and emphasized the need for local reporting of catch data in order to build the data repository.

5.3 As regards billfishes, the SCRS Chairman reported that, while no assessment had been conducted in 1999, a blue marlin and white marlin assessment is scheduled for July, 2000. Dr. Powers pointed out the lack of adequate reporting of blue marlin and white marlin landings, and encouraged the submission of catch data and observer data on by-catches.

5.4 The SCRS Chairman then reported on the status of swordfish stocks based on the 1999 stock assessment by the SCRS. He indicated that the catches were primarily from the longline fisheries. Further, the SCRS Chairman reported that there is currently a boundary at 5 degrees North latitude dividing the Atlantic stock into North and South. Catches in the Mediterranean suggest an independent stock in that area, but the exact limits of the boundary are currently being debated.

5.5 The SCRS Chairman reported that the biomass of north Atlantic swordfish went below the biomass necessary to produce MSY in the late 1980s, but has stabilized in recent years which is the effect of ICCAT's strict regulations. He stated that the current estimate of MSY is 13,370 MT, the current yield is 12,175 MT, and the current replacement yield is estimated to be 11,700 MT.

5.6 Dr. Powers reported that projections for the future of north Atlantic swordfish indicate the stock can be rebuilt in a period of 10 to 15 years, depending on the total mortality level. The SCRS predicts that a total allowable catch (TAC) higher than the status quo would probably produce a population decline for the first three years and then respond over a longer period, while if the TAC were lowered, the population would rebuild more quickly.

5.7 The SCRS Chairman noted that the catches of South Atlantic swordfish are close to the MSY level. He stated that the current estimate of MSY is 13,650 MT, the current yield is 13,486 MT, and the current replacement yield is estimated to be 14,800 MT.

5.8 The SCRS Chairman reported that if catch levels of South Atlantic swordfish continued at the current level, stock biomass will likely also remain at the current level.

5.9 A question was raised regarding the percentage of small fish caught that were discarded alive. Dr. Powers responded that the survival rate, based on observer and logbook data provided by the United States and Canada, that the percentage of discards released alive was approximately 30%.

5.10 A query was made regarding the reliability of the 5°N boundary between the northern and southern stocks, and Dr. Powers answered that the boundary was the most reasonable compromise between the available biological data and management capabilities.

5.11 A question was posed regarding the recent two years of good recruitment mentioned in the report, and the possibility that these year-classes will contribute to recovery in ten years. Dr. Powers responded that the projections he reported included these data from the last two years.

5.12 The SCRS advice on rebuilding scenarios was commended for its clarity and authoritativeness and for providing a sound scientific basis for management.

5.13 Responding to the question as to what the SCRS proposes for stock assessment in the Mediterranean region, Chairman Powers responded that GFCM and ICCAT have been jointly working on this issue and that a Mediterranean assessment is not warranted with the inadequate data available at present.

6. Measures for the conservation of stocks

6.1 Management measures for Atlantic bonito, billfishes, and other species were discussed. There were no management measures recommended for these species.

6.2 The discussion on billfish management measures centered on the 1998 recommendation to reduce catches by 25% by 1999, which was extended to 2000 because the assessment was delayed by one year. It was decided that no action would be taken on billfish this year.

6.3 The Panel then discussed South Atlantic swordfish and a proposal was made to leave the current sharing allocation and TAC in place, as both had been recommended to be in place until the year 2000 while they would be considered during the 2000 annual meeting. This was supported by the European Community and Japan.

6.4 Another proposal was introduced to reduce the TAC to the MSY level of 13,650 MT to ensure precautionary management and avoid declines similar to those of the North Atlantic stock. This motion was supported by Canada, Brazil, and the United States.

6.5 South Africa, Brazil, and the United Kingdom (Overseas Territories) expressed their desire to renegotiate the sharing allocation for South Atlantic swordfish. The statement by South Africa on South Atlantic swordfish allocations is attached as **Appendix 10 to ANNEX 9**.

6.6 The Panel agreed to wait until its 2000 meeting to renegotiate the sharing allocation and the TAC, with the hope that the Working Group on Allocation Criteria will have reached a conclusion by that time.

6.7 During the discussions on North Atlantic swordfish management, the United States proposed a 10-year rebuilding program with a greater than 50% probability of success and inclusive of all sources of fishing mortality. This initiative was supported by Canada, South Africa, Brazil, and Venezuela. The statement by the United States to Panel 4 is attached as **Appendix 11 to ANNEX 9**.

6.8 The observers from the Natural Resources Defense Council, Sea Web, and the Wildlife Conservation Society stated they consider the 10-year rebuilding plan would be the most appropriate.

6.9 The EC proposed to continue the TAC at 10,700 MT and allow rebuilding over a slightly longer period of time. The United Kingdom (Overseas Territories) supported rebuilding based on a compromise between the U.S. and EC positions, and said it would be willing to accept a small cut in its allocation.

6.10 Japan proposed to increase the TAC to the estimated replacement yield of 11,700 MT, citing that the current quota is too low, and emphasized that the amount of by-catch of swordfish in the bigeye tuna fishery is somewhat unpredictable, depending on the distribution of the target species, i.e. bigeye tuna and the shift of the fishing ground for bigeye tuna.

6.11 South Africa supported the rebuilding program, but expressed concern that this may lead to a further shift in effort to the South Atlantic swordfish stock. Their concern was shared by Brazil and other countries.

6.12 The observer from Mexico indicated that swordfish are distributed through the Mexican EEZ and therefore they are considering to develop a swordfish fishery, and requested a quota to be able to target this species or catch it as by-catch in this zone.

6.13 A draft resolution on the clarification of the stock structure and boundaries between the swordfish stocks in the Atlantic was proposed. It was understood that boundaries relate to the Atlantic vs the Mediterranean, South vs North, and Atlantic vs the Indian Ocean. The *Resolution on the Clarification of the Stock Structure and Boundaries Between the Swordfish Stocks in the Atlantic* was adopted by the Panel and referred to the Commission Plenary for final adoption (attached as **ANNEX 5-3** to the Commission Proceedings).

6.14 Two draft recommendations were proposed by the United States and the EC for the conservation and rebuilding of swordfish stocks.

6.15 The first proposal (attached, for reference, as **Appendix 12 to ANNEX 9**), was introduced by the US and would include a 10-year rebuilding plan and a TAC, inclusive of discards, of 10,000 MT to be distributed based on the current allocation scheme. This proposal was supported by Canada, Brazil, Venezuela, and the Observer from the Wildlife Conservation Society, although several delegations expressed a desire to have more time to fully examine the proposal.

6.16 The second proposal (attached, for reference, as **Appendix 13 to ANNEX 9**), drafted by the EC, was supported by Japan, and would include a TAC of 10,700 MT (including dead discards) for three years to be distributed based on the current allocation scheme. The allocation scheme would be reviewed in 2002. Japan commented on its previous proposal to set TAC at the level of replacement yield (11,700 MT), but added that, for the sake of simplicity, it could support the EC proposal.

6.17 Later in the session, a new draft recommendation for a rebuilding program for North Atlantic swordfish was presented by the Chairman. Canada expressed deep dissatisfaction over the process used to develop this final draft recommendation. While Canada had participated fully in discussions during the meeting in developing a consensus on this issue, this final recommendation included a change that Canada had not been consulted on and has not been given the opportunity to review its ramifications. There has therefore been no chance to represent Canada's view and there has not been adequate time to review the final text. However, because of timing, Canada will not object to this recommendation.

6.18 Regarding operative paragraph 2 of the draft proposal, the United States expressed that the intent of the language is that adjustments to TACs must be consistent with operative paragraph 1 and with the goal of achieving B_{MSY}, with greater than 50% probability, with the goal of 10 years. This paragraph is consistent with the U.S. goal of achieving B_{MSY} within a firm time frame of 10 years. During the negotiations, the U.S. rejected the wording "approaching B_{MSY}" and insisted on "achieving B_{MSY}" which is consistent with its goal.

6.19 The European Community objected to the adoption of this compromise, pending certain clarifications. After a short break for consultations, the recommendation was adopted.

6.20 The *Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Rebuilding Program for North Atlantic Swordfish* was adopted by the Panel and forwarded to the Commission for final approval. This Recommendation is attached as **ANNEX 5-2** to the Commission Proceedings.

6.21 In order to accommodate Japan's current difficulty, attributed to the shift of the bigeye tuna fishing ground to the North, which Japan had indicated at a previous session of the Panel, Japan and the EC are negotiating an agreement, as an emergency relief measure, to allow the EC to transfer part of its quota of North Atlantic Swordfish in 2000 to Japan. In return, Japan will transfer part of its quota for South Atlantic swordfish to the EC in 2000. It was clarified that this "swap" of allocated quota has no implications on conservation since TACs, North and South, remain unchanged.

6.22 The Panel then considered a draft resolution, proposed by the United States, for the development of possible time/area closures for north and south Atlantic swordfish and gear modifications to reduce undersized swordfish.

6.23 After introducing some modifications, the Panel agreed to forward the *Resolution By ICCAT for the Development of Possible Time/Area Closures for North and South Atlantic Swordfish and Gear Modifications to Reduce Undersized Swordfish Catch and Fishing Mortality* to the Commission for formal adoption (attached as **ANNEX 5-5** to the Commission Proceedings).

7. Research

7.1 Research activities on billfish will focus in the long-term on improving catch, effort and size data collection through the Billfish Program. Short-term activities will emphasize the collation of catch and CPUE data to allow an improved assessment scheduled for July, 2000.

7.2 Swordfish research recommendations include continued stock structure research, and maturity and aging studies. Additionally, assessment methodologies will be developed to incorporate these data into indices of abundance and assessment models.

8. Date and place of next Panel Meeting

8.1 The Panel agreed to meet at the same time and place as the next Commission Meeting.

9. Election of Panel Chairman

9.1 The Delegate of Japan nominated the United States for the Chairmanship of Panel 4 and this was supported by the European Community. The United States was pleased to accept the nomination.

10. Other matters

10.1 No other matters were discussed.

11. Adoption of Report

11.1 The Panel reiterated its adoption of the Resolution concerning the clarification of the stock structure and boundaries for Atlantic swordfish stocks, the Resolution concerning time/area closures for North and South Atlantic swordfish and gear modifications aimed at reducing the catch and mortality of undersized swordfish, and the Recommendation for a North Atlantic swordfish rebuilding program. The Panel also agreed to adopt the text of its Report through correspondence.*

12. Adjournment

12.1 At the time of adjournment, Mr. Nomura, thanked the Panel for its support and collaboration during his tenure as Chairman of Panel 4 and he wished the incoming Chairman good luck. The 1999 Meeting of Panel 4 was adjourned.

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* The Report of Panel 4 was adopted later.

Appendix 1 to ANNEX 9

AGENDA FOR PANELS 1 TO 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. Appointment 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:

Panel 1	*Panel 2*	*Panel 3*	*Panel 4*
a) Yellowfin	a) Bluefin (North)	a) Southern bluefin	a) Atlantic bonito
b) Skipjack	b) Albacore (North)	b) Albacore (South)	b) Swordfish
c) Bigeye			c) Billfishes
			d) Other species

7. Research
8. Date and place of next Panel meeting
9. Election of Panel Chairmen
8. Other matters
11. Adoption of Report
12. Adjournment

Appendix 2 to ANNEX 9

STATEMENT BY THE OBSERVER FROM MEXICO ON FISH AGGREGATING DEVICES (FADs)

(Attached to Report of Panel 1)

Tuna fishing in the different oceans of the world is being carried out more and more using fish aggregation devices (FADs), which has caused the excessive fishing of juveniles. In the case of the Atlantic, the catch of juveniles reached close to 55% of the total catch of bigeye tuna. This has, no doubt, put strong pressure on the resource and the capacity to sustain the stocks.

Mexico is concerned about the generalized use of this fishing method and for the transfer of fishing effort with this technique towards other oceans, particularly towards the Pacific Ocean. Since the introduction of this fishing technic, the catches of small-sized yellowfin and bigeye tunas has increased substantially in the Pacific, and has affected the maximum sustainable yield of the resources.

The documents of the SCRS (Standing Committee on Research and Statistics) clearly establish that even when some fishing management measures have been taken, such as time-area closures, the situation has not improved substantially, and concern persists about the high catches of juveniles in the fisheries using FADs in the Atlantic. In the same way, in the case of skipjack tuna, information shows that since the introduction of these devices, the data suggest that maintaining high concentrations of FADS could reduce the productivity of the overall stock. Additionally, in the case of yellowfin and skipjack tunas, the result of FAD fishing contravenes the ICCAT measures on minimum size of the catch and causes a maximum catch of juvenile fish.

Together with information provided by the Commission itself and considering the information generated by other regional tuna fisheries management organizations, Mexico respectfully proposes that the Commission carry out the necessary work to develop, over the short term, additional measures to reduce juvenile fishing mortality. These measures could include, *inter alia*, the total prohibition of the use of FADs, and that the pertinent scientific research be conducted to quantify the incidental catches of other, non-target species in this fishery, such as billfishes, sharks, and marine turtles, all of which would be aimed at the adopted of measures to avoid such catches.

Appendix 3 to ANNEX 9

STATEMENT BY THE UNITED STATES TO PANEL 1

(Attached to Report of Panel 1)

As our Panel on tropical tunas begins its deliberations, let us remember that in 1999 ICCAT initiated the first year of the Bigeye Tuna Year Program and asked the SCRS to develop stock rebuilding scenarios for bigeye. Compared to some other tuna species, bigeye has received less attention with respect to research on basic biology, even though it is very important to those fleets for which bigeye tuna is a target or incidental catch. As a result, the SCRS was unable to provide the requested stock rebuilding scenarios. It is in part, the precarious nature of this fishery that has led ICCAT to affording this species special attention and dedicated the next four years for conducting research to clarify the stock structure and to study the impact of the fisheries on the stock.

This year the SCRS was unable to reach consensus that "Apparently, the total catch has been larger than the upper boundary of the likely range since 1991, causing the stock to decline considerably. Results of production model analyses indicate that the estimated current biomass is likely below the corresponding biomass at MSY". Further "... the various VPAs all indicate that the spawning stock has rapidly and substantially declined over the past five years and fishing mortality rates have increased quickly since the early 1990s". In short, bigeye tuna are over-exploited and are being over-fished. The available information indicates that the stock will continue to decline if the current catch level is maintained.

The SCRS has recommended a catch reduction towards 80,000 MT just to prevent further stock declines; a further catch reduction is required to rebuild the stock to the level that would support MSY. Indeed, the replacement yield could be as low as 72,000 MT.

ICCAT has attempted to manage the bigeye fishery primarily through a minimum size regulation of 3.2 kg, adopted in 1980. However, in recent years ICCAT has added limitation on fishery effort and fishing capacity to its recommendations. In 1998, a catch limit of 16,500 MT for Chinese Taipei and a closed season on the use of floating objects by purse seiners were adopted.

But, these measures have not yet proved to be sufficient to reverse the declining stock trend, either because they were not complied with or they were too little, too late. The United States is extremely concerned that 55% of the bigeye tuna harvest in 1998 was below the ICCAT minimum size limit. Must we wait until draconian steps would be required before we take the necessary action to rebuild the stock and accomplish the ICCAT objective of producing MSY? As a Contracting Party that lands a very small proportion of the bigeye harvest, we are particularly reliant on a healthy stock. As stocks decline, our opportunities for participating in this fishery are lessened proportionately even greater than countries harvesting tens of thousands of metric tons of juvenile fish. The United States has established a minimum size for bigeye tuna landed by all our fishermen that is twice the size recommended by ICCAT without any allowance for landing undersized fish. It is, therefore, in our self-interest, as well as the interest of ICCAT, to address our failure to prevent over-fishing now instead of waiting for four more years of research. We can manage this fishery and we should do so.

The United States urges that this panel adopt a recommendation to ICCAT that would do the following:

First, establish a catch limit of 72,000 MT to be achieved through a 15% per year reduction from the 1997 catches for 2000 and 2001 for all countries to no more than 2000 MT per year.

Second, ask the SCRS to develop a rebuilding plan for both juvenile and adult bigeye tuna by the ICCAT 2001 meeting;

Third, apply the same mechanisms currently available to swordfish for achieving compliance to bigeye tunas (Action Plan, Compliance Recommendation).

Fourth, expand the limited access program currently in place to all commercial vessels and allow the sale of bigeye tuna only from those vessels included in the limited access program.

Fifth, eliminate the current 15% tolerance for bigeye tuna less than 3.2 kg, and that allow Contracting Parties to prohibit the sale and landing of tuna smaller than the minimum size.

And lastly the Gulf of Guinea closure. This moratorium should be continued and possibly expanded. Significant savings of pre-spawn juvenile fish could result from this closure, which would allow, in the future, greater opportunities for Contracting Parties to harvest adult bigeye tuna.

Appendix 4 to ANNEX 9

DRAFT PROPOSAL BY THE UNITED STATES
Recommendation limiting bigeye catches in the Atlantic
(Attached to Report of Panel I)

Recalling that the goal of ICCAT is to maintain populations of tuna and tuna-like fishes in the Atlantic at levels that will permit harvesting maximum sustainable catch (B^3B_{MSY});

Recognizing that the Commission's Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) has indicated in the 1999 stock assessment that bigeye tuna are over-exploited. Specifically, the SCRS concluded that relative biomass (B_{1998}/B_{MSY}) is about 0.6 and the relative fishing mortality (F_{1998}/F_{MSY}) is about 1.66 (i.e. current biomass is less than the biomass at MSY and current fishing mortality is higher than that of MSY level);

Noting that the SCRS recommended in 1999 that in order to have a high probability that replacement yield is not exceeded, the current catch level needs to be reduced to 72,000 MT;

Recalling that in 1980 ICCAT adopted a 3.2 kg minimum size for bigeye. In 1997 ICCAT urged parties to reduce catches of bigeye to levels below MSY. In 1998 ICCAT adopted binding measures that limit the number and capacity of Atlantic bigeye tuna fishing vessels to the average number of 1991-1992; placed restrictions on Chinese Taipei, by limiting their catch to 16,500 MT, and their number of bigeye tuna fishing vessels to 125; and placed a moratorium on purse seine FAD fishing from 1 November 1999 to 31 January 2000 in the Gulf of Guinea;

Noting that 3 out of 4 of the major harvesting Contracting Parties failed to report to the Commission their efforts to limit fishing effort and capacity, as required by the 1998 recommendation;

Considering that the Commission requested SCRS to develop a rebuilding plan for bigeye tuna in the Atlantic for 1999 but SCRS did not provide any stock rebuilding scenarios;

Recalling that the FAO precautionary approach mandates that the absence of adequate scientific information should not be used as a reason for postponing or failing to take measures;

Considering the need for action to ensure the effectiveness of ICCAT objectives to conserve and manage bigeye tuna;

Noting that in 1999 ICCAT initiated the first year of the Bigeye Tuna Year Program;

ICCAT RECOMMENDS THAT:

1 Using the most recent stock assessment, which indicates that the stock is below the level that would produce MSY, the SCRS shall, during its 2001 meeting, estimate a series of annual total allowable catches (TAC), including dead discards, that are necessary to rebuild the biomass to levels that would produce MSY with a probability of greater than 50%, within the time periods of 5, 10, and 15 years and/or other appropriate times. The Commission, at its 2001 meeting, shall develop a program to rebuild biomass to levels that would produce MSY. Within the context of rebuilding, the SCRS shall evaluate recovery potential of the stock under scenarios including full, intermediate, and current compliance with the ICCAT minimum size recommendations for this species.

2 In the next stock assessment, the SCRS shall evaluate the effectiveness of current bigeye tuna conservation measures, especially the minimum size, and evaluate alternative methods for reducing small fish mortality, including prohibitions on certain gears, such as FADs.

3 Contracting Parties, Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities, are authorized to prohibit, within their jurisdiction, the sale of bigeye tuna harvested by vessels larger than 24 meters length overall if harvested by those not included on the list resulting from Paragraph 2 of the Recommendation by ICCAT *Bigeye Tuna Conservation Measures for Fishing Vessels Larger than 24 meters Length Overall (LOA).*

4 In order to protect small bigeye tuna, any Contracting Party may prohibit the landing and sale in its jurisdiction, of bigeye tuna and bigeye tuna parts, less than any minimum size limit the Contracting Party applies to its fishermen, provided that no tolerance of bigeye tuna smaller than this minimum size shall be allowed.

Appendix 5 to ANNEX 9

DRAFT PROPOSAL BY THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY:
Recommendation on tropical tuna conservation measures for vessels >24 m LOA

(Attached to Report of Panel 1)

Recalling that SCRS has recommended that the total fishing effort exerted on yellowfin tuna should not be increased;

Recalling the recommendation on supplemental regulatory measures for the management of Atlantic yellowfin tuna, adopted by the Commission in 1993;

Recalling the recommendation on the bigeye tuna conservation measures for fishing vessels larger than 24 meters length overall (LOA), adopted by the Commission in 1998;

Recalling that in 1998, ICCAT decided that the Commission will consider, in 1999, options of conservation measures to manage by-catch of bigeye tuna by other fisheries targeting other tunas and tuna-like fishes;

Considering that for a multi-species fishery, the most appropriate conservation measure is fishing effort limitation,

ICCAT RECOMMENDS THAT:

1 All Contracting Parties, Co-operating non-Contracting Parties, entities or fishing entities, shall submit to the ICCAT Executive Secretary, by August 31 of each year, the list of their respective vessels larger than 24 m length overall (LOA), with the exclusion of recreational fishing boats, that fish for yellowfin, skipjack and bigeye tuna in the Convention area.

This list of vessels shall include the following information:

-- name of vessels, register number
-- previous flag (if any)
-- international radio call sign
-- length and gross registered tonnage (GRT)
-- name and address of owner

2 The ICCAT Executive Secretary shall circulate the lists annually or upon request of a Contracting Party, Co-operating non-Contracting Party, entity or fishing entity.

3 Each Contracting Party, Co-operating non-Contracting Party, entity or fishing entity shall, in 2000 and afterwards, limit their number of fishing vessels larger than 24m length overall (LOA), with the exclusion of recreational vessels, which will fish for yellowfin, skipjack and bigeye tuna in the Convention area, to the average number of its fishing vessels actually having fished for those species in the Convention area during the period 1991-1992. Such limitation shall be associated with a limitation of Gross Registered Tonnage (GRT) so as not to increase fishing capacity.

4 By August 31, 2000, each Contracting Party, Co-operating non-Contracting Party, entity or fishing entity shall report to the Commission the limit on the fishing vessel number established pursuant to paragraph 3 above, and the basis for calculation. The Commission shall review the appropriateness of such limit and its calculation basis at the 2000 annual meeting.

5 Paragraphs 1 to 4 above do not apply to Contracting Parties, Co-operating non-Contracting Parties, entities or fishing entities that catch annually less than (750) MT of yellowfin, skipjack and bigeye combined, on an average of the most recent five years. When the annual catch of these Contracting Parties, Co-operating non-Contracting Parties, entities or fishing entities exceeds these (750) MT before 2002, the Commission should consider and recommend, if appropriate, new conservation measures applicable to them.

6 The Commission shall review, at the 2002 annual meeting, the effectiveness of this effort control measure.

Appendix 6 to ANNEX 9

STATEMENT BY THE UNITED STATES TO PANEL 2
(Attached to Report of Panel 2)

Mr. Chairman, distinguished Delegates, ladies and gentlemen:

In recent years, ICCAT has made great strides in the management of tunas in general, and especially western Atlantic bluefin tuna. Last year, our efforts resulted in the establishment of a historic 20-year rebuilding program that we hope will

serve as a model for management of all other highly migratory species. The United States commends all that participated in this process.

We have implemented our commitments resulting from this bluefin tuna rebuilding program through our recently adopted 1999 Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan. This domestic management regime – designed in part to conform to ICCAT Recommendations – includes gear-specific quotas, discrete fishing seasons, gear limitations, limits on catches per trip, and size limits. The fishery management plan controls total landings, but perhaps more importantly, enhances our ability to monitor our highly migratory species fisheries.

Despite our national efforts to manage bluefin tuna, and the many sacrifices of our commercial and recreational fishermen, we observe with concern that there are countries fishing outside the ICCAT management regime for this species. For example, the People's Republic of China caught 74 MT of Atlantic bluefin tuna in 1998, despite having no formal quota allocations. We note that substantial small fish harvests below the ICCAT minimum size continue in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean. The latest SCRS report comments "... the condition of the east Atlantic stock and fishery could adversely affect recovery in the west Atlantic because of mixing between two stocks." Recent results from pop-up tag research elevate our concern about the fishery and stock in the eastern Atlantic.

The recent objections to the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna quota recommendation adopted last year are setbacks for both tuna conservation and the integrity of ICCAT. We recognize the right under the Convention for members to take exceptions to ICCAT decisions, but we cannot let such actions become the norm; objections reflect negatively on ICCAT as a whole and may result in activities that further threaten our collective resources. We must work together, within the Commission procedure, to make agreements that we are willing to respect.

The results of the Working Group on Allocation Criteria should help us in this process. We were encouraged by the participation of many ICCAT members and observers in the first meeting of the working group held last May in Madrid. All parties should continue to be involved in the work of this important group. We must note, however, the seriously over-fished condition of eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna. Implementation of the quotas established last year for 1999 and 2000 is essential to begin to address the decline of this resource. We believe that all members should demonstrate good faith to ICCAT as it works toward developing allocation criteria by following the quota levels established in the 1998 agreement.

Finally, the SCRS reported in its 1997 annual meeting that the northern albacore stock is fully- or over-exploited. Although reported catch decreased in 1998, the SCRS noted that much of this reduction was prompted by adverse weather conditions. ICCAT has the opportunity with northern albacore to begin effective management of this fishery before it shows significant signs of trouble. The United States will therefore propose a resolution that the SCRS develop alternative rebuilding scenarios for this species at its 2000 meeting.

Appendix 7 to ANNEX 9

STATEMENT BY THE OBSERVER FROM MEXICO REQUESTING A BLUEFIN TUNA QUOTA

(Attached to Report of Panel 2)

At the 15th Regular Meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, Mexico explained that in the Gulf of Mexico there is a Mexican fishery that catches bluefin tuna with longline. This fishery targets yellowfin, but catches bluefin tuna as by-catch. These incidental catches vary depending on the total catch, the corresponding year, the fishing season, the areas of concentration and distribution, and the state of the stocks of yellowfin and bluefin tunas.

The fishery is based on a policy that is consistent with the conservation program and with actions for the recovery of the tuna stocks in the Atlantic, as well as on the principles of responsible fishing.

Therefore, Mexico, as a Cooperating Party, requests a bluefin tuna quota of 120 MT for the Mexican fleet. Today we would like to reiterate that request.

Mexico recognizes the state of the bluefin tuna stocks, however, as we have stated before, we consider it strict justice that a country that has been responsibly administering this fishery since 1991, that has the pertinent administrative provisions that are compatible with those adopted by this Commission, and that within its jurisdictional waters there is an important spawning area of this species, which has been protected, deserves the agreement of the Commission to grant this quota.

We are sure that ICCAT will continue working under the most ample principle of international cooperation and that we can rely on the consent that would allow a legitimate participation of a coastal State, whose request is rational and consistent with its fishery history.

Appendix 8 to ANNEX 9

STATEMENT BY THE OBSERVER FROM DENMARK (FAROE ISLANDS) ON MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR BLUEFIN TUNA IN THE EASTERN ATLANTIC

(Attached to Report of Panel 2)

As stated in our opening statement, the distribution pattern of the eastern Atlantic bluefin tuna qualify the Faroe Islands as a coastal State in respect to this stock.

Experimental longline fishery in the Faroese Fishery Zone by Japanese and Faroese vessels has demonstrated that this stock is fishable in a viable and sustainable way in our zone.

It is the view of my Government that the status as a coastal State should entitle the Faroe Islands an appropriate share of the TAC adopted for this stock.

The Faroe Islands are concerned over the over-fishing of this stock, which has taken place for many years and are ready to support management measures, which can stop this unfortunate development.

The Faroe Islands, however, are not responsible for the mistakes of the past and cannot accept being excluded from the allocation because of these mistakes.

The Faroe Islands consider the possibilities of being a Contracting Party to ICCAT.

The recommendation by ICCAT on the limitation of catches of bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean (Rec 98-5), however, gives rise for concern in this regard, as it may be interpreted as having the effect of prohibiting fishery for those Contracting Parties which have not been fishing for this stock in 1993 or 1994 and irrespective of the actual distribution of the stock in question and the status of Contracting Parties as coastal States.

The Faroe Islands can therefore not associate itself with this Recommendation for limitation of the catches of the bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean.

Having said this the Faroe Islands want to stress their willingness otherwise to cooperate with ICCAT and comply with its management measures.

Appendix 9 to ANNEX 9

STATEMENT BY SOUTH AFRICA TO PANEL 3 ON EXTENSION OF THE SOUTHERN ALBACORE SHARING AGREEMENT

(Attached to Report of Panel 3)

South Africa notes that the South Atlantic albacore catch in 1998 was again above the estimated replacement yield, despite the implementation of a specific TAC and undertakings by members of Panel 3 to ensure that catches remain

within this limit. Given the inevitable time delays associated with collecting and collating international catch data on a real-time basis, South Africa remains of the opinion that reaching an agreement on country allocations is essential to effective implementation of the souther albacore TAC.

At the close of the 1998 meeting of ICCAT Panel 3, when accepting a catch monitoring system rather than a formal sharing arrangement for southern albacore, South Africa requested that all Panel members come to the next meeting prepared to finalize the southern albacore sharing arrangement. South Africa remains prepared to do so. However, we also recognize concerns of other Panel members that progress should first be made with the work of the Working Group on Allocation Criteria before finalizing a sharing arrangement.

However, in accepting an extension of the 1998 southern albacore catch monitoring arrangement, South Africa would emphasize the importance of ensuring that catches are reported on a timely basis, to ensure that the TAC is not over-fished. It is essential that Panel 3 members improve catch reporting systems to ensure that all catches are reported within the required two-month period, particularly over the coming peak in the southern albacore season.

Appendix 10 to ANNEX 9

STATEMENT BY SOUTH AFRICA TO PANEL ON SOUTH ATLANTIC SWORDFISH ALLOCATIONS

(Attached to the Report of Panel 4)

There has been a long history of pelagic long lining in South African waters, after South African vessels first fished for tuna using longline in 1960. Between 1965 and 1995, long lining in South African waters was conducted almost entirely by Asian distant water longline fleets fishing under permit. However, other distant water fleets have recently expanded operations in waters adjacent to our EEZ, and some of these vessels have been observed illegally exploiting swordfish within the South African EEZ. We believe that longline catches made within the South African EEZ should be made by South African fishermen and, as reported at last year's meeting, South Africa has therefore recommended pelagic longline fishing.

South Africa notes that the bulk of the southern Atlantic swordfish TAC has been allocated to distant water fleets from developed countries whose coastlines do not border on the South Atlantic Ocean. We note further than it is these fleets which have been responsible for depressing the southern Atlantic swordfish resource to its current level over a relatively short period of time. South Africa considers the current allocations to southern Atlantic coastal states be inequitable and is therefore, regrettably, still not in a position to retract our objection to the ICCAT *Recommendation Regarding Compliance in the South Atlantic Swordfish Fishery.*

Notwithstanding our request at the 1998 meeting of Panel 4 for a southern Atlantic swordfish allocation, South Africa has implemented a number of strict controls on her experimental pelagic longline fishery. A precautionary catch limit of 1,000 MT was established for the South African EEZ for 1998, and retained for 1999. In addition, we have limited entry to this fishery to a maximum of 30 vessels, imposed a 15% by-catch trip limit on swordfish catches to encourage targeting on tunas and implemented VMS and observer programs on these vessels. However, in order for us to develop this into a viable fishery, and to incorporate catches by distant water fleets in our waters under a South African allocation, South Africa requires an allocation of 1,500 MT (dressed weight) of swordfish to be caught within the ICCAT Convention Area.

The 1999 assessment of southern swordfish showed the resource to be at about the maximum sustainable level, and the SCRS has recommended that catch and effort be capped at the 1998 level. Any development in southern Atlantic coastal state fisheries will therefore necessarily have to be accompanied by a reduction in the TAC allocation to distant water fleets. South Africa proposes that this transfer of access be achieved by applying an annual attrition rate to the allocation of the high-seas fleets, to release part of the TAC for distribution among the developing coastal states. We believe that this should be a fundamental principle adopted by the ICCAT Working Group on Allocation Criteria, and would urge that Group to reach firm recommendations on revised allocation criteria during the course of next year, before the southern Atlantic swordfish TAC sharing arrangement is revised by Panel 4 at next year's ICCAT meeting. South Africa then intends to make proposals for revision of the southern Atlantic swordfish sharing arrangement at next year's meeting of Panel 4.

Appendix 11 to ANNEX 9

STATEMENT BY THE UNITED STATES TO PANEL 4
(Attached to Report of Panel 4)

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen:

The 1999 meeting of ICCAT is a critical one for North Atlantic swordfish. While the SCRS has indicated that the action taken by the Commission over the past three years appear to have slowed and/or arrested the decline in the North Atlantic swordfish stock, we must work diligently at this meeting to implement a rebuilding program to return this stock to levels that can support maximum sustainable catch. It is the United States' objective to reach this goal in ten years.

Mr. Chairman and fellow delegates, I would like to emphasize that there are many benefits of a rebuilt North Atlantic swordfish stock, and that we should take measures to ensure that we can reap these benefits in ten years or less. A rebuilt North Atlantic swordfish stock means:

- We can harvest a full 25% more swordfish that we currently have allocated.

- More fish means more economic activity in connected industries including processing and fishing gear sectors, more jobs, stronger fishing communities, increased recreational opportunities, and a better supply of swordfish for consumers worldwide.

- So, there are strong social and economic reasons to support a 10-year rebuilding program for North Atlantic swordfish.

- Finally an increased quota may provide ICCAT the opportunity to allow new participants to enter this fishery, consistent with the results of our allocation criteria deliberations.

It is the recognition of all these benefits that has led the entire U.S. constituency, including commercial and recreational fishermen, environmentalists and the general public, to enthusiastically and firmly support the development of a ten year rebuilding program. With a relatively modest reduction in current swordfish TAC (13%), we will have a better than 50 % chance of attaining the ICCAT goal – maximum sustainable catch – within 10 years. Two strong year classes have afforded us the unique opportunity to rebuild this fishery within a remarkably short time period for an ICCAT species. In fact, if we take this opportunity, we can preside over the first recovery of a fishery in ICCAT -- as opposed to its decline.

The United States is preparing a draft recommendation outlining a comprehensive, 10-year rebuilding program for North Atlantic swordfish. It is designed along the lines of last year's historic rebuilding program for western Atlantic bluefin tuna, and includes a time limit, adjustment mechanisms while rebuilding, and the inclusion of all fishing mortality.

In closing on swordfish, I would like to note that the United States is analyzing time/area closures designed to reduce interactions with undersized swordfish, as well as possible modifications in gear design and/or deployment. We are considering various alternative time/area closures within our EEZ for the protection of undersized swordfish, to be implemented next year. In addition, we will be sponsoring a resolution requesting the SCRS to evaluate and identify times and areas of small swordfish concentration, as well as gear modifications, as a means of reducing bycatch and/or bycatch mortality of undersized swordfish throughout the Convention area.

Finally, I would like to address billfish. As you know, the blue and white marlin stock assessment will be conducted next year. We were encouraged to learn of the increased participation in this year's billfish working group meeting at this year's SCRS. However, we continue to be concerned by the lack of data and hope that countries will collaborate in the billfish stock assessment, most importantly by providing their data and their participation. Let me just reiterate that we have implemented measures in the United States designed to reduce recreational billfish landings and we are confident that we can reach the 25% reduction by the end of 1999.

Mr. Chairman, I look forward to working with you and my fellow delegates as we address the important management issues of this Panel. Thank you.

Appendix 12 to ANNEX 9

DRAFT PROPOSAL BY THE UNITED STATES:
Recommendation to establish a rebuilding program for North Atlantic swordfish
(Attached to Report of Panel 4)

Recognizing that the Commission's Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) has indicated in the 1999 stock assessment that the North Atlantic swordfish stock is over-exploited ($B<B_{MSY}$, $F>F_{MSY}$, i.e. current biomass is 65% of the biomass at MSY and current fishing mortality is 1.34 times that of the MSY level), and that the expected 1999 catch level of 11,800 MT, which includes overages, with a greater than 50% probability, will result in a decline in stock status;

Noting that the objective of the Convention is to maintain populations of fishes at levels that permit maximum sustainable catch (usually referred to as MSY) requiring $B \geq B_{MSY}$ and $F \leq F_{MSY}$;

Recalling that in 1998, the Commission adopted a resolution for the development of recovery scenarios by the SCRS for North Atlantic swordfish to provide the Commission with the information needed to consider, develop, and improve long term stock rebuilding plans in 1999;

Considering the rebuilding scenarios developed by SCRS based on the 1999 stock assessment; and

Desiring to achieve, with greater than 50% probability, stock and catch levels consistent with the objectives of the Convention within 10 years; and

Noting that dead discards of swordfish occur due to compliance with minimum size and catch of predator-damaged fish;

Recalling that a rebuilding plan must account for all sources of fishing mortality, and that dead discards of North Atlantic swordfish reported to ICCAT have averaged 500 MT over the past three years, and that all countries must bear the burden of recovery equitably;

ICCAT RECOMMENDS THAT:

1 The Contracting Parties, Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities (Contracting Parties, Non Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities) whose vessels have been actively fishing for swordfish in the North Atlantic will initiate a 10-year rebuilding program beginning in 2000 and continuing through 2009, with a total allowable catch (TAC), inclusive of dead discards, of 10,000 MT annually, until such time as the TAC is changed based on advice from SCRS, in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3.

2 The annual TAC may be adjusted if subsequent SCRS advice indicates that a TAC greater than 10,300 MT or less than 9,700 MT will allow the B_{MSY} target to be achieved within the 10-year rebuilding period with a greater than 50% probability.

3 At such time as the SCRS determines the stock size has achieved, with greater than 50% probability, the level that would produce MSY, TAC levels up to the level of MSY will be considered.

4 The allocation of the annual TAC, inclusive of dead discards, will be as indicated below:

a An amount equal to 500 MT, or 5% of the TAC, whichever is greater, will be deducted from the TAC to allow for dead discards. The TAC, minus the allowance for dead discards, is the amount of catch that can be retained;

b The United Kingdom (in respect of Bermuda) receives a quota (for catch that can be retained) of 24 MT;

c The remainder of the TAC, after subtracting the allowance for dead discards and the quota for the United Kingdom (in respect of Bermuda), will be allocated according to the 1996 recommendation on establishment of percentage shares of North Atlantic Swordfish adopted by the Commission in 1995:

Country	Percentage Share	Catch that can be retained (Share of 9,476 MT)
EC*	49.85 %	4,724 MT
U.S.	29 %	2,748 MT
Canada	10 %	948 MT
Japan	6.25 %	592 MT
Others	4.9 %	464 MT
TOTAL	100 %	9,476 MT

** Includes all EC countries, including those who were "Others" in the previous management recommendations. Percentage shares for EC and "Others" have been adjusted accordingly.*

d The Other Parties (Contracting Parties, Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, and Fishing Entities) shall each reduce their landings from their allowed levels under the 1997 *Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding Catches of North Atlantic Swordfish for 1998 and 1999* by an amount proportional to the reduction necessary to achieve the reduction in total catches that can be retained under "Others". The caps for these years were based on a 45% reduction in each country's 1996 landings, unless landings were less than 100 MT, in which case the landings were capped at 1996 levels.

5 The distribution of the allowance of dead discards will be 80% for the United States and 20% for Canada. If a Contracting Party's fishing activity results in an amount of dead discards in excess of the Contracting Party's allowance, it must deduct the amount in excess of the allowance from its allocation of catch that can be retained in the following year. If a Contracting Party's fishing activity results in fewer dead discards than its allowance, 50% of the difference between the amount of dead discards and the allowance shall be added to that Contracting Party's allocation of catch that may be retained during the current year or in the following year, and 25% of such difference shall be added to the total catch that can be retained in the following year.

6 In the year 2000 and thereafter, unused quota from the previous year may be added to the subsequent year's quota that can be retained.

7 Provisions of the *Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding Compliance in the Bluefin Tuna and North Atlantic Swordfish Fisheries* adopted at the 1996 Commission Meeting, shall be applied to the implementation of the country quotas in paragraph 4c and for over-harvests that occurred in 1998 and/or 1999, for all countries, except Japan. Each year is considered a separate management period, as that term is used in the Recommendation Regarding Compliance, except for Japan, for which the management period is five years (e.g. 1997-2001).

8 If Japan's landings exceed its quota in any year, the overage shall be deducted in subsequent years such that total landings for Japan shall not exceed its total quota for the five-year period commencing in 1997. When annual landings by Japan are less than its quota, the underage may be added to the subsequent years' quota, such that total landings for Japan do not exceed its total for the same five year period. Japan's quota for 1997, 1998 and 1999 was 706.25 MT, 687.5 MT, and 668.75 MT, respectively. At the Commission meeting in the year 2000, the Commission shall conduct a comprehensive review of Japan's landings.

9 All Contracting Parties, Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, and Fishing Entities catching swordfish in the North Atlantic shall endeavor to provide annually the best available data to the SCRS, including catch, catch at size, location

and month of capture in one degree blocks. The data submitted shall be for the broadest range of age classes possible, consistent with minimum size restrictions, and by sex when possible. The data should also include discards and effort statistics, even when no analytical stock assessment is scheduled. The SCRS should review these data annually.

10 In the year 2002, and thereafter every three years, SCRS will conduct a stock assessment and provide advice relative to paragraphs 2 and 3.

11 In order to protect small swordfish, Contracting Parties, Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, and Fishing Entities 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, or in the alternative, 125 cm lower jaw fork length (LJFL); however, the Contracting Parties, Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities may grant tolerances to boats which have incidentally captured small swordfish, with the condition that this incidental catch shall not exceed 15 % of the number of fish per landing of the total swordfish catch of said boats.

12 Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 11, any Contracting Parties, Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, and Fishing Entities may choose, as an alternative to the minimum size of 25 kg/125 cm LJFL, to take the necessary measures to prohibit the taking by its vessels in the Atlantic Ocean, as well as the landing and sale in its jurisdiction, of swordfish and swordfish parts less than 119 cm LJFL, or in the alternative 15 kg, provided that, if this alternative is chosen, no tolerance of swordfish smaller than 119 cm LJFL, or in the alternative 15 kg, shall be allowed. A Party which chooses this alternative shall require appropriate record keeping of discards.

13 In order to avoid increasing directed fishing mortality of swordfish in both the North and South Atlantic, Contracting Parties, Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, and Fishing Entities will take measures to prohibit any transfer of directed fishing effort between the North and South Atlantic.

14 Notwithstanding the provisions of Article VIII, paragraph 2, of the Convention, with respect to the annual country quotas established above, the Contracting Parties, Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, and Fishing Entities whose vessels have been actively fishing for North Atlantic swordfish shall implement this recommendation as soon as possible in accordance with the regulatory procedures of each Contracting Party, Non-Contracting Party, Entity, and Fishing Entity.

Appendix 13 to ANNEX 9

DRAFT PROPOSAL BY THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY:
Recommendation on the limitation of catches of North Atlantic Swordfish

(Attached to Report of Panel 4)

Recalling the *Resolution By ICCAT for an Action Plan to Ensure the Effectiveness of the Conservation Program for Atlantic Swordfish* [Ref: 95-13] establishing an action plan to ensure the effectiveness of the conservation programme for Atlantic swordfish, adopted in 1995;

Recalling the *Recommendation By ICCAT on North Atlantic Swordfish Catch Quotas for 1997, 1998, and 1999* [Ref: 96-7] fixing the catch quotas for swordfish in the North Atlantic in the years 1997, 1998 and 1999, adopted in 1997;

Recalling the *Recommendation By ICCAT on the Establishment of Percentage Shares of Total Allowable Catch (TAC) and Overage and Underage Provisions for Nations Fishing for North Atlantic Swordfish* [Ref: 95-11] establishing the percentage shares of total allowable catch (TAC) and overage and underage provisions for nations fishing for North Atlantic swordfish, adopted in 1996;

Recalling the *Resolution By ICCAT on Recovery Scenarios for North and South Atlantic Swordfish* [Ref: 98-17] relative to the development of recovery scenarios for North and South Atlantic swordfish, adopted in 1998;

Considering the recovery scenario to reestablish the stocks of North Atlantic swordfish developed by the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) in 1999 pursuant to paragraph 1 and 2 of the *Resolution By ICCAT on Recovery Scenarios for North and South Atlantic Swordfish* [Ref: 98-17];

Recalling that the objective of the Convention is to maintain stocks of fish levels which permit the maximum sustainable yield (MSY);

Desiring to achieve, with a probability greater that 50%, a stock and catch level, including dead discards, in accordance with the objective of the Convention, within a 10 to 15 year time period;

ICCAT RECOMMENDS:

1 For 2000, 2001 and 2002 the total allowable catch (inclusive of dead discards) for North Atlantic swordfish will be 10,700 MT.

2 The share of the TAC established in paragraph 1 is divided as follows:

Party	*%*	*Annual quota (MT)*
Canada	10	1070
European Community 1/	49.85	5334
Japan	6.25	669
United States	29	3103
UK (Overseas Territories)	0.21	23
Others	4.69	501
TAC TOTAL	100	10700

1/ Includes all the Member States of the European Community, with corresponding adjustments to the percentages of the EC from the Others category.

3 For Contracting Parties, non-contracting parties, entities and fishing entities without specific quotas for North Atlantic swordfish:

-- those with 1996 catch levels below 100 MT shall not increase their annual catches beyond the 1996 level as reported by the SCRS at its 1997 meeting;

-- those without any reported catch in 1996 shall refrain from developing any directed swordfish fishery in the North Atlantic during the years 2000, 2001 and 2002.

4 The allocations in paragraph 2 may be revised in 2001 or 2002 in the light of recommendations from the Working Group on Allocation Criteria.

5 If the landings of a Contracting Party exceed its quota in a given year, the excess shall be deducted from its quota in the following years so that the total landings of that Contracting Party for each three year period, starting in the period 2000-2002, do not exceed its total quota for the three year period. Equally, if the landings of a Contracting Party are below its quota in a given year, the deficit may be added to its quota in the following years, provided that the total landings of the Contracting Party for reach three year period, starting in the period 2000-2002, do not exceed its total quota for the three year period. In the case of Japan, the three year period may be extended to five years.

6 The Contracting Parties shall carry out studies on the possible time period and area for a closure in order to protect juveniles. At the time of the next stock assessment for North Atlantic swordfish in 2002, the SCRS may make recommendations on the terms for a possible time period and area closure.

ANNEX 10

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION (STACFAD)

First Session - Tuesday, November 16, 1999

1. Opening of the meeting

1.1 The 1999 meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD) was opened on Tuesday, November 16, 1999, by the Committee Chairman, Mr. J. Jones (Canada).

2. Adoption of Agenda

2.1 The Agenda, circulated in advance of the meeting, was adopted without change and is attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 9**.

3. Nomination of rapporteur

3.1 The Secretariat was asked to serve as rapporteur for the meeting.

4. Administrative Report - 1999

4.1 The ICCAT Executive Secretary introduced the 1999 Administrative Report (COM/99/6), which includes information on Commission membership, status of ratification of the Madrid Protocol, dates of the implementation of the Recommendations and Resolutions adopted in 1998, update on acceptance of the ICCAT Port Inspection Scheme, listing of ICCAT inter-sessional meetings and meetings at which the Commission was represented, the results of the 1999 tagging lottery, relations with other countries, organizations and entities, the list of publications issued in 1999, and the current composition of the Secretariat staff.

4.2 It was noted that in 1999, Trinidad and Tobago and Namibia became Contracting Parties to ICCAT, thereby bringing the ICCAT membership to 28 Parties.

5. 1999 Financial Report

5.1 The Executive Secretariat reiterated that the 1998 Auditor's Report had been transmitted to the Contracting Parties in early 1999.

5.2 The Committee reviewed the 1999 Financial Report (COM/99/7) prepared by the Secretariat, which provides information on the Commission's financial status for the second half of the 1998-1999 biennial period (up to October 31, 1999). The Executive Secretary briefly summarized the key points of the Report and the statements attached to it on the General Balance Sheet (at the close of 1998), the status of Contracting Party contributions, budgetary expenditures (estimated to the end of the Fiscal Year), budgetary and extra-budgetary income received in 1999, the composition and balance of the Working Capital Fund (estimated to the end of the Fiscal Year), cash flow, and the status of cash and bank.

6. Status and implications of ICCAT programs

6.1 Dr. J. Powers, SCRS Chairman, summarized the budgetary implications of ICCAT's three on-going research programs: Bluefin Year Program (BYP), Program for Enhanced Research for Billfish, and the Bigeye Year Program (BETYP). He noted that the BYP funds are utilized mostly for coordination purposes. Billfish funds are applied to coordination activities and towards the enhancement of data collection in selected areas. ICCAT funding needing in 2000 for the two aforementioned programs would amount to the same level as that of 1999. The Bigeye Year Program, on the

other hand, requires more extensive funding, given the scope of this program, but such funding would come from voluntary contributions and external sources.

6.2 The SCRS Chairman explained that based on recommendations from both the Sub-Committee on Statistics and the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Organization, the SCRS requests the hiring of a biostatistician and set-up costs for a modern, relational data base, in response to increasing demands by this Commission.

6.3 The hiring of Mr. Guillermo Fisch as Bigeye Program Coordinator was noted. The Committee expressed its appreciation to the European Community, Japan, the regional governments of the Azores, Madeira and the Canary Islands, and Chinese Taipei for the voluntary funding provided in support of the BETYP. The EC and Japan also confirmed their best efforts to provide funding in 2000 at the same level as that of 1999.

7. Status of the ratification/acceptance of the Madrid Protocol

7.1 The Executive Secretary informed the Committee that there had been no changes in the ratification of the Madrid Protocol since the last meeting. France, Gabon and Ghana reported that the ratification processes were in the final stages. It was pointed out that ratification of the Madrid Protocol by the newest Commission members (i.e. Panama, Trinidad & Tobago, Namibia) was automatic when they deposited their respective instruments to become Contracting Parties to ICCAT. He also informed the Committee that ratification by France and three other Contracting Parties was required for the Protocol to enter into force.

7.2 The importance of implementing the Madrid Protocol was stressed as a means to lighten the financial burden of the developing Contracting Parties.

7.3 The Executive Secretary also reminded the delegates that the entry into force of the Protocol would entail some modifications to the Commission's Financial Regulations, and that the input parameters for the new scheme to calculate the contributions would also require a review by the Commission

Second Session - Monday, November 22, 1999

8. Budgetary implications of the Commission's general activities in 2000

8.1 The STACFAD Chairman noted that there are three major items that had significant budgetary implications in 2000. One is the request from the SCRS for the hiring of a biostatistician, which had been deferred for consideration in 1998, by the Commission until 1999. Another important item concerns the administrative structure of the Secretariat, to bring it in line with the U.N. Common System, as it is applied in FAO. The Chairman recalled the Executive Secretary's Note circulated at the 1998 Commission Meeting relative to this matter, and the Advance Estimated Budget distributed in early March, 1999, which provided additional details and the budgetary implications of updating the Secretariat staff benefits package (which had not been updated since 1983). The third major item for consideration by the Committee due to its budgetary implications concerns the SCRS request in 1999 to re-organize the ICCAT data base to a relational data base system. He also pointed out that this last item would be a one-time expenditure.

8.2 While several delegations noted that the percentage increase in the overall budget was substantial for the year 2000, after considerable discussion, the general consensus was that the updating of the Secretariat staff benefits was long overdue and could not be postponed any longer. The need for additional resources and the necessary tools to carry out the ever-increasing work load of the Secretariat was pointed out. The Committee also supported the hiring of a biostatistician in 2000, and the updating of the data base system in two stages over the 2000 and 2001 period.

8.3 In view of the above decisions adopted by STACFAD, the Secretariat was requested to circulate a revised 2000-2001 Biennial Budget that includes the staff benefits, the hiring of the biostatistician, and the updating of the data base system over the two year period.

8.4 The Committee was informed that even though the current ICCAT computer system and software are outdated, preparations had been made for the "Y2K" problem and the continued operation of the system was insured.

8.5 Again referring to SCRS proposals that had budgetary implications, the SCRS Chairman informed the finance committee that stock assessments on billfishes, yellowfin, bluefin and albacore were planned for the year 2000. He also reiterated the need for a biostatistician on the permanent staff of the Secretariat, and the importance of the data base revision

for the Commission's increasing data processing work and provide better access for the users. He noted that updating the system in two years, instead of one, is a valid option. It was noted that the billfish assessment was tentatively scheduled to be held possibly in Miami in July, whereas the dates and venues for the other two stock assessments will be decided later.

8.6 It was brought to the Committee's attention that the updating of the Secretariat staff benefit package would entail modifications to various articles of the "ICCAT Staff Regulations and Rules" (which were last modified in 1996). The Executive Secretary indicated that this work would be done later by the Secretariat and the amended articles would be circulated among the Contracting Parties for their review and approval.

9. Budget and contributions for the 2000-2001 biennial period

9.1The Committee was referred to document COM/99/8, the Revised Estimated Budget and Contributions for the 2000-2001 Biennial Period, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting to the Head Delegates of the Contracting Parties.

9.2 It was pointed out that 1997 is to be used as the base year for the catch and canning data for the calculation of the 2000 Contracting Party contribution since the data for 1998 are not complete (see **Table 3**). The delegates were asked to review these catch and canning figures as well as their Panel memberships.

9.3 Based on STACFAD's decisions, the Secretariat re-calculated the Commission Budget and Contracting Party Contributions for the 2000-2001 biennial period for the Committee's review. Following some discussion, the Committee adopted the Revised Budget for 2000, which amounts to **245,752,000 Pesetas (Table 1)**, and the corresponding Contracting Party contributions **(Table 2)**. The Commission Budget and Contributions for 2001 **(Table 4)** were adopted provisionally, and are subject to review at the next Commission Meeting.

10. Date and place of next meeting of STACFAD

10.1 The next meeting of STACFAD will take place at the same time and place as the next meeting of Commission.

11. Election of STACFAD Chairman

11.1 The Committee recognized the efficient work of Mr. Jim Jones, the current STACFAD Chairman and decided to re-elect him by acclamation.

11.2 The Chairman thanked the Committee for the confidence place in him. He also expressed his appreciation to the delegations for having supported the budget proposal, in spite of the sacrifice involved due to the increase in the member contributions.

12. Other matters

12.1 No other matters were discussed.

13. Adoption of Report

13.1 While STACFAD adopted the 2000-2001 Budget and Contributions prior to the adjournment of the meeting, the Committee agreed to adopt its Report in its entirety through correspondence.*

14. Adjournment

14.1 The 1999 meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD) was adjourned on Monday, November 22.

Appendix 1 to ANNEX 10

1999 STACFAD AGENDA

* The STACFAD Report was adopted later.

1 Opening of the meeting
2 Adoption of Agenda
3 Nomination of Rapporteur
4 1999 Administrative Report
5 1999 Financial Report
   -- 1998 Auditor's Report
   -- Financial status of the second half of the Biennial Budget - 1999
6 Status and implications of ICCAT programs
   -- Bluefin Year Program (BYP)
   -- Program of Enhanced Research for Billfish
   -- Bigeye Year Program (BETYP)
7 Status of the ratification/acceptance of the Protocol of amendment to the Convention (adopted in Madrid: 1992) and repercussions
   -- review of input parameters
   -- classification of countries
   -- change in Financial Regulations
8 Budgetary implications of the Commission's general activities in 2000:
   -- Research and statistics
   -- Inter-sessional meetings
   -- Publications
   -- Next meeting of the Commission
9 Budget and contributions for the 2000-2001 biennial period
10 Date and place of the next meeting of STACFAD
11 Election of STACFAD Chairman
12 Other matters
13 Adoption of Report
14 Adjournment

Table 1. COMMISSION BUDGET ADOPTED FOR THE 2000-2001 BIENNIAL PERIOD (Pesetas)

Chapters	*BUDGET ADOPTED FOR 2000 (COL. A)*	*PROVISIONAL BUDGET ADOPTED FOR 2001* (COL. B)*
1. Salaries	109,752,000	113,044,560
2. Travel	6,500,000	6,695,000
3. Commission Meeting (Annual & Inter-sessionals)	11,000,000	11,330,000
4. Publications	5,000,000	5,150,000
5. Office Equipment	1,200,000	1,236,000
6. Operating Expenses	14,500,000	14,935,000
7. Miscellaneous	900,000	927,000
Sub-total Chapters 1 to 7	148,852,000	153,317,560
8. Coordination of Research:		
a) Salaries	60,600,000	62,418,000
b) Travel to improve statistics	5,500,000	5,665,000
c) Statistics/Biology	5,000,000	5,150,000
d) Computer-related items	3,500,000	3,605,000
– Major data base revision	6,050,000	6,050,000
e) Scientific meetings (including SCRS)	9,700,000	9,991,000
f) Bluefin Year Program (BYP)	2,200,000	2,266,000
g) Bigeye Year Program (BETYP)	0	0
h) Billfish Research Program	1,700,000	1,751,000
i) Miscellaneous	900,000	927,000
Sub-total Chapter 8	95,150,000	97,823,000
9. Contingencies	1,750,000	1,802,500
TOTAL REVISED BUDGET	**245,752,000**	**252,943,060**

* For the Provisional 2001 Budget, a 3% increment across the board was applied, except for the data base revision. The Commission decided to implement the data base revision in two stages, over the 2000-2001 biennial period.

Table 2. Contracting Party Contributions to the 2000 Commission Budget

US$ 1.00= 158.399

Based on 1997 figures

Contracting Parties	Panels # (A)	Panel % (B)	Catch MT (C)	Canning MT (D)	C+C MT (E)	C+C % (F)	Total Budget (Convertible Pesetas) 245,752,000 Fee Conv. Pts (G)	Panel Conv. Pts (H)	Panel Conv. Pts (I)	C+C Conv. Pts (J)	Total Conv. Pts (K)
Angola	2	3.750	241	96	337	0.046	158,399	316,798	2,913,501	70,801	3,459,499
Brasil	2	3.750	41,710	3,098	44,808	6.056	158,399	316,798	2,913,501	9,410,060	12,798,758
Canada	3	5.000	1,908	0	1,908	0.258	158,399	475,197	3,884,668	400,695	4,918,959
Cap Vert	1	2.500	3,035	287	3,322	0.449	158,399	158,399	1,942,334	697,694	2,956,826
China, People's Rep.	2	3.750	614	0	614	0.083	158,399	316,798	2,913,501	128,945	3,517,643
Cote d'Ivoire	1	2.500	425	1,400	1,825	0.247	158,399	158,399	1,942,334	383,264	2,642,396
Croatia	1	2.500	1,131	0	1,131	0.153	158,399	158,399	1,942,334	237,519	2,496,651
European Community	4	6.250	297,205	86,433	383,638	51.849	158,399	633,596	4,855,835	80,566,974	86,214,804
France - Dep.Terr.	1	2.500	0	0	0	0.000	158,399	158,399	1,942,334	0	2,259,132
Gabon	1	2.500	225	0	225	0.030	158,399	158,399	1,942,334	47,252	2,306,384
Ghana	1	2.500	53,930	44,093	98,023	13.248	158,399	158,399	1,942,334	20,585,569	22,844,701
Guinea Ecuatorial	0	1.250	2,991	0	2,991	0.404	158,399	0	971,167	628,133	1,757,699
Guinee, Rep. de	0	1.250	463	0	463	0.063	158,399	0	971,167	97,234	1,226,800
Japan	4	6.250	39,616	0	39,616	5.354	158,399	633,596	4,855,835	8,319,669	13,967,499
Korea	2	3.750	1,924	0	1,924	0.260	158,399	316,798	2,913,501	404,055	3,792,753
Libya	2	3.750	1,474	1,747	3,221	0.435	158,399	316,798	2,913,501	676,533	4,065,231
Maroc	3	5.000	17,208	135	17,343	2.344	158,399	475,197	3,884,668	3,642,165	8,160,429
Namibia	3	5.000	1,315	0	1,315	0.178	158,399	475,197	3,884,668	276,160	4,794,424
Panama	2	3.750	13,378	0	13,378	1.808	158,399	316,798	2,913,501	2,809,484	6,198,182
Russia	1	2.500	5,959	0	5,959	0.805	158,399	158,399	1,942,334	1,251,437	3,510,569
S.Tome & Principe	1	2.500	891	0	891	0.120	158,399	158,399	1,942,334	187,117	2,446,249
South Africa	2	3.750	6,841	0	6,841	0.925	158,399	316,798	2,913,501	1,436,663	4,825,361
Trinidad & Tobago	2	3.750	3,782	0	3,782	0.511	158,399	316,798	2,913,501	794,250	4,182,948
Tunisie	1	2.500	4,176	0	4,176	0.564	158,399	158,399	1,942,334	876,993	3,136,125
U.S.A.	4	6.250	29,475	31,933	61,408	8.299	158,399	633,596	4,855,835	12,896,159	18,543,989
UK- OS Terr.	3	5.000	637	0	637	0.086	158,399	475,197	3,884,668	133,775	4,652,039
Uruguay	1	2.500	988	0	988	0.134	158,399	158,399	1,942,334	207,488	2,466,620
Venezuela	2	3.750	31,937	7,207	39,144	5.290	158,399	316,798	2,913,501	8,220,632	11,609,330
Total	52	100	563,479	176,430	739,909	100	4,435,172	8,236,748	77,693,360	155,386,720	245,752,000

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)

Table 3. **Catch and canning figures (in MT) of the Contracting Parties**
Tableau 3. **Chiffres de prise et de mise en conserve (TM) des Parties Contractantes**
Tabla 3. **Cifras de captura y conserva (TM) de las Partes Contractantes**

	1996			1997			1998			
Countries *Pays* *Paises*	*Catch* *Prise* *Captura*	*Canning* *Conserv* *Conserv*	**Total**	*Catch* *Prise* *Captura*	*Canning* *Conserv* *Conserv*	**Total**	*Catch* *Prise* *Captura*	*Canning* *Conserv* *Conserv*	**Total**	*Countries* *Pays* *Paises*
Angola	396 *		396	241 *	96 **	337	623 p+		623	Angola
Brasil	38392 *		38392	41710 *	3098 **	44808	44276 p		44276	Brasil
Canada	1667	0	1667	1908	0	1908	1919	0	1919	**Canada**
Cap Vert	2506 *		2506	3035 *	287 **	3322	1273 p		1273	Cap Vert
China, People's Rep.	868 *	0	868	614 *	0	614	2313	0	2313	**China, People's Rep**
Cote d'Ivoire	590 *		590	425 nr	1400 **	1825	295 nr			Cote d'Ivoire
Croatia	1386		1386	1131	0	1131	941	277	1218	**Croatia**
European Community	263553	20887	284440	297205 co	86433 co	383638	197406	19894	217300	**European Commun**
France - Dep.Terr.				0	0	0				France - Dep.Terr.
Gabon	1035	0		225	0	225	373	0	373	**Gabon**
Ghana	38546 *	31515	70061	53930 *	44093 **	98023	66479 p		66479	Ghana
Guinea Ecuatorial	216 *		216	2991 **	0 **	2991				Guinea Ecuatorial
Guinee, Rep. de				463 **	0 **	463				Guinee, Rep. de
Japan	50655	0	50655	39616	0	39616	37455 p			**Japan**
Korea	2758		2758	1924	0 **	1924	290		290	**Korea**
Libya	1708 *		1708	1474 *	1747 **	3221	1383		1383	Libya
Maroc	11282	79	11361	17208	135	17343	13441	225	13666	**Maroc**
Namibia	1061 *		1061	1315 *		1315	1441 *		1441	**Namibia**
Panama	27908		27908	13378	0 **	13378	18820		18820	**Panama**
Russia	3229	0	3229	5959	0 **	5959	7870	0	7870	**Russia**
S.Tome & Principe	208		208	891	0 **	891	n/a			**S.Tome & Principe**
South Africa	5800	0	5800	6841	0	6841	8886	0	8886	**South Africa**
Trinidad & Tobago	3132	0	3132	3782	0	3782	45 p+	0	45	**Trinidad & Tobago**
Tunisie	4357		4357	4176	0 **	4176	4220 nr*	1612	5832	**Tunisie**
U.S.A.	28749	46078	74827	29475	31933	61408	26189	32288	58477	**U.S.A.**
UK- OS Terr.	512	0	512	637	0	637	691 p	0	691	**UK- OS Terr.**
Uruguay	1016		1016	988	0 **	988	1187	0	1187	**Uruguay**
Venezuela	32559 *		32559	31937 *	7207 **	39144	19847 nr		19847	Venezuela
Total	524089	98559	622648	563479	176430	739909	457663	54296	474209	Total

b only bluefin tuna reported

p Preliminary data./ Donnees preliminaires./ Datos preliminares.

p+ only partial data (quick estimates or selected gears or species only)

nr= national report

nr* = catch and canning form completed but only bluefin reported

*** does not include Martinique or Guadaloupe

co Carried over from previous budget base

Table 4. Contracting Party Contributions to the 2001 Commission Budget

US$ 1.00= 158.399

Based on 1997 figures

Contracting Parties	Panels # (A)	Panel % (B)	Catch MT (C)	Canning MT (D)	C+C MT (E)	C+C % (F)	Total Budget (Convertible Pesetas) 252,943,060 Fee Conv. Pts (G)	Panel Conv. Pts (H)	Panel Conv. Pts (I)	C+C Conv. Pts (J)	Total Conv. Pts (K)
Angola	2	3.750	241	96	337	0.046	158,399	316,798	3,003,389	72,986	3,551,572
Brasil	2	3.750	41,710	3,098	44,808	6.056	158,399	316,798	3,003,389	9,700,382	13,178,968
Canada	3	5.000	1,908	0	1,908	0.258	158,399	475,197	4,004,519	413,057	5,051,172
Cap Vert	1	2.500	3,035	287	3,322	0.449	158,399	158,399	2,002,260	719,220	3,038,277
China, People's Rep.	2	3.750	614	0	614	0.083	158,399	316,798	3,003,389	132,923	3,611,509
Cote d'Ivoire	1	2.500	425	1,400	1,825	0.247	158,399	158,399	2,002,260	395,089	2,714,146
Croatia	1	2.500	1,131	0	1,131	0.153	158,399	158,399	2,002,260	244,847	2,563,904
European Community	4	6.250	297,205	86,433	383,638	51.849	158,399	633,596	5,005,649	83,052,652	88,850,296
France - Dep.Terr.	1	2.500	0	0	0	0.000	158,399	158,399	2,002,260	0	2,319,058
Gabon	1	2.500	225	0	225	0.030	158,399	158,399	2,002,260	48,710	2,367,767
Ghana	1	2.500	53,930	44,093	98,023	13.248	158,399	158,399	2,002,260	21,220,681	23,539,739
Guinea Ecuatorial	0	1.250	2,991	0	2,991	0.404	158,399	0	1,001,130	647,513	1,807,041
Guinee, Rep. de	0	1.250	463	0	463	0.063	158,399	0	1,001,130	100,233	1,259,762
Japan	4	6.250	39,616	0	39,616	5.354	158,399	633,596	5,005,649	8,576,350	14,373,994
Korea	2	3.750	1,924	0	1,924	0.260	158,399	316,798	3,003,389	416,521	3,895,107
Libya	2	3.750	1,474	1,747	3,221	0.435	158,399	316,798	3,003,389	697,405	4,175,991
Maroc	3	5.000	17,208	135	17,343	2.344	158,399	475,197	4,004,519	3,754,535	8,392,650
Namibia	3	5.000	1,315	0	1,315	0.178	158,399	475,197	4,004,519	284,680	4,922,795
Panama	2	3.750	13,378	0	13,378	1.808	158,399	316,798	3,003,389	2,896,164	6,374,750
Russia	1	2.500	5,959	0	5,959	0.805	158,399	158,399	2,002,260	1,290,046	3,609,104
S.Tome & Principe	1	2.500	891	0	891	0.120	158,399	158,399	2,002,260	192,890	2,511,947
South Africa	2	3.750	6,841	0	6,841	0.925	158,399	316,798	3,003,389	1,480,988	4,959,574
Trinidad & Tobago	2	3.750	3,782	0	3,782	0.511	158,399	316,798	3,003,389	818,754	4,297,340
Tunisie	1	2.500	4,176	0	4,176	0.564	158,399	158,399	2,002,260	904,050	3,223,107
U.S.A.	4	6.250	29,475	31,933	61,408	8.299	158,399	633,596	5,005,649	13,294,036	19,091,679
UK- OS Terr.	3	5.000	637	0	637	0.086	158,399	475,197	4,004,519	137,902	4,776,017
Uruguay	1	2.500	988	0	988	0.134	158,399	158,399	2,002,260	213,889	2,532,947
Venezuela	2	3.750	31,937	7,207	39,144	5.290	158,399	316,798	3,003,389	8,474,258	11,952,844
Total	52	100	563,479	176,430	739,909	100	4,435,172	8,236,748	80,090,380	160,180,760	252,943,060

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)

NATIONAL REPORTS

NATIONAL REPORT OF BRAZIL*

1. Fisheries information

In 1998, the Brazilian tuna longline fleet consisted of 67 vessels operating from the following ports: Itajai-SC (6 vessels), Santos-SP (16), Cabedela-PB (27), and Natal-RN (18). This represents a 15% increase in the number of vessels from 1997 and is a result of a national policy designed to promote the development of Brazilian high seas fisheries, a right the country has, according to international law. The number of baitboats remained stable and operated out of the same ports as in the previous year: Itajai-SC, Rio de Janeiro-RJ and Rio Grande do Sul-RS.

The Brazilian catch of tunas and tuna-like fishes, including billfishes, sharks, and other species of minor importance (e.g. wahoo and dolphin fish) was 44,236.5 MT (round weight) in 1998 and did not differ greatly from the catch in 1997 (44,551 MT) (**Tables 1 to 5**). The majority of the catch was taken by baitboats (58%), with skipjack tuna accounting for more than 90%. Catches of this species remained stable, declining by only 47 MT from the previous year. With a total catch of 1,228.9 MT, yellowfin tuna was the second dominant species in the baitboat fishery. The total catch of the tuna longline fishery (11,693.3 MT) was about 25% higher than in 1997, mainly owing to a sharp increase (five-fold) in catches of albacore. Swordfish remained the predominant target species with a total catch of 3,844 MT, which was approximately 5% lower than the previous year.

2. Research and statistics activities

Catch and effort data from Brazilian tuna fisheries are regularly collected via the use of log sheets which skippers are required to complete after each set. Submission of log sheets is mandatory for any vessel (including national and leased) greater than 20 GRT. Because leased and national vessels have exactly the same rights and obligations under Brazilian law, for the purposes of this report, all reference to Brazilian boats includes both categories of vessels. In addition to log sheets, supplementary information on landings is provided by the fishing companies.

Prior to November, 1998, IBAMA - Instituto Brasileiro do Meio Ambiente e dos Recursos Naturais Renováveis (Brazilian Institute for the Environment and Natural Renewable Resources) was in charge of managing the Brazilian tuna fisheries. Their responsibilities included log sheet collection, processing of available data (with the exception of data from Sao Paulo State, which has always been collected and processed by the Instituto de Pesca) and submission of summaries to ICCAT. In November, 1998, a Federal Decree (No. 2840 of November 10, 1998) transferred the responsibility for all issues relating to highly migratory species (including data collection and submission to ICCAT) to Fisheries and Aquaculture, Department of the Ministry of Agriculture. Accordingly, Task I and Task II data from 1998 have already been prepared and submitted. Three institutions currently assist the Ministry of Agriculture in processing and analysis relevant data. These include the Universidade Federal Rural de Pernambuco (UFRPE), located in the northeast, the Instituto de Pesca, located in the southeast, and the Universidade do Vale do Itajai, located in the south. These institutions also conduct several other research activities on tuna species caught by Brazilian boats. Further, since 1996, due to the growing interest in swordfish, biological and morphometric data have regularly been collected.

The UFRPE is currently conducting studies on the reproduction, feeding habits and age and growth of yellowfin tuna, albacore, swordfish, wahoo, and several shark species. These studies are part of the Brazilian Program for the Assessment of Living Resources in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), entitled REVIZEE (Programa de Avaliaçao do Potencial

* Original report in English.

Sustentável dos Recursos Vivos na Zona Econômica Exclusive). REVIZEE is the largest national research program on marine science and fisheries ever initiated in Brazil and encompasses a broad range of surveys in oceanic areas off the south, southeast and northeast coasts. Since 1995, surveys have been conducted by several universities and institutions and involve the collection of oceanographic data, such as temperature, salinity, nutrient concentrations, primary biomass, sediments, phyto- and zooplankton densities, etc., as well as fishery-related information from multifilament and monofilament longlines.

A telemetry study of swordfish off northeast Brazil is scheduled for October, 1999, and will represent a cooperative effort between UFRPE and U.S. scientists from NMFS (National Marine Fisheries Service). This work will be the first of its kind in Brazil.

Substantial work has also been done to adapt monofilament longline technology to artisanal and small-scale vessels, with the aim of mitigating harsh social conditions faced by small coastal fishing villages that currently depend on the exploitation of coastal species (see SCRS/99/35).

In addition to being responsible for processing all fishing data from the baitboats operating off southern Brazil, the Universidade do Vale do Itajai (UNIVALI) is also collecting biological information on skipjack tuna (see SCRS/99/66), aimed at carrying out stock assessments. Biological information on this species has also been collected by CEPSUL/IBAMA.

During the past year, the Instituto de Pesca de Sao Paulo State collected, processed and analyzed all data from the longliners operating out of Sao Paulo. They also conducted several other research activities using on-board observers to tag juvenile swordfish and collect biological samples, size frequency data, etc. Data have also been collected from several recreational fisheries based off southeastern Brazil and mainly in Rio de Janeiro-RJ and Ilhabela-SP where sport tournaments are conducted by local yacht clubs. Voluntary minimum weights have been established, although these vary from one club to another. In general, the minimum weights for sailfish, white marlin and blue marlin are around 35 kg, 50 kg and 150 kg, respectively. As a consequence of these weight restrictions, most captured fish are subsequently released. During the 1998-1999 season, a total of 894 sailfish, 26 blue marlin, and 12 white marlins were caught and released with some being tagged. It is anticipated that for the 1999-2000 season, some yacht clubs will adopt even stricter rules, increasing the minimum weight of blue marlin to 250 kg and, in some cases, applying a ban on all billfish landings.

3. Implementation of ICCAT conservation and management measures

As already indicated in the 1998 National Report, in order to adequately comply with ICCAT recommendations, several fishery regulations have been implemented by the Brazilian Government over the past year. These include:

- A minimum size limit for swordfish (in 1998 the Brazilian catch of fish less than 125 cm was only 6.4% of the total production).
- Prohibition of shark finning (shark fins can only be landed with their respective carcasses) and mandatory submission of information on the weights of fins landed.
- A maximum length for pelagic driftnets.

As mentioned above, the development of Brazilian high seas fisheries and effective occupation of the EEZ is a national policy having high priority for the Brazilian Government. It should be stressed that this policy is fully supported by all relevant agreements and instruments of international law. In order to facilitate the effective exploitation of the EEZ, the Brazilian Government initiated the REVIZEE Program (see above) in 1995. More recently, in 1999, the Fisheries Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, now in charge of the management of Brazilian high seas fisheries, began a program for the development of national fisheries with the EEZ and in adjacent high seas. Several actions, taken in accord with this national policy, resulted in a 15% increase in the number of Brazilian tuna longliners. In spite of this, the Brazilian swordfish catch was 5% lower than in the previous year. Consequently, the proportion of Brazilian swordfish catches in excess of the limit established by ICCAT was reduced by almost half (from 104% in 1997 to 64% in 1999). Although these figures are still above the quota allocated to Brazil, they represent the result of a tremendous effort by the Brazilian Government to curb swordfish production in order to comply with the ICCAT recommendation. This effort reflects the solid determination of the Brazilian Government to respect the catch limits established by ICCAT in 1996, in spite of the nation's belief that they are unfair to Brazilian interests and incompatible with international law.

It was also the unfairness of another ICCAT recommendation concerning compliance in the South Atlantic fishery that forced Brazil to object it. As already outlined in the last report, this recommendation is clearly discriminatory and unbalanced in nature, since it effectively harms developing countries which export more than developed nations that are traditionally importers.

The unfairness of the allocation of quotas mainly based (if not solely) on historical catches is a question that has troubles several ICCAT member countries and led to the approval at the last Commission meeting, in Santiago de Compostela (1998) of a recommendation to create a working group to discuss the issue and propose new criteria. Accordingly, the working group met in Madrid (from May 30 to June 3) and although a consensus could not be reached at the meeting, substantial progress was achieved. The Brazilian Government's position, which was presented at the beginning of that meeting, is endorsed. As a result of that meeting, three documents were produced, including separate proposals from the United States, the European Community and a proposal supported by several countries (Brazil, Morocco, Libya, Panama, South Africa, Venezuela, and Uruguay, as member countries; and Belize, Colombia, Faroe Islands, Guatemala, Iceland, Mexico, Namibia, Norway, and Turkey, as observers). In these documents, a broad list of new criteria to be used for quota allocation were considered.

At the next meeting of the Commission (to be held in Rio de Janeiro), ICCAT will have been in existence for 30 years. Some of the practices and policies are consequently antiquated and in urgent need of updating. Despite the progress recently achieved, the Brazilian Government believes that there is still a long way to go before ICCAT policy is adjusted to the present times, particularly with respect to the current international legal framework. However, the Brazilian Government is convinced that the good will and cooperation that have always inspired the Commission will provide the endurance and enlightenment it needs to safely carry out this transition.

Table 1. Brazilian longline catches in 1998 (in MT round weight)
Effort (in number of hooks) = 10,211,023

Species	*Catch*
Yellowfin tuna (YFT)	1,013.6
Albacore (ALB)	3,012.3
Bigeye tuna (BET)	644.6
Swordfish (SWO)	3,844.0
Sailfish (SAI)	106.3
White marlin (WHM)	100.9
Blue marlin (BUM)	340.5
Wahoo (WAH)	45.9
Dolphin fish (DOL)	114.8
Sharks	2,304.6
Others (OTH)	165.8
TOTAL	**11,693.3**

Table 2. Brazilian baitboat catches in 1998 (in MT round weight). Effort (in number of fishing days) = 4,411

Species	*Catch*
Yellowfin tuna (YFT)	1,228.9
Albacore (ALB)	404.7
Bigeye tuna (BET)	0.0
Skipjack (SKJ)	23,567.3
Frigate tuna (FRI)	119.8
Atlantic black skipjack (LTA)	2.3
Dolphin fish (DOL)	192.6
Others (OTH)	10.6
TOTAL CATCH	**25,526.2**

Table 3. Brazilian purse seine catches in 1998 (in MT round weight).

Species	*Catch*
Skipjack (SKJ)	219.2
Frigate tuna (FRI)	34.9
Dolphin fish (DOL)	7.6
TOTAL CATCH	**261.7**

Table 4. Brazilian catches from other fisheries in 1998 (in MT round weight)

Species	*Catch*
Yellowfin tuna (YFT)	270.8
Albacore (ALB)	0.0
Bigeye tuna (BET)	0.1
Swordfish (SWO)	2.8
Billfishes	339.2
Blackfin tuna (BLF)	54.5
Skipjack tuna (SKJ)	2.7
Frigate tuna (FRI)	6.7
Atlantic black skipjack (LTA)	920.2
Brazilian king mackerel (BRS)	1,515.6
King mackerel (KGM)	3,594.5
Wahoo (WAH)	0.8
Others (OTH)	47.4
TOTAL	**6,707.1**

Table 5. Brazilian total catches in 1998 (in MT round weight).

Species	*Catch*
Yellowfin tuna (YFT)	2,513.3
Albacore (ALB)	3,417.0
Bigeye tuna (BET)	644.7
Skipjack (SKJ)	23,789.2
Swordfish (SWO)	3,846.8
Billfishes (BIL)	886.9
Sharks (SHAR)	2,304.6
Others (OTH)	6,834.0
TOTAL CATCH	**44,236.5**

NATIONAL REPORT OF CANADA, 1998*

by

J. M. Porter** and C. J. Allen***

1. NATIONAL FISHERIES INFORMATION

1.1 Bluefin tuna

Bluefin occur in Canadian waters from July to December over the Scotian Shelf, in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, in the Bay of Fundy, and off Newfoundland. In adherence with the ICCAT agreement, the Canadian quota for the 1998 calendar year was 600.7 MT (552.6 MT allocated quota plus 48.1 MT of carry-over from 1997). The Canadian nominal landings of Atlantic bluefin tuna in 1998 were 596.0 MT (**Table 1**), leaving 4.7 MT uncaught which will be carried over to the 1999 quota. It should be noted that the annual differences between the Canadian quota and the landings in **Table 2** reflect the strict management regime established to ensure that the Canadian quota is not over-run (see *Appendix A*), rather than difficulty in catching bluefin. In addition, based on data from at-sea Observers on the swordfish longline fleet, the actual tonnage of dead bluefin discards during 1998 on vessels carrying Observers was 1.3 MT. Document SCRS/99/77 shows the calculation of a preliminary estimate of the tonnage of dead discards from the entire catch (16.3 MT of bluefin tuna), however there are concerns about the validity of the estimate in 1998, due to sampling problems.

The major fishery since 1988 has been the tended line fishery in the Hell Hole between Browns and Georges banks (180 km southwest of Nova Scotia), though in recent years its importance has decreased substantially to about 25% of the Canadian landings (from 70% in the early 1990s; **Table 2**). Further, the fishery in the Hell Hole is much more spatially dispersed than in past years. Fish captured in this fishery weigh about 200 kg (round), on average. The CPUE has been declining in recent years, and is at a much lower level than at the inception of this fishery in 1988 (SCRS/98/42). In 1998, 19% (115 MT) of the Canadian catch came from the Gulf of St. Lawrence. This represents the level of harvest generally seen during the 1990s. The nominal CPUE levels presently observed are much lower than the CPUE observed in the early 1980s (SCRS/98/42). The Gulf of St. Lawrence fish weigh about 400 kg (round), on average. Additional catches were also taken from the St. Margaret's Bay traps (68 MT), from the rod and reel fishery off northeastern Nova Scotia (82 MT), and from new fishing areas off Halifax and Liverpool, Nova Scotia (106 t). The latter fisheries (Halifax and Liverpool) are becoming increasingly important (**Table 2**). In the Bay of Fundy, 36 MT were taken by electric harpoon. In 1998, 21 MT were taken in the tended line fishery on the Tail of the Grand Banks of Newfoundland; this fishery has shown marked fluctuations in recent years (**Table 2**) due primarily to decreased effort in the groundfish fishery and irregular presence in the offshore fishing grounds. The offshore longline vessel, which directs for tuna other than bluefin in the northwest Atlantic caught 16.1 MT of its 20 MT by-catch limit in 1998.

In 1998, 419 licensed fishermen actually participated in the directed bluefin fishery, one offshore longline license was authorized to direct for other tuna with a small bluefin bycatch provision, and four fish-trap license holders in St. Margaret's Bay used 24 bluefin tuna trapnet licenses (**Table 3**).

1.2. Swordfish

Swordfish occur in Canadian waters from May to November, primarily on the edge of Georges Bank, the Scotian Shelf and the Grand Banks of Newfoundland. The ICCAT recommendation for the Canadian swordfish quota for 1998 was

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* Original report in English.

** Fisheries & Oceans Canada, Biological Station, St. Andrews, New Brunswick E0G 2X0.

*** Fisheries & Oceans Canada, Resources Management Branch, 200 Kent Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0E6.

NOTE: *Appendix A* is available upon request.

1,100 t, plus the carry over from the 1997 quota of 40.5 MT, giving Canada a quota of 1140.5 MT. The Canadian nominal landings of swordfish in 1998 were 1115 MT (**Table 1**), leaving 25.5 MT uncaught which will be carried over to the 1999 quota. As for bluefin tuna, there is a strict management regime established to ensure that the Canadian swordfish quota is not exceeded (see *Appendix A*), and the carry-over amount is reflective of this, rather than as a result of difficulty in catching swordfish. Landings of undersized swordfish were as close to zero as possible (0.4%). However, based on data from at-sea observers on the swordfish longline fleet, the actual tonnage of dead swordfish discards (small fish) during 1998 on vessels carrying observers was 5.5 MT SCRS/99/77 shows the calculation of a preliminary estimate of the tonnage of dead discards from the entire catch (51.7 MT of swordfish), however there are concerns about the validity of the estimate in 1998, due to sampling problems.

In 1998, 875 MT were taken by longline (or 78% of the catch), while the tonnage taken by harpoon was 240 MT (**Table 4**). This is the highest tonnage taken by harpoon since 1967, due to both increased interest and to favorable oceanographic conditions. The mean weight (round) of longlined and harpooned swordfish was 61 kg and 126 kg, respectively (**Table 4**). The swordfish longline CPUE values for 1997 and 1998 are higher than the historic low in 1996, and show an upward trend (SCRS/99/76). If the Canadian longline CPUE time series are in fact indicative of relative abundance of swordfish in Canadian waters (the assumption made when catch rates are used to calibrate the VPA), then the relative abundance of swordfish has increased since the historical low in 1996. This might imply that the drastic cuts in quota taken in 1997 and 1998 in the North Atlantic as a result of ICCAT Regulatory Recommendations have had a positive effect on swordfish abundance.

Only 49 of the 77 licensed swordfish longline fishermen landed fish in the 1998 fishery (**Table 4**). This is in marked contrast to 1993-96 when all, or nearly all, of the swordfish longline licenses were active (**Table 4**) due to the decline of groundfish stocks. The reduced effort in the 1998 fishery was a result of a combination of factors including the reduced quota, increased opportunities for fishing other species (especially crab and shrimp in Newfoundland), and relatively low prices. Although a total of 1,400 fishermen are eligible for harpoon licenses, about 109 actually landed fish in 1998. Harpooning swordfish is usually an opportunistic activity conducted during other fisheries, though in recent years several fishermen fish early in the season solely by swordfish harpoon, and this was particularly successful in 1998. In addition, one offshore longline license was issued for tunas other than bluefin with a swordfish bycatch provision.

1.3 Other tunas

The other tunas (albacore, bigeye and yellowfin) are at the northern edge of their range in Canada, hence catches are small. They are found along the edge of the Gulf Stream and Georges Bank, the Scotian Shelf and the Grand Banks during summer months. One Canadian offshore longline vessel has been designated to direct for other tuna species with a bluefin tuna bycatch, and the 77-vessel swordfish longline fleet has a dual license capability enabling them to direct for other tunas during the swordfish fishery with no bluefin tuna bycatch. In addition, bluefin tuna vessels are authorized to catch and retain an incidental bycatch of other tuna while fishing for bluefin. The fishing activity (catch and nominal CPUE, SCRS/98/44) for other tunas in 1996 to 1997 showed a similar pattern. In 1998, swordfish longline vessels directed for yellowfin (56.6 MT) and bigeye (119.6 MT) early in the season (**Table 1**). There were also small catches of albacore (23.2 MT; **Table 1**).

1.4 Sharks

Historically, blue shark, porbeagle and shortfin mako have been a bycatch of the Canadian swordfish and groundfish longline fisheries although small amounts are also landed from other fisheries. It is believed that the bycatch is larger than reported because of discarding, though regulatory amendments are addressing this problem. A directed longline fishery has been developing in recent years and a Management Plan for these species was implemented in 1995-96. This plan was further developed in 1996 (and approved for 1997-99; *Appendix A*). The intent of this plan is to provide the basis for a Scientific Monitoring fishery by enabling a minimum number of Canadian exploratory shark fishing licenses to direct for shark while providing detailed scientific data on stock abundance and distribution. This information will be used to determine whether or not a commercial shark fishery is sustainable after 1999, and, if so, under what conditions.

In 1998, 44 exploratory shark fishing licenses were authorized to land porbeagle and/or blue shark, with all other sharks, including shortfin mako regulated to a bycatch (**Table 3**). The management plan has put a freeze on any new exploratory shark fishing license authorizations. In fact, there were 11 less exploratory shark fishing licenses in 1998 than in 1996 as the Atlantic Large Pelagics Advisory Committee agreed that licenses not fishing would lapse. Total reported landings in 1998 were 1008 MT of porbeagle, 5 MT of blue shark and 70 MT of shortfin mako (**Table 1**). In addition, there were 735 recreational shark licenses restricted to hook and release only (**Table 3**).

2. RESEARCH AND STATISTICS

The Canadian Atlantic statistical systems provide real time monitoring of catch and effort for all fishing trips. In 1994, an industry-funded Dockside Monitoring Program (DMP) was established in Atlantic Canada, according to Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) standards, for the swordfish longline fleet and the majority of bluefin landings. Since 1996, this system has applied to all fleets (including sharks), and included monitoring of all trips even when no fish were caught. At the completion of each fishing trip, log record data must be submitted by each fisherman to a monitoring company that inputs the data into a central computer system. Log records contain information on catch, effort, environmental conditions (e.g., water temperature) and bycatch. Log records from trips with catch must be received from fishermen before they can proceed with their next fishing trip (log records from zero catch trips can be mailed in at a later time). Ideally, this ensures 100% coverage of properly completed log records and individual fish weights. Prior to the implementation of the Dockside Monitoring Program, even though the submission of logbooks was compulsory, less than 50% of trips were represented by useable log records and information on individual sizes of fish (see Table 4 for swordfish). The effectiveness of this system was thoroughly reviewed in 1998, and appropriate changes implemented, as necessary. Problems such as bycatch and high grading are assessed through Observer Programs and at-sea surveillance on the domestic fleet. License holders that fail to comply with the domestic regulations and conditions of license are liable to prosecution that may include fines, and suspension of license privileges.

2.1 Bluefin tuna research

The 1998 scientific research program at the Biological Station St. Andrews was as follows:

1) Updated and corrected standardized CPUE analyses for the Gulf of St. Lawrence fisheries (1981-97). This included a correction of historical bluefin catch rates (1981-95), and an inclusion of all fleets sectors and gears in the Gulf. Updated standardized CPUE for Hell Hole/Bay of Fundy fishery (1988-97) that included an expanded data set.

2) Initiated a collaborative (Canada/USA/Science/Industry) high-tech satellite tagging project: completed training, established industry cooperation, and tagged five bluefin with point location pop-up satellite tags.

3) Conducted a thorough review of the commercial data collection system to ensure complete submission of log records in a timely fashion.

4) Dockside Monitoring for all bluefin tuna landed in Canada, and data entry by Regional Statistics offices. Since 1996, there has been monitoring and data entry for all trips even when no fish were landed. In 1998, biologists provided training to the monitors, and to fisheries officers.

5) Collected bluefin blood and tissue samples for a NMFS (USA) research project on bluefin sexual maturity and genetics.

2.2 Swordfish research

The 1998 scientific research program at the Biological Station St. Andrews was as follows:

1) Updated age-specific CPUE for Canadian swordfish longline (1988-1997), and new sex-specific CPUE.

2) Preparation of Canadian swordfish sex-ratio at size data.

3) Conducted a thorough review of the commercial data collection system to ensure complete submission of log records in a timely fashion.

4) Dockside monitoring in place for all longline swordfish landed in Canada and data entry conducted by regional Statistical offices. In 1998, there was dockside monitoring for all swordfish landings including harpoon, and the system improved the monitoring of late season catches while vessels were still at sea in order to closely monitor the quota.

5) Provided estimates of dead swordfish and bluefin discards based on Observer coverage of the domestic large pelagic longline fleet.

6) Completion of the juvenile swordfish cooperative tagging study with the Nova Scotia Swordfishermen's Association. Since 1993, 357 swordfish were tagged with seven recaptures to date (SCRS/99/78).

2.3 Other tunas

Biological sampling of other tunas (albacore, bigeye, yellowfin) has been conducted on the Canadian offshore and Japanese fisheries within the 200-mile fisheries zone. Sampling of the domestic fleet consisted of submission of tally sheets and logs, and 9% Observer coverage. Nominal CPUE for bigeye, yellowfin and albacore has generally shown a moderate increase from 1994 to 1997 (SCRS/98/44).

2.4 Sharks

A modest research program on sharks was initiated at the Bedford Institute of Oceanography (Dartmouth) in 1994, and the research effort was intensified in 1998 as follows:

1) Almost all of the active participants in the 1998 exploratory commercial fishery for porbeagles participated in an arrangement with DFO Science to tag young porbeagles and collect detailed catch, sex and length composition information. At the end of 1998, this arrangement was formalized and enhanced in the form of a Joint Project and Agreement (JPA) when the fishing industry committed funds to DFO Science and supported an on-board scientific presence to accelerate porbeagle research. This JPA remained in effect throughout 1999.

2) Detailed catch-effort and size composition information from past years are currently being analyzed and will be integrated with the data resulting from the JPA to form the basis for a complete stock assessment of porbeagles in the fall of 1999.

3) To take full advantage of the industry-supported research program on porbeagles, a scientific collaboration with the Apex Predator Group of the National Marine Fisheries Service was initiated. The collaboration covers all aspects of porbeagle life history and population dynamics, including age and growth, maturity and reproduction, migration patterns, diet and temperature preferences. Both DFO and NMFS are contributing resources to this collaboration.

4) The only directed fishery for blue sharks is recreational. Therefore, catch-effort, sex and size composition data were collected from all shark derbies in eastern Canada in 1998. Logbook records were also obtained from recreational shark fishers.

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF ICCAT CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES

For bluefin, swordfish, sharks, and the other tunas (bigeye, yellowfin, and albacore) Canada has issued multi-year management plans prior to the opening of the respective fishing seasons. Details of management measures and their enforcement are provided in *Appendix A*. These plans are compiled in consultation with the fishing industry and incorporate all relevant ICCAT regulatory recommendations. They are implemented under the *Fisheries Act of Canada*. The necessary ICCAT regulatory recommendations are either specified in the *Atlantic Fishery Regulations* (1985) (made pursuant to the *Fisheries Act*) or are handled as written Conditions of License, both of which are legally binding on fishermen. The ICCAT Reporting Table for the Compliance Committee is **Table 5**.

3.1 Bluefin tuna

Canada has implemented the ICCAT regulatory recommendations that apply to bluefin tuna in the Canadian Atlantic Bluefin Management Plan (*Appendix A*). The 1998 quota was set at 600.7 MT(573 MTof allocation plus 27.7 MTof carry-over; see 1.1 above), and no person shall have in their possession any bluefin weighing less than 30 kg. In addition, Canada has limited entry into the fishery; and restrictions on the amount and type of gear used, vessel replacement, management fishing areas, and license transfer requirements.

Since 1995, Canada has had a computerized system to record the implementation of the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program. Prior to the ICCAT program, Canada already had a system of uniquely numbered tags to be attached to all bluefin tuna landed in Canada.

Canada has implemented a time/area closure for the area west of the 65°-30'W line to reduce the bycatch of bluefin tuna and small swordfish. In previous years there had been discards and mortalities of bluefin tuna in this area and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans applied a cautionary approach and invoked a Closure Criteria and a Contingency Protocol for the Atlantic Swordfish Fishery in this area.

3.2 Swordfish

Canada has implemented the ICCAT regulatory recommendations that apply to swordfish in the Canadian Atlantic Swordfish Management Plan (*Appendix A*). The 1998 quota was set to 1140.5 MT (1,100 allocation plus 40.5 MT of carry-over), and there is a prohibition on the taking and landing of swordfish less than 119 cm LJFL (no tolerance). In 1998, increased enforcement surveillance was successfully applied throughout the fishery to reduce landings of fish <119 cm LJFL to as close to zero as possible (0.4%). In addition to the ICCAT regulatory recommendations, Canada has limited entry into the fishery, strict bycatch provisions, time-area closures to protect small fish and minimize bycatch, and gear restrictions. In an effort to protect large (spawning stock) swordfish, a substantial portion of the Scotian Shelf has been closed for the past three years from early autumn to the end of the season. Since 1995, a relatively large portion of the southwestern part of the Scotian Shelf has been closed to swordfish longline gear for a period of up to two months to protect small swordfish and minimize bycatch of bluefin tuna. During that period, test fisheries were conducted in adherence to stringent test fishery protocols, including use of industry-funded Observers, to determine whether or not the area should be opened and if so, under what conditions. A further 12 swordfish longline trips were observed during the end-of-season swordfish fishery to ensure no quota overruns (overall 9.4% of trips observed). Based on these observed trips, a preliminary tonnage of dead discards of swordfish and bluefin tuna were estimated (see 1.1, 1.2, and SCRS/99/77).

3.3 Other tunas

In 1998-1999, the first Canadian Atlantic Integrated Fishery Management Plan was issued for bigeye, yellowfin and albacore. Fishing effort is restricted by limiting entry into the directed fishery to vessels having a swordfish longline license and to one offshore longline license specifically allowed to direct for these other tunas. There was 9.4% Observer coverage (by trip) on the fleet fishing for other tunas, although the coverage was not well stratified by time and area (see SCRS/99/77). No person shall have in their possession any bigeye or yellowfin weighing less than 3.2 kg.

3.4 Sharks

ICCAT has no regulatory recommendations for sharks. However, Canada has a three-year domestic management plan which includes provisions for a small number of limited entry exploratory longline licenses, regulated total allowable catch, bycatch restrictions, full dockside monitoring of all landings, restrictions on processing of the landed/caught fish (including a prohibition on finning), gear restrictions, time-area closures, industry-funded Observers, and requirements to provide detailed at-sea fishing and biological data (*Appendix A*).

4. INSPECTION SCHEMES AND ACTIVITIES

Canada has a Port Inspection Scheme consistent with the ICCAT Regulatory Recommendation that entered into force on 13 June 1998. Canada uses a comprehensive enforcement protocol that involves a combination of the Dockside Monitoring Program (see section 2), and shore and sea-based patrols of Department of Fisheries and Oceans Fisheries Officers to ensure compliance with domestic regulations (which include ICCAT regulatory recommendations; see section 3). No foreign vessels land tuna in Canadian ports and efforts are concentrated on the Canadian fleet. The Japanese vessels fishing in the Canadian 200-mile fishing zone are required to have 100% Observer coverage while in Canadian waters. As well, their activities are monitored by aerial surveillance and at-sea inspections.

In addition to the Dockside Monitoring Program to ensure complete coverage of the catch and effort of the Canadian fleet (see 2 above), aerial and vessel surveillance are used to monitor the fleets at-sea. Shore-based patrols monitor routine landings, watch for illegal landings and conduct airport and border surveillance. Observer coverage is used periodically to monitor specific important management questions in the commercial fishery. Test fisheries are established to define areas and times to minimize the catch/bycatch of restricted species or undersized targeted species (see section 3.2).

Table 1. Canadian landings (MT round weight) of large pelagic fish species, 1991-98

Species	*Landings*							
	1991	*1992*	*1993*	*1994*	*1995*	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*
Swordfish	1026.5	1546.5	2233.7	1675.7	1609.2	739.1	1089.5	1,115.1
Bluefin tuna	481.7	443.5	458.6	391.6	576.1	598.0	504.5	596.0
Albacore tuna	5.7	1.0	8.7	32.2	11.5	23.9	30.8	23.2
Bigeye tuna	27.1	67.5	124.1	110.5	148.6	144.0	165.7	119.6
Yellowfin tuna	28.0	25.5	71.5	52.3	174.4	154.5	100.1	56.6
Unspecified tuna	2.0	3.2	9.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Blue shark	32.0	101.1	20.8	133.0	123.0	11.8	10.9	4.5
Shortfin mako	346.0*	119.0	152.2	157.2	107.0	67.4	110.1	69.5
Porbeagle	61.4	741.0	919.0	1549.0	1305.0	1015.4	1339.4	1007.8
Unspecified sharks	0.0	49.0	22.7	107.1	38.4	12.7	42.5	37.3
White marlin		0.0	0.0	2.0	2.0	0.0	8.3	7.9

*Mackerel sharks

Table 2. Canadian bluefin tuna landings (MT round weight) by fishing area, 1991-1998

Bluefin fishing area (west to east)	*Landings*							
	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Bay of Fundy		0	0	34	43	32	55	36
Hell Hole	302	289	223	165	211	147	101	152
St. Margaret's Bay	0	1	29	80	72	90	59	68
Halifax	0	0	0	0	0	60	84	106
NE Nova Scotia	14	29	45	39	61	41	69	82
Gulf of St. Lawrence	43	61	111	61	175	111	101	115
Newfoundland	105	56	26	5	10	95	30	21
Offshore	13	8	25	0	4	22	6	16
Year-end adjustment*	5	-	-	7	-	-	-	-
Total landings								
Canadian quota	**481.7**	**443.5**	**458.6**	**391.6**	**576.1**	**598.0**	**504.5**	**596.0**
	573.0	*573.0*	*587.5*	*510.0*	*654.0*	*613.5*	*552.6*	*600.7*

* e.g., seized, Bermuda fishery.

Table 3. Distribution of tuna, swordfish and shark fishing licenses by region and species[1] in 1998

Region	*Number of licenses*							
	Bluefin		*Swordfish*		*Other tunas*[4]		*Sharks*[1]	
	Total	*Active*	*Total*	*Active*	*Total*	*Active*	*Explor.*	*Rec.*
Gulf	599	348	0	0	0	0	19	15
Newfoundland	54[3]	10	8	0	8	0	0	8
Scotia-Fundy	42	42	69	49	69	49	23	712
St. Margaret's Bay[2]	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Laurentian	54	15	0	0	0	0	2	0
Total	753	419	77	49	77	49	44	735

1 Bluefin tuna, swordfish, other tunas, and sharks (exploratory longline licenses) are regulated by limited entry. Recreational shark licenses are restricted to hook and release only.
2 Four fish trap license holders with 6 bluefin trapnet licenses each.
3 38 of these licenses are subject to a reduced level of fishing activity and restricted to NAFO Divisions 3LNO.
4 Restricted to tunas other than bluefin (albacore, bigeye, yellowfin).

Note: Active fishermen are those that picked up their licenses, license conditions and tags, and submitted log records.

Table 4. Summary of 1988-98 swordfish vessels landing fish, landings (MT round weight) and average weight of fish (kg round) by gear, percentage of small fish*, and percentage of catch sampled for size

	1988	*1989*	*1990*	*1991*	*1992*	*1993*	*1994*	*1995*	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*
Number of vessels landing fish											
Longline	39	52	50	53	46	75	74	77	77	60	49
Harpoon	+	+	+	61	72	72	32	97	112	105	109
Landings (MT)											
Longline	887	1097	819	953	1486	2206	1654	1421	646	1000	875
Harpoon	24	146	92	73	60	28	22	188	93	89	240
Total	911	1243	911	1026	1546	2234	1676	1609	739	1089	1115
Average weight (kg)	50	52	61	61	57	56	63	68	69	70	61
Longline (# sampled)	(1315)	(3902)	(10280)	(8111)	(5904)	(19469)	(26279)	(20247)	(9077)	(14438)	(13447)
	–	129	138	78	67	129	120	122	161	131	126
Harpoon (# sampled)	(0)	(637)	(164)	(146)	(136)	(151)	(83)	(1131)	(561)	(652)	(1911)
% small fish landed (by #)*	16	16	11	11	16	15	11	9	3	5	3
<125 cm	8	11	5	8	7	9	6	4	<1	2	<1
<119 cm	7	23	71	49	23	50	99	94	97	100	95
% of catch sampled											

* Minimum size under regulation in bold: <25 kg round weight or <125 cm LJFL with 15% tolerance (by number) from 1991- 1995, and <119 cm LJFL with no tolerance since 1996.
+ undetermined number, but <100.

Table 5. ICCAT reporting table – Canada 1998

Panel 1

Species/Region	*1998 Catch Limit (MT)*	*1998 Landings (MT)*	*Estimated landings over/under catch limit (MT)*	*Estimated landings over 15% tolerance of fish below 3.2 kg*
Bigeye	none	119.6	n/a	none
Yellowfin	none	56.6	n/a	none
Skipjack	n/a	0	n/a	n/a

Panel 2

Species/Region	*1998 Catch Limit (MT)*	*1998 Landings (MT)*	*Estimated landings over/under catch limit (MT)*	*Catch of Age 0*	*Estimated landings over 15% tolerance of fish below 6.4 kg (by number)*	*Estimated landings over 8% tolerance of fish below 30 kg or 115 cm (by weight)*
Western BFT	600.7*	596.0	0	0	0	0
Eastern BFT	n/a	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
N. Albacore	none	23.2	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

* 552.6 allocated quota, plus 48.1 MT carry-over from 1997.

Panel 4

Species/Region	*1998 Catch Limit (MT)*	*1998 Landings (MT)*	*Estimated landings over/under catch limit (MT)*	*Estimated SWO landings < 119 cm; OR landings > 15% tolerance of fish < 125 cm (by number)*
N. Atlantic SWO	1140.5**	1115.1	0	**< 119 cm: 0.4%***; > 15% tolerance < 125 cm: 0
S. Atlantic SWO	n/a	0	n/a	n/a
Atl. White Marlin	none	7.9	0	n/a
Atl. Blue Marlin	none	0	n/a	n/a

** 1100 MT allocated quota, plus 40.5 MT carry-over from 1997.

*** In 1998, increased enforcement surveillance was successfully applied throughout the fishery to reduce landings of fish <119 cm LJFL to as close to zero as possible (0.4%). Canada also has a time-area closure to protect small fish. See section 3.2.

NOTE: In 1998, ICCAT Regulatory Recommendations applied to landings, not catches, and the table headings have been changed to reflect this. Information on Canadian dead discards can be found in sections 1.1, 1.2, and SCRS/99/77.

NATIONAL REPORT OF CAPE VERDE*

1. Introduction

Tunas are cosmopolitan, migratory, pelagic, species and are one of the most important fishery resources in the world. Tunas are very important to Cape Verde, not only because of the number of fishermen involved in tuna fishing activities, but also because these species constitute a source of foreign currency income for the country.

The Cape Verde Islands are located in an area considered as a spawning area for tropical tunas and the most recent estimate of their potential catch was 25,000 MT (Hallier, 1996), even though Cape Verde's catch is currently well below this potential (3,000 MT in 1998).

Artisanal and industrial fishing in Cape Verde waters is carried out by national and foreign fleets (baitboats, purse seiners and longliners). The national artisanal fishery shows a stable trend, whereas the national industrial and semi-industrial fishery is somewhat irregular, showing a declining trend, and proportional to the effort exerted.

Currently, it can be noted that even though the semi-industrial fleet increased by 20 vessels (measuring 11 m) and there was an improvement in the access to the resource, the catches did not increase as expected, but instead they decreased proportionally from 1997 to 1998. This is a matter of great concern.

2. The fishing fleet

a) Artisanal fishery

Up to now, Cape Verde fishing has been essentially artisanal. With 5,724 fishermen and 1,400 boats, of which only 966 are motorized, fishing effort in 1998 was 148,158 trips.

This fleet is comprised of boats measuring 4-7 m and the fishing gears used traditionally are hook and line, rod and reel and purse seine (**Table 1**).

b) Industrial and semi-industrial fishery

There were an average of 53 industrial and semi-industrial boats in operation in 1997, 1998 and 1999, most of which are polyvalent and fish tuna during the fishing season. These vessels have more autonomy and utilize hand lines, rod and reel, baitboat and purse seines (**Table 1**).

c) Foreign vessels licenses to fish

These are mainly surface longliners which pertain to the European Community and to Japan. A total of 78 licenses were issued for fishing in general (**Table 2**).

There is no on-board observer program, and since the landings are not effected at national ports, it is difficult to conduct an analysis of the data collected by the vessels.

* Original report in Spanish.

3. Status of tuna research in Cape Verde

The estimate of the fishing potential of tunas presents some difficulties since these are migratory oceanic resources which are seasonally present in Cape Verde waters. Thus such an estimation depends on the assessments of the stocks at the regional level in the Atlantic. The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic tunas (ICCAT), an international organization in which all the coastal countries of the Atlantic that have a common interest in tuna fishing are members, promotes the assessment of the stocks and develops recommendations to the governments aimed at guaranteeing the sustainable exploitation of the resource.

Since Cape Verde is an country in which tuna fishing is a very important activity, it contributes, with its fishery information, to the updating of the stock assessments at the ICCAT level.

In accordance with our research program, Cape Verde is continuing with the size sampling of tunas and tuna-like fish and entering these data in a data base.

Biological sampling of wahoo and yellowfin are included in Cape Verde's research program, due to their importance to studies on these species, but it has been difficult to conduct such sampling.

Table 1. Cape Verde catches (in MT) by the national fleet

Year	*Yellowfin tuna*	*Bigeye tuna*	*Skipjack tuna*	*At. Black skipjack*	*Frigate tuna*	*Wahoo*	*Others*	**Total**
				Industrial fishery				
1996	271	0	579	11	24	70		955
1997	422	4	517	24	15	86		1,067
1998	273	1	609	33	137	9		1,152
1999								1477*
				Artisanal fishery				
1996	1,318	13	161	63	7	481		2,043
1997	1,299	6	75	63	7	517	245	2,212
1998	1,145	0	74	79	54	330		1,681
				Industrial + Artisanal fisheries				
1996	1,589	13	770	74	31	551		2,998
1997	1,721	10	592	86	22	603	245	3,279
1998	1,418	1	683	112	191	429		2,835

* Provisional data up to September.

Table 2. Reported catches (in Kg) by the foreign fleet

Vessels	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999 (Jan-Jun*
		European Union		
Surface longline	342	775	1,002	
Baitboat	26			
Purse seine	0			
		Japan		
Surface longline		367	72	94

NATIONAL REPORT OF CHINA*

1. Fisheries information

A present, longlining is the only fishing method deployed by China for tuna and tuna-like species in the Atlantic Ocean. In 1998, the number of tuna longliners with Chinese flag reached 16 vessels. Of these, seven longliners are between 501 and 1000 GRT and the remainder are between 201 and 500 GRT. Fourteen (14) vessels target bigeye tuna.

In 1998, the total catches of tunas and tuna-like species by the Chinese tuna longline fleet amounted to 2312.5 MT (including sharks), which was 1,695.5 MT more than in 1997. The increase is explained by the addition of 12 longliners with Chinese flag. Bigeye tuna, yellowfin tuna and swordfish are the main target species, which comprised 57.5%, 26.7% and 12.0% of the total catches, respectively. **Table 1** shows the Chinese catches of tunas and tuna-like fishes, 1993-1998. **Table 2** shows the area breakdown of Task I catches by the Chinese longline fishery in 1998.

2. Research and statistics

Since China became a Contracting Party to ICCAT in 1996, many measures have been taken in order to comply with its relevant obligations and responsibilities. Supported by the Bureau of Fisheries, the Ministry of Agriculture and the China Distant Water Fisheries Association, a non-governmental organization, a "Tuna Fishery Scientific Research and Working Group" has been established at Shanghai Fisheries University. The main objectives of the Working Group are to conduct tuna research and tuna fisheries management. In March, the Working Group successfully organized a two-day training session aimed at improving accuracy in data collection and statistics. All the tuna fishing companies considered this matter carefully and thought that such a session was warranted. The participants at the session included managers of all the fishing companies involved in the oceanic tuna fishery. The content of the training course included discussions on the following: the Law of the Sea concerning highly migratory species, the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, oceanic species identification, completion of catch data forms, biological information on tunas, sampling methods, tuna size sampling, etc. In order to accurately identify species, a set of color photographs of over 30 oceanic species was prepared and distributed to each participant. By the end of the training session, all the participants were familiar with the data requirements to complete the forms required by the various regional and sub-regional tuna organizations and were able to fulfil the task required. In accordance with the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, China, as a Contracting Party to ICCAT, will continue to support the Commission's work and abide by its management regulations.

* Original report in English.

Table 1. Summary of Chinese catches of tunas and tuna-like fishes (in MT), 1993 to 1998

Species	*1993*	*1994*	*1995*	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*
Bluefin tuna	--	84	118	80	42	73.5
Yellowfin tuna	123	138	177	110	74	618.0
Bigeye tuna	62	379	421	460	378	1,330.0
Swordfish	55	65	79	100	30	277.0
Albacore	--	14	8	20	--	--
Skipjack	--	--	--	--	--	4.0
Sharks	--	--	--	--	2	5.0
Spearfish	--	--	--	--	--	2.0
White marlin	--	--	--	--	--	3.0
Others	41	68	76	80	90	--
TOTAL	**281**	**748**	**879**	**850**	**616**	**2,312.5**

Table 2. Area breakdown of Task I catches (in MT) by the Chinese longline fishery, 1998

Species	*Northwest*	*Northeast*	*Southwest*	*Southeast*	***TOTAL***
Bluefin tuna	--	73.5	--	--	**73.5**
Yellowfin tuna	505.0	60.0	50.0	3.0	**618.0**
Bigeye tuna	620.0	120.0	130.0	460.0	**1,330.0**
Swordfish	228.0	25.0	20.0	4.0	**277.0**
Skipjack tuna	--	--	--	4.0	**4.0**
Sharks	5.0	--	--	--	**5.0**
Spearfish	--	--	--	2.0	**2.0**
White marlin	--	--	--	3.0	**3.0**
TOTAL					**2,312.5**

NATIONAL REPORT OF CÔTE D'IVOIRE*

by

Centre de Recherches Océanologiques **

1. Introduction

The *"Centre de Recherches Océanologiques"* (CRO) is a national research center that depends on the Ministry of Secondary Education and Research. The CRO is in charge of high seas and lagoon marine research in Côte d'Ivoire. It is, therefore, responsible for Atlantic tuna research. This report explains the activities of the Center as concerns fishing statistics of large pelagic species in 1998. Its research work is divided into two main activities: industrial tuna fishing which the CRO carried out in cooperation with the IRD (ex-ORSTOM), and artisanal maritime fishing for large pelagics, which is its objective. This report provides information on the activities of the French tuna fishing vessels and NEI purse seines (which fish in the Gulf of Guinea) up to 1998, from raw data collected at the fishing port of Abidjan, and an estimate of the catches of large pelagics (tunas, billfishes, and sharks) taken by the maritime artisanal fishery by pelagic driftnets off the Côte d'Ivoire coasts. Information on the industrial tuna fleet is provided in the section on catches made in the national EEZ, as compared to the total catches in the central eastern Atlantic, from 1985 to 1997.

2. Monitoring of tuna landings at the fishing port of Abidjan

Tuna landings at the port of Abidjan are made mainly by French and Spanish purse seiners (about 20 per country) and by some vessels with Guinea and Vanuatu flags. The landings of the French and NEI vessels are monitored daily by Ivorian technicians, whereas a Spanish technician monitors the Spanish vessels. The French and NEI data are processed and published by French scientists, and the Spanish data are processed by Spanish scientists. This report contains the raw data as they were collected at the port of Abidjan **(Table 1)**. The total landings of the vessels, with the exception of the Spanish vessels, amounted to 78,929 MT in 1996, 50,334 MT in 1997, and 46,122 MT in 1998. There were also reported catches of "false fish" (i.e. fish rejected by the canneries because they are too small, too salty or are too damaged for canning), which amounted 10,899 MT, 9,221 MT, and 9,168 MT, respectively,.

Comsumption of these "false fish" hase been increasing in Côte d'Ivoire since 1990, with the introduction of objects fishing **(Figure 1)**.

Another important observation which should be noted, from data obtained in the last three years, refers to the effect of the moratorium, which can be observed in the monthly landings. **Figure 2** shows that contrary to that which occurred in other years represented by 1996, there has been a decline in landings at the end of 1997 and 1998, when the moratoria were in effect. This proves that these measures has been well monitored and that the recommended reduction in fishing effort on juveniles has been effective.

Tuna catches in the Côte d'Ivoire EEZ during the period of 1985 and 1997 by foreign vessels (Côte d'Ivoire does not have tuna vessels to fish in its waters) rose to an annual average of 10,000 MT, with a record catch of 25,000 MT in 1987 **(Figure 3)**.

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* Original report in French.

** B.P V-18 Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire), Tel: (225) 35 5014 / 35 5880; Fax: (225) 35 1155; Email: ngoran@cro.ird.ci.

3. Artisanal catches of large pelagic species by Côte d'Ivoire

In addition to the industrial catches, which are all taken by foreign vessels, there is an artisanal fishery that catches tunas and other large pelagics on Côte d'Ivoire's continental shelf. This is a fishery carried out by canoes using driftnets. The number of such vessels and the amount of their catches, in quantitative and qualitative terms, have an important economic effect and provide the population with a significant source of animal protein. In addition, after several years, the artisanal canoe fishery is now routinely monitored. In 1997, there were an estimated 100 canoes actively fishing, and in 1998 there were 90 such boats in operation. In the last two years, and as been customary, the months from December to February constitute the period of the least canoe fishing activity. During this period, the majority of the fishers, who are foreign (Ghanian) return to their country. It is also noted that during this period, an average of only 25 canoes are active. The total catches, by species, estimated for these two years (1997 and 1998) are shown in **Table 2.** The catches are comprised of billfishes, sharks, tunas, sailfish and swordfish.

4. Conclusions and perspectives

About 150,000 MT of tunas are landed or transshipped annually at the fishing port of Abidjan. These catches supply the three important canneries in Abidjan which sustain an important source of employment and provide impressive economic activity. The regular monitoring of the statistics of these landings by CRO contributes to the improvement of ICCAT's knowledge on the Atlantic tuna fisheries. The breakdown of the data from surveys carried out on the artisanal driftnet fishery has shown the importance of this fishery, not only in terms of landings, but also for their species diversity. The CRO hopes to increase monitoring of the industrial fishery, to improve the statistics on the artisanal driftnet catches and to carry out, inasmuch as possible, biological studies on the other major large pelagics (sailfish, billfishes, sharks and swordfish) which comprise the catches of this fishery.

Table 1. Landings of tunas (in MT) at the fishing port of Abidjan, by French and NEI vessels, and landings of "false fish"

Year	*Total tunas*	*"False fish"*
1996	78,929	10,899
1997	50,334	9,221
1998	46,122	9

Table 2. Total estimated catches (in MT) of the major groups of fish landed by canoes in 1997 and 1998 at the fishing port of Abidjan

Groups	*Species*	*Commercial name*	*1997*	*1998*
Sailfish	*Istiophorus albicans*	Sailfish	56.8	54.7
Billfishes	*Makaira nigricans*	Blue marlin	220.4	109.2
	Tetrapturus albidus	White marlin	15.5	9.2
Swordfish	*Xiphias gladius*	Swordfish	16.1	13.1
Sharks	*Carcharhinus falciformis*	Silky shark	0.7	0.1
	Sphyrna zygaena	Smooth hammerhead	47.6	18.9
	Sphyrna lewini	Scalloped hammerhead	15.6	6.2
	Isurus spp.	Mako shark	30.6	7.5
		Various sharks	14.3	4.7
Small tunas	*Thunnus albacares*	Yellowfin tuna		
	Katsuwonus pelamis	Skipjack tuna	113.5	108.1
	Euthynnus alletteratus	Atlantic black skipjack		
	Auxis Thazard	Frigate tuna		
Large tunas	*Thunnus albacares*	Yellowfin tuna	2.1	0.0
TOTAL			**533.3**	**331.7**

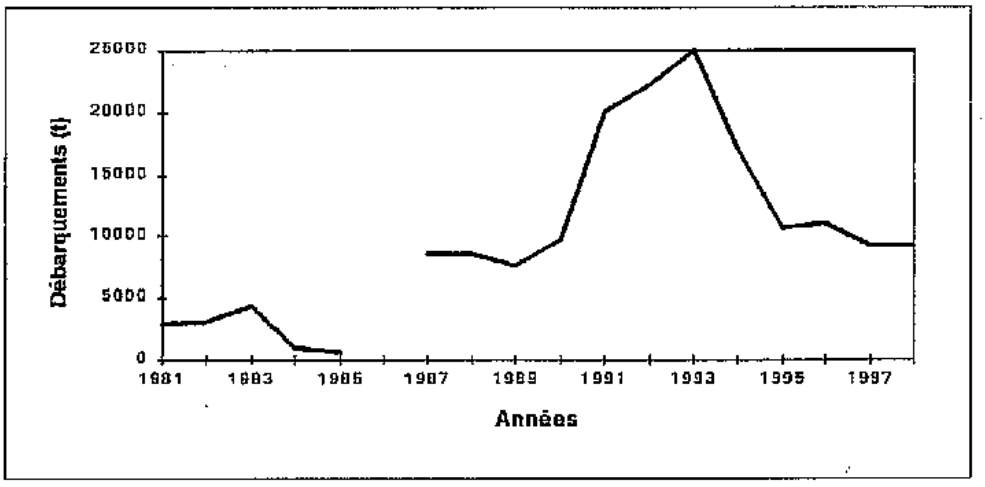

Fig. 1. Total landings of "false fish" at the fishing port of Abidjan, 1981 to 1998.

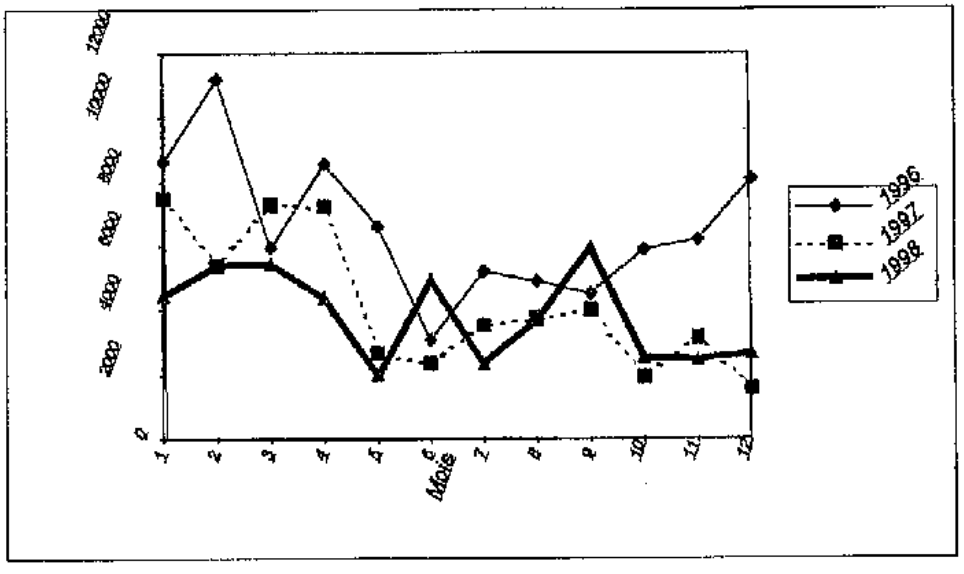

Fig. 2. Monthly variations in total catches landed at the fshing port of Abidjan, by all fishing types combined, 1996, 1997 and 1998.

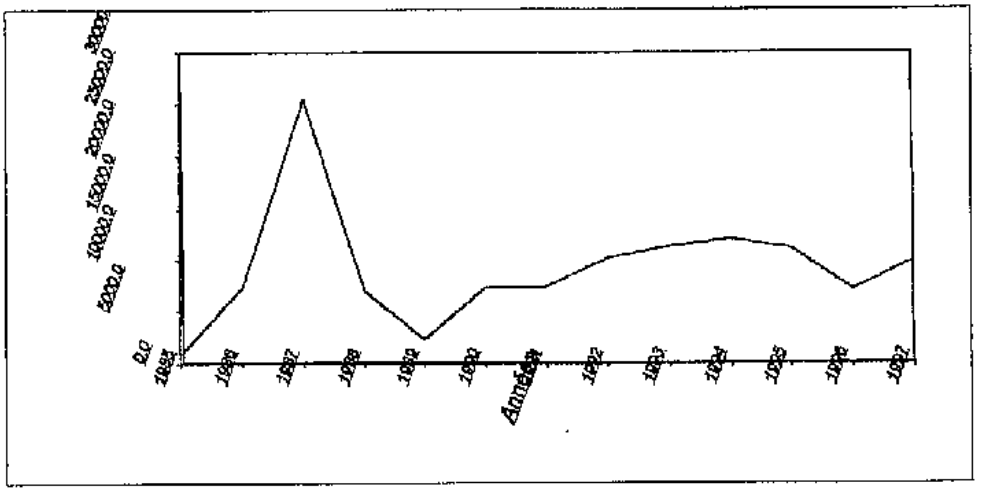

Fig. 3. Tuna catches in the Côte d'Ivoire EEZ from 1985 to 1997.

NATIONAL REPORT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY*

1. The fisheries

The various fleets of the European Community fish all the major species that are regulated by ICCAT in the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea. The total catches of tunas and tuna-like species by these fleets in 1998 was somewhat more than 218,000 MT, i.e. 3% less than in 1997. The declining trend in total Community catches, that started in 1991, continued in 1998.

The Community catches of the major tuna species in 1998 are shown in **Table 1**. The National Reports of the various Member States of the Community present details and technical information on the different fisheries, by species and by fishing gear.

2. Research

All the Member States of the Community have national research institutes or regional laboratories which, in some cases, are supervised by the major universities of the country.

As regards the tropical tuna fisheries, the Member States work in close collaboration with the research institutes of third countries, in which the fleets of these States land all or part of their catches.

In 1998, scientists of the European Community and its Member States participated regularly in the scientific meetings organized by ICCAT. The Community financed all or part of the research programs on large migratory fish, implemented jointly with the Member States directly involved. The major research carried out in 1998 within the framework of these European programs was as follows:

a) Bluefin tuna (ICCAT Bluefin Year Program-BYP)

- Biology of reproduction
- Time-area dynamics
- Spawner abundance indices in the Mediterranean
- Sexual maturity, through hormonal and histological analysis
- Tagging

b) Swordfish

- Analysis on the structure of the Atlantic and Mediterranean stocks by nuclear DNA (FAIR Program)
- Observers on-board longliners (catches of juveniles, analysis of by-catches and discards)

c) Tropical tunas

- Improvement of fishing data by time-area strata and by fishing method
- Observers on-board purse seiners (analysis of bigeye catches - BETYP Program)
- Review of the current data bases, within the framework of a future European laboratory for tuna research (ORDET Program)
- Study of fishing power of tropical purse seiners (ESTHER Program)

d) Other tunas

- Biological parameters and the impact of purse seine directed at clupeids on the catches of small tunas.

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* Original report in French.

In addition to the Community programs, some Member States finance research programs jointly with other Member States or with third countries, as follows:

a) Bluefin tuna

- Relationship between biological parameters and the recruitment area of juveniles.
- Analysis of trap abundance indices (ICCAT BYP Program)

The European Community pointed out that the implementation of the bluefin tuna conservation measures adopted by ICCAT in 1998 has caused a problem of understanding and acceptance on the part of its fishermen, which has resulted in minor collaboration in certain fisheries sectors with the biological research programs developed by the countries.

b) Albacore

Atlantic:
- Structure of the sizes analyzed by sampling of the landings.
- Relationships between biological parameters and yield of the surface fisheries.
- Observation of water temperatures by tele-detection.

Mediterranean:
- Analysis of a possible genetic homogeneity of the stock.

c) Swordfish

- Analysis of the criteria of ICCAT Task II data and sexing of the fish.
- Tagging cruises

d) Tropical tunas

- Analysis of the associations between schools and tuna baitboats
- Study of environmental factors in the Gulf of Guinea
- Analysis of the causes for the increase in bigeye catches by purse seiners
- On-board scientific observers
- Bigeye tagging cruises

3. Statistics

In 1998, the European Community as well as its Member States continued close collaboration with the SCRS.

The Community now has obligatory regulations in place for its Member States, applicable to all the fleets that catch large migratory fish in their various areas of activity. These regulations are aligned to the ICCAT recommendations.

The purpose of the EC regulations, included in the national legislation of its Member States, is to respond to the ICCAT Task I and II requirements. The instruments used (logbooks, landing declarations, etc.) and the possibility of cross-checking of data, should result in improved, faster and more precise monitoring of the catch data.

On the other hand, Member States adopt and apply regulations at the national level which, in some cases, compliment the Community regulation, in order to encompass the special characteristics of national fisheries.

The European Community finances programs aimed at improving fishing statistics, such as: sampling schemes, correction of fishing logbooks, and compilation of landing data on bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean.

The Member States also organize networks for the collection and processing of catch data from the various fleets involved in the fisheries.

4. Implementation of ICCAT conservation and management measures

After each ICCAT annual meeting, the European Community incorporates the conservation measures adopted into its regulations, in order to make them mandatory for the nationals of its Member States in the time frames stipulated by ICCAT.

In addition, the Member States make an effort, on the national level, to comply with ICCAT's requirements, in terms of reduction of catches as well as the analysis of biological criteria of the catches.

The progressive reduction in the reported catches of the major species of large migratory species, carried out in 1998 by the Community in general and in particular by its Member States more involved in fishing, adjusts to the ICCAT requirements and, occasionally, goes beyond the criteria established.

5. Complementary management and conservation measures

The European Community and its Member States put into effect a program of structural adaptation, in order to limit fishing capacity and fishing effort of the fleets, based on the state of the target resource. For bluefin tuna, this adaptation requires that all the Members States involved reduced their capacity by 20% by 2002.

All the Member States involved have incorporated the Community conservation and management measures in their respective national legislation, which are also aligned with the ICCAT recommendations.

Further to these obligatory regulations, the pertinent Member States adopt, for some species, more stringent regulations that those imposed by the Community or by ICCAT. Such regulations, adapted to the national context, are aimed at rational management and more close monitoring of the fisheries, including the commercialization of the catches. According to the States and the fisheries, the following instruments are required: annual fishing plans, permits issued prior to the start of the activities of the vessels, vessel registries, mandatory annual specific license, limit on the number of licenses, withdrawal of licenses for infractions, detailed fishing logs, scientific observers on board vessels, communication of entries and exits from the ports and the fishing zones, regular declaration of transshipments and landings, limits on by-catches, fishing quota per vessel, halt in fishing once the quota has been reached.

Currently, some Member States are studying the future application of new measures aimed at monitoring fishing activities of large migratory species and the protection of the resources. These measures should considerably reinforce the monitoring of the movement of the fish, from their capture to their commercialization.

The European Community has also created specific programs for some species and gears:

- Driftnets used to catch albacore: a 60% decrease, starting in 1998, in the number of vessels authorized to use this gear, in relation to the average number of vessels that have utilized these in the 1995-1997 period; a limit on the length of the driftnets to 2.5 km, per vessel; a prohibition of this gear starting from January 1, 2002; and mandatory Community fishing logbooks.

- Scientific observers on-board longliners (juvenile catches).

- Monthly reporting of bluefin tuna catches.

- Closure of the purse seine fishery on floating objects in the Gulf of Guinea. This limit, initiated in November, 1997, by Community boat owners for a four-month period, has been expanded with Community coverage in November, 1998.

The European Community, on the other hand, has reinforced its monitoring regime in three priority areas: improvement of monitoring after landing, control of vessels of third parties that fish in Community waters, and cooperation among the Member States and the European Commission.

6. Inspection schemes

6.1 Port inspection

On-land controls by the Member States are generally conducted at the landing port or at the time of sale when this is done by auction. Controls can also be carried out during transport or at the central markets. These controls concern, in essence, the quantities landed, sizes, ages and weight of the fish, and observance of the closed fishing seasons. In some cases, there are controls during the commercialization process in order to cross-check the data. In cases of infractions, fines are imposed.

Some Member States have created an information network among the different landing ports, in order to better supervise the movements of the vessels.

During the course of the landings of tropical tunas by Community vessels in Africa, staff employed at the scientific institutes conduct periodic controls.

These same controls at port are also carried out on transshipped catches, including from foreign vessels, of ICCAT Contracting and non-Contracting Parties.

6.2 At-sea inspection

In addition to port inspections, the Member States have the maritime and aerial means to monitor fishing activities and the compliance of the Community vessels with the technical and administrative requirements imposed in each fishery. Aerial and maritime cruises are organized regularly or timely, particularly during the fishing seasons. If warranted, judicial sanctions can be imposed.

This device is not an impediment to the extreme difficulty of a practical nature faced by the administrators of some Member States to effectively monitor a number (often a large number) of landing points in their respective territories.

7. Inspection activities

The aerial and maritime inspections carried out by each Member State on Community vessels or third Party vessels, as well as the results, are shown in the National Reports.

In the same way, the European Community has an Inspection Unit comprised of 25 fishery inspectors, whose function is to supervise the inspection and monitoring activities carried out by the national services of the Member States.

In 1999, there were 17 inspection missions carried out, which represents 40% of the total inspections carried out for the surveillance of the tuna fisheries, particularly those for bluefin tuna and albacore, in the Mediterranean and northeastern Atlantic, respectively. A total of 229 inspection days were carried out, with 163 days at sea in national patrol vessels in Community and adjacent waters.

The major objectives of these missions were:

- Verify compliance with Community regulations relative to pelagic driftnet fishing in the Mediterranean and the northeastern Atlantic.
- Monitor the measures taken by the Member States to assure compliance with Community technical measures in effect in the Mediterranean and especially those that are derived from ICCAT recommendations.
- Assessment of the regulations implemented by the Member States to regulate the access to the fisheries, in particular, the bluefin tuna and albacore fisheries, and subsequent evaluation of the fleets involved.
- Verify the implementation of Community regulations concerning the reporting of catches and landings of bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean.

- Evaluate the schemes implemented by each Member State with respect to the monthly reporting of the catches of bluefin tuna to the Commission.

- Evaluate the monitoring schemes implemented by the Member States and their entry into force.

- Analysis of commercialization course of bluefin tuna.

8. Other activities

Technological trials are carried out with the financial support of the European Community with a view towards the reconversion of the pelagic driftnet fleets. The use of this fishing gear will be definitively prohibited in the Community starting on January 1, 2002.

9. EC implementation of a satellite monitoring system

a) Basic provisions

In December, 1996, the European Union reached a political agreement to introduce, in two phases, a scheme to monitor the activities of the fishing vessels on a satellite-based vessel monitoring system (VMS).

In the first phase, initiated on June 30, 1998, all vessels larger than 24 m between perpendiculars, in the following two vessel categories, are required to install the VMS system:

- Vessels that operate on the high seas, except in the Mediterranean Sea.
- Vessels that catch fish for their transformation into meat and oil

In the second phase, starting from January 1, 2000, all vessels larger than 24 m in length will be included in the system.

In 1998, the scope of VMS was extended. In fact, starting in 2000, third Party fishing vessels that operate in the Community fishing area are also required to be equipped with a VMS position monitoring system.

The Member States are obliged to establish and operate Fisheries Monitoring Centers, equipped with the appropriate staff and resources to enable the Member States to monitor their flag vessels, as well as applicable vessels flying the flags of other Member States, and third Parties that operate in waters under the sovereignity or jurisdiction of the said Member State.

A Community financial contribution is foreseen for both the Monitoring Centers established by the competent authorities and the satellite tracking equipment (blue boxes) installed on board the fishing vessels.

The European Commission organizes periodic meetings of the Group of Experts in Fisheries Monitoring with the pertinent national civil servants of the Member States, to facilitate and harmonize the simultaneous implementation of VMS in the European Union.

The calendar to introduce VMS was part of the compromise that led to the political agreement on VMS. It is expected that the Member States comply with the deadline dates established for the implementation and entry into in force of the regulations relative to VMS.

b) Current status

The Commission regularly organizes meetings of the Expert Group on Fisheries Control with the national officials in charge in the Member States in order to facilitate the harmonized and simultaneous implementation of VMS in the European Union.

c) Expectations for enforcement

The timetable for the introduction of VMS was part of the compromise leading to the political agreement on VMS. Member States are expected to meet the deadlines for the implementation and to enforce VMS regulations.

Firthermore, in July, 1999, Member States encountering significant dealys were recalled, recommending them to step up efforts to ensure that the timetable prescribed in Community regulations is observed. Infringement procedures are foreseen against Member States whose monitoring centers won't be effective in due time.

Table 1. Estimated EC catches of tuna species in 1998 (in MT). The SCRS 1997 figures are in ( ).

Species	*1998*	*1997*
Bluefin tuna	18,200	(28,000)
Albacore	25,100	(27,400)
Swordfish	24,100	(23,200)
Yellowfin tuna	62,800	(54,700)
Skipjack tuna	58,100	(59,900)
Bigeye tuna	19,200	(23,700)

NATIONAL REPORT OF EC-GREECE, 1998*

by

Directorate General of Fisheries

1. General information

Fishing activities concerning large pelagics in Greece were carried out in 1998 in the Aegian, Ionion and Levantine Seas. Landing of fish products is made at a large number of fishing ports, due to the complicated geomorphologic profile of the Greek coasts (widely dispersed islands and extensive coasts, continental and insular).

For the first time, in 1998, vessels involved in the bluefin tuna and the fisheries for tuna-like species were issued special permits that were based on provisions of Ministerial Decision No. 249837/98, in accordance with EC Regulations No. 1626/94 (EC), 1075/96 (EC), and national legislation.

The category, number and characteristics of the fishing fleet that targeted bluefin tuna and tuna-like species (swordfish, albacore, etc.) are shown in **Table 1**.

The overall length of the majority of these vessels was between 8-15 m, with hand line and longline as the fishing gear. There were no special permits for purse seiners during this period. Practically the entire production of bluefin tuna was exported to Japan.

2. Statistics

The total catches of bluefin tuna in 1998 amounted 286 MT round weight (246.2 MT dressed weight), which represents a decrease of 76%, as compared to 1997 (1,217 MT). The total catch of swordfish for the same period was 1,650 MT.

The decrease in bluefin tuna catches was due to restrictions imposed by Council Regulation 65/EC/98, which established a TAC of bluefin tuna for each Member State of the European Community for 1998. Due to the low TAC that was allocated to Greece, the Greek fishing fleet was seriously affected and severe opposition by fishermen has been observed.

The Directorate of Fisheries Extensions of the Ministry of Agriculture is in charge of the collection of fishery statistical data for bluefin tuna and tuna-like species.

The preliminary 1998 catch estimates (Task I) for tuna-like species were reported to the ICCAT Secretariat (the compilation of these data is in progress and will be completed soon). The data included in Task I statistics are presented in **Table 2**.

3. Implementation of ICCAT conservation and management measures

3.1 Catch quotas management system

EC Regulation No. 65/EC/98 established the TAC of bluefin tuna for each Member State of the EC for 1998. Based on the obligations of this Regulation, Greece issued Ministerial Decision No. 249837/98. In accordance with the aforementioned Decision, fishing for bluefin tuna, swordfish and albacore can only be conducted by vessels which have a special permit. That permit is canceled after verification that the assigned TAC has been reached. The owners of these vessels are required to report their landings of bluefin tuna and tuna-like species to the port authorities, including information on the landing port.

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* Original report in English.

4. Research

Since 1998, the University of Athens (Department of Zoology-Marine Biology) has participated in several joint research projects concerning studies on the biology, fishery and population dynamics of swordfish and bluefin. The Institute of Marine Biology of Crete coordinates research projects on statistical data, and data on fishing effort and size composition of the catches for bluefin tuna and swordfish.

The financing of these projects is supported by the European Community and the national budget.

Table 1. Category, number, & characteristics of Greek fishing vessels targeting bluefin and tuna-like species (swordfish, albacore, etc.)

Category	*Number of vessels*	*Capacity (GRT)*	*Power (KW)*
Small-scale fishery	277	3,319	19,807

Table 2. Greek catches, by species (in MT), 1998

Fishing area	*Gear*	*Bluefin tuna*	*Swordfish*
Eastern Mediterranean	Longline	3	1,650
	Purse seine	4	
	Hand line	279	

NATIONAL REPORT OF EC-IRELAND, 1998*

by

Michael Keatinge**

1. National fisheries information

1.1 Background

The summer driftnet fishery for albacore tuna has assumed considerable importance for Ireland since 1990, with up to 30 vessels taking part in the fishery annually at its peak. In 1998 and 1999, participation was restricted to 18 vessels.

Recently there has been considerable controversy about the use of driftnets arising from the alleged by-catch of cetaceans, resulting in the total ban of driftnets by the end of the year 2001, according to amendment 54/98 to EC Council Regulation No. 894/97. In order to offset the unfavorable social and economic repercussions of this ban, Ireland initiated commercial trials in 1998 to establish new techniques such as pair pelagic trawling and mechanized trolling. IFREMER in France carried out technical trials using pair pelagic trawls in 1987 (George, 1987) and consequently this method became established as a legitimate tuna fishing technique for the French tuna fleet. Ireland had previously (Daly, McCormick and Molloy, 1994) conducted trials with pelagic trawls and made a preliminary assessment of the potential of this technique for Irish tuna fishermen.

1.2 The 1998 Irish tuna fishery

During 1998, nine vessels participated in exploratory fishing trials for tuna: 4 pairs employed pelagic trawls, 3 vessels trolling gear, and a single longline vessel. These were in addition to the 18 vessels participating in the driftnet fishery. Catches were taken mainly in an area bounded by latitudes 46°-50°N and longitudes 11°-15°W and in an area bounded by 46°-47°N and 5°-6°W. The fishery took place between late July and early October. The total catch in 1998 amounted to 3,744 MT of albacore. In addition, these vessels caught, as by-catch, 20 MT of bluefin and 26 MT of swordfish. Details of Irish landings of albacore for the period 1990-1998 are shown in **Table 1** and **Figure 1**.

2. Scientific monitoring program in 1998

A scientific monitoring program was conducted during the 1998 fishery. This included on-board observers on all vessels taking part in experimental fishing trials and comprehensive sampling of landings from the driftnet fishery. The results of this program have been reported to ICCAT. Results from the sampling program indicate that typical landings from both the driftnet and paired pelagic trawl fisheries are in the size range of 50-90 cm, with a median size of 64 cm (see **Figure 2**). These results indicate that both these fisheries predominantly target juvenile albacore in the age range 1 to 3 years old. While the percentage of one year-old fish appears to be greater in the catch of the paired pelagic trawl fleet, the total catch from the driftnet fishery was substantially higher and consequently the majoring of albacore taken by Irish fishing vessels in 1998 were 2 years old.

3. Fleet activities in 1999

During 1999, twenty (20) vessels participated in exploratory fishing trials for tuna: 8 pairs employed pelagic trawls, 3 vessels trolling gear, and a single long line vessel. These were in addition to the 18 vessels participating in the driftnet

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* Original report in English.

** BIM, Irish Seafisheries Board, Dun Laoghaire, Ireland.

fishery. Catches were taken mainly in an area bounded by latitudes 46°-50°N and longitudes 11°-15°W and in an area bounded by 44°-48°N and 2°-3°W. The fishery took place between early August and early October.

An observer program was again in place for the 1999 tuna fishing season and all vessels engaged in exploratory fishing trials were required to carry an observer on every trip. In addition a comprehensive sampling program targeting landings from the drift net fishery was conducted during 1999.

4. References

George J.P., 1987. Essais de pêche du germon au chalut-boeuf pélagique. IFREMER report No. DIT/87.05.IPCM.

Daly J., McCormick R. and Molloy J., 1994. A Report on the 1994 Experimental Fishery for Tuna and the Commercial Gill-net Fishery in the Bay of Biscay. Unpublished report.

Table 1. Irish catches (in MT) of albacore 1990-1998

1990	*1991*	*1992*	*1993*	*1994*	*1995*	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*
0	1	451	1,946	2,534	918	874	1,913	3,744

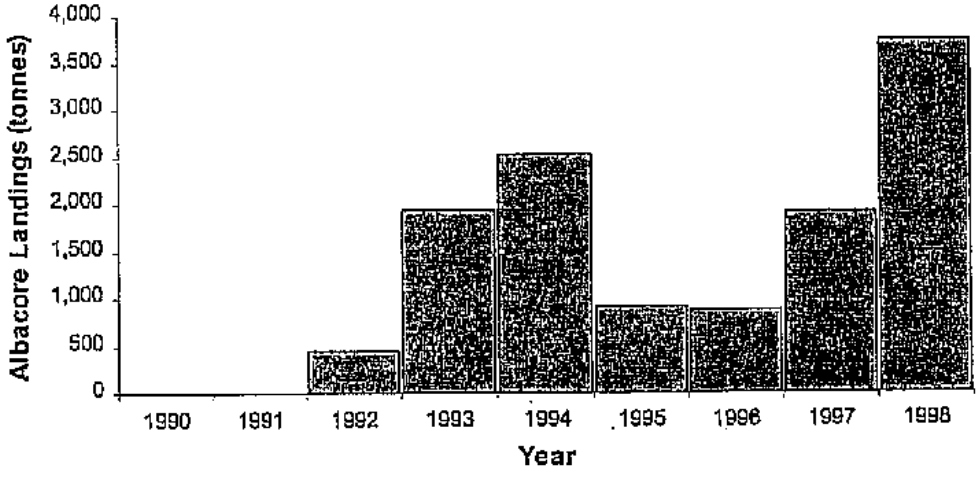
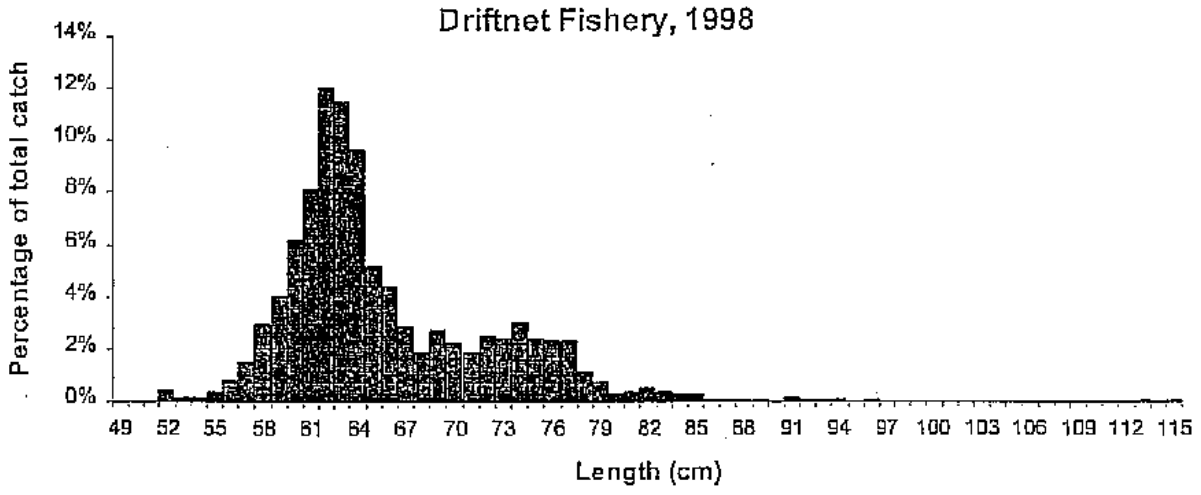


Figure 1 Irish Albacore catches in the period 1990 – 1998.



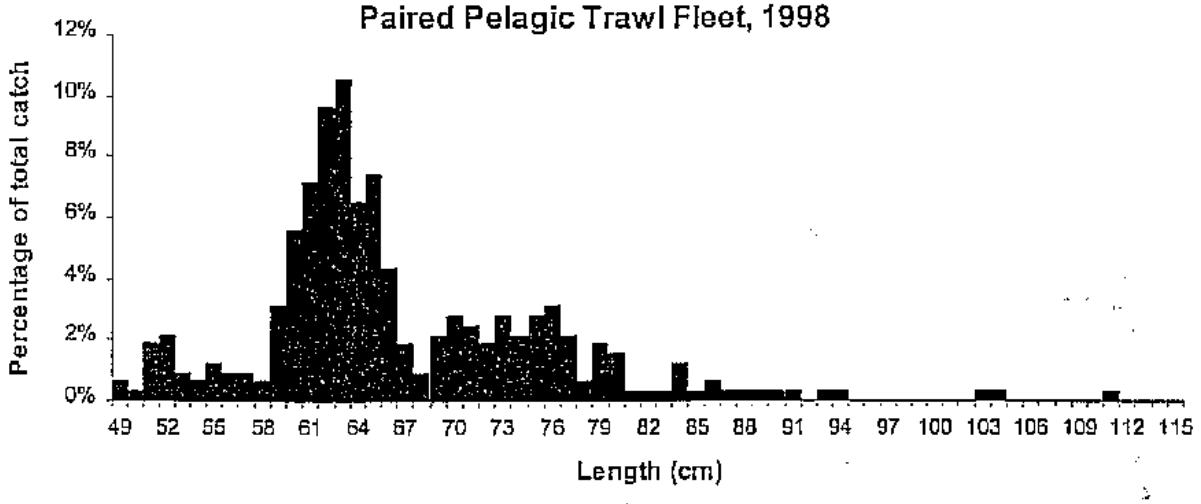


Figure 2 Length frequency distribution of Irish landings of albacore, 1998 from the drift-net and paired pelagic trawl fleets.

NATIONAL REPORT OF EC-ITALY 1998*

I. Introduction

European Union membership in ICCAT in November, 1997, and the posterior adoption of Regulation No. 65/98 which defined the catch limits applicable to bluefin tuna and similar species, posed serious fishery management problems on the fishers and the Italian Administration because of regulations previously in effect. Some of these measures, such as those relative to minimum sizes, were in effect in Italy since the end of 1969.

The new juridical situation, created by the adherence of the European Union to ICCAT, involves a series of commitments for Italy, notably concerning the catch quotas fixed for bluefin tuna for the 1998 fishing season.

The general regime of fisheries management in Italy is not based on the criteria of catch quotas, but on the concept of the monitoring of fishing effort, implemented by the application of traditional measures, such as regulation of the fishing seasons and the technical characteristics of the vessels (tonnage and engine power), on a limit on the number of fishing licenses that are granted only for renewal or replacement of fishing units. The fishing license indicate the gear or gears authorized, but they do not stipulate the target species.

The introduction of additional limits on fishing activities requires the concession of compensatory financial measures in favor of the fishing companies, in order to guarantee employment stability and to assure that income is maintained.

These two requirements have been taken into account, for example, in the "Swordfish Plan" which has an allocation of 240 million lira.

The introduction of quotas on the basis of the EC Regulation 65/98 has caused serious problems for the different Italian fishing sectors. The historical right to fish by means of a fishing license has been questioned, which has angered the sector. It has also compromised in a short time the collaborative relations established over the last few decades, not only among the fishermen and the administration (although the latter is opposed to the quota system, it is required to apply it), but also among the fishers and the scientific research sector (since it is perceived as a instrument of control on the catches)

In other words, since collaboration of the participants in the sector has become practically nil, the data transmitted by the research institutes, both in terms of catches as well as the sizes caught and other biological parameters, are now of doubtful reliability. It should be noted that in 1998 the research staff could only carry out random sampling. There is an added complication due to the existence of fixed traps, which are easily monitored, and the numerous sliding seines, that are not as easy to monitor (purse seine) and some professional vessels (in addition to those specialized in swordfish fishing) that use hooks in the case of bluefin tuna or hand lines or trawls, not counting the important number of non-professional fishers.

Taking all this into account, it should be noted that with a coastline of more than 8000 km, with more than 800 landing points (excluding the unlimited possibilities of transshipment at sea), it is difficult to exercise efficient control on fishing activities without the collaboration of those involved in the sector.

2. Information concerning the national fishery

In Italy, the main species caught are bluefin tuna, swordfish, albacore, Atlantic bonito and frigate tunas. The gears used differ depending on the species, and some of these can be used to catch numerous species.

* Original report in French.

a) Bluefin tuna

In the case of bluefin tuna, the centuries old fishing by fixed traps is still used. The few remaining active traps are located off Sicily and Sardinia, where the total catches reached 200-300 MT, with minimal annual variations. It is not easy to reduce the volume of the trap catches since the traps are anchored on the sea bottom, and also because of the serious repercussions it would have on employment and the economic loses that their discontinuance would cause the companies.

Tuna fishing is also carried out using purse seines by several vessels that are exclusively specialized for this type of fishing or which, in some cases, carry out this activity by alternating with the seasonal fishing of other species.

This fishing activity is carried out in all the Italian seas, from the Ligurian Sea to the Adriatic Sea and can, according to the season, result in the catch of spawners or fish from 10 to 40 kg. The catches are aleatory and vary annually from a few fish to a few hundred kilos of bluefin, depending on the size of the school. The landing of the catches takes places in the ports closest to the fishing area, at the end of the operation of bringing the fish on board, which can vary considerably from one vessel to another and involves some difficulties of identification of the landing points and the corresponding fishing areas.

Another important technique for fishing tuna is the use of longlines that is carried out by more than 200 vessels, that generally measure between 8 and 30 meters. Some vessels are capable of quickly reaching the fishing grounds and they fish every day. Others, on the contrary, move towards the areas where intensive trawl fishing takes place and they only fish the weekend after the closure of the trawl fishery. The catches are quite variable in time and area and it is difficult to enforce monitoring at ports, since the landing procedure is very quick and the fish are destined for transformation or export outside the official market.

Fishing by hand lines is also carried out using hooks and this constitutes a traditional fishing technique in the Strait of Messina, with a limited catch of a few fish per day.

The bluefin tuna sport fishery is conducted by about 1000 vessels using non-professional techniques (rod and reel) and this fishery catches an important number of fish. Besides the fishery directed at bluefin tuna, this species is also taken as by-catch in the swordfish fishery and other fishing activities using hand lines, but when other species are targeted.

According to the relevant statistics that the fishers are required to collect and transmit to the administration, the 1998 catches of bluefin tuna have been broken down are given in **Table 1**.

b) Swordfish, albacore and small tunas

Swordfish fishing, which is currently carried out using hooks and, to lesser degree, by driftnet is conducted in all the Italian seas, except in the northern Adriatic and in other Mediterranean areas. The fishing of Mediterranean swordfish is not subjected to a quota system, but following the introduction of a quota on bluefin tuna and taking into account the reduction and future prohibition of driftnet fishing, it is difficult to obtain reliable data on the catches of this species. Italian catches of swordfish in 1998, in light of the above-mentioned reservations, amounted to almost 10,000 MT (9,799 MT).

Albacore fishing is carried out using driftnets, whose use will be discontinued and during the autumn months albacore are caught by surface longline. The 1998 estimated catch was 3,672 MT.

As regards other small tunas (Atlantic bonito, frigate tunas), these species are abundant in Italian waters, but their commercial importance is negligible. The total estimated catches of these species is between 5,000 and 6,000 MT (5,659 MT).

3. Research and statistics

The statistical data collection system for tunas and tuna-like species is mandated by European Union Regulations (EC Regulations No. 2847/93, No. 686/97, No. 858/94 and No. 65/98). A ministerial decree of January 14, 1999, makes it mandatory for fishers to report tuna catches to the port authorities and to enter the information in a logbook specifically prepared for that purpose.

Through administrative circulars (No. 6221164 of March 3, 1999; No. 6222610 of May 3, 1999; No. 6223035 of May 25, 1999; No. 6223037 of May 25, 1999; and No. 6223038 of May 25, 1999) the Italian Administration called attention of the peripheral services on the need to rigorously respect the deadlines established for the transmission of statistical reports by the fishers to the Italian General Directorate of Fishing and Aquaculture.

The entry into force of regulations adopted by ICCAT relative to the establishment of export documents has been entrusted to the port authorities (Port Captaincy) and/or to the Chambers of Commerce. In spite of the urgent reminders from the General Directorate concerning the rapid transmission of the information required, it has not been possible to comply with this task within the time required due to the other work which has also been requested by other Ministries to carry out various institutional tasks (e.g. the monitoring of clandestine immigrations that occur daily and is becoming an ever more serious problem for the Italian Government, as well as work derived from the recent crisis in the Balkans whose operative implications are still on going).

A ministerial decree to be published soon establishes the breakdown (by vessel and by fishing type) of the catch quota allocated to Italy for 1999. It has not been possible to adopt a similar measure for 1998, since prior verification was needed on the state of the tuna fleet and the fishing vessels involved in the bluefin tuna fishery. It is important to note that the result of this verification cannot be considered as definitive, since there is still an unresolved conflict between the Administration and the participants in the sector concerning the real operational character of the vessels that have licenses to fish using purse seine or with hooks which had previously carried out bluefin tuna fishing.

The statistical reporting scheme currently in force is not satisfactory to the Italian Administration or to the Community, but it is the only system available up to now, following the important decrease in the surveys carried out by the research institutes, which provide a summary of the catch data by areas.

In spite of the continuance of an triennial research project involving 10 research institutes throughout Italy, and within whose framework studies are carried out on size sampling of the landings at some ports as well as biological data, the tension created has considerably limited the possibilities of a rapid collection of information on the locations and time of the landings, which thus hinders the preparation of the reports. There is only some sporadic information available, which is not too representative of the sector, in the case of bluefin tuna and swordfish.

4. Application of the ICCAT conservation and management measures

As indicated on several occasions, the introduction of a quota regime on bluefin tuna fishing has caused considerable difficulties and has reignited the tense climate that was already perceivable within the fishing sector. In a spirit of collaboration with the Commission, the Italian Administration has made further efforts to apply the conservation and management measures adopted by ICCAT.

Thus, on October 31, 1998, a specific study group was created by government decree and a "Rational Plan for Bluefin Tuna Fishing in Italy" was developed. This has already been approved by the central Commission of maritime fishing, but even though it has been prepared by this administration, it still requires the favorable review by the pertinent financial bodies (Inter-ministerial Committee for Economic Planning).

Another problem that has been pointed many times, by ICCAT as well as by FAO, concerns catches of large pelagics below minimum size. To reduce the catches of small swordfish in the Fall, which are taken as by-catches in the albacore surface longline fishery, the Italian Administration is now reviewing, in accordance with the interested professional categories, a proposal to prohibit albacore fishing using hooks during the October to December period, and is initiating this in an experimental area in the southern Adriatic Sea. The application of this measure still requires some time, in view of the problems involved in the reduction in the use of driftnets and possible incidences from this and the simultaneous prohibition of longline in this fishing method. There is, in effect, a real risk that traditional albacore fishing in Italy may come to an end.

5. Inspection schemes and activities

Monitoring of catches reported by the fishing vessels is carried out directly at the landing ports by the maritime authorities (Port Captaincy and the maritime police forces). Monitoring is also carried out on the minimum sizes of the

catches for the different species. Monitoring activities are also extended to all levels of commercialization and includes a delegation of inspectors *In situ*.

As concerns vessels flying flags of other nationalities involved in transshipment operations of bluefin tuna at Italian ports, the above-mentioned authorities conduct verifications in accordance with international laws currently in force.

The results of the aforementioned peripheral activities, coordinated by the General Commander of the Port Authorities, are not yet available. This information is being revised in order to prepare a summary table that will serve as an instrument of information and work to put into effect new strategies of prevention and control relative to the management of the bluefin tuna.

Table 1. Italian catches (in MT) of bluefin tuna *(Thunnus thynnus)*, by gear, in 1998

Fishing gear	*MT*
Hand line	5.269
Rod and reel (RR)	4.279
Longline (LL)	291.720
Hand line sport fishery (SPOR)	4.500
Pelagic trawl (PSFB)	3,334.441
Trap (TRAP)	418.512
TOTAL	**4,058.721**

Note: Requests for detailed information on the measures taken at the national level concerning the ICCAT management recommendations should be directed to the Italian Authorities.

NATIONAL REPORT OF EC-PORTUGAL, 1998*

1. General information of tuna fishing

The Portuguese fleet fishes for tuna and similar species in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean, the North Atlantic, and the South Atlantic.

In 1998, Portugal caught 12,979 MT, using pole and line vessels from the Azores (8,020 MT) and Madeira (3,563 MT). The breakdown of the catches of the major species is as follows: bigeye tuna (6,219 MT), skipjack tuna (4,625 MT), swordfish (1,155 MT), bluefin tuna (390 MT), albacore (201 MT).

The amount of bluefin tuna caught in 1998 in Portuguese waters decreased, with the inshore fleet registered in ports in the Azores and Madeira catching 282 MT. There was also a sharper decline in catches in the Mediterranean than in previous years. Bluefin tuna catches by surface longliners in the Mediterranean amounted to 54 MT. The decline was due to reduced activity by longliners in that area in 1998.

1.1 Bluefin tuna

Bluefin tuna are found along the coast of continental Portugal and off the Azores and Madeira Islands. Portugal catches of this species in the eastern Atlantic and in the Mediterranean. Bluefin are caught in the Mediterranean in the months of March, April and May.

The major component of the catch is taken by the inshore fleet registered in ports in Madeira, mainly in February and May, but also in September and October. Bluefin tuna are normally present off the Azores between April and June, but this varies from one year to another. Although bluefin tuna are caught off the entire coast of continental Portugal, catches off the southern coast using a pound net should be noted.

A substantial part of Portugal's catch of bluefin tuna is intended for export to Japan. There were 137 MT exported under 93 export documents.

1.2 Swordfish

Swordfish are present in Portuguese waters all year round and Portuguese catches of this species are made in the North and South Atlantic.

An ICCAT Recommendation allocated Portugal a catch quota of 825 MT for 1998 in the North Atlantic North of 5°N. However, since the Portuguese fleet had exceeded its quota in 1997 by 55.5 MT, at the 1998 annual meeting of ICCAT, the European Commission undertook to reduce the Portuguese quota by that same amount, thereby resulting in a reduced quota of 769.5 MT.

Catches of swordfish in the North Atlantic North of 5°N amounted to 770 MT, taken by 83 vessels with surface longline licenses to fish for this species, plus by-catches, mainly from small vessels also holding licenses to fish with other gears.

At the national level, the Portuguese quota was fixed by Order No. 397/98 of July 11, 1998. The quota it was broken down by groups of vessels, depending on the port of registry.

* Original report in English.

In the case of the fleet registered in continental ports, a quota per vessel for catches of swordfish North of 5°N was established. Monitoring of catches and landings was undertaken on each vessel and, after fishing had ended, checks were carried out on each vessel when it had exhausted its quota.

Since this measure has proved an effective management tool, it also provides the basis for the establishment next year of a breakdown by quotas by vessel in the case of the fleet registered in the ports of continental Portugal.

In the South Atlantic, South of 5°N, catches by surface longliners, mostly registered in ports of continental Portugal, under conditions permitting fishing activity far distant from the Portuguese coast and supplementing their activity by other catches, totaled 384 MT, as compared to Portugal's quota of 385 MT.

1.3 Bigeye tuna

Bigeye tuna are present in Portuguese waters off Madeira and the Azores through the year, starting in March. This species comprises a large part of Portugal's tuna catches.

1.4 Other tuna

The Portuguese fleet also catches yellowfin tuna, skipjack tuna, and albacore. Yellowfin tuna are normally found off Madeira during the second half of the year and off the Azores in July, August and September. Catches in 1998 totaled 4,599 MT.

2. Implementation of ICCAT management and conservation measures

2.1 Bluefin tuna

Portugal is implementing the ICCAT Recommendations concerning bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea.

2.2 Swordfish

In accordance with the ICCAT Recommendation establishing TACs and quotas by country for 1997-99, Order No. 397/98 of July 11, 1998, divided the quota allocated to Portugal for 1997 among vessels registered in the ports of continental Portugal, Azores and Madeira. That Order also established a series of rules to ensure compliance with that breakdown.

No new licenses for swordfish were issued. No licenses for swordfish fishing were allocated in 1998 to the fleet registered in Madeira, so such catches are only by-catches on other fishing grounds.

3. Inspection and control

Checks on both the amount and the minimum size of catches of swordfish and bluefin tuna are carried out. Infringements detected with regard to fishing for swordfish result in the immediate initiation of procedures to deal with an administrative offense.

Thirty-five (35) such procedures were initiated relative to swordfish fishing, mostly against vessels which, having no license to fish for swordfish, exceeded the by-catch limit of 5% for this species when fishing in other grounds.

No new licenses were issued for swordfish fishing in the Atlantic.

The installation of equipment under the MONICAP program for satellite monitoring (VMS) on the surface longline fleet registered in the ports of continental Portugal is well advanced and it is expected that this program will cover all the vessels by the end of the year.

Installation is also proceeding in the case of the fleet registered in the Azores where 30 vessels with an overall length of more than 24 meters now have "blue boxes" installed and the remainder are being fitted.

Fresh tuna and similar fish must be sold in lots, and quantities unloaded are recorded. There are also checks on minimum sizes and sales are banned after the closure of fishing.

4. Surveys and statistics

Sampling programs are carried out by IPIMAR (Instituto de Investigaçao das Pescas e do Mar - Research Institute for Fish and the Sea), the Department of Oceanography and Fisheries of the University of the Azores, and the Fish Research Laboratory of the Regional Directorate for Fisheries of Madeira.

Catches using pound nets off the southeastern coast of continental Portugal have been monitored since 1995 to check on minimum sizes, with particular attention given to bluefin tuna.

Scientists working for the research departments of the Autonomous Regions also compile statistics on catches, broken down by species (minimum sizes and weight).

It should be noted that Portuguese scientists regularly participate in meetings and working groups organized by ICCAT and the statistics from sampling surveys are routinely sent to the ICCAT Secretariat.

NATIONAL REPORT OF EC-SPAIN, 1998-1999*

1. General information

Spanish catches of tuna and tuna-like species in 1998 amounted to 106,813 MT, broken down as follows: 31,756 MT yellowfin; 7,231 MT bigeye; 35,174 MT skipjack; 13,604 MT albacore; 11,353 MT swordfish; 5,800 MT bluefin tuna; and 1,895 MT of other species.

As in past years, in 1998 considerable effort was made to collect scientific data on these fisheries, aimed at improving compliance with the ICCAT tasks, which represents an essential element to assure good management of the different resources. Proof of this is that in 1998 size sampling was conducted on more than 310,000 fish of the various species (47,916 yellowfin; 50,742 skipjack; 8,825 bigeye: 38,501 albacore; 17,620 bluefin tuna; 136,770 swordfish; and 8,600 other species).

2. The fisheries

2.1 Tropical tunas and Canary Islands tunas

-- The tropical purse seine fishery

Among the tuna fisheries in the eastern inter-tropical Atlantic, the most important is that carried out by large purse seiners of various nationalities, of which the Spanish fleet is one of the major fleets. This fishery is directed at yellowfin and skipjack, with by-catches of other species, such as bigeye and small tunas.

In 1998, both the number of vessels and the vessel carrying capacity declined as compared to 1997.

The catches taken by this fleet amounted to 60,549 MT (61,603 MT in 1997). The breakdown, by species, was as follows: Yellowfin 27,682 MT (23,517 MT in 1997); skipjack 27,577 MT (31,438 MT in 1997); bigeye 4,475 MT (5,985 MT in 1997); and other species 815 MT (344 MT in 1997).

Of particular note is the 34% decrease in catches from the objects fishery, as well as the decline in bigeye and skipjack catches, which is probably due to the time-area closure, which has resulted in a reduction in effort of this fishing method and beneficial effects on the resource, by limiting the catch of juveniles in a very sensitive area and by reducing the overall volume of the catches.

-- The tropical baitboat fishery

This fishery was carried out by seven baitboats that operated from the port of Dakar (Republic of Senegal). The target species are yellowfin, bigeye and skipjack. In recent years, these vessels fish the major part of their catches under tuna “spots” (or “manchas”).

Catches amounted to 4,224 MT for all species combined. The catch breakdown is as follows: yellowfin 251 MT, skipjack 3,084 MT, and bigeye 890 MT.

* Original report in Spanish.

– The Canary Islands fishery

This fishery takes place in Canary Islands waters and off the African coast close to the Islands, and is carried out by vessels using live bait.

Catches by this fishery amounted 10,141 MT, which represents a 24% reduction from 1997 catches. The breakdown by species is as follows: bluefin 39 MT (360 MT in 1997); yellowfin 3,259 MT (5,884 MT in 1997); and other species 55 MT (39 MT in 1997).

2.2 Temperate tunas

– Bluefin tuna

The total catch of bluefin tuna in 1998 was 5,800 MT. Bluefin catches in the Bay of Biscay in 1998 were 2,149 MT (a 22% decline from the 1997 catch of 2,742 MT). Nominal fishing effort in 1998 was similar to that of the previous year.

In the Fall, part of the baitboat fleet from northern Spain shifted to the Gulf of Cadiz area (ICCAT area 58) where 55 MT of bluefin tuna were caught.

Bluefin are also caught in the eastern Atlantic (South Atlantic area of Spain) by trap (4 operative units), whose catches amounted to 1,525 MT, a 40% decrease with respect to the previous year. In the Straight of Gibraltar area, bluefin catches were made by hand line (26 MT), and by baitboat (54 MT) during the August to November period.

The Spanish bluefin fishery in the Mediterranean caught 2,000 MT in 1998, which represents a slight decline of 0.3% as compared to the previous year, and a 30% decrease compared to the average annual catch of the last five years. In the Mediterranean, bluefin are caught by purse seine, surface longline, hand line, trap, baitboat and other surface gears. This is a seasonal fishery that takes place from April to November.

The purse seine fishery remained stable in terms of the number of vessels and fishing effort. Bluefin purse seine catches amounted to 1,573 MT, a 13% decline with respect to the average annual catch of the last five years.

Hand line catches of bluefin tuna amounted to 76 MT, as compared to 69 MT in the previous year. There were 253 MT caught by surface longline, part of which were taken as by-catches of other fisheries. Surface gear catches were 55 MT.

There were two traps in operation in the Mediterranean, which only caught 4.5 MT of bluefin tuna.

– Albacore

The total 1998 catch taken by the Spanish surface fleets in the fisheries of the Cantabrian Sea and adjacent waters of the eastern Atlantic, North of 35ºN were 13,404 MT. In the Cantabrian Sea area, the baitboat fishery caught 7,346 MT, a 22% decrease as compared to 1997 catches. In the same area and also in Atlantic waters, the troll fishery caught 5,834 MT, which also represented a decline (26%) with respect to 1997. Nominal effort in both fisheries was reduced from the 1997 level.

The baitboat and troll fleets carried out their fishing activities during the summer months and in early autumn (June to October). The major component of the catch is comprised of juvenile fish and sub-adults (55-90 cm) from the North stock of the Atlantic. The number of vessels that participated in this fishery remained stable since 1994 with slight annual variations. In 1998, there were 140 baitboats and 507 troll vessels that fished seasonally.

In the autumn months, part of the Cantabrian baitboat fleet shifts to the area southwest of the Iberian Peninsula, in the Atlantic.

This species is also caught in the area around the Canary Islands. Catches corresponding to 1998 amounted to 313 MT, a 70% decrease as compared to 1997.

In addition, during this same period, some trollers and baitboats from Cantabrian ports moved to the western Mediterranean. The 1998 catches by these fleets were 78 MT, which represents a 61% decline from 1997.

– Swordfish

In 1998, swordfish were caught by the Spanish surface longline fleet in the North and South Atlantic and in the Mediterranean Sea. The total catch within the area regulated by ICCAT was 11,353 MT, broken down by area as follows: 4,079 MT from the North Atlantic; 5,831 MT from the South Atlantic; and 1,442 MT from the Mediterranean.

The fishing areas where the Spanish fleet operated in 1998 have not changed significantly in relation to 1997.

– North Atlantic

The traditional fleet of surface longliners that fishes the North stock continued their fishing strategy based on the economic maximization of the activity, without clearly defining the target species. Thus, it has become a bi-specific fishery, which even varies its target species several times during the same trip. This change in strategy has important implications in the calculation and interpretation of standardized CPUE indices.

– South Atlantic

A change in fishing strategy similar to that in the North Atlantic was also detected in the fleet that fishes in the South Atlantic, although this change is more recent and less intense. Although the number of vessels authorized to fish has remained constant relative to 1997, these vessels have been affected by drastic domestic management measures that limit their fishing activities throughout the year.

– Mediterranean

In the Mediterranean, the number of longliners in operation in 1998 remained constant, with the majority of these fishing under seasonal permits. The catches amounted to 1,383 MT, which represents a 15% increase over the previous year (1,179 MT), but also signifies a stabilization of catches at the average annual level of the last five years. This increase in catches has been due to the by-catch of other fisheries. The months from August to November are those with the most activity in the Spanish swordfish fishery in the Mediterranean. In addition, in the Mediterranean there were 59 MT taken as by-catch of other species.

– Small tunas

In the Mediterranean, catches of Atlantic bonito *(Sarda sarda)* by trap and surface gears amounted to 300 M, which shows a 50% decrease with respect to the previous year and a 30% decrease relative to the average annual catch of the last five years. Catches of frigate tuna *(Auxis spp.)* decreased again, from 604 MT to 487 MT.

3. Research and statistics

3.1 Tropical tunas and Canary Islands tunas

Fifteen (15) documents of various types were presented to the 1999 SCRS meeting concerning the various tropical tunas and Canary Islands fisheries.

– The tropical purse seine fishery

The main sources of data on this fishery are the fishing logbooks that are completed by the vessel captains on a daily basis and/or when a set is made. The coverage rate attained in 1998 was 94% of the catches. Sampling of the catches was carried out at the major landing and/or transshipment ports: Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire), Dakar (Republic of Senegal) and La Puebla del Caramiñal (Galicia, Spain).

To monitor the tuna and tuna-like fisheries, Spain has established a Fishery Office in Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire), led by a biological expert in tuna fisheries and population dynamics. He, along with the samplers contracted, and in collaboration with the Canary Islands Laboratory of the Spanish Institute of Oceanography, carries out work that serves as the basis for completion of the ICCAT tasks and the monitoring of the Spanish fleet and, at the same time, information is collected from other fleets.

As regards the size composition of the catches, 2,258 samples were taken during 1998 in which 106,206 tuna were

measured as follows: 43,831 yellowfin, 45,822 skipjack, 8,035 bigeye, and 8,518 fish of other species.

Since 1990, this fishery has undergone a change in the exploitation pattern, which has consisted of the introduction of artificial floating devices. As a result of this change, research in recent years has centered on the monitoring and analysis of the development of this new fishing technique.

In 1997, a joint Spanish-French project was initiated, partially financed by the EU, to study the causes for the increase in bigeye catches by this fleet. Among the different activities to be carried out is the introduction of observers on board the tuna purse seiners. The program of cruises that started in June, 1997, finalized in June, 1999, in which 62 observer trips were carried out, with a total of 2,706 days at sea. During these trips there were 1,884 sets made. The catches reported by the on-board observers, during this period, represented 17% of the total catches of the fleet. During each trip, data were collected on the daily activity of the vessel (searching time, placing of the objects, surrounding activity, etc.), on the duration and characteristics of the sets, and sampling was conducted on the commercial catches, as well as on the discards and accompanying fauna.

In 1999, two new projects financed by the European Union were initiated and these will be carried out by the IRD and the IEO. One project, entitled "ESTHER", will study the development of the fishing power of the Spanish-French tropical purse seine fleet. The other project, "TESS", will review the current tropical tuna data bases and their integration in the future European laboratory on tunas (ORDET).

– The tropical baitboat fishery

The fishing logbooks that are completed by the vessel captains are the source of information on this fishery. The coverage rate is estimated to be close to 100%. A sampler-reporter at the port of Dakar (Senegal) collects information on size distribution of the different species in the catches. For the last two years the most important catches of this fishery have been made under objects ("spots"). Sampling is usually carried out on all the species at the port of Dakar, which is the major landing port.

-- The Canary Islands fishery

There is an information and sampling network in place at the ten major tuna landing points in the Canary Islands. This network is comprised of 10 reporter-samplers at the following ports: La Restinga (Hierro Island); Playa Santiago and Valle Gran Rey (La Gomera Island); Santa Cruz de La Palma and Tazacorte (La Palma Island); Playa de San Juan and Santa Cruse de Tenerife (Tenerife Island); Arguineguin and Mogán (Gran Canary Island); and Arrecife de Lanzarote (Lanzarote Island) For vessels that unload at the port of Algeciras (Peninsula), there is also a reporter-sampler. There is a 100% coverage rate for catch data. The number of samples rose to 136, with 11,396 fish measured (14,541 in 1997), by species, as follows: 4,095 yellowfin, 222 albacore, 790 bigeye, 4,920 skipjack, and 9 bluefin tuna.

In 1998, monitoring of the objects fishery ("spots"), by means of periodic sampling at the port of Arrecife de Lanzarote and implementation of a fishing logbook system, aimed at obtaining precise data on this fishing activity, such as species composition, catches by time intervals, etc. The data collected are now being processed.

In 1999, and within the Bigeye Year Program (BETYP), three bigeye tagging cruises have been carried out in Canarian-African waters. During these cruises a total of 1,139 bigeye, 55 yellowfin, 4 skipjack and 1 bluefin tuna were tagged. The sizes of the bigeye tuna tagged were between 40 and 102 cm. Up to now, there have been 96 tag recoveries.

3.2 Temperate tunas

– Bluefin tuna – Cantabrian Sea

In 1998, sampling of the catches and effort by time-area strata of the purse seine fleet of northern Spain was carried out by sampler-reporters located at five Atlantic and Cantabrian ports where bluefin are unloaded. In addition, monitoring of fishing effort is done using fishing logbooks that are completed by some Cantabrian purse seine vessels during the summer and some Atlantic vessels in the fall.

Stratified biological sampling by commercial category of the landings was carried out on the purse seine fleet in the Bay of Biscay. A total of 3,908 fish were measured (ages 1 to 5), which represents a 3% coverage rate. The coverage rate of fishing effort is 90%.

Sampling of 407 fin ray spines was made to determine the age of the fish caught in the Bay of Biscay fishery, by direct reading of the rings in sections of the fin rays.

In recent years, tagging cruises have resulted in numerous recoveries that show mixing between the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean fisheries. Document SCRS/99/114 presents updated information on the baitboat fishery in the Bay of Biscay in 1998.

-- Bluefin tuna – Spanish South Atlantic area and Mediterranean

Data corresponding to ICCAT Tasks I and II have been collected on bluefin tuna from the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean from the following fisheries: surface longline, trap, purse seine, Japanese longline, hand line, baitboat, troll and other surface gears, by time-area strata. In 1998, the IEO continued the information and sampling network with coverage of the ports of Tarragona, San Carlos, Castellon, Alicante, Cartagena, Aguilas, Motril, and Algeciras in the Mediterranean, and Tarifa, Barbate, Puerto de Santa Maria, and Huelva in the South Atlantic area.

Sampling continued of bluefin tuna caught by the Atlantic traps, hand line, and baitboat in the South Atlantic region. In 1998, there were 9,263 fish of this species sampled, of which 3,697 fish were sexed. In the Mediterranean, data were collected on 4,449 bluefin tuna caught by purse seine, longline and surface gears, of which 1,251 fish were sexed. The observer program on-board longliners continued, and is providing data on bluefin spawning areas, among other information.

The Research Program DG-XIV 97/29, in its second year, is studying the sexual maturity of bluefin tuna by means of hormonal and histological analyses, which also include monitoring of the bluefin tuna fisheries in Community Member States relative to the landings at Spanish ports. The FAIR-97/3975 Project on bluefin tagging using pop-up satellite tags continued its activities during which 32 adult bluefin tuna (150 kg) were tagged in the Barbate, Spain, trap. The DG-XIV-95/10 Project has concluded. The aim of this Project, in which Spain, Italy and Greece participated, was to study the recruitment areas of bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean, as well as basic biological parameters (growth, feeding, migrations, genetics, biometric relationships, and environmental relationships, etc.) and their possible variability in the different areas.

The tuna research project developed by the IEO of Spain and the INRH of Morocco (SCRS/99/93), financed by FAO-COPEMED (a Project financed by Spain in collaboration with FAO for the eastern and western Mediterranean), in the Straight of Gibraltar and Alboran Sea area has made it possible to conduct a joint study on the trap fisheries of these countries (daily data base on catch, effort, environmental factors, etc.). The data collected can then be used to develop an abundance index on bluefin tuna caught by these gears, in accordance with the recommendations made by ICCAT through its Bluefin Year Program (BYP) and with a view towards the assessment that the ICCAT SCRS will conduct in 2000.

– Albacore

The ICCAT recommendations concerning statistics, which refer to the processing of ICCAT Tasks II data, are prepared from information on the baitboat and troll fisheries that is traditionally collected from the sampling and information network established at 13 major ports where fish are sold along the Cantabrian coast and the Spanish South Atlantic region. Estimates of the catches and effort by gear, month and ICCAT statistical area are obtained from surveys conducted at these ports and which represent a coverage of 80 to 95% of the total landings.

The size distribution of the catches is obtained by means of sampling (stratified by commercial category, of the landings of the trips made by baitboat and troll vessels at the ports that are monitored. In 1998, sampling was conducted on 8,134 fish from the baitboat fishery (sampling coverage of 0.6%) and 30,501 fish from the troll fishery (sampling coverage of 2.4%). These catches are mainly comprised of albacore ranging in size from 40 to 120 cm.

Relative abundance indices by age (1 to 4 years) were obtained for the Spanish baitboat and troll fleets in the northeastern Atlantic (SCRS/99/115).

Research continued on the effects of environmental changes on the catches of the surface fisheries (baitboat and troll) in the Cantabrian Sea, from data collected by the vessel captains from the Cantabrian fleets and from daily surface temperature graphs obtained by infrared teledetection (Botin Foundation Project).

– Swordfish

A total of 10 documents on swordfish and related species in the Atlantic and Mediterranean were presented at the stock assessment sessions and the species groups which met in 1999. Documents on the description of the fisheries (SCRS/99/75), on standardized CPUE indices in biomass, by age and by age and sex for the North and South Atlantic (SCRS/99/32 and 56); on methodological aspects for the calculation of catch by size and sex (SCRS/99/94), on the possible relationship of recruitment levels with environmental factors (SCRS/99/157), on tag-recapture (SCRS/99/113) and on the feeding of swordfish (SCRS/99/128) were presented. In addition, Spanish scientists participated in the preparation of documents jointly with other countries (SCRS/99/88 and 129).

Documents were also submitted on preliminary scientific estimates of the levels of species considered as by-catches, associated with surface longline fishing activities, during the 1988-1998 period, on tunas (SCRS/99/110) and on billfishes (SCRS/99/112). Preliminary scientific estimates of by-catch species other than tunas and tuna-like species caught in 1997 and 1998 were also presented (SCRS/99/82).

In 1998, the collection of data to meet ICCAT requirements was intensified, by means of sampler-reporters at ports, IEO voluntary fishing logbooks, and by observers on board long distance longliners.

The combination of these sources of information has resulted in the collection of ICCAT Task II data by 5x5 degrees by month and fleet type, as well as the updating of standardized CPUEs for the North Atlantic in biomass units, by age and age-sex, and for the South Atlantic, and the relationship of some of these recruitment indices with environmental factors.

There were 136,427 swordfish sampled in 1998, which represents an overall size sampling coverage of 34% of the total fish caught. This sampling coverage was about 50% for the Atlantic fisheries and 14% for the Mediterranean fisheries. Biological sampling of swordfish continued to obtain size-sex variables by time-area strata. In 1998, some 7,000 swordfish were sexed.

Sampling of swordfish and associated species continued in 1998, as did the encouraging of voluntary sampling of the commercial fleet in the Atlantic. In addition, scientific observers continued random sampling of swordfish and other species such as pelagic sharks and billfishes.

Contacts with the fleet continued and intensified, aimed at a qualitative and quantitative improvement in the recovery of tagged fish. In 1997, about 200 recoveries were made in the Atlantic by longliners. All the tags and their corresponding information were transmitted to the respective tagging laboratories, mainly in the United States, Ireland, and Spain. In recent years, a progressive improvement has been detected in the amount and quality of the tagging information provided by the fleet. Besides, widespread circulation of information has continued to keep the longline fleet well informed on tagging and recovery techniques as well as the use and possible recovery of electronic tags.

The FAIR Project, financed by the European Union, was initiated in 1998, with the participation of scientists from Greece, Italy and Spain, and aimed at supplementing information on the stock structure of swordfish in the Atlantic and Mediterranean using nuclear DNA. This year, a tagging cruise directed at swordfish was carried out, in which other species were also tagged.

As regards Mediterranean swordfish, ICCAT task data corresponding to the surface longline fishery were collected. Observer activities on board longliners in the Mediterranean continued, within the framework of the DG-XIV-97/74 Project, one of whose objectives is to establish measures to avoid the catches of juveniles, as well as to estimate the catch levels of associated species, by-catches, and discards.

– Small tunas

Research continued for the DG XIV 96/93 European Union Project, whose objectives are related to the study of biological parameters (spawning, growth and stock structure) of these species. In addition, the project also studies the impact of purse seine gear directed at clupeids on small tuna species. The project finalized in 1999.

4. Other research activities

4.1 Tropical tunas

The catches of the purse seine fleet that operates in the Atlantic Ocean are monitored by the reporter-samplers located at the different ports and data are submitted to ICCAT under the NEI category. This fleet includes the vessels from various

countries that normally do not provide official statistics to ICCAT. In 1998, eight such vessels were monitored. Likewise, periodic size sampling is conducted to determine the species composition and size distribution of each one of the species caught.

5. Application of the ICCAT conservation and management measures on tunas

4.1 Swordfish

The Spanish Administration has continued, through its legislative efforts, to manage and monitor the fishing activities of its fleets that catch swordfish in the Atlantic. Currently, two closed vessel registries have been created that grant authorization to fish swordfish, through the adoption of Annual Fishing Plans. The vessels on both registries that are authorized to fish within the framework of the respective Fishing Plans are required to submit monthly catch reports, including the entry and exit from the ports and the fishing grounds, and are also required to submit a landing declaration, when catches are landed. These measures allow the Spanish Administration to monitor and control the fisheries and to adopt, when necessary, supplemental management measures.

In 1998, a closed registry was developed for the fleet that operates South of 5ºN, and which was finalized this year. In December, 1998, the Fishing Plan for 1999 was approved through a Resolution from the Director General of Fishery Resources, and which included a breakdown of the quotas by vessel.

Along these same lines, another closed registry is being developed on the fleets that fishes North of 5ºN. On December 10, 1999, the Spanish Administration prohibited swordfish fishing North of the 5ºN in the Atlantic, since the quota allocated to the Spanish fleet was almost reached.

However, it should be pointed out again that Community markets are under pressure from swordfish imports from third countries, and this is closely linked to the management of swordfish. In Spain in 1998, such imports increased by more than 60%, and reached 7,107 MT. Of particular concern is that the major exporting countries include Panama, Belize and Honduras and others which, up to now, are not complying with the ICCAT conservation and management measures. Information is available on the landings monitored at the port of Vigo.

In order to comply with the quota and the ICCAT recommendations on swordfish, the following measures have been taken:

– South Atlantic

A closed registry was prepared on the fleet that operates South of 5ºN. In December, 1998, through a Resolution from the Director General of Fishery Resources, the 1999 Fishing Plan was adopted, which includes the breakdown of the catch quotas by vessel.

– North Atlantic

A Circular from the Director General of Fishery Resources prohibited swordfish by-catches in other fisheries exceeding 10% of the total weight of the species landed, starting on August 1, 1998. On December 10, swordfish fishing North of 5ºN was prohibited in the North Atlantic, since the quota allocated to the Spanish fleet is almost reached.

Similar to the action taken for the South, the Spanish Administration and the sector have worked on the preparation of a Resolution for 1999, including the vessel quotas, with the allocation of the vessel quotas for the area North of 5ºN.

Quota allocated by ICCAT for swordfish in 1998

– North Atlantic

The quota allocated by ICCAT for 1998 amounted to 4,537.5 MT. However, after application on the domestic level of a reduction of 472 MT due to over-fishing by this amount in 1997, the 1998 quota was reduced to 4,065.5 MT.

– South Atlantic

The quota corresponding to 1998 amounted to 5,848 MT, of which 5,831 MT were caught.

The final result of the swordfish fishery shows that catches for the North exceeded the quota by 13.5 MT, whereas the catches for the South were 17 MT below the quota (which consequently will be added to the 1999 quota).

4.2 Bluefin tuna

In the Mediterranean, a slight reduction in catches was noted, as compared to 1997, within the context of the continuous decline in catches during the last five years, and which corresponds to an average annual reduction of 30%.

In the Atlantic Ocean, a decrease of 22% in catches in the Bay of Biscay has been reported, as compared to 1997.

Supplemental measures have been taken in a continuing effort to manage and monitor the fisheries:

A Ministerial Order of April 13, 1998, was enacted concerning the reporting of catches in the Mediterranean Sea during the 1998 fishing season, which includes, among other provisions, a scheme to report landings or transshipments, which is an essential element in monitoring the fisheries. It is expected that the provisions of this Ministerial decree will be extended to the 1999 fishing season and pertinent legislation will be enacted to regulate recreational maritime fishing.

– 1998 Bluefin quotas

In relation to the 5,842 MT quota established for Spain within Council Regulation 65/98 of December 19, 1997, catches amounted to 5,800 MT, for which the quota for 1999 will be increased by 42 MT.

4.3 Northern albacore

In compliance with the recommendation limiting fishing capacity directed at northern albacore, a list was developed of the Spanish vessels that were present in the fishery for this species during the 1993-1995 period (i.e. an average of 751 vessels). None of these vessels used driftnets as their fishing gear. The gears utilized by all the vessels were hook gears.

In order to monitor the limit on fishing capacity in 1999, a list of vessels that could be targeting albacore was prepared. The total number of vessels was 738, which is less than the average of the three-year period (1993-1995).

On the other hand, it should be noted that through a Ministerial Order of February 17, 1998, tuna fishing in the Atlantic Ocean is regulated, and it is mandatory that the owners of the authorized vessels submit monthly reports on the fishing days, by area of effort, as well as catch reports by species and by fishing areas.

4.4 Southern albacore

As regards the recommendation limiting the catch of southern albacore, Spain caught 19.9 MT, which is 110% less than the average catches of this species during the 1992 to 1996 period.

4.5 Tropical tunas

Yellowfin catches in 1998 amounted to 27,682 MT, which represents a 46% decline as compared to 1992 catch levels.

The total bigeye catch was reduced by 25% with respect to 1997. A decrease of 35% was also noted in the catches under objects. Most likely, this circumstance would explain, in part, the 12% decline in skipjack catches.

5. Application of the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program in 1998

5.1 Bluefin tuna imports

In 1998, a total of 40,299 MT of bluefin tuna were imported to and/or entered Spain, broken down as follows: Morocco (9,364 MT), Croatia (30,935 MT).

5.2 Bluefin tuna exports

The total number of Bluefin Tuna Statistical Documents validated by the Spanish Chambers of Commerce in 1998 amounted to 894, and these represent a total volume of bluefin tuna exports from Spain amounting to 3,378.4 MT (net weight). Of this amount, 3,053.1 MT correspond to Spanish catches and the remaining 324.7 MT to French catches and 540 MT to Portuguese catches.

Of the total bluefin product of Spanish origin exported in 1998, a part corresponds to catches made in 1997 and 1,684.1 MT, from a tuna farm, which is supplied by tuna from various flag countries.

6. Inspection scheme and inspection activities

6.1 Introduction

Inspection activities relative to ICCAT, carried out by the Control Authorities of the Kingdom of Spain, are centered in the Atlantic area and in the Mediterranean area, and are carried out throughout the entire year on vessels that catch and/or transport species mandated by ICCAT.

During the spring and summer seasons, concurrent with the fishing seasons for Atlantic bonito *(Thunnus alalunga)* in the northeastern Atlantic, and bluefin tuna *(Thunnus thynnus thynnus)* in the Mediterranean area, the General Secretariat of Maritime Fishing, and through the Under-Secretary General of Fishery Inspection, in cooperation with the Navy (General Fishery Surveillance Plan), human and material resources involved in inspection and surveillance during this period are reinforced.

On the other hand, in 1998, Legal Decree 14/1998 was adopted which establishes the monitoring regime for the protection of fisheries resources, in which the types of infractions are updated, and for the first time, emphasis has been placed on all those activities associated with commercialization within a framework of responsible fishing.

This Decree is an essential instrument which reinforces the inspection activity throughout the chain, from the time the fish are caught up to their commercialization, transport, and storage.

6.2 Resources available

– Man-power

To monitor the fisheries activities relative to the ICCAT scheme, the General Secretariat of Maritime Fishing, through the Under-Secretariat General of Fishing Inspection, has designated 47 inspectors.

– Material (land-based and aerial)

Maritime land-based and aerial resources were utilized. The maritime resources included patrol vessels of the Spanish Navy designated to carry out monitoring activities within the General Fishing Monitoring Plan. The land-based resources included 30 four-wheel drive vehicles that pertain to the General Secretariat of Maritime Fishing of Spain and which are distributed all along the Spanish coast. Three helicopters which also pertain to the Spanish General Secretariat of Maritime Fishing comprise the aerial support.

6.3 Results of inspections

The total number of inspections carried out in the Atlantic was 88 (18 vessels with infractions and 15 vessels sighted). Of these, 84 vessels were inspected at ports (16 infractions), 4 vessels inspected at sea (1 infraction), and there were 15 aerial vessel sightings (1 infraction)

For the Mediterranean, a total 116 vessels were inspected, with 52 infractions and 96 sightings. Of these, 74 vessels were inspected at ports (26 infractions), 42 at-sea inspections (13 infractions), and there were 96 aerial sightings (13 infractions).

6.4 Inspections of third country vessels

Inspections of third country vessels (Contracting Parties as well as non-contracting Parties) were carried out. The activities of nine vessels were monitored (7 Belizean vessels and 2 Honduran vessels). A summary of such inspections is available upon request.

NATIONAL REPORT OF GABON, 1998*

Gabon has a 750 km coastline and its continental platform is 60 km long, with a surface area of approximately 40,600 km^2 from the coast to the isobath of 200 meters. The Exclusive Economic Zone is 213,000 km^2.

The coast of Gabon has a wealth of marine resources, among them tuna species. Tuna fishing in 1998 was comprised mainly of small tunas, yellowfin, skipjack, bigeye, blue marlin, white marlin and sailfish. These species are caught from the point of Cape Lopes to Mayumba. Between June and September, important concentrations of fish form.

1. Description of the fisheries

Tuna fishing is a secondary activity and is carried out by gear that are directed at other species, in the industrial as well as the artisanal fishery. These gears are: trawl, driftnets, trawl nets and hand lines.

a) Trawl: This type of fishing consists of towing a certain number of lines with the vessel in motion, at a speed which permits catching a large amount of sailfish during the season. These lines are usually used by fishermen on board trawl vessels and canoes.

b) Driftnets: This gear is used by the artisanal fishery only to fish coastal pelagic species, and it also catches small tunas.

c) Hand lines: This gear is utilized by the industrial and artisanal fisheries to catch yellowfin, while searching benthic species *(sparidea, serranidae, sciaenidae).*

d) Trawl nets: This gear catches considerable amounts of small tunas (mackerels) in certain seasons.

2. The catches

2.1 The industrial fishery

The statistical scheme is based on the catch reports of the fishing companies that operate in Gabon. The total catch amounts to 429 MT, whose breakdown is shown in **Table 1.**

2.2 The artisanal fishery

The surveys that are carried out concerning statistics are based on sampling by time and area. Three types of statistical surveys are carried out regularly, as follows:

a) Sampling surveys of landings: In this type of survey, the data on landings are collected from selected areas during a period covering a month by gear/canoe.

b) Sampling surveys of fishing effort: This survey is carried out jointly with the landings surveys of the catches and its objective is to obtain information on sampling with respect to the level of activity by each type of gear combination/canoe in the sampling centers. Fishing effort in this case is expressed in the number of trips.

* Original report in French.

c) Vessel/gear survey: This is a census of the vessels and gears according to the gear combination/canoe to determine a raising factor in order to estimate total fishing effort.

The total artisanal fishery catch amounted to 27.6 MT, for which the species breakdown is given in **Table 2.**

2.3 Total catches of the industrial and artisanal fisheries

The total catch amounted to 457.3 MT and the breakdown of the catch is provided in **Table 3.**

3. Analysis of results and recommendations to ICCAT

Table 3 provides a summary of the development of the Gabonese national catches of tunas and billfishes in 1998. There was a reported catch of more than 400 MT in 1996, but in 1998 the catch was practically null. The results of the interviews conducted, together with the Eastern Atlantic Coordinator of the ICCAT Enhanced Research Program for Billfish, of the fishermen on the beaches, do not seem to confirm this trend, at least with respect to 1999, during which there was a reported canoe catch of about 30 individuals. It is, therefore, probable that these figures are not realistic and that the lack of catches in 1998 may be due to statistical problems.

On the other hand, it is difficult to breakdown the catches by species. In fact, in the billfish landings it is observed that catches considered as white marlin are in reality a mixture of billfishes and sailfish.

In view of these analyses, the following recommendations are made:

- Assistance should be given to the Gabonese technicians in charge of the collection of data in order to attain good species identification, particularly for billfishes and sailfish.

- Improvements are needed in the catch reporting system, by species, increasing the number of interviews in the artisanal and industrial fisheries.

No research has been carried out in Gabon on determining the biological parameters of billfishes. No size data have been collected from billfishes landed. The interviewers not have the necessary material to do the work, although it is possible to carry out some of these tasks during the landings. The information obtained from the fishermen indicate that the billfishes caught are always large sized and no juvenile fish are observed in the landings.

There are no reports on catches, whereas the samplers affirm that off the coasts of Gabon mature fish with full gonads are caught.

In order to complete the data on tunas in Gabon, size frequency data could be collected and autopsies on some individuals that are cut up on the beaches could be carried out.

Technicians of Gabon could be trained in sex identification and in recognizing sexual maturity of the fish in accordance with the scale adopted for each species, in which case learning materials would be needed.

The tuna catches obtained by the industrial fisheries within the framework of fishing agreements are not totally available, and besides, they are not regularly monitored.

4. Tagging and tag recovery

At this time there are no billfish tagging activities planned in Gabon. These species are caught by hand line throughout the year and in an irregular fashion and there is no fishery that is specifically directed at billfishes, even though some communities fish these species.

The sport fishery is carried out on a private basis by persons that could conduct tagging experiments. The contacts with these fishermen are irregular, and the national scientists are trying to establish better contacts and to facilitate tagging materials (tags and posters).

Table 1. The industrial fishery in Gabon, 1998 (in MT)

Species	*Catch*
Yellowfin tuna	294.8
Skipjack tuna	59.3
West African Spanish mackerel	75.3
Sailfish	0.3
Total	429.7

Table 2. The artisanal fishery in Gabon, 1998 (in MT)

Species	*Catch*
West African Spanish mackerel	17.9
Atlantic black skipjack	9.7
Total	27.6

Table 3. Total catches (industrial & artisanal fisheries) by Gabon, 1998 (in MT)

Species	*Catch*
Yellowfin tuna	294.8
Skipjack tuna	59.3
West African Spanish mackerel	93.2
Atlantic black skipjack	9.7
Sailfish	0.3
Total	457.3

NATIONAL REPORT OF JAPAN*

by

Fisheries Agency of Japan
and
National Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries

1. Fisheries Information

1.1. Type of fisheries

Longline is the only tuna fishing gear deployed by Japan at present in the Atlantic Ocean. The use of two other fishery types (baitboat and purse seine) in the Atlantic was halted in 1984 and 1992, respectively.

1.2 Trend of fishing effort

There were an estimated 269 Japanese longliners operatingin the Atlantic in 1998 (**Table 1**). This number, which ishigh and similar to the previous year, has exceeded 250 boats since 1995. While the number of boats in operation is similar, fishing days in 1998 (37,500 days) declined slightly (12 %) as compared to 1997. The average fishing days per boat has also declined to 139 days/boat, even though it is still maintained at a relatively high level. This trend appears to indicate that the Atlantic Ocean is still attracting the interests of the fishermen and ship-owners, although some of the fleet reduced their activities in recent years in this ocean due to poor catches and/or to reduce high operating costs. A further reduction in fishing capacity (about 20% in terms of the number of boats), is expected in the near future, starting in 1999, since the Government of Japan decided to reduce its fishing capacity according to the agreement adopted by FAO (October, 1998).

1.3 Statistical coverage

Logbook coverage of the Japanese longline fleet in the Atlantic has been very good (90-95%). The current coverage rate for 1998 preliminary data is estimated to be about 60%. All statistics on catch included in this report are raised so that they represent total statistics.

1.4 Catch trends

The provisional 1998 catch of tunas and tuna-like fishes (excluding sharks) in the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea by the Japanese fishery is estimated to be 38,300 MT (**Table 2**). This is a slight decline (1,700 MT) from 1997 and is a continued decrease from a recent high of nearly 56,000 MT in 1994. It is worth noting that the total amount of fishing effort was similar for 1994 and 1998 while the total catch was only two-thirds that of 1998. This difference is attributable to the decline in bigeye tuna (16,000 MT) and swordfish catches (3,000 MT), as shown in **Table 3**.

Table 3 shows the catch by species for the total Atlantic since 1980. An area breakdown of the catch by species is provided in **Table 4** for the most recent two years (1997 and 1998). In 1998, bigeye tuna, which is the most important species in the catch, accounted for about 60% (22,300 MT) of the total catch of tuna and tuna-like species, a 10% reduction from previous years (70%). In terms of weight, yellowfin tuna, bluefin tuna and swordfish are the major species, in order of importance. In 1998, bigeye catches decreased (4,700 MT, 18%), swordfish (330 MT, 12%) and blue marlin (250 MT, 18%). On the other hand, there were increased catches of yellowfin (1,800 MT, 50%), bluefin tuna (840 MT, 24%) and southern bluefin (680 MT, 220%).

* Original report in English.

The breakdown of the catches by area (North/South or East/West), as shown in **Table 4** indicates an increased catch in the North Atlantic as well as in the West Atlantic (close to the border of the South Atlantic and the East Atlantic; see **Figure 1**, which shows the geographical distribution of fishing effort). This trend has continued since the previous year.

1.5 New developments or shifts in the fishery

Two major changes have been observed in the longline fleet in recent years. One is the introduction of new materials for longline gear, and the other is the further extension of the bluefin fishing area towards the North in the eastern Atlantic Ocean.

The collection of information on the material for the main and branch lines started in 1993. Since there were many kinds of material, it was thought not practical to cover all those materials in the statistics. Thus, only the nylon material (which is the most popular) has been separated from the others. The annual deployment rates by materials (nylon or others) are given in **Table 5** for 1994-1998. It is clear that the use of nylon has increased in popularity yearly up to 1997, and its use has remained the same since then. The current use of nylon gear for both lines was about 75%, while conventional plus other materials declined to 11%.

Figure 1 illustrates the geographical distribution of fishing effort for the Japanese longline fleet. Some fishing effort was exerted in waters off Norway (North of 65°N, 5°W-15°E). The catch distribution of bluefin tuna in 1998 (**Figure 2**) indicates the catch in this area was poor and the major part was caught in waters South of Iceland to South of Newfoundland as well as around Gibraltar and in the Mediterranean Sea. The fishing season is from August to September and from August to early November in waters off Norway and the South of Iceland, respectively. The size of fish in the catch was similar to that in the so-called central area (34°-50°N, 30°-45°W). The average weight was reported at around 100-150 kg (gilled and gutted).

The geographical distribution of longline fishing effort in 1998 (**Figure 1**) shows that considerable fishing effort was exerted in the northeastern Atlantic, the tropical eastern Atlantic, and in waters off South Africa. This tendency well reflects the fishermen's interest in their target species (bigeye, northern bluefin and southern bluefin tunas). The geographical distributions of bigeye tuna and swordfish are shown in **Figures 3** and 4, respectively.

2. Research and statistics

The National Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries (NRIFSF) is in charge of the collection and compilation of Atlantic tuna fishery data necessary for the scientific research carried out on Atlantic tuna and billfish stocks. All the statistical data are routinely reported to the ICCAT Secretariat and the results of scientific research are also presented at the regular meetings and inter-sessional workshops of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS).

2.1 Fishery data

The NRIFSF submitted almost final 1997 catch, catch/effort and partial size frequency data (Task I, II and biological sampling) of the longline fishery to the ICCAT Secretariat. The compilation of the same data for 1998 is in progress as usual. The preliminary 1998 catch estimates are given in this report. The catch-at-size data for bigeye, bluefin and swordfish were updated to the latest year.

In accordance with the Commission's recommendation on the bigeye tuna observer program adopted at the 1997 annual meeting, two observer trips on longline boats were conducted during January-July, 1999. The area of observation was 2°N-15°N, 20°W-36°W. The total number of operations observed was 260. The summary report of the Japanese observer program, such as data collection, size measurements and biological sampling on tunas and other fishes, including sharks, was presented to the 1999 SCRS.

2.2 Tuna biology and stock assessment

Biological and stock assessment studies carried out by the NRIFSF on Atlantic tunas and billfishes continued.

As one of the activities of the Bigeye Year Program, which the Government of Japan is partly financing, Japan will send a high-tech research boat to the Atlantic Ocean possibly during October-January, 2000, to conduct joint research on

Atlantic bigeye tuna. The provisional research plan, which includes a longline operation, an acoustic survey of bigeye tuna and others, was circulated among interested scientists, and finalized during the SCRS after thorough discussion and review of the plan. Samples (such as gonads, otoliths, tissue, etc) collected by on-board observers are being analyzed and will be reported in the near future. Genetic analysis of the stock structure on bigeye, swordfish as well as other species has continued, and some results have already been published or are scheduled to be published soon.

Regarding the Bluefin Year Program, bluefin tagging using archival tags was scheduled to take place in Croatia in October, 1999. About 40 tags will be deployed for fish caught by purse seine and fed for a while in a pen. The size of the fish appears to be 10-15 kg. A research staff person from the Japanese Marine Resources Research Center will spend some time on this project in Croatia, in cooperation with Croatian fishermen.

In 1999, the NRIFSF participated in the following ICCAT related meetings: the Coordination Meeting for the Bigeye Year Program (January 28-29, Madrid), the Meeting on Stock Abundance Indices of South Atlantic Swordfish (April 8-13, Tamandare, Recife, Brazil), the Meeting of the Sub-Committee on By-catch-Review of Abundance Indices of Sharks (May 11-14, Messina, Italy), the Meeting of the Working Group on the Precautionary Approach (May 17-21, Dublin, Ireland), the Skipjack Stock Assessment Session (June 28- July 2, Funchal, Madeira), and the Swordfish Stock Assessment Session (September 23- October 4, Madrid).

3. Implementation of ICCAT conservation and management measures

3.1 Catch quota and management system on a number of bigeye tuna vessels

– Reporting by radio

The Fisheries Agency, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of the Government of Japan (FAJ) rquires all tuna vessels operating in the Atlantic Ocean to submit the following information every ten-day period (early-, middle- and late-period of a month) by radio or facsimile to the FAJ:

i) The position (Longitude and Latitude) of each vessel in order for FAJ to monitor the movement of all vessels operating in the Atlantic Ocean.

ii The catch weight of bluefin tuna, swordfish, blue marlin and white marlin (Ministerial Order of April 2, 1975, and supplemented on December 13, 1991, for swordfish and February 20, 1998, for blue marlin and white marlin)

– Introduction of vessel position and catch data reporting via satellite

The Fisheries Agency of Japan is developing a GPS/Inmarsat-A system which enables it to monitor the operation of each fishing vessel on a real time basis. In the system, vessel-specific data on position and catch are transmitted through a data-terminal, data processing equipment combined with a GPS receiver and personal computer on board the fishing vessel. The data are compiled and analyzed by the FAJ in Japan.

Development of the system was initiated in 1992, and the scheme has been carried out on a trial basis with increased number of the vessels being installed with a data terminal. About 130 Japanese longline vessels fishing for bluefin tuna in the Convention Area have installed the data-terminal. The FAJ is improving the system to conduct real-time monitoring on position and catch data, instead of reporting by facsimile, for all Japanese longline vessels fishing for bluefin tuna, swordfish, blue marlin and white marlin.

– Catch quota management

Catch quota: The FAJ sets a catch quota for western and eastern Atlantic bluefin as well as for northern and southern Atlantic swordfish, blue marlin and white marlin, respectively, by a Ministerial Order, in accordance with the relevant ICCAT recommendations.

Fishing year: The FAJ established the "Fishing Year (August to July)" for the purpose of proper quota management for bluefin tuna, swordfish, blue marlin and white marlin. This means, for example, that the 1997 quotas for these tunas are applied to the 1997 Fishing Year which started in August, 1997, and ended in July, 1998. Because ICCAT

recommendations enter into force about six months after the date of adoption. ICCAT meetings generall take place in November, so recommendations adopted in November of one year enter into effect in May of the following year.), and the FAJ requires a certain period to legislate ICCAT recommendations domestically.

– Nmber of bigeye tuna fishing vessels

The FAJ submitted a list of all the tuna fishing vessels fishing for Atlantic bigeye tuna based on the 1998 *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Registration and Exchange of Information of Bigeye Tuna Fishing Vessels*. The FAJ has started collecting data on the exact number of such vessels actually fishing for bigeye tuna in the Convention Area, by means of a mandatory reporting system via telegram.

3.2 Minimum size limits

In accordance with ICCAT recommendations, the Fisheries Agency of Japan, by means of a Ministerial Order, has prohibited the catch of undersized fish, with the exemption of a certain percentage of tolerance. The prohibition on catching undersized bluefin and yellowfin tunas was established by a Ministerial Order on April 2, 1975, and the FAJ amended this Order several times to cover undersized bigeye, swordfish, etc. The latest amendment of this Ministerial order was in the spring of 1997 to implement the 1996 ICCAT recommendation concerning bluefin tuna weighing less than 1.8 kg.

It is noted that all Japanese pole and line vessels reluctantly ended their operations in the Convention Area to observe the 1972 recommendation which prohibits any taking and landing of yellowfin tuna weighing less than 3.2 kg, because of their high by-catch rate.

3.3 Time and area closure

Since 1975, the FAJ, as a domestic measure, prohibited Japanese longline vessels from operating in the Mediterranean from May 21 to June 30 by Ministerial Order. In 1994, the FAJ amended this Order to change the closed season to the period of June 1 to July 31, in accordance with the 1993 ICCAT recommendation.

In addition, the FAJ prohibited Japanese longline vessels from operating in the Gulf of Mexico.

3.4 Result of the implementation of the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document (BTSD) Program

From January 1 to June 30, 1998, Japan collected 6,136 BTSDs (6,077 for fresh/chilled products and 59 statistical documents for frozen products). Of these 4,657 documents, or 77% of the total, were validated by non-Contracting Parties. By product weight, 1,148 MT of the 4,897 MT (or 23% of the total) were imported from non-Contracting Parties. The converted live weight of tuna products which were imported from non-Contracting Parties is 1,360 MT, which represents a decrease of about 1,217 MT as compared to imports (2,577 MT) during the corresponding period of the previous year. Chinese Taipei is the main exporting non-Contracting Entity, with exports to Japan of 947 MT (live weight). Japan has not imported any bluefin tuna products validated by Belize (since 1996), Honduras (since 1994) and Panama (since 1998).

4. Inspection schemes and activities

4.1 Assignment of patrol vessels

Since 1976, Japan has dispatched patrol vessels to the North Atlantic and the Mediterranean each year for a certain period of time to monitor and inspect Japanese tuna vessels. The Fisheries Agency of Japan dispatched a patrol vessel to the northern Atlantic and the Mediterranean in 1998. This vessel also collected information on activities of non-Contracting Parties. The data collected were reported on the Sighting Information Sheets and submitted to the ICCAT Secretariat in October, 1998, in accordance with the 1994 ICCAT resolution.

4.2 Random inspection of landings at Japanese ports

All Japanese tuna fishing vessels which land their catches at any Japanese port must submit their landing plan in advance. The FAJ randomly inspects landings of those Japanese longline vessels to enforce minimum size limits and catch quotas of bluefin tuna and swordfish.

4.3 Management of transshipments at foreign ports

A permit issued by the FAJ is required for any Japanese tuna vessel to transship tuna or tuna products to reefers at foreign ports. The FAJ monitors the weight by species, time and place of each transshipment and, if necessary, conducts an inspection of landings at Japanese ports when reefers return to Japanese ports.

4.4 FAJ official stationed at Shimizu port

Since 1996, a FAJ official has been stationed at Shimizu fishery port, one of the largest tuna landing ports in Japan, to collect information on the tuna fishery, inspect landings of Japanese longline vessels at Shimizu, etc.

5. Other activities

5.1 Annual catch statistics

Each longline vessel flying the Japanese flag and licensed to engage in tuna fisheries by the Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries is legally required to submit a catch report to the Ministry within 30 days after the end of a cruise or after the vessel has entered a port. Submission of this report is established by a Ministerial Order of January 22, 1963. The above-mentioned catch report includes daily information on the vessel's noon position, the number and weight of the catch by species, quantities of gear used, surface water temperature, etc. Information on the catch report is compiled into the database by the National Research Institute for Far Seas Fisheries.

5.2 Collection of biological data collected on board longline vessels

Information necessary for stock analyses, such as length, weight and sex of fish caught, is collected by fishermen as a voluntary measure.

5.3 Collection of trade data

The Ministry of Finance collects trade data on imported products, such as quantity, value, export country, etc. Japan improved its Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System code (HS code) in 1993, in response to the 1992 ICCAT resolution to collect all the data of various types of bluefin tuna products, e.g. fillet, meat (round, dressed) etc. and the state of products (frozen, fresh or chilled). Japan also improved the HS code in 1997 regarding swordfish to collect more accurate import data on this fish species.

5.4 Limit on effort

The number of longline vessels that can operate in the western Atlantic North of 35°N and the Mediterranean have been limited. Furthermore, the FAJ requires longline vessels operating in the northern part of the eastern Atlantic Ocean to submit an advance notice of their planned operations so that the FAJ can monitor fishing activities for bluefin tuna.

5.5 Restriction on the re-flagging of vessels

No Japanese tuna longline vessel is authorized to operate on the high seas unless a license is issued by the Government of Japan. The license is not given to vessels flying flags of States other than Japan. No Japanese vessel can escape from

the FAJ's control, even when vessels conduct fishing operations in waters far distant from Japan, since a Japanese port is designated as its base of operation and all the products are brought into Japan. (The export and lease of Japanese longline vessels and purse seiners are strictly and closely controlled by the FAJ to avoid their use in operations which may diminish the effectiveness of international conservation measures. The Federation of Japan Tuna Fisheries Co-operative Association resolved that the exporting of Japanese longline vessels be prohibited.)

5.6 Legislation for the enhancement of the conservation and management of tuna stocks

A law was enacted in June, 1996, whose objective is to implement the necessary measures to enhance the conservation and management of tuna stocks and to develop international cooperation for the conservation and management of these stocks. This law establishes that the Government of Japan may restrict the imports of tuna and tuna products from a foreign country that is recognized by the relevant international organization as not rectifying its fishermen's activities and thereby diminishing the effectiveness of the conservation and management measures which have been adopted by the international organization. The objective of this law is to support and strengthen ICCAT activities, to ensure the strength of tuna resource conservation and the stability of tuna supply.

Starting this Fall, the FAJ intends to implement a mandatory reporting system based on this law to shed more light on the activities of flag-of-convenience vessels whose products enter the Japanese market. All importers and persons in charge of transport vessels will be required to report detailed information on the fishing vessels which caught and transported their tuna.

5.7 Prohibition of the import of Atlantic bluefin tuna from Honduras, Belize and Panama

In accordance with the 1996 ICCAT recommendation, Japan prohibited the import of Atlantic bluefin tuna and its products in any form from Honduras and Belize on September 3, 1997, and from Panama on January 1, 1998. Japan also started DNA examination against other species of imported tuna from Honduras, Belize and Panama to prevent false imports of Atlantic bluefin tuna.

5.8 Scientific observers

According to the 1996 ICCAT recommendation concerning bigeye and yellowfin tunas, the FAJ dispatched scientific observers on board eight Japanese longline vessels. The results of these observations were analyzed by the NRIFSF and reported to the 1999 ICCAT meeting.

Table 1. Annual number of Japanese tuna boats that operated in the Atlantic and Mediterranean, 1980-1998

	Longline			*Purse seine*	*Pole-and-line*
Year	*Number of boats*	*Fishing*	*Fishing days*	*Number of boats*	*Number of boats*
1980	300	247	82	-	12
1981	320	297	93	-	10
1982	269	307	114	1	7
1983	182	175	96	1	4
1984	212	252	119	1	2
1985	205	279	136	2	-
1986	190	208	110	2	-
1987	146	172	118	2	-
1988	183	260	142	2	-
1989	239	345	144	1	-
1990	235	359	153	1	-
1991	242	339	140	2	-
1992	248	292	118	2	-
1993	307	399	130	-	-
1994	240	380	158	-	-
1995	252	399	158	-	-
1996	288	471	164	-	-
1997*	263	425	161	-	-
1998**	269	375	139	-	-

*1 Almost final.
*2 Preliminary.

Table 2. Japanese catches (MT) of tuna and tuna-like fishes by type of fisheries, Atlantic & Mediterranean, 1992-98

Year	*Longline home-based*	*Purse seine*	*Pole-and-line*	*Total*
1980	35,437	-	14,068	49,505
1981	37,636	-	16,178	53,814
1982	50,794	2,250	10,620	63,664
1983	25,596	2,733	5,577	33,906
1984	39,096	2,906	565	42,567
1985	48,497	5,226	-	53,723
1986	33,241	5,805	-	39,046
1987	29,300	5,171	-	34,471
1988	47,326	5,887	-	53,213
1989	58,514	4,453	-	62,967
1990	54,930	4,361	-	59,291
1991	46,883	7,516	-	54,399
1992	48,515	2,794	-	51,309
1993	52,917	-	-	52,917
1994	55,930	-	-	55,930
1995	55,161	-	-	55,161
1996	51,439	-	-	51,439
1997*	40,235**	-	-	40,235**
1998***	38,258	-	-	38,258

* Almost final.
** This figure includes 8 MT of bluefin tuna caught and discarded in the west Atlantic by three longline vessels which continued bigeye tuna operations with scientific observers on board after the domestically-imposed bluefin fishing season ended.
*** Preliminary.

Table 3. Catches (MT) of tuna and tuna-like fishes taken by the Japanese longline fishery, 1980-1998

Year	*Bluefin*	*Southern bluefin*	*Albacore*	*Bigeye*	*Yellow-fin*	*Sword-fish*	*Blue marlin* *	*Black marlin*	*White marlin*	*Sailfish* *	*Spear-fish*	*Others*	*Bluefin discards*	*Sub-total*	*Sharks*	*Grand Total (including sharks)*
1980	4,935	2,788	1,369	20,477	2,839	2,108		308	106	55		452		35,437	-	
1981	4,386	2,506	2,298	21,044	4,145	2,233		468	143	94		319		37,636	-	
1982	3,826	1,135	1,350	32,867	6,062	3,728		1,132	111	173		410		50,794	-	
1983	3,997	505	1,318	15,141	2,069	1,899		440	44	69		114		25,596	-	
1984	3,246	1,636	800	24,310	3,967	3,789		833	76	97		342		39,096	-	
1985	2,523	1,468	1,467	31,602	5,308	4,323		1,090	126	122		468		48,497	-	
1986	1,664	389	1,209	22,801	3,404	2,660		508		99		378		33,241	-	
1987	2,140	1,120	851	18,575	3,364	2,294		438		43		341		29,300	-	
1988	2,536	548	1,128	31,664	5,982	4,055		823	144	79		366	-	47,326	-	-
1989	2,523	625	1,214	39,419	6,971	5,593		1,555	146	78		390	-	58,514	-	-
1990	2,186	1,202	1,324	35,024	5,919	7,307		1,216	126	88		538	-	54,930	-	-
1991	3,754	1,331	1,346	29,489	4,718	4,688		905	121	88		443	-	46,883	-	-
1992	3,985	525	1,048	34,128	3,715	3,541		1,017	248	43		265	-	48,515	-	-
1993	3,858	1,688	951	35,053	3,096	6,386		928	82	60		815	-	52,917	-	-
1994	3,038	595	1,156	38,502	4,782	5,631	1,524	6	92	53	38	513	-	55,930	3,221	59,151
1995	5,171	1,444	775	35,477	5,228	4,666	1,409	1	57	54	29	850	-	55,161	2,200	57,361
1996	4,542	1,219	902	33,171	5,251	3,697	1,680	2	112	51	29	783	-	51,439	1,367	52,806
** 1997	3,412	308	888	27,032	3,555	2,825	1,370	2	61	34	32	408	8	39,938	1,339	41,274
***1998	4,247	984	831	22,290	5,352	2,493	1,124	3	56	52	23	803	-	38,258	1,032	39,290

* Species combined up to 1993.
** Almost final.
*** Preliminary.

Table 4. Area breakdown of Task I catches (MT) taken by the Japanese longline fishery. ICCAT area definition is used for tunas and billfishes. For other species, North and South, and East and West are separated at 5°N and 30°W, respectively.

1997*

SPECIES	*WEST*	*EAST*	*NORTH*	*SOUTH*	*MEDIT*	*TOTAL*
Bluefin tuna	322	2,905	3,227	0	185	3,412
Southern bluefin	0	308	0	308	0	308
Albacore	353	536	475	414	0	888
Bigeye tuna	4,312	22,720	13,003	14,029	1	27,032
Yellowfin tuna	814	2,741	2,488	1,067	0	3,555
Swordfish	704	2,117	1,178	1,643	4	2,825
White marlin	12	49	31	30	0	61
Blue marlin	206	1,164	617	753	0	1,370
Black marlin	1	1	1	1	0	2
Sailfish	17	17	16	18	0	34
Spearfish	1	31	8	24	0	32
Skipjack tuna	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blue shark	154	841	570	425	1	996
Other sharks	63	281	252	92	0	343
Other fishes	7	401	31	377	0	408
Bluefin discards	8	-	8	-	-	8
Total	6,974	34,112	21,905	19,181	191	41,274

1998**

SPECIES	*WEST*	*EAST*	*NORTH*	*SOUTH*	*MEDIT*	*TOTAL*
Bluefin tuna	691	3,195	3,886	0	361	4,247
Southern bluefin	0	984	0	984	0	984
Albacore	323	509	442	389	0	831
Bigeye tuna	4,744	17,546	13,885	8,405	0	22,290
Yellowfin tuna	1,001	4,351	2,576	2,775	0	5,352
Swordfish	495	1,993	1,526	963	5	2,493
White marlin	12	44	39	17	0	56
Blue marlin	268	856	667	457	0	1,124
Black marlin	0	3	1	2	0	3
Sailfish	3	50	23	30	0	52
Spearfish	9	14	16	8	0	23
Skipjack tuna	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blue shark	166	450	511	104	0	615
Other sharks	129	288	302	115	0	417
Other fishes	15	788	53	749	0	803
Total	7,856	31,071	23,927	14,998	366	39,290

* Almost final.
** Preliminary.

Table 5. Annual deployment rate of longline materials for main and branch lines in the Atlantic, 1994-1998

Year	*Main line: Nylon*	*Branch line: Nylon*	*Main and branch lines:*	
			Nylon	*Other*
1994	34 %	41 %	29 %	54 %
1995	61 %	63 %	51 %	27 %
1996	75 %	76 %	66 %	16 %
1997*	82 %	82 %	75 %	11 %
1998**	83 %	79 %	74 %	11 %

* Almost final.
** Preliminary.

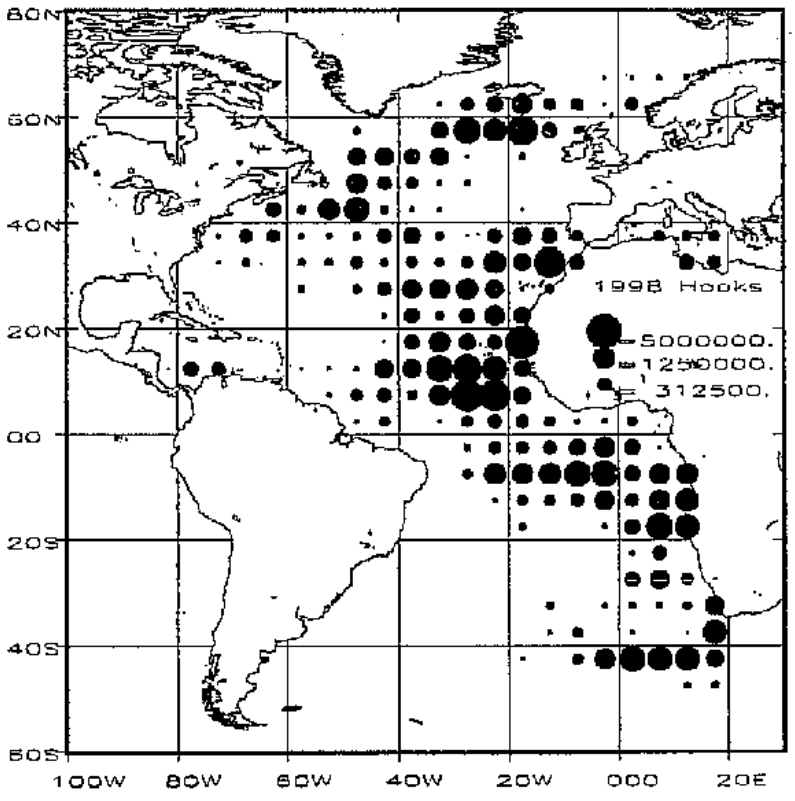


Fig. 1. Geographic distribution of longline effort (number of hooks) in the Atlantic, 1998.

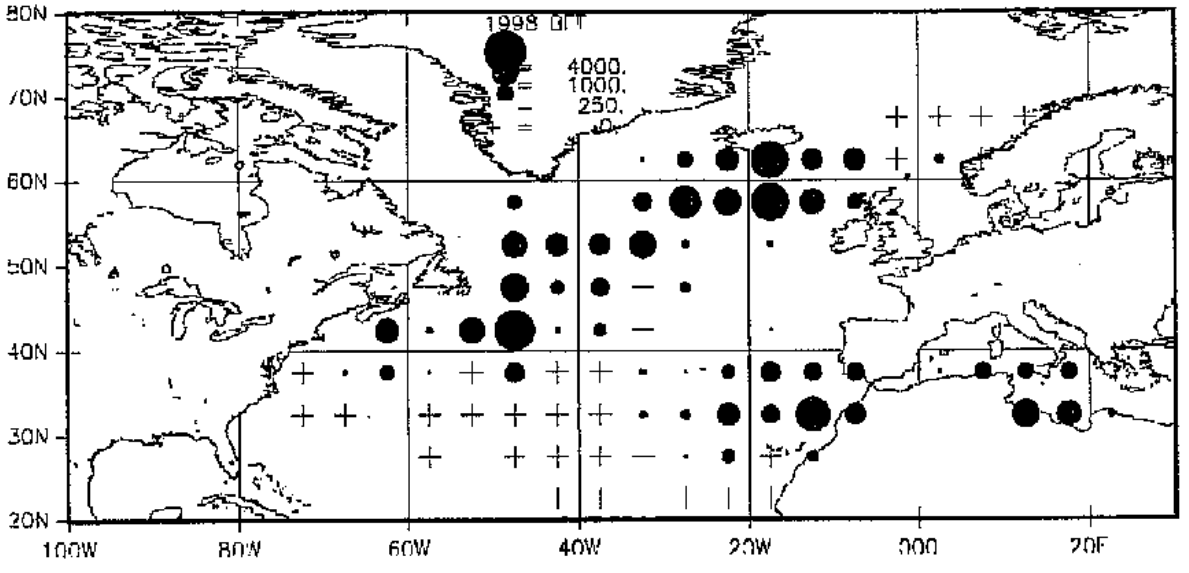


Fig. 2. Geographic distribution of bluefin catch in number in the Atlantic, 1998. Plus sign indicates no catch with fishing effort.

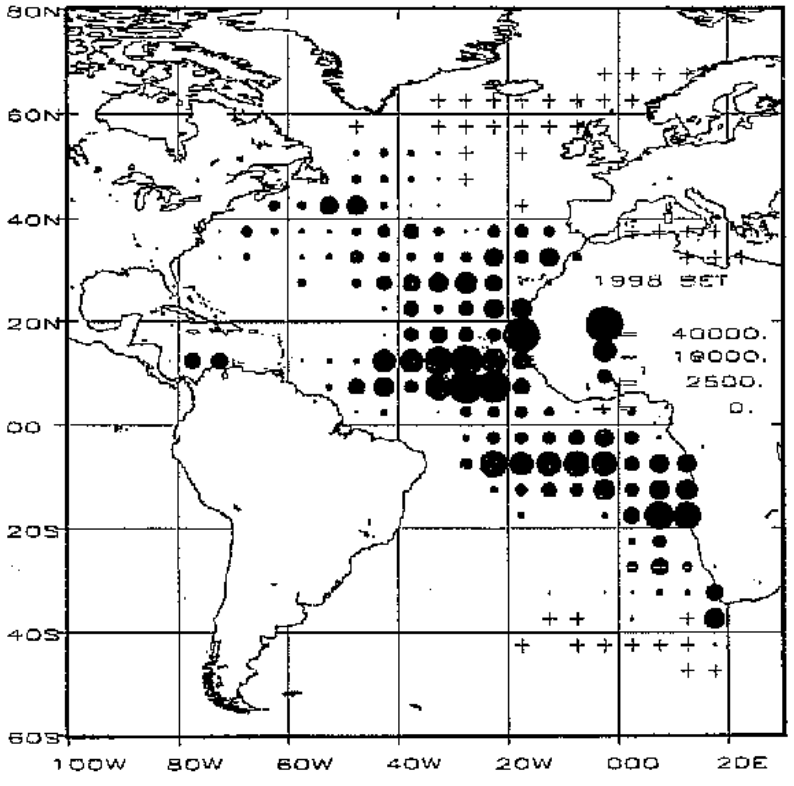


Fig. 3. Geographic distribution of bigeye catch in number in the Atlantic, 1998. Plus sign indicates no catch with fishing effort.

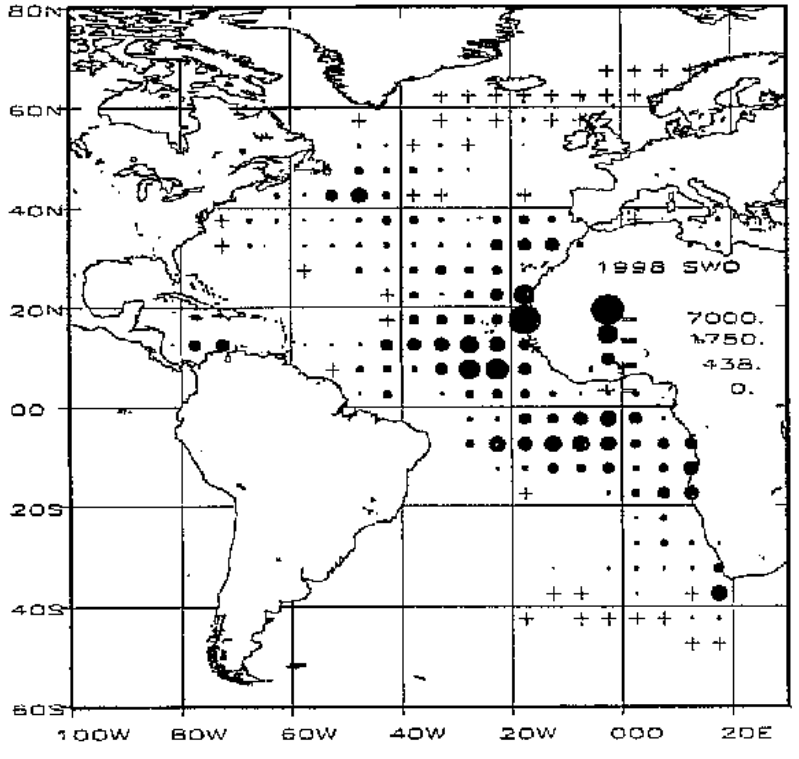


Fig. 4. Geographic distribution of swordfish catch in number in the Atlantic, 1998. Plus sign indicates no catch with fishing effort.

NATIONAL REPORT OF KOREA*

by

National Fisheries Research & Development Institute (NFRDI)

1. Fisheries information

The Korean longline fishery for Atlantic tunas and tuna-like species has shown a gradual decline from year to year since 1985, not only in terms of the number of fishing vessels, but also in terms of catches. From 1991 to 1995, the number of Korean tuna longliners actively fishing in the Atlantic was less than 10 each year, with average annual catches of 1,600 MT, which corresponds to about one-tenth that of the early 1980s (**Table 1**). In 1998, the total catch of tunas and tuna-like fishes by the Korean fishery amounted to 290 MT, representing a decrease of 85% from the previous year's figure. The decrease in catch was due to the decreased number of vessels in operation in this area, from 12 in 1997 to 5 longliners in 1998. Some of the vessels were from the southern Indian Ocean where they mainly targeted southern bluefin tuna. Compared to previous years, bigeye and yellowfin tunas made up the major component of the total catch, accounting for 56% and 22%, respectively.

a) Bigeye tuna

Bigeye tunas has been the most important tuna species of the Korean tuna longline fishery, not only in production but also from an economic viewpoint, since the early 1980s when the deep longline fishing technique was deployed. The catch of bigeye tuna decreased from 796 MT in 1997 to 163 MT in 1998.

b) Yellowfin tuna

Yellowfin tuna is also an important target species of the Korean tuna longline fishery in the Atlantic. The 1998 catch of this species in this fishery amounted to 65 MT, a decline of 75% from the previous year's catch.

c) Other tunas and billfishes

The 1998 nominal catches of other tunas and billfishes from the Korean tuna longline fishery are not yet available, but they are included in the "Others" column in **Table 1**. Task II data revealed that southern bluefin tuna, albacore, swordfish, and blue marlin were also caught in small quantities by the Korean longline fishery.

2. Research and statistics

Routine scientific monitoring was carried out by the National Fisheries Research and Development Institute (NFRDI) 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.

3. Implementation of ICCAT tuna management measures

To implement the recommendations adopted by ICCAT, Korea has introduced domestic regulations. These include a minimum size limit for bigeye, yellowfin and bluefin tunas, as well as for swordfish. A new domestic regulation has been in effect since 1995, aimed protecting the spawning stock of bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean.

* Original report in English.

Table 1. Nominal catches (MT) of tunas and tuna-like fishes taken by Korean fisheries in the Atlantic Ocean, 1980-1998

Year	*No. of vessels*	*BFT*	*YFT*	*ALB*	*BET*	*SBF*	*SKJ*	*SWO*	*BUM*	*WHM*	*SAI*	*Others*	*Total*
1980	54	--	5,869	1,487	8,963	--	4	683	94	18	85	1,749	18,952
1981	56	--	6,650	1,620	11,682	--	47	447	126	85	65	1,584	22,306
1982	52	--	5,872	1,889	10,615	--	21	684	50	69	52	1,781	21,033
1983	53	3	3,405	1,077	9,383	--	530	462	131	15	3	1,215	16,224
1984	51	--	2,673	1,315	8,943	--	29	406	344	62	86	927	14,785
1985	45	77	3,239	901	10,691	--	20	344	416	372	101	1,293	17,454
1986	28	(156)	1,818	694	6,084	--	11	82	96	71	16	1,093	9,965
1987	29	(1)	1,457	401	4,438	--	6	75	152	27	21	1,048	7,625
1988	29	(12)	1,368	197	4,919	--	3	123	375	19	15	782	7,801
1989	33	(45)	2,535	107	7,896	--	6	162	689	135	33	944	12,507
1990	17	(20)	808	53	2,690	--	--	101	324	81	41	240	4,338
1991	9	(229)	260	32	801	--	--	150	537	57	30	267	2,134
1992	8	(101)	219	--	866	--	--	17	38	1	1	321	1,463
1993	4	(573)	180	--	377	--	--	--	19	2	1	308	887
1994	4	684	436	--	386	--	--	--	--	91	1	27	1,625
1995	4	663	453	--	423	--	--	--	61	1	--	114	1,715
1996	16	683	381	--	1,250	--	--	26	199	37	6	156	2,738
1997	12	613	257	5	796	10	--	33	70	24	1	115	1,924
1998	5	--	65	--	163	--	--	--	--	--	--	62	290

( ) = Estimated by the ICCAT Secretariat (ICCAT Report, 1994, Vol. 2).

NATIONAL REPORT OF LIBYA, 1998*

by

M. Y. O. Tawil
Marine Biology Research Center

1. Fisheries and catches

The Libyan fishery for tunas is carried out using several fishing methods, the oldest and most famous being the fixed traps (*Tonnara*). Tuna fishing is also carried out by longline and by purse seine; the artisanal tuna fishery catches Atlantic bonito, Atlantic black skipjack (little tuna) and other small tuna species.

In 1998, the total catch of bluefin tuna and related species by Libya amounted to 1,382 MT (**Table 1**). As regards other species, 4000 Atlantic black skipjack and Atlantic bonito (for a total weight of 20 MT) were caught by fixed traps. Some 6500 individuals of the same species were caught by longline (total weight of about 31.5 MT). There were swordfish by-catches amounting to 11 MT which were taken by longline.

2. Research

The results of research on the length-weight relationship and the condition factor (K) of bluefin tuna in Libya for the years 1997, 1998 and 1999 will be published in 2000.

Table 1. Libyan catches of bluefin tuna and related species (in MT) in 1998

Gear	*Area*	*No. of vessels*	*Total catch*
Longline	Med + E. Atlantic	10	920
Purse seine	Mediterranean	6	230
Traps	Mediterranean	4	181

* Original report in English.

NATIONAL REPORT OF MOROCCO*

by

S. Srour** and A. Fahfouhi***

I. Introduction

Although it is very old, the fishing of tunas and tuna-like species in Moroccan waters is limited to the traps set in the migration route of these species, and to the sporadic catches taken by other fishing techniques, such as purse seine (used by sardine vessels) since the 1950s, longline, and other passive gears.

In the early 1990s, new fishing activities were initiated in the sector, which resulted in an important increase in the catches of these species. The important development of swordfish fishing in the Mediterranean is attributed to the introduction of pelagic driftnets. In addition, the development of an artisanal fishery since 1994 in the Ksar Sghir region (in the Mediterranean), which utilizes hand line as the fishing gear, has resulted in considerable catches of large sized bluefin tuna, for export to the Japanese market.

2. Fishery information

Statistics on the national and foreign fishery for tunas and tuna-like species are presented in **Tables 1 to 5**. In 1998, the catches of tunas and tuna-like species amounted to 13,441 MT, of which 63% were taken in the Atlantic and 37% in the Mediterranean. In weight, small tunas comprised 63% of the total catches. Swordfish and bluefin tuna represented 25% and 12% of the total weight, respectively (**Table 1**).

2.1 The national fishery

a) Bluefin tuna

In 1998, the total production of bluefin tuna amounted to 2,430 MT, of which 23% was from the Mediterranean. An increase of about 25% was reported, as compared to the average catches for the 1995-1997 period (**Table 2**). Bluefin tuna were caught mainly by the following three gears:

– Traps: In 1998, there were five traps off the Moroccan coast, one in the Mediterranean and four in the Atlantic. These traps caught 1,520 MT in 1998, which represented 63% of the total bluefin tuna catches. The period of activity of these traps is between the months of April and June for the Atlantic traps and from May to October for the Mediterranean traps. By-catches of other tuna and tuna-like species are also taken by the traps.

– Hand line: Fishing with hand line was initiated in the Moroccan Mediterranean in 1994 by an artisanal fleet comprised of about 100 vessels (less than 5 m in length). This fishing type currently contributes 24% (three-year average) of the total bluefin tuna catches, i.e. about 500 MT a year. This fishing type, which is directed at large-sized bluefin tuna, is conducted throughout the year, with a two to three month halt in activity (April to June).

– Purse seine: Bluefin tuna fishing with purse seine is carried out mainly in the Atlantic by about 250 purse seine vessels that operate in an occasional and seasonal manner. The tunas caught by this fishing technique are smaller than

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* Original report in French.

** Institut National de Recherche Halieutique.

*** Ministère des Pêches Maritimes.

those obtained by other fishing gears. The average weight of the bluefin is between 20 and 40 kg, depending on the port, and does not usually exceed 70 kg. It should also be noted that the pelagic driftnet fishery directed at swordfish also catches bluefin tuna as by-catch.

b) Swordfish

Swordfish fishing in the Mediterranean was initiated in 1983. The reported catches since then have been minor, at about 50 MT, up to 1988. Since 1989, the catches increased notably, and surpassed 5,000 MT in 1997. In 1998, the swordfish catches experienced a 35% decline as compared to the previous year. The high catches in the period under study coincide with the introduction of pelagic driftnets. About 250 coastal vessels conduct this type of fishing (average GRT: 50; average length: 13 m). Of these vessels, 60% are based in Tangier and fish in the Moroccan Mediterranean. The catches taken in the Mediterranean in 1998 comprised 94% of the total Moroccan catches of swordfish. Driftnet fishing contributes 90% of the national catches, whereas fishing by longline and other gears only represents 10% of the catches (**Table 3**). The swordfish fishing season takes place mainly between the months of April and November.

c) Small tunas

In 1998, catches of small tunas (including skipjack tuna) amounted to 7,592 MT, of which 84% were taken in the Atlantic. An important segment (68%) of these catches are obtained by purse seine. **Table 4** shows the catches of small tunas, by area and by gear, in 1998. These species are caught mainly by surface gears and secondly by traps.

2.2 Foreign catches

a) Agreement between Morocco and the European Community

The data available on foreign fishing vessels are presented in **Table 5**. Two types of vessels flying European flags (Spain and Portugal) have been authorized to fish tunas under Moroccan license in the EEZ of Morocco:

Tuna baitboats: About 30 tuna baitboats (with Spanish flag) fish tunas in the Atlantic part of the Moroccan EEZ. Bluefin tuna constitute the major species. Reported catches of this species in 1997 amounted to 462 MT. There were no reported catches of swordfish.

Longliners: Bluefin tuna is a secondary species caught by Spanish and Portuguese flagged longliners. On the other hand, swordfish comprise a major part of the catches. The available data show about 28 MT of bluefin and 1,130 MT of swordfish were caught.

b) Agreement between Morocco and Japan

There are 29 Japanese industrial longliners fishing within the framework of a fishing agreement between Morocco and Japan. The 1997 reported catches were 341 MT of bluefin tuna and 11.5 MT of swordfish.

3. Research activities

In October, 1998, a regional fishery research center was created, under the auspices of the *Institut National de Recherche Halieutique*. The objective of this center is to improve monitoring of the Mediterranean fisheries, with the study of tunas as one of its major activities. In this respect, the following are being done:

- Updating and improvement of the collection of national statistics on tunas.
- Creation of a regional program, coordinated by the FAO COPEMED Project, for the study of the biology and exploitation of tunas in the Mediterranean.
- Active participation of national scientists in ICCAT's work.

Table 1. Statistics on tuna fishing in 1998 (in MT)

Species	*Atlantic*	*Mediterranean*	*Atlantic+ Med*
Bluefin tuna	1,866	564	2,430
Swordfish	161	3,228	3,419
Small tunas	6,392	1,200	7,592
TOTAL	**8,449**	**4,992**	**13,441**

Table 2. Catches (in MT) of bluefin tuna, by area and by gear, 1990-1998

Area	*Gear*	*1990*	*1991*	*1992*	*1993*	*1994*	*1995*	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*
Med.	HAND	0	0	0	0	373	816	541	455	544
	GILL	31	31	4	6	16	92	30	17	18
	PS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Trap	1,118	912	201	73	703	127	15	63	2
Atl.	Trap	323	482	94	387	494	210	699	1,240	1,518
	PS	54	46	462	24	213	458	323	828	37
	GILL	31	3	6	4	13	10	13	0	31
Tot. Atl.		**408**	**530**	**562**	**416**	**720**	**678**	**1,035**	**2,068**	**1,866**
Tot. Med.		**1,150**	**925**	**206**	**79**	**1,092**	**1,035**	**586**	**535**	**564**
TOTAL		**1,558**	**1,455**	**768**	**495**	**1 812**	**1,713**	**1,621**	**2,603**	**2,430**

Table 3. Catches (in MT) of swordfish, by area and by gear, 1990-1998

Area	*Gear*	*1990*	*1991*	*1992*	*1993*	*1994*	*1995*	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*
Med.	LL	371	508	807	517	527	169	273	245	323
	GILL	866	1,186	1,883	2,068	2,109	1,518	2,461	4,653	2,905
	PS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Trap	12	12	2	4	18	9	0	2	0
Atl.	Trap	34	5	21	2	11	12	7	5	2
	PS	14	4	3	8	5	7	98	10	10
	GILL	19	9	4	2	13	32	322	13	179
	LL	24	92	41	27	7	28	35	239	0
Tot. Atl.		**91**	**110**	**69**	**39**	**36**	**79**	**462**	**267**	**191**
Tot. Med.		**1,249**	**1,706**	**2,692**	**2,589**	**2,654**	**1,696**	**2,734**	**4,900**	**3,228**
TOTAL		**1,340**	**1,816**	**2,760**	**2,628**	**2,690**	**1,775**	**3,196**	**5,167**	**3,419**

Table 4. Catches (in MT) of small tunas, by area and by gear, in 1998

Area	*Gear*	*Atl. black skipjack (LTA)*	*Atlantic bonito (BON)*	*Skipjack (SKJ)*	*Frigate tuna (FRI)*	*Plain bonito (BOP)*	*TOTAL*
Med.	TRAP	0	2	4	478	0	484
	HAND	0	0	0	0	0	0
	GILL	14	37	1	629	2	683
	LL	0	0	0	0	0	0
	PS	0	0	0	33	0	33
Atl.	TRAP	0	0	0	87	0	87
	HAND	0	0	0	0	0	0
	GILL	0	78	620	512	0	1,210
	LL	0	0	0	0	0	0
	PS	189	1,479	1,861	1,538	28	5,095
Tot Med		**14**	**39**	**5**	**1,140**	**2**	**1,200**
Tot Atl		**189**	**1,557**	**2,481**	**2,137**	**28**	**6,392**
TOTAL		**203**	**1,596**	**2,486**	**3,277**	**30**	**7,592**

Table 5. Bluefin tuna and swordfish catches (in MT) by foreign flag vessels in 1996-1998

Species	*Year*	*Gear*	*Flag*	*Atlantic*	*Med*
Bluefin tuna	1996	R & R	Spain	608	
		LL	Japan	61	
		LL	Spain	22	5
		HAND	Spain	2	
Bluefin tuna	1997	R & R	Spain	463	
		LL	Japan	342	
		LL	Spain	2	3
Swordfish	1996	LL	Japan	3	
		LL	Portugal	10	
		LL	Spain	1,073	28
		HAND	Spain	0	
		DWT	Spain		1
Swordfish	1997	LL	Japan	12	
		LL	Portugal	123	
		LL	Spain	1,008	
		HAND	Spain	0	

NATIONAL REPORT OF RUSSIA 1998-1999*

1. Introduction

In Russia, work relevant to research on tunas and tuna-like species is carried out by the Atlantic Scientific Research Institute of Marine Fisheries and Oceanography (AtlantNIRO), and by the All-Russian Scientific Research Institute of Marine Fisheries and Oceanography (VNIRO). These organizations collect catch and biological statistics and analyze the data, provide operative fishery monitoring, and prepare proposals and recommendations required for tuna fishing vessel operations. The statistical data included in his report are presented on a year basis.

2. The fishery in 1998

In 1998, purse seiners operated with the Exclusive Economic Zone of Sierra Leone in February-May. During this same period and in January, 1998, they also operated in the open central eastern Atlantic Ocean.

In the period from September to December, 1998, purse seiners fished tunas in the Equatorial central eastern Atlantic Ocean. Small tunas and related species (Atlantic bonito, mackerels) are found in trawl catches. However, since it was impossible to accurately assess the total number of these species and the number by species, these were not included in the original statistics and no research was carried out.

2.1 Fleet and fishing gears

A specialized tuna fishery was carried out by seven medium-sized purse seiners. The net registered capacity of each vessel was 181 MT (101-200 GRT class). A tuna net measuring 1,450 m in length and 196 m in depth was used as the fishing gear.

2.2 Catches in the Sierra Leone EEZ

The total catch of tunas from the Sierra Leone economic zone amounted to 5,202 MT. The bulk of the catch was comprised as follows: 3,982 MT yellowfin tuna (76.5%); 415 MT skipjack tuna (8.0%); 88 MT Atlantic black skipjack (1.7%); and 717 MT of frigate tuna (13.8%) **(Table 1)**.

-- Effort and catch-per-unit effort

The total effort of all the vessels amounted to 531 vessel fishing days. The catch per vessel fishing day, by months, was as follows: 13.5 MT in February; 12.9 MT in March; 8.6 MT in April; and 7.0 MT in May.

2.3 Open central eastern Atlantic

Seven medium-sized purse seiners took part in the tuna fishery. During the first half of the year (February-May), excluding January, these vessels periodically shifted from the Sierra Leone zone to the adjacent ocean areas when unfavorable fishing conditions occurred. In September, the fishery in the open area resumed and continued until December in the areas adjacent to the Equator.

* Original report in English.

The total catch from this ocean area amounted to 2,668 MT. The catches were comprised of four tuna species, specifically: 949 MT of yellowfin tuna (35.6%); 1,671 MT of skipjack (62.6%); 44 MT of frigate tuna (1.6%); and 4 MT of bigeye tuna (0.2%) **(Table 1)**.

– Effort and catch-per-unit effort

In the open eastern Atlantic Ocean, purse seiners operated during 618 days in the tuna fishery. The catch per vessel fishing day varied widely and amounted to an average of 4.3 MT.

3. The fishery in the first half of 1999

In the period from January to June, the tuna purse seiners traditionally fished in the Sierra Leone Exclusive Economic Zone and adjacent open sea areas. Six purse seiners participated in the fishery. According to the preliminary statistical data, the total tuna catch amounted to 5,793 MT, broken down as follows: 4,359 MT of yellowfin tuna; 1,426 MT of skipjack tuna; and 8 MT of bigeye tuna **(Table 2)**.

4. Research

Biological data on the different tuna species were collected by a single observer in the January to May, 1998, period. During this period, the observer visited three fishing vessels. A total of 6,030 tuna individuals were measured. During the second half of 1998 and 1999, no observers were on board vessels.

Data on the length composition of yellowfin tuna and skipjack for 1998 were processed. In January-May, yellowfin measuring 36-174 cm in length were found in the catches from the Sierra Leone zone and adjacent seas. The length range included three modal groups of 45-55 cm, 60-70 cm, and 100-110 cm. The length of skipjack varied from 36 to 67 cm. The following modal groups were found: 41-43 cm, 46-48 cm, 51-52 cm and 54-58 cm. The data on the yellowfin tuna measurements showed that the number of individuals below 55 cm in length and 3.2 kg in weight constituted 8.9% of the catches in 1998 and 14% of the catches in 1997.

The tuna catches were analyzed by types of schools fished in the first half of 1998. Forty-seven percent (47%) of free swimming schools of yellowfin tuna were caught by purse seine, as were 21% of the free schools of small tunas. Purse seine catches under fish aggregating devices accounted for 28% of the small tuna catches and 4% of marine mammal catches. The catches, by school types, amounted to 35.1%, 27.3%, 33.8%, and 3.8%, respectively.

A retrospective analysis of the following biological characteristics was carried out on bullet tuna: length composition, stages of gonad maturity, and stomach contents. The analysis was performed by different areas of the eastern Atlantic Ocean for the 1973-1992 period. The amount of data analyzed included 20,576 individuals measured, 4,762 gonads, and 3,990 stomachs.

Work was also carried out to transfer the retrospective data on tunas and related species onto magnetic carriers. The computer data base of the catch and biological data includes data from purse seine and longline logs, data on biological analysis by species, and the results of size sampling.

Table 1. Species composition of the tuna catches and fishing effort in the Atlantic Ocean in 1998, by fishing grounds and fishing seasons

	Sierra Leone area	*Open central tropical Atlantic area*	*Total*
No. of vessels	7	7	
Fishing season	February-May	January-May & September-December	
Effort (days at sea)	531	618	
Catches (MT):			
Yellowfin tuna (YFT)	3,982	949	4,931
Skipjack tuna (SKJ)	415	1,671	2,086
Bigeye tuna (BET)		4	4
Atlantic black skipjack (LTA)	88		88
Frigate tuna (FRI)	717	44	761
Total	**5,202**	**2,668**	**7,870**

Table 2. Tuna catches (in MT) taken by Russian purse seiners during the first half of 1999

Species	*Catch (MT)*
Yellowfin tuna (YFT)	4,359
Skipjack tuna (SKJ)	1,426
Atlantic black skipjack (LTA)	---
Bullet tuna (BLT)	---
Frigate tuna (FRI)	---
Bigeye tuna (BET)	8
TOTAL	**5,793**

NATIONAL REPORT OF SOUTH AFRICA*

by

R. W. Leslie
Marine and Coastal Management, South Africa

1. National fisheries information

Early records of tuna fishing in South Africa date back to the 1950s, when the first catches made by recreational shore anglers. Commercial longlining for tunas started in the early 1960s, with catches of up to 1800 MT of albacore *(Thunnus alalunga)*, southern bluefin *(T. maccoyii)* and bigeye *(T. obesus)* tuna being made. However, this early longline fishery ceased beyond the mid-1960s, because tuna at that time fetched a poor market price and tuna fishing was abandoned in favor of the developing, and more lucrative, Vema rock lobster and west coast trawl (sole) and purse-seine (pilchard) fisheries.

1.1 The pole and line fishery

The use of pole and line was introduced and found to be an effective tuna fishing method, and poling has been employed commercially since the 1970s. In 1979 commercial tuna fishing effort increased after a record run of yellowfin tuna *(T. albacares)* in the region. Subsequent to that, the South African tuna fishery has remained essentially a surface pole and line fishery that targets albacore in near-shore waters off the west coasts of South Africa and Namibia. There have been approximately 100-200 commercial vessels active in this fishery since 1978, and numerous small sports craft (5-8m) also fish for albacore and other tunas with rod and reel in the vicinity of Cape Point in the southwestern Cape (**Figure 1**).

1.2 The longline fishery

During 1998, South Africa issued permits to longline vessels from Japan (86) and Chinese-Taipei (24) to fish for tunas (and associated species) within the South African EEZ, in terms of bi-lateral fisheries agreements. South Africa receives six-monthly summarized catch returns and catch per vessel per month. However, neither validation of these returns, nor independent evaluation of catches was conducted.

In the early 1990's tuna longline permits applications were received from the local tuna pole and line fleet, interested in developing a South African fishery for sashimi grade tunas and swordfish. However, policy development regarding the allocation of fishing rights, delayed the issue of permits. In 1995, the first experimental longline permit was issued, and operated as a joint venture between South African and Japanese companies. In response to renewed applications from the fishing industry, proposals were developed for the re-issue of tuna longline permits, subject to restrictions to prevent their use to target non-tuna species. In 1997, thirty experimental longline permits were allocated, 20 to existing tuna fishers and 10 to new entrants from previously disadvantaged groups. The number of longline permits was reduced to 23 in 1998.

During the 1995 joint-venture experiment, 1 MT of swordfish *(Xiphias gladius)* was landed. Subsequently there was a rapid increase in the reported catches of swordfish by foreign longline vessels. Combined with the results of the sport fishery for swordfish, these catches have prompted substantial interest by South African tuna fishermen in targeted longlining for swordfish as reported in the 1995 South African National Report).

* Original report in English.

2. Research and statistics

2.1 Albacore

South Africa 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 (NMLS), a database to monitor all linefishing vessels. Comparisons with dealer returns showed that logbooks substantially under report tuna catches, by as much as 50% in some years. Consequently, dealer returns were used to monitor total catch levels, and to validate catch statistics reported to ICCAT. However, the collection of dealer returns has varied substantially over the years, as buying patterns have changed, and are not always reliable.

The amount of fish exported is precisely known, because all exports must be inspected by, and bear a Customs and Excise stamp. Almost all of the albacore catch is exported, therefore, Customs and Excise records provide the most reliable estimate of total albacore catch. Customs and Excise records are available from 1993 onwards, and show that, even with the dealer returns, the annual albacore catch in 1993-1996 was under-estimated. The apparent declining trend in albacore catches since 1993 reported to ICCAT in the South African National Report for 1997 now appears to be an artefact of under-reported catches (**Table 1, Figure 2**). In the future, the estimated total tuna catch for the South African fleet reported to ICCAT will be based on Customs and Excise data.

Annual albacore catches by the South African tuna fleet are strongly influenced by the availability of albacore in the inshore waters exploited by the fleet. Albacore availability in the near-shore zone is thought to be influenced by environmental factors. Prior to 1991, almost one half of the South African catch was taken in the region of Tripp Seamount in Namibian waters. Following the declaration of Namibian independence in 1990, South African vessels were excluded from the rich Tripp Seamount albacore fishing grounds, resulting in a sharp drop in the South African catch in 1991 (**Figure 2**). Some South African vessels are again fishing in Namibian waters, but the majority of the South African catch since 1991 has been taken off the southwestern Cape (**Figure 3**).

Length-frequency sampling of the South African catches of southern albacore continued. A total of 7956 albacore was measured in 1997, and 5089 in 1998. The albacore catches consist of fish with a mean fork length of between 77 and 87 cm, corresponding to fish of approximately 3-4 years old (**Figure 4**).

2.2 Swordfish

The experimental pelagic longline fishery initiated in 1997 was intended as a tuna directed fishery, with swordfish by-catch limited to 15% per landing. However, the vessels are equipped with American mono-filament gear and light sticks, and swordfish have comprised the bulk of their catch.

A total 467.8 MT dressed weight of swordfish was landed during 1998, which is about 70% of the total landed catch by the South African longline fleet. About 150 MT (dressed weight) of swordfish were caught in the South African EEZ west of 20°E (i.e. in the ICCAT Convention Area). A further 140 MT (dressed weight) of swordfish was caught to the east of 20°E. The catch position of the rest of the catch is unknown, but it was probably caught off the Agulhas bank in the IOTC Convention Area.

Length frequency samples were collected as either pectoral fin to caudal notch (PCN) or pectoral fin to fork length (PFL). The length measure used by ICCAT is lower jaw to fork length (LJFL). PCN and PFL measurements were converted to LJFL using regression formulae PFL = 0.8045*LJFL – 8.5647; PCN = 0.6853*LJFL – 8.879, presented in the 1998 SCRS document "A first description of the developing South African pelagic longline fishery" by Penney and Griffiths (1998). The size structure of the South African swordfish catch in 1998 is illustrated in (**Figure 5**).

The total effort for the fishery is estimated at approximately 359 thousand hooks deployed. The average catch per unit effort (CPUE) has declined from an average of 3.4 kg dressed weight per hook during the first three months, to an average of 1.0 kg dressed weight per hook during the last three months (**Figure 6**). It is possible that this rapid decline in CPUE reflects changes in the fishery more than in stock abundance. Towards the end of 1998 many additional vessels, with inexperienced skippers, started fishing. They all fished in the area off the south-eastern edge of the Agulhas bank preferred by the experienced skippers. This could have lead to saturation of this area, resulting in a marked decline in CPUE.

South Africa is working on as assessment for the southern Africa region. Although tentative, a first attempt at a simple yield-per-recruit analysis suggested that an annual catch of 1000 MT of swordfish from the South African EEZ could be

sustainable. A maximum precautionary catch limit of 1000 MT was accepted until sufficient data become available to undertake a more defensible assessment.

3. Implementation of ICCAT conservation and management measures

3.1 Albacore

At the 1998 ICCAT Commission Meeting, the four Parties participating in the fishery for southern Atlantic albacore (Brazil, Chinese-Taipei, Namibia and South Africa), were requested to submit bimonthly summaries of catches to South Africa in order to monitor progress toward filling the ICCAT recommended TAC for southern albacore. Despite numerous requests by South Africa and by the ICCAT Secretariat, some of the participating Parties have not submitted albacore catch data to South Africa. Catch information submitted to date is summarized in **Table 2**.

3.2 Swordfish

South Africa currently does not have a swordfish allocation for the ICCAT Convention Area. However, only part of the South African EEZ falls within the ICCAT Convention Area, and there is some doubt as to the origin of the swordfish within the South African EEZ. They could be part of the Indian or Atlantic stocks, or may even be a resident sub-population.

A preliminary assessment of the swordfish stocks within South Africa's EEZ, indicated that an annual yield of 1000 MT of swordfish could be sustained. A global limit of 1000 MT of swordfish by-catch in the South African pelagic longline fishery within the South African EEZ was implemented during 1997, with the further restriction that swordfish may not exceed 15% of the total catch per landing. The intention of this restriction was to prevent the development of a swordfish fishery in the ICCAT Convention Area. Strict enforcement of this by-catch limit in the South African EEZ has forced many of the South African fishers to land their catches in ports of neighboring countries.

An observer scheme has been launched and the first observer was placed on a local longline vessel in November, 1998. The scheme will be expanded in 1999, and will target both local and foreign longline vessels.

Table 1. Annual total albacore catch (MT) previously reported to ICCAT, based on logbooks and dealer returns, and the nominal mass of South African caught albacore that was exported

Year	*Previously*	*Exported*
1985	6697	
1986	5930	
1987	7275	
1988	6570	
1989	6890	
1990	5280	
1991	3410	
1992	6360	
1993	6743	6881
1994	5268	6931
1995	4246	5213
1996	2856	5635
1997	---	6707
1998	---	8406

Table 2. Albacore catches (in MT) reported to South Africa for each reporting period, by participating Party

Participating Party	*Jan-Feb*	*Mar-Apr*	*May-Jun*
Brazil	No data	No data	No data
Chinese-Taipei	2,356	2,478	3,199
Namibia	No data	No data	No data
South Africa	1,371	1,091	

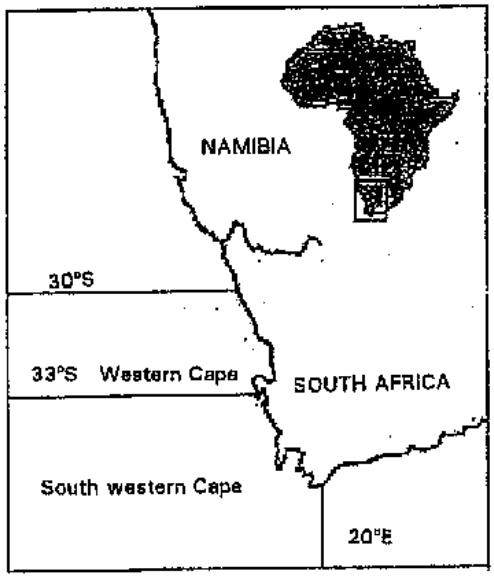

Fig. 1. Areas off South Africa and Namibia that support albacore catches. The areas are the same as in Figure 3.

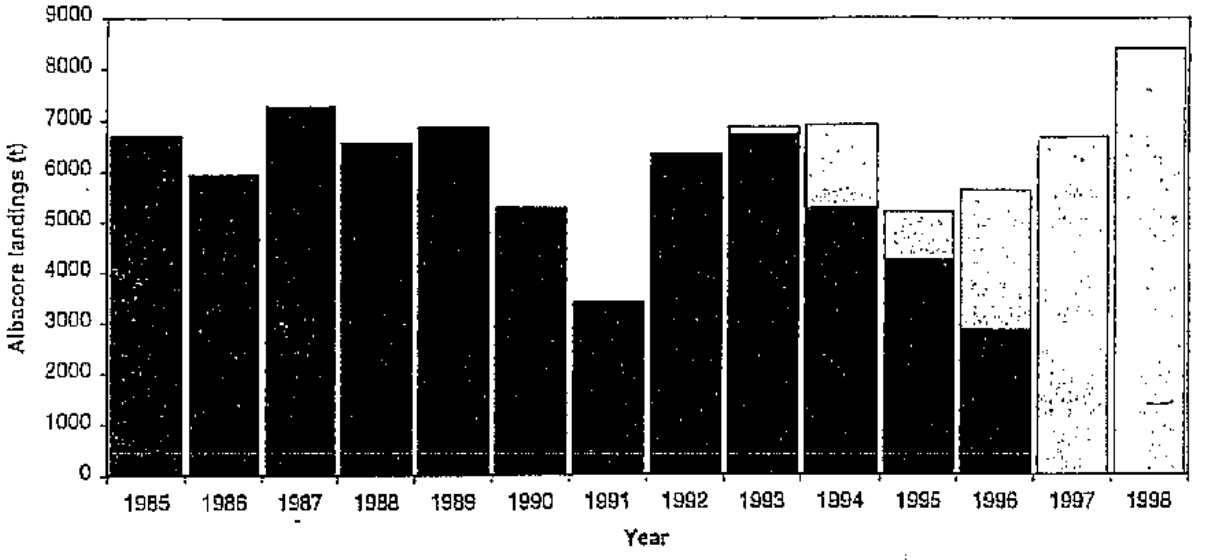

Fig. 2. South African albacore catches (nominal mass) in recent years. The solid bars for 1994 and 1995 represent the reported total albacore catch. The pale bars represent the nominal mass of South African caught albacore that was exported.

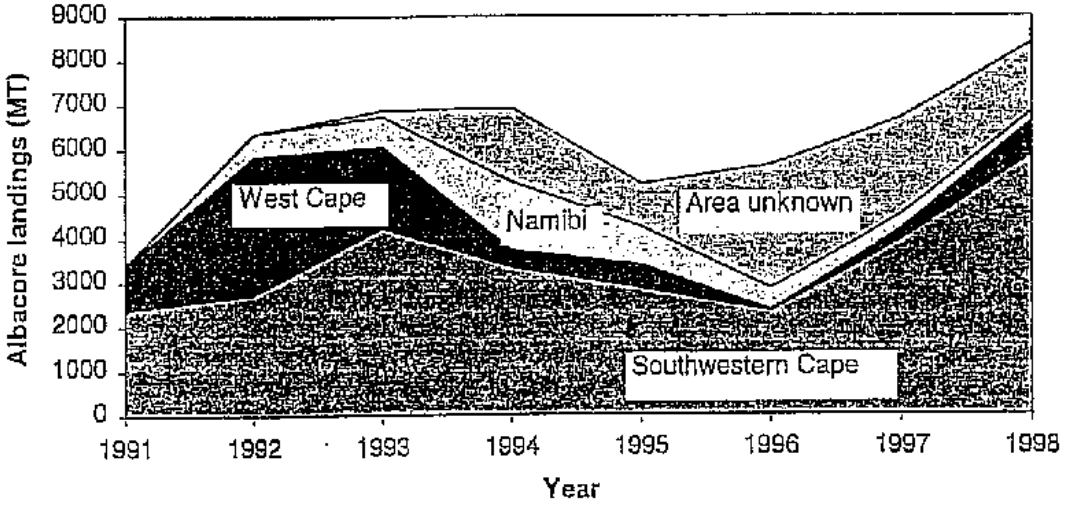

Fig. 3. Catches by area for the South African albacore fishery. Areas are illustrated in Figure 1.

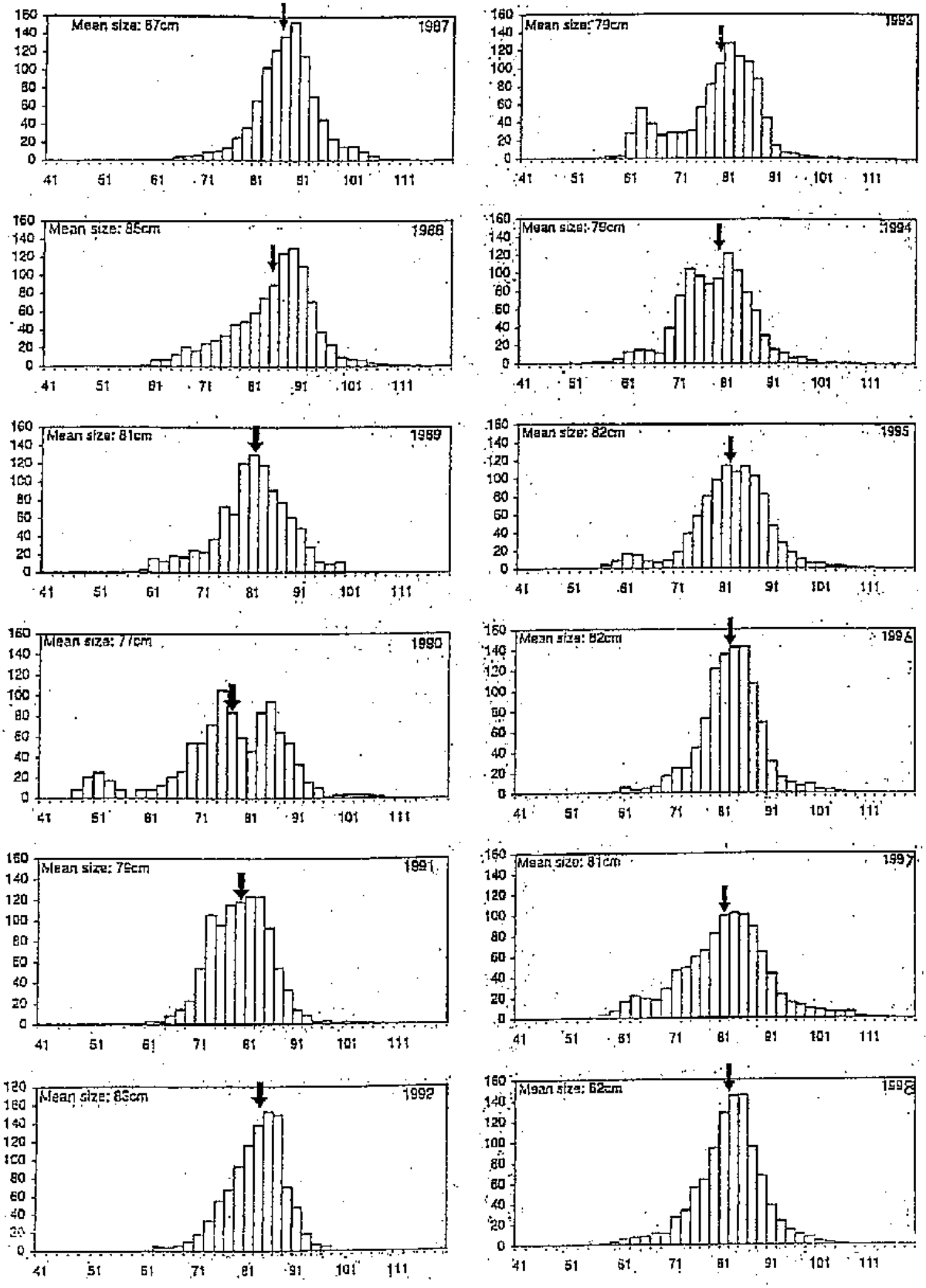

Figure 4. Length frenquency distributions of albacore in South African catches, 1987-1988.

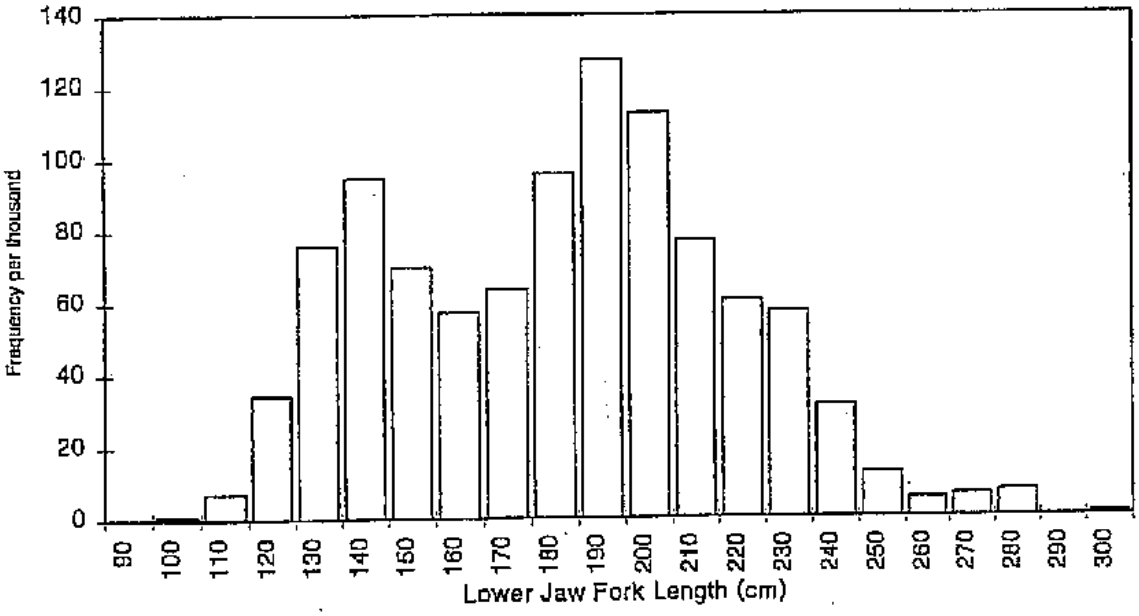

Fig. 5. Lenth frequency distribution of the 1998 catch of swordfish taken by South African longline vessels fishing in the South African EEZ, i.e. includes swordfish taken from both the ICCAT and IOTC Convention Areas.

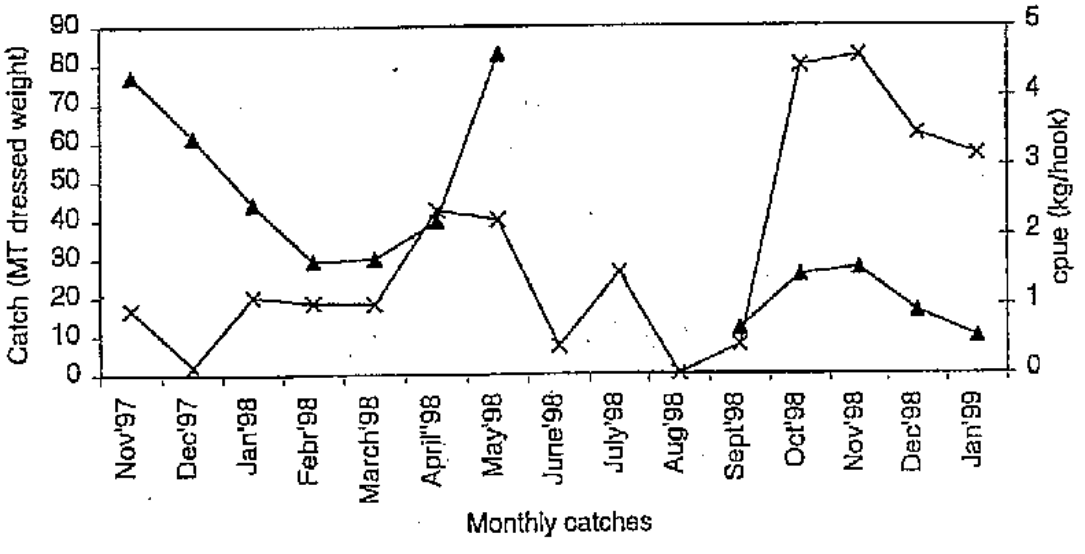

Fig. 6. Monthly swordfish catch and CPUE for the South African experimental pelagic longline fishery in the South African EEZ.

NATIONAL REPORT OF TUNISIA*

by

A. Hattour**

1. Introduction

Scombrids species are, without a doubt, the most important species off the Tunisian coast, particularly bluefin tuna *(Thunnus thynnus)*, Atlantic black skipjack *(Euthynnus alletteratus)*, Atlantic bonito *(Sarda sarda)*, and bullet tuna *(Auxis rochei)*. Since the majority of the catches of the first two species are destined for canning, a local canning industry has developed. Bluefin tuna, together with swordfish, are the preferred species for the export market, with a major part of these catches exported to Japan and to some European countries.

The gears utilized are quite variable and these have been improved as new technologies are incorporated.

All along the Mediterranean coasts there is evidence that tuna fishing dates back to many years. Such fishing was carried out using harpoons and later hand lines, driftnets and purse seiners were introduced. Lookouts ("ribats") in towers informed the fishermen about the movements of tunas close to the coast, and these were immediately surrounded.

Tuna fishing with traps was introduced by the Phoenicians, but development of this fishing technique did not occur until after the 19th century. The first Tunisian traps date back to approximately 1820. In the early 20th century, there were 10 active traps, while at present only two remain active, the Sidi Daoud trap off northern Tunisia, and the Monastir trap to East.

A purse seine fishery was initiated in 1976 and has resulted in a considerable increase in the catches of these species The introduction of purse seine fishery has contributed to the development of the tuna fisheries in general. Currently, close to 70 vessels are involved in tuna fishing along the Tunisian coasts. These vessels, which are almost all made of wood, measure between 15 and 38 meters in length, with a GRT of 18 to 298 MT, and are equipped with diesel engines that vary from 110 to 999 HP.

As regards the swordfish fishery, there are about 40 longline vessels that target this species in waters off Tunisia. The major part of the effort is concentrated off the north coast of the country and the two main landing ports for this species are Tabarca and Bizerte. In 1998, two other ports (Teboulba and Mahdia), located in the central area of the country, increased their activities.

2. The fishery

In 1998, catches of tunas and tuna-like species (swordfish) amounted to 4,220 MT. In terms of weight, small tunas comprise 49% of the total catches and bluefin tuna make up 41%. The proportion of swordfish in the catches is about 10%.

2.1 Bluefin tuna

In 1998, the total catches of bluefin tuna were 1,745 MT, which represents a considerable decrease as compared to 1997. This decrease, estimated at 455 MT, is about 27% less than the reported catch in 1997. Tunisian fishermen use three gears to catch tunas:

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* Original report in French.

** Institut National des Sciences et Technologies de la Mer (INSTM).

Purse seine: Since the early 1980s, purse seine fishing activities have increased. Due to the continuous increase in the demand (bluefin tuna), fishing vessels operate annually in areas that have now become traditional fishing areas. From October to March, these vessels fish in the Gulf of Gabès and in waters close to the Tunisian-Libyan border. Fishing is directed at medium-sized tunas, between 25 and 70 kg, destined exclusively for the export market. From April to the end of July, these vessels follow the movements of the spawners, from North of Tunisia to the extreme South. Part of these catches are exported, and the remainder are sold for local consumption and for canning. The weight of these fish varies between 50 and more than 250 kg. Purse seine landings of bluefin tuna currently comprise 90% of the national catches.

Traps: National catches of bluefin tuna in the two active traps are becoming less and less important. In 1998, trap catches were less than 35 MT, i.e. barely 2% of the total bluefin tuna catches. The trap season is from the end of April to the end of July. From the landings in recent years, it can be noted that bluefin tuna catches cease towards the end of May, whereas in the past, bluefin catches were made from May to June and occasionally up early July.

Hand lines: Hand line fishing has been carried out for many years by trawling vessels, but as a secondary gear. Catches by this fishing method are on the order of 50 to 100 MT.

2.2 Small tunas

Catches of small tunas in 1998 were 2,061 MT. Atlantic black skipjack comprise 51% of the catches, followed by Atlantic bonito (41%) and frigate tunas (4%).

These catch figures should be considered with some reserve since there is a lot of confusion as regards the species. Since about a year ago, the national statistical services have been asked to give special attention to the identification of the species and pamphlets were prepared and distributed through the fishermen's union and the Administration.

A major part of the catches of small tunas corresponds to purse seiners, light fishing (lamparos), and other coastal gears. Currently, small tuna catches comprise 70% of the trap catches.

2.3 Swordfish

Swordfish fishing in Tunisian waters is becoming more and more important. This fishing activity is generally being practiced all along the coasts, whereas in 1992, such fishing only took place off the northern coast of Tunisia.

This increase in effort is resulting in an increase in the catches, which have gone from 200 MT in 1992 to more than 400 MT in 1998.

Table 1. Tunisian catches of large pelagic, by gear, 1990-1998: Bluefin tuna (in MT)

Gear	*1990*	*1991*	*1992*	*1993*	*1994*	*1995*	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*
PS	114	1,073	975	1,997	2,523	1,617	2,147	1,992	1,662
TRAP	249	243	175	92	169	223	154	95	35
HAND	43	50	45	43	81	57	92	113	48
TOTAL	**461**	**1,366**	**1,195**	**2,132**	**2,503**	**1,897**	**2,393**	**2,200**	**1,745**

Table 2. Tunisian catches of large pelagics, by species, 1990-1998: Small tunas (in MT)

Species	*1990*	*1991*	*1992*	*1993*	*1994*	*1995*	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*
E.alletteratus	2,113	1,343	664	242	204	696	824	333	1,113
Sarda	488	305	643	792	305	413	560	611	855
Auxis	985	985	35	20	13	14	13	26	87
Others			20	309	105	115	215	657	6
TOTAL	**3,586**	**2,633**	**1,363**	**1,363**	**627**	**1,238**	**1,612**	**1,630**	**2,061**

Table 3. Tunisian of large pelagics, 1990-1998: Swordfish (in MT)

Species	*1990*	*1991*	*1992*	*1993*	*1994*	*1995*	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*
Swordfish	176	181	178	354	298	378	352	346	414

NATIONAL REPORT OF UNITED KINGDOM - BERMUDA*

1. The fleet

The Bermuda commercial fishing fleet consisted of 189 vessels during 1998 with approximately one-third of these vessels actively fishing for tuna and tuna-like species. Most of this fishing is carried out in the inner 40 km of the Bermuda Exclusive Economic Zone although longline operations worked considerably farther offshore.

The composition of the Bermuda domestic fleet has been modified to include some purpose-built longline vessels, one of which is a larger vessel obtained through a recognized leasing arrangement. All Bermuda-based longliners are equipped with an Andronics satellite-based monitoring system (VMS).

2. The catches

In 1998, the total catch of tuna and tuna-like species was 184.4 MT. Details on the Bermuda catches are presented in **Table 1**.

3. Research

Bermuda is actively involved in the ICCAT Enhanced Program for Billfish Research and this year co-sponsored a pilot study involving the use of satellite tags. The Bermuda Division of Fisheries continues to engage in several regional research programs directed at pelagic species.

Table 1. Summary of catches of tuna and tuna-like species taken by Bermuda in 1998 (revised)

Species	*Weight (MT)*
Yellowfin tuna	52.8
Bluefin tuna	2
Blackfin tuna	6.1
Albacore	<1.0
False albacore	4.9
Skipjack tuna	<1.0
Wahoo	107.8
Blue marlin	5
White marlin	1
Swordfish	5
Total	**184.4**

* Original report in English.

NATIONAL REPORT OF THE UNITED STATES, 1999*

by

U.S. Department of Commerce
National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service

1. Introduction

Total (preliminary) reported U.S. catch of tuna and tuna-like fishes (including swordfish, but excluding other billfishes) in 1998 was 26,631 MT (**Table 1**). This represents a decrease of 2,883 MT (10% decrease) from 1997. Estimated swordfish catch (including estimated dead discards) decreased 185 MT to 3,655 MT, and provisional landings from the U.S. fishery for yellowfin in the Gulf of Mexico decreased in 1998 to 2,006 MT from 2,634 MT in 1997. The estimated 1998 Gulf of Mexico landings of yellowfin accounted for 36% of the estimated total U.S. yellowfin landings in 1998. U.S. vessels fishing in the northwest Atlantic landed an estimated 1,234MT of bluefin, a decrease of 99 MT compared to 1997. Provisional skipjack landings increased by 21 MT to 105 MT from 1997 to 1998, estimated bigeye landings decreased by 208 MT compared to 1997 to an estimated 928 MT in 1998, and estimated albacore landings increased from 1997 to 1998 by 249 MT to 830 MT.

In addition to monitoring landings and size of swordfish, bluefin tuna, yellowfin tuna, billfish, and other large pelagic species through continued port and tournament sampling, logbook and dealer reporting procedures, and scientific observer sampling of the U.S. fleet, major research activities in 1997 and 1998 focused on several items. Research on development of methodologies to determine the genetic discreetness of large pelagic fishes in the Atlantic was continued. Larval surveys for bluefin tuna and other large pelagics in the Gulf of Mexico were continued. Research continued on development of robust estimation techniques for population analyses. Research was also continued on approaches for characterization of uncertainty in assessments and methods for translating that uncertainty into risk levels associated with alternative management approaches. U.S. scientists also continued to coordinate efforts for the ICCAT Enhanced Research Program for Billfish and for the Bluefin Year Program. Cooperators in the Southeast Fisheries Center's Cooperative Tagging Program tagged and released 2,499 billfishes (swordfish, marlins and sailfish) and 2,383 tunas in 1998. This represents a decrease of 23% from 1997 levels for billfish, and a increase of 21% for tunas. Cooperative research was conducted with scientists from other nations on both spawning and indices of abundance for yellowfin tuna.

2. Fisheries monitoring

2.1 Tropical tunas

A thorough review of available commercial and recreational landings databases for the tropical tunas yellowfin, bigeye and skipjack (as well as for the temperate albacore tuna) was conducted for the years 1980-1998. This review, the methodologies and results for which are reported in SCRS/99/58, has resulted in revisions to the historical landings estimates for these species. These revisions have been reported separately to ICCAT and are reflected in the tables which follow. Revisions to purse seine landings estimates, however, will be reported to ICCAT at a later date; these estimates are still undergoing review, with particular attention to the assignment of fishing areas.

Yellowfin Tuna. Yellowfin is the principal species of tropical tuna landed by U.S. fisheries in the western North Atlantic. Total estimated landings decreased to 5,619 in 1998, from the 1997 landings of 7,674 MT. The estimated 1998 value is considered provisional and may change owing to incorporation of late reports of commercial catches as they become available and to possible revisions in estimates of rod & reel catches made by recreational anglers. A high

* Original report in English.

proportion of the landings were due to estimated rod & reel catches of recreational anglers in the northwestern Atlantic (2,846 MT). Estimates of U.S. recreational harvests for tuna and tuna-like species continue to be reviewed and this may result in the need to report additional revisions to the available estimates in the future. In 1996, 28%; in 1997, 34%; and in 1998, 36%; of the estimated U.S. yellowfin landings resulted from fish caught in the Gulf of Mexico; whereas between 1991 and 1993 longline catches from the Gulf of Mexico represented 47-64% of the estimated U.S. total.

Skipjack Tuna. Skipjack tuna also are caught by U.S. vessels in the western North Atlantic. Total reported skipjack landings (preliminary) increased from 84 MT in 1997 to 105 MT in 1998. Most of the catch is taken off the U.S. East Coast (northwestern Atlantic) between Cape Hatteras and Long Island. Estimates of recreational harvests of skipjack continue to be reviewed and may be revised again in the future.

Bigeye Tuna. The other large tropical tuna reported in catches by U.S. vessels in the western North Atlantic is bigeye tuna. The majority of U.S. landings of this species comes from longline vessels fishing off the east coast of the U.S. in the area from Cape Hatteras, North Carolina to Massachusetts. These landings accounted for 59% of the U.S. bigeye catch in 1998. Total reported catches and landings (preliminary) for 1998 decreased by 18% from 1136 MT in 1997 to 928 MT. Note that like yellowfin, the estimates of rod & reel catch are considered provisional and may be revised based on results of an ongoing review of recreational harvest estimates.

2.2 Temperate tunas

Bluefin. The U.S. bluefin tuna fishery continues to be regulated by quotas, seasons, gear restrictions, 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 conform to ICCAT recommendations.

U.S. vessels fishing in the northwest Atlantic (including the Gulf of Mexico) in 1998 landed an estimated 1,234 MT of bluefin tuna and discarded dead an estimated 67 MT (total 1,301 MT). Those estimated landings represented a decrease of 99 MT from the 1997 landings, and the estimated dead discards were 15 MT higher. The 1998 landings by gear were: 249 MT by purse seine, 133 MT by harpoon, 29 MT by handline, 49 MT by longline (of which, 18 MT were from the Gulf of Mexico), 774 MT by rod & reel (of which, 166 MT was the preliminary estimate for bluefin less than 145 cm SFL from off the northeastern U.S.), and less than 1 MT was taken by other gears. In addition to the landed catch, 516 bluefin (about 64 MT) were reported discarded dead by U.S. longline vessels; of those discards, an estimated 36 fish (about 7 MT) were caught in the Gulf of Mexico. Additionally, 49 bluefin (less than 3 MT) were estimated to have been discarded dead by rod and reel fishermen. During 1997, in comparison, 37 MT were reported discarded dead by U.S. longline vessels, of which 6 MT were caught in the Gulf of Mexico; an estimated 15 MT were discarded dead by rod & reel fishermen. Data are not available to estimate dead discards in purse seine and harpoon fisheries.

In response to 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 in 1993 for the purpose of providing near real-time advice on catch levels by this fishery. This monitoring activity has continued and has included estimation of catches by finer size categories than reported above. The preliminary estimates for the 1998 rod and reel fishery off the northeastern U.S. (including the North Carolina winter fishery) for landings in several size categories were: 5,171 fish <115 cm (of which 236 fish, about 1 MT, were <66 cm), 1813 fish 115-144 cm and 184 fish 145-177 cm (101, 64, and 16 MT respectively).

In 1994, a catch and release fishery for large bluefin developed off the coast of North Carolina during the winter months (January-March). Catch rates (primarily of medium and/or large bluefin) were extremely high (often in the 10's of fish per trip) when compared to catch rates off the New England coast (about one fish per nine trips). It is believed that during 1995, 1996, and again in 1997 the level of fishing effort in the North Carolina fishery increased relative to 1994. Landings of fish >178 cm SFL are restricted to one fish per each permitted vessel per year, and the total amount of those landings is restricted to 4 MT. Landings of fish <178 cm SFL are allowed, subject to variable bag limits. Many bluefin tuna have been tagged by cooperative anglers from this fishery. In 1996, a monitoring program was instituted to monitor the catch, catch rates and landings from this fishery. This component of the 1998 rod & reel fishery (included in the totals reported in the previous paragraph) was estimated to be less than 3 MT landings of fish <145 cm, about 4 MT of fish 145-177 cm and about 2 MT of fish >178 cm. It is assumed that unusual environmental conditions contributed to the low catch rates. During January and February of 1999, catch rates were higher than the previous year, but the catches mainly occurred off southern North Carolina.

Albacore. Albacore are landed by U.S. vessels; however, historically, albacore has not been a main focus of the U.S. commercial tuna fisheries operating in the North Atlantic. Commercial reported catches were relatively low prior to 1986;

however, these catches increased substantially and have remained at higher levels throughout the 1990s, with nearly all of the production annually coming from the northeastern U.S. coast. Caribbean landings increased in 1995 to make up over 14% of the total, but U.S. landings from the Caribbean have remained below 4% of the total each year during 1996-1998. Historically, commercial landings have primarily been made using longline gear. During 1996-1998, the second highest commercial landings totals were made using gill net, with catches increasing to 31-43 MT each year compared to 109-190 MT each year for longline gearIn the early 1990's pair trawls were used to catch albacore, but this gear type is no longer used in U.S. Atlantic waters for albacore. Albacore are frequently sought by recreational fishermen; recreational landings of albacore exceeded commercial landings each year during the 1980s, and since 1990 have exceeded commercial landings in four of nine years. Reported catches of albacore were 830 MT in 1998, an increase of 249 MT from 1997 which was primarily due to an increase in estimated rod and reel catches from 270 MT in 1997 to 601 MT in 1998.

2.3 Swordfish

For 1998, the provisional estimate of U.S. vessel landings and dead discards of swordfish was 3,655 MT. This estimate is 5% lower than the estimate of 3,840 MT for 1997. The decline in U.S. landings of swordfish compared to the 1989-90 average of about 5,000 MT per year was due, at least in part, to the U.S. implementing regulations which set allowable catch levels of Atlantic swordfish by U.S. fishers on a fishing year basis (June-May)The provisional landings, excluding discard estimates, by ICCAT area for 1998 (compared to 1997) were: 576 MT (651 MT) from the Gulf of Mexico (Area 91); 1343 MT (1020 MT) from the northwest Atlantic (Area 92); 501 MT (671 MT) from the Caribbean Sea (Area 93); and 632 MT (635 MT) from the North Central Atlantic (Area 94A), and 160 MT (397 MT) from the southwestern Atlantic (Area 96).

U.S. swordfish landings are monitored in-season 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. This fishery is also being monitored via a scientific observer sampling program, instituted in 1992. Approximately 5% of the longline fleet-wide fishing effort is randomly selected for observation during the fishing year. In 1998, fishing effort for drift gillnets was not sampled due to the closure of this fishery. The observer sampling data, in combination with logbook reported effort levels, support estimates of approximately 29,470 fish discarded dead in 1998, representing an estimated 442 MT of swordfish. This reflects a decrease in estimated discarded swordfish from the 1997 level.

The total weight of swordfish sampled for sizing U.S. landings in 1997 by longline, gillnet, harpoon, otter trawl, rod and reel and handline was 2,853 MT, 0.4 MT, 0.7 MT, 7 MT, 0.3 MT and 0.6 MT, respectively, as compared to 2,819 MT, 36.3 MT, 1.5 MT, 5.2 MT, 0.5 MT and 0.0 MT in 1998. Pair trawl gear was not used in 1996, 1997 or 1998. In 1997, the weight of the sampled swordfish landings represented 96%, 100%, 100%, 84%, 92% and 44% of the U.S. total reported annual landings for longline, gillnet, harpoon, otter trawl rod & reel and handline gears, respectively, whereas 1998 sampled swordfish landings were 94%, 100%, 100%, 88%, 46%, and 0% of the U.S. total reported annual landings of swordfish for longline, gillnet, harpoon, otter trawl, trolling, and handline. Again, incorporation of late reports into the estimated 1998 landings figure will likely result in changes in the sampled fraction of the catch.

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. The original U.S. Fisheries Management Plan (FMP) for Atlantic Billfishes was implemented in October, 1988. The Plan allows billfish caught by recreational gear (rod & reel) to be landed only if the fish is larger than the size minimum specified for each species covered by the Plan. Amendment One of the Atlantic Billfish FMP was implemented in 1999. Recreational landings of each billfish species are estimated using: (a) 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); and (b) the Large Pelagics Recreational Survey conducted by the Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC) and the SEFSC that provide estimates of total billfish catch from waters along the northeastern U.S. (north of 35 N latitude). The estimates are conservative since not all segments of the fishery are in fact sampled.

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 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 data from mandatory pelagic logbooks and scientific observer data collected on this fleet. The procedure for estimating this by-catch for blue marlin, white marlin, and sailfish (1987-1997) was detailed in SCRS/96/97-Revised, and was applied to derive the 1998 estimate (SCRS/99/90). Revisions to historical landings of billfish previously reported to ICCAT were based on review of the estimates conducted at the 1996 ICCAT Billfish Workshop held in Miami.

The preliminary estimates of 1998 U.S. recreational catches for these billfish species, combining the geographical areas of the Gulf of Mexico (Area 91), the northwestern Atlantic Ocean West of the 60°W longitude (Area 92), and the Caribbean Sea (Area 93) are: 49.3 MT for blue marlin, 2.6 MT for white marlin, and 1.2 MT for sailfish. The estimates for 1997 were 45.1 MT, 1.8 MT, and 0.6 MT, respectively, for the three species. The estimates of the U.S. recreational catch (landings) do not include any estimates of mortality of released (or tagged and released) fish. Additionally, these landings include survey estimates of non-tournament billfish mortality and survey estimates from tournaments, but do not constitute a census of all tournaments. Because some components of the charter boat and non-tournament recreational fishery are not surveyed, the recreational catches are considered minimum estimates. Therefore, the rod and reel landings presented in Table 2.4-BIL include a '?' to represent the unknown quantities of billfish in the recreational fishery not recorded.

Estimates of the billfish by-catch discarded dead in the U.S. commercial longline and other commercial fisheries for 1998 were 52.4 MT for blue marlin, 32.8 MT for white marlin, and 27.0 MT for sailfish. The estimated 1997 U.S. discarded dead by-catch was 138.1 MT, 70.8 MT, and 57.7 MT, respectively for the three species.

Information from a statistical survey (Marine Recreational Fishery Statistics Survey, MRFSS) of the U.S. recreational harvesting sector conducted over part of the U.S. northeast coast continues to be under evaluation for its application to estimating billfish catches by recreational fishers. Preliminary results are being presented at the 1999 SCRS Meeting. Although billfish are considered "rare event" species in this survey and accordingly the estimates may suffer from bias and imprecision, they do provide a basis for evaluating the potential degree of conservatism in the values reported for recreational (rod & reel) harvest. From this survey, for the period 1995-1998, the available estimates of recreational billfish landings (in numbers of fish), with associated coefficients of variation (CV, expressed as a percentage), for ICCAT Areas 92 (NW Atlantic) and 91 (Gulf of Mexico) were derived. Investigations into the possible reasons for differences have been undertaken and the results of these investigations provide a basis for revising historical and recent estimates of billfish catches by the U.S. recreational sector.

2.5 Mackerels

Significant catches of king and Spanish mackerels by U.S. fishermen have occurred since the 1850s for Spanish mackerel and since the 1880s for king mackerel. The major gears currently exploiting these species are handlines and gillnets. Purse seines were also used to harvest king mackerel during the 1980s. Gillnets have historically been the main commercial gear for Spanish mackerel. However, in recent years, recreational removals have become an important component in total catches for both species. The majority of king mackerel catches are taken off North Carolina and Florida and it is believed that a major production area off Louisiana, is recovering. The primary Spanish mackerel catch areas include the Chesapeake Bay and Florida. Current fisheries are co-managed under the Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources FMP enacted in 1983 and regulations adopted by the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management council and implemented by NMFS. Annual catches are monitored closely by NMFS and within-season management measures include commercial trip limits, seasonal and area quotas, and recreational per person daily bag limits. Because these species occur in both federal and state territorial zones of U.S. successful management has required participation by both federal and state management agencies. Currently, only the Gulf of Mexico king mackerel stock is considered over-fished.

Annual yields of king mackerel have ranged from 4,365 MT to 7,746 MT between 1983 and 1996 with an average production of 6,860 MT since 1994. Annual catches of Spanish mackerel have ranged from 2,784 MT to 5,957 MT from 1983 to 1996 with the average catch being 3,726 since 1994.

The harvest of both species has stabilized in recent years although large fluctuations in estimates of recreational catches in some years have occurred and overages in commercial landings and recreational quotas can occur. The stabilization in yields is thought to be the direct impact of regulations which have been implemented in an effort to sustain future production. The primary management 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, and regulations that permit the sale of king mackerel from recreational charter boats after

the closure of commercial fisheries. Critical research concerns regarding mackerels are sampling concerns related to adequate coverage of the age structure of the stocks and increasing the precision associated with the mackerel assessment abundance indices.

2.6 Sharks

The U.S. Atlantic shark fishery is primarily a southeastern fishery extending from Virginia to Texas. The fishery is now regulated under the Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan published in 1999. The plan divides sharks species into "large coastal species" (LCS), "small coastal species" (SCS), and "pelagic species", and set TACs for large coastal and pelagic species. New shark regulations published in 1999 include the following management measures: (1) reduce the annual commercial quota for large coastal sharks from 1,285 MT dw to 816 MT dw, apportioned between ridgeback (620 MT dw) and non-ridgeback (196 MT dw) sharks; (2) reduce the annual commercial quota for small coastal sharks from 1,760 MT dw to 359 MT dw, this is 10% higher than 1997 landings; (3) reduce the annual commercial quota for pelagic sharks from 580 MT dw to 488 MT dw and establish a separate annual commercial quota of 92 MT dw for the porbeagle and an annual quota of 273 MT dw for blue sharks, reduce the pelagic shark quota by the over-harvest in the blue shark quota; (4) establish a minimum size of 137 cm fork length for ridgeback sharks; (5) reduce the recreational bag limit to one shark per vessel per trip from two sharks allowed, with a minimum size of 137 cm fork length for all sharks, and an additional one Atlantic sharpnose shark per person per trip which used to be a limit of two; (6) prohibit possession of 19 species of sharks (Atlantic angel, basking, bigeye sand tiger, bigeye sixgill, bigeye thresher, bignose, Caribbean reef, Caribbean sharpnose, dusky, Galapagos, longfin mako, narrowtooth, night, sand tiger, sevengill, sixgill, smalltail, whale and white); and (7) count all sources of mortality, including dead discards and all landings in state waters. The new plan manages 72 species of sharks. The catch-and-release-only, recreational fishing allowance for white sharks is still enforced.

In 1998, large coastal shark landings were estimated to be 2,058 MT, slightly higher than the 1997 total of 1,809 MT, but still a reduction from the peak recorded (4,600 MT) in 1989. 1998 LCS landings are 67% of those caught in 1995. Total estimated landings for large coastal, small coastal and pelagic sharks were 2,573 MT, 200 MT more than 1997. Catches in numbers for 1998 are estimated to be about 14% higher than 1997 catches. Catch levels higher than the established quota in 1997 and 1998 are attributable to state landings after season closure. Commercial landings are monitored by a system of logbooks and dealer reports. Recreation harvest estimates (provisional) in numbers for 1998 were 151,791 for LCS, 77,924 for SCS, 11,620 for pelagic and 7,666 for unidentified sharks. Recreational landings are estimated by statistical surveys of the recreational catch. Data on landings by species are currently being collected by species for some 27 species of sharks. However, a portion of the reported landings remains unidentified.

3. Research activities

Research activities in 1998 and 1999 focused on several items. Research on the development of methodologies to determine the genetic discreetness of large pelagic fishes in the Atlantic was continued. Larval surveys for bluefin tuna and other large pelagics in the Gulf of Mexico were continued. Research continued on the development of new methods for estimating and indexing abundance of various large pelagic species, as well as robust estimation techniques for sequential population analyses. Research was also conducted on approaches for characterization of uncertainty in assessments and methods for translating that uncertainty into risk levels associated with alternative approaches. U.S. scientists also continued to coordinate efforts for the ICCAT Enhanced Research Program for Billfish and for the Bluefin Year Program.

3.1 Bluefin tuna research

As part of its commitment to the Bluefin Year Program, research supported by the United States has concentrated on ichthyoplankton sampling, reproductive biology, methods to evaluate hypotheses about movement patterns, spawning area fidelity and stock structure investigations.

Ichthyoplankton surveys in the Gulf of Mexico during the bluefin spawning season were continued in 1998 and 1999. Data resulting from these surveys which began in 1977 are used to develop a fishery-independent abundance index 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.

In July and August, 1998, surface ichthyoplankton samples were taken off the southeast United States outside of the western wall of the Gulf Stream from about 30° to about 35°N. During those months average water temperatures in that area are similar to temperatures in bluefin spawning areas around the world during spawning seasons. These samples have not yet been sorted or processed to determine what may have been caught, which generally takes about a year to complete. A similar effort was planned for mid-June through August, 1999, but the sampling was canceled due to logistical and mechanical problems which delayed the start of the cruise until early August.

Studies related to genetic evaluations of the number of fishery management units of Atlantic bluefin are being conducted at several laboratories in the United States. The National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration laboratory in Charleston, South Caroline, is acting as a sample archive center and has tissues from all bluefin collected for stock structure research by the National Marine Fisheries Service since 1996 and some or all samples collected by researchers from various institutions including the University of South Carolina, the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, the University of Maryland and the Massachusetts Department of Marine Fisheries. A summary of tissues collected though mid 1999 are presented (SCRS/99/108). Preliminary results from researchers at the University of South Carolina were presented in 1998 (SCRS/98/78). Researchers at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science and at Texas A&M University initiated a project in 1999 to try to substantially increase the number of known variable loci for Atlantic bluefin; substantial progress is anticipated before the SCRS meeting in 2000.

Scientists from the Texas A&M University, the University of Maryland and the National Marine Fisheries Service continued research on the feasibility of using otolith microconstituents to distinguish bluefin stocks. A paper published in Fisheries Research (Secor and Zdanowicz, 1998, Vol. 36) showed significant differences between Mediterranean and Pacific bluefin tuna. Additional unpublished research on paired otoliths showed no differences within a fish while examination of elemental composition with size showed no size effects for some elements and size related effects for others. Studies of handling procedures revealed that in general deliberately contaminated otoliths could be adequately decontaminated with standard techniques. Additional analyses of handling procedures and sampling to examine trans-oceanic differences are continuing.

Scientists from the North Carolina State University and Oregon State University developed an assay to identify maturational status of bluefin and yellowfin tuna (SCRS/99/106). A proposal to initiate collection of samples to be used to develop a maturity ogive for west Atlantic bluefin will be submitted to the SCRS (SCRS/99/107).

Research on bluefin tuna movement patterns using electronic tags and on the associated methodology was continued in 1998 and 1999. Tagging activities continued off North Carolina (scientists from Stanford University, Monterey Bay Aquarium and NMFS) and off northeastern North America (by scientists from the New England Aquarium, the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans of Canada, as well as from Stanford University and the Monterey Bay Aquarium). Additionally researchers from Stanford University and the Monterey Bay Aquarium initiated a study of the feasibility of tagging bluefin tuna in the Gulf of Mexico in 1998 and continued that work in 1999 successfully releasing four bluefin tuna with electronic tags.

Results from the work by scientists from Stanford University, Monterey Bay Aquarium and the National Marine Fisheries Service are presented in SCRS/99/103. Results from a cooperative program between U.S. (New England Aquarium, NMFS, the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries, and Telemetry, Inc) and Canadian (D.F.O.)scientists are presented in SCRS/99/104.

3.2 Swordfish research

In response to ICCAT recommendations, randomized observer sampling of the U.S. large pelagic fleet was continued into 1998. Using fishing vessel performance information provided through submission of mandatory pelagic logbooks by vessel owners and operators, a list of randomly selected vessels was used to derive a sampling fraction of 5% (about 700 observer fishing days per year) of the pelagic longline fleet in the Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean, and Atlantic Ocean since 1992. Observer coverage by the Southeast and Northeast Fisheries Science Centers (SEFSC and NEFSC) successfully recorded effort from 329 observed sets during 1992, 815 during 1993, 649 during 1994, 696 during 1995, 361 during 1996, 448 during 1997, and 287 during 1998, corresponding to nominal sampling fractions of about 2.5%, 6%, 5.2%, 5.2%, 2.5%, 3.1%, and about 2.9%, respectively.

Data from observer samples were compared against self-reported information in from the U.S. large pelagic mandatory logbook reporting system and estimates of discard mortality of swordfish, billfish, and sharks from the U.S. fleet were developed from that analysis for the 1999 SCRS.

Research was also conducted on the performance of analytical options for conducting the 1999 swordfish sex-specific assessments, as outlined in the 1999 SCRS swordfish species group work plan. A document was prepared summarizing this work in which a number of options under two approaches for carrying out sex-specific assessments for North Atlantic swordfish were examined. One approach is based on the ADAPT sequential population analysis formulation and consists of carrying out virtual population analyses of the two sexes separately, and adding penalties to the objective function being minimized so that certain parameters are similar. For example, one such penalty would make the recruitment time series similar between sexes. The other approach evaluated is based on forward, separable models, and also keeps track of data for the two sexes separately. With the latter approach, the analyst has the ability to make some parameters being estimated (*e.g.* recruitment) identical between sexes. Several variants of each of the two approaches using a test data set and recommendations for conducting the 1999 assessment were made.

Research into methods to estimate swordfish catch at size by sex was continued in support of the SCRS swordfish species group work plan developed at the 1998 meeting. Two manuscripts on the topic were prepared for the 1999 SCRS swordfish assessment meeting. Swordfish exhibit sexually dimorphic growth patterns with females growing faster and achieving larger sizes than males. This growth difference and patterns of biological activities such as spawning and feeding behaviors of swordfish are thought to be primarily responsible for the temporal and geographic differences in Sex Ratios at Size (SRS) observed in swordfish catch data. The North Atlantic was divided into three biological regions (spawning, feeding and transition) with similar observed SRS patterns. The spawning region SRS pattern was characterized by a low proportion of females (*i.e.* a large proportion of males) at 120 to 180 cm LJFL and thereafter an increase to a high proportion female. In contrast the SRS pattern in feeding region was about 50% females between 100 to 150 cm LJFL and thereafter an increase to a higher proportion female. The SRS pattern in the transition region was between the spawning and feeding regions. A total of 128,857 sexed swordfish from the North Atlantic were included in the analysis. A Bayesian analysis approach was used to generate priors for mean estimated SRS in a broad biological region/quarter (i.e. trimester) strata. These priors were then used to estimate posterior SRS for specific area/ quarter substrata, depending on the available information within the area/quarter classification. Prior SRS were fitted using General Additive Models (GAM), for each biological region, quarter and size interval (10 cm LJFL). Posteriors were then estimated using a weighting factor to set the relative influence of the observations within the area/quarter/size bin stratum to observations within the posterior for the biological region/quarter/size bin. Predicted SRS proportions for each area/quarter were then extrapolated from size 70-90 to 350 cm (LJFL) for 5 cm size bin using a smoothing of size in a GAM model. In cases where there were not observations for a particular area-quarter combination, the estimated priors became the predicted swordfish SRS proportions.

Application of these sex-ratio at size keys to the U.S. catch-at-size data was documented in another manuscript submitted to the 1999 SCRS. The catch at size by sex for the United States was derived from the unsexed catch at size and the SRS keys developed in the manuscript discussed above. Unsexed catch at size had area recorded in up to 12 U.S. fishing areas or five ICCAT areas. The SRS was based on different areas from those previously used for the unsexed catch at size. Logbook information on the geographic distribution of the catch was used in determining the appropriate sex ratio at size for calculating numbers of fish by sex. Because the same approach was to be used for converting unsexed catch per trip to catch by sex per trip, when fish were recorded in catch areas which were associated with multiple SRS areas, the SRS was determined randomly for each fish (thus the resulting catch by sex per trip was in whole fish). Where there were insufficient numbers of observations of catch and effort (both fish and sets) a hierarchical substitution scheme was used for selecting the geographic information for selecting the appropriate SRS area.

Also in support of conducting the swordfish assessment in a way that explicitly accounts for the sexually dimorphic growth of swordfish, analyses of sex-specific catch rate patterns needed for tuning the sequential population algorithms were conducted and reported upon. Fisher reported and observed swordfish catch, size and effort data collected from the U.S. longline fleet operating in the western North Atlantic Ocean were used to develop indices of abundance for the North Atlantic swordfish stock. Standardized catch rates were estimated using the Generalized Linear Modeling approach by applying delta-lognormal error distribution assumptions. CPUE-abundance analyses were carried out on vessel-trip levels. A number of explanatory variables were considered in analysis, including area, quarters, target species, size of the gear set (longline), and a combined factor called operation-procedure which summarized fishing-fleet characteristics such as boat size, traditional-area of operation, and age of the boat.

Research was also conducted on the application of non-equilibrium, generalized production models to swordfish catch and effort data. Two manuscripts were submitted on this topic. In the first, a non-equilibrium generalized production model, conditioned on catch, was fit to data on fishing effort rate and landings of North Atlantic swordfish. A logistic model, similar in all other respects, was fit for comparative purposes. The more complex (generalized) model fit the data slightly better, but this difference was not statistically significant ($P>0.15$). Both models estimate that the swordfish stock

is over exploited in recent years, with $B<B_{MSY}$ and $F>F_{MSY}$; the generalized model's estimates of stock status were the more optimistic of the two. However, those generalized results were rejected on biological and statistical grounds. This research indicated that using only landings and CPUE data, it is not always possible to estimate the shape of the production curve. Three criteria, combining statistical and biological reasoning, were proposed as potentially helpful in deciding whether to accept estimates in specific cases. Under those criteria, the generalized model fit obtained in the North Atlantic swordfish application would be rejected in favor of the logistic model. Although direct estimation of the shape of the production curve was not feasible in the application examined, this does not imply that the generalized model is of no use in assessing swordfish. Given *a priori* estimates of model shape, it would be possible to use the same underlying model to estimate (by either frequentist or Bayesian procedures) measures of stock status conditional on model shape.

In a separate manuscript, research into application of Bayesian methods to fit a generalized production model to catch rate data on North and South Atlantic swordfish was reported upon. The model developed incorporates parameters for carrying capacity (K), intrinsic rate of increase (r), and a "shape" parameter (n) which determines the inflection point in the surplus production function. Fletcher's version of the Pella-Tomlinson model was modified (called here the "extended PT/F model") to eliminate the possibility of an infinite value for r and over-estimates of surplus production for values of $B_{MSY}/K <= 1/e$ (about 0.37) and to be more consistent with empirical estimates of *r*. Demographic theory and estimation methods were applied to construct a joint prior probability density function (pdf) for the parameters r and n for swordfish. This prior and catch rate data for swordfish were applied to compute a joint posterior pdf for the parameters in the extended PT/F model. As expected, the uncertainties in Bayesian estimates of, *e.g.*, current stock size and MSY for the extended PT/F model, were noticeably larger those resulting from fitting the Schaefer production model to the same data. Because the extended PT/F model incorporates prior information on the inflection point and suggests a value for swordfish different than that in the Schaefer model, the application of the extended PT/F might be regarded as providing more credible model predictions than those given by a Schaefer model.

Tuning information for lumped biomass production models was also updated and reported upon in a U.S.-Spanish-Canadian-Japanese jointly authored manuscript. Non age-structured (and age-structured) production model analyses of north Atlantic swordfish have been used in addition to age structured virtual population analyses by ICCAT's SCRS to evaluate the status of the resource and to provide a basis for management advice. Production models require a standardized index of abundance in terms of biomass. The standardized biomass index of abundance developed for the 1992, 1994, and 1996 ICCAT-SCRS meetings for north Atlantic swordfish was revised and updated with data through 1998. General Linear Modeling (GLM) procedures were used to standardized catch (biomass) and effort (number of hooks) data from longline fleets from the United States, Spain, Canada, and Japan. As in past analyses, main effects included: year, area, quarter, a nation-operation variable accounting for gear and operational differences thought to influence swordfish catchability, a target variable to account for trips where tunas where predominant in the catch, and an interaction term for area-quarter. Sensitivity trials evaluated the effect of ICCAT minimum size regulations on annual abundance estimates, especially with respect to the United States data.

Research on the genetics of swordfish in the Atlantic was also continued and a manuscript on the topic was presented to the 1999 SCRS. The analysis conducted by investigators from the FISHTEC consortium, provided additional genetic evidence in support of the hypothesis that swordfish from the northwest Atlantic are genetically distinct from those found in the South Atlantic. Genetic variation in introns of the nuclear genes aldolase B (aldB) and the lactate dehydrogenase A (ldhA) was examined and the distribution of alleles was found to be significantly different in samples from the two regions. These results are consistent with those obtained from earlier studies of mitochondrial DNA. Taken together these results provide support for the current practice of dividing the North and South Atlantic into separate management units for swordfish.

3.3 Yellowfin tuna research

Cooperative research by the U.S. NMFS and the INP in Mexico was initiated, involving joint analyses of longline observer program data from the Gulf of Mexico fisheries of both countries. This research resulted in the calculation of yellowfin tuna abundance indices during the Spring of 1999; these analyses will be refined and updated using current data later this year, resulting in a forthcoming joint SCRS document. Future cooperative research plans include the development of abundance indices for sharks and other tunas.

Scientists from U.S. NMFS and Venezuela also conducted cooperative research on the spawning of yellowfin tuna in the western central Atlantic, including the Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico. The condition of ovaries and the presence of hydrated oocytes were used to determine maturity and spawning status, respectively. The preliminary results

of this ongoing study are presented in SCRS/99/79. As reported in section 3.1, SCRS/99/106 describes the development by U.S. scientists of a bioassay to identify spawning in yellowfin tuna.

U.S. scientists also conducted a nucleotide sequence analysis of the mitochondrial DNA D-loop region in yellowfin tuna from the eastern Pacific and the northwestern Atlantic Oceans. The results, which are presented in SCRS/99/109, provide no evidence for genetic differentiation of mtDNA lineages between yellowfin tuna populations in the two oceans.

3.4 Albacore research

The cooperative research initiated by the U.S. NMFS and the IEO of Spain in 1993 was continued at the NMFS in Miami during August of 1999. A U.S. scientist also provided training to Spanish IEO scientists on the conduct of generalized linear modeling approaches during June, 1999. This year, the effort was extended to analyze the catch per unit of effort data for the Spanish troll and baitboat fisheries using the general linear modeling approach.

3.5 Mackerels and small tunas research

U.S. small tuna research is directed mainly on king and Spanish mackerel stocks as the amount landed of other small tunas such as cero by U.S. fishermen is very low. The focus of research is collection of primary fishery catch 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.

3.6 Shark research

Shark research was conducted in support of the Fishery Management Plan for Sharks. A study exploring the biology of the nurse shark has just been completed. Studies delineating shark nursery areas are being conducted to identify regions with concentrations of gravid females and young sharks. Tagging studies are being carried out in Yucatan, Mexico, in cooperation with "Instituto Nacional de Pesca" and the Mote Marine Laboratory. These studies are designed to map the nursery areas and migratory patterns of cross-boundary species of sharks. A total of 700 juvenile blacktips sharks have been tagged and released in Mexican nurseries, with a recapture rate of 18.2%. This study is continuing in 1999-2000 with tagging efforts near the U.S/Mexico border. A workshop of collaborators will be held to assess the last five years of data. The by-catch of sharks in the U.S. Atlantic tuna fisheries area also being monitored and reported to ICCAT through a scientific observer sampling program.

In support of the SCRS Sub-Committee on By-catch, U.S. scientists submitted six working documents reporting on shark research activities to the Shark Working Group meeting held in Messina, Sicily, in April, 1999. One document provided estimates of shark by-catch from the U.S. longline fleet over the period 1982-1992 (U.S. data from 1993-1997 had been previously reported to ICCAT). In this work, landings records, mandatory logbook and observer records from the U.S. longline fleet were used to estimate yearly by-catch of large coastal and pelagic shark species for the period. Size frequencies of landed sharks for 13 species were also reported, when available, for this period. By-catch from the U.S. longline fleet represents only a portion of the total U.S. landings of large coastal and pelagic sharks. However, these data are representative of fishing effort from a wide geographical range in the western north Atlantic Ocean.

Three manuscripts reporting on different catch rate pattern analyses were presented. In one manuscript, updated evaluations of catch rate patterns from the U.S. longline fleet were conducted and reported upon. Indices of shark abundance from 1986 through 1997 for large coastal and pelagic sharks in the combined areas (Atlantic, Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico) were developed using mandatory reports from longline and bottom longline vessels. In a second manuscript, information on the relative abundance of blue sharks (*Prionace glauca*) as represented in a data set collected from the U.S. recreational fishing sector was also provided. Intercept survey data from the National Marine Fisheries Service Marine Recreational Fishery Statistics Survey (MRFSS) were used to examine blue shark catch rates in the recreational fishery off the U.S. Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico coasts for the years 1981 to 1996. A generalized linear model (GLM) was used to assess the effects of region, fishing mode (private versus charter boats), target species, season and year on the proportion of fishing trips that caught any blue sharks, and on the catch rate in trips that caught blue sharks. Abundance indices for several shark species off the coast of the U.S. from Virginia through Massachusetts were developed in a third manuscript using data obtained during interviews of anglers in the Large Pelagic Survey (LPS), a separate survey of anglers who target large pelagic species, conducted between 1986-1998. Subsets of the data were analyzed to assess

effects of month, area fished, boat type (private or charter), and interview type (dockside or phone) on catch per unit effort. Standardized catch rates were developed using general linear models for unclassified mako (*Isurus spp.*), sandbar (*Carcharhinus plumbeus*), dusky (*Carcharhinus obscurus*), and blue sharks. The nominal catch rate trend was also presented for unclassified hammerhead (*Sphyrna spp.*) sharks.

Another U.S. manuscript presented a summarization of the available catch rate information for pelagic sharks from the U.S. east and Gulf of Mexico coasts from a wide array of data sources. Available CPUE time series reported upon, included commercial data from mandatory logbooks, weight out records from longline vessels, and observer reports from Japanese vessels that operated within the U.S. EEZ. Recreational data from the LPS were also available for the eastern U.S. coast from Virginia to Massachusetts. GLM-standardized time series were available for pelagic sharks combined, and mako, blue, thresher, and oceanic whitetip sharks. In general, there appears to have been a rapid decline in catch rates from the mid- to the late 1980's, followed by stabilization and even some increase in the 1990's.

Research on pelagic shark life history characteristics and their implications relative to potential rates of increase and rates of increase per generation was also reported upon. In this manuscript, age at maturity and longevity estimates, combined with vital rate information, were used to construct life tables for three representative species of pelagic sharks occurring in the North Atlantic Ocean (the blue shark, the shortfin mako *Isurus oxyrinchus*, and the porbeagle *Lamna nasus*). Uncertainty and variability associated with vital rates was incorporated through Monte Carlo simulation and estimates of potential rates of increase and generation length were produced and combined into rates of increase per generation. The proportion of the carrying capacity at which MSY is predicted to be reached for these pelagic species also was investigated. This approach, in combination with information about relative abundance patterns, provides a method for evaluation of stock status.

3.7 Billfish research

Sampling of recreational billfish tournaments continued in 1997 along the U.S. East Coast, Gulf of Mexico, Bahamas, and U.S. Caribbean. A total of 92 billfish tournaments were sampled in 1998 (compared to 113 tournaments in 1997). This represented 86,827 hours of fishing effort, an decrease of about 6,236 hours from the 1997 level. In 1998, sampling accounted for 261 billfish boated (173 blue marlin, 42 white marlin, 46 sailfish, and 0 spearfish); 2,009 released; and 1,291 tagged-and-released. In comparison, in 1997, there were 360 billfish boated (260 blue marlin, 67 white marlin, 32 sailfish, and 1 spearfish); 3,415 released; and 999 tagged-and-released). Morphometric measurements of billfish landings were also taken in conjunction with the ICCAT Enhanced Research Program for Billfish (ERPB).

The NMFS SEFSC again played a substantial role in the ICCAT Enhanced Research Program for Billfish in 1998, with SEFSC scientists acting as general coordinator and coordinator for the western Atlantic Ocean. Major accomplishments in 1998 include the following: (1) completion of 24 at-sea observer trips on Venezuelan longline vessels by October, 1998; (2) three of the at-sea observer trips completed were on the larger Korean type vessels that stay out for about one month; (3) continuation of the biological sampling program in Venezuela resulted in 12 samples for reproductive studies and about 200 samples for age and growth work; (4) continuation of work on shore-based sampling, including billfish tournament sampling in Barbados, St. Maarten, Grenada, Jamaica, Senegal, Côte d'Ivoire, Trinidad and Tobago, and Venezuela; (5) continued efforts to retrieve tag-recaptured billfish (particularly successful in southeast Caribbean where more than 104 recaptures were reported in 1998; (6) billfish tagging by the Federation of Japan Tuna Fisheries on their longline vessels fishing the Atlantic continued in 1998; (7) age and growth sampling of billfish continued in 1997; (8) the western Atlantic coordinator continued to act as chairman of the newly formed ICCAT tag recovery network in 1998; and (9) SEFSC staff (Dr. Mark Farber) made an extended trip to several Caribbean locations in 1998 to assist in coordination of the program and collect data. The Third ICCAT Billfish Workshop was completed and published in 1998. This special publication were distributed by the ICCAT Secretariate to all participants as well as ICCAT scientists and interested parties.

3.8 Tagging

Participants in the Southeast Fisheries Science Center's Cooperative Tagging Center (CTC) tagged and released 2,499 billfishes (including swordfish) and 2,383 tunas in 1998. This represents a decrease of 23% from 1997 levels for billfish and a decrease of 21% for tunas for the CTC. The Billfish Foundation (TBF) reported tagging 8,104 billfish and 93 tunas for 1998, although an unknown quantity of these billfish were tagged outside the confines of the Atlantic ocean. Among the CTC 1998 billfish releases, there were 605 blue marlin, 617 white marlin, 1,035 sailfish and 234 swordfish. For CTC tuna releases, there were 1,791 bluefin tuna, 495 yellowfin tuna, 10 bigeye tuna and 87 releases of other tuna species.

There were 79 billfish recaptures from the CTC reported in 1998, representing a decrease of 8% over 1997. Among the 1998 CTC billfish recaptures: 13 blue marlins, 5 white marlins, 35 sailfish and 26 swordfish. The ICCAT Enhanced Research Program for Billfish in the western Atlantic Ocean has continued to assistance in reporting tag recaptures to improve the quantity and quality of tag recapture reports, particularly from Venezuela, Barbados and Grenada. For the CTC, a total of 72 tunas were recaptured in 1998, 61 bluefin tuna, and 11 yellowfin tuna. These recaptures represent an decrease of 54% with respect to 1997. The Billfish Foundation recaptured a total of 68 billfishes in 1998, of which were 24 blue marlin, 12 white marlin, 29 sailfish, and 3 were swordfish. The TBF also reported 10 tunas recaptured in 1998; 8 bluefin tuna and 2 yellowfin tuna.

There were several noteworthy CTC billfish recaptures during 1998. The longest reported sailfish movement (i.e. minimum straight distance traveled) was 1,120 nautical miles (NM) from a fish released off South Florida (24°N, 80°W) and recaptured off La Guaira, Venezuela (11°N, 65°W) after 981 days at large. In 1997, a sailfish was recaptured after being at large for at least 7 years (2,645 days). This fish was released and recaptured off La Guaira, Venezuela. The longest distance traveled for a blue marlin recaptured in 1998 was 2,643 NM from a fish released off La Guaira, Venezuela, (11°N, 65°W) and recaptured off Sierra Leone (7°N, 22°W). Another blue marlin recaptured in 1997 was at large 7 years (2,503 days); this fish was released and recaptured off La Guaira, Venezuela. The longest distance traveled by a white marlin in 1998 was 1,558 NM from a fish released off Hatteras, North Carolina (36°N, 75°W) and recaptured off La Guaira, Venezuela, after 1,649 days.

For bluefin tuna, the longest movement during 1998 (4,376 NM) was from a fish released off Hatteras, North Carolina (36°N, 75°W) and recovered off the Ghanaian coast (4.3°N, 3.5°W) 178 days later. There were also several transatlantic movements of yellowfin tuna, the longest released off Cape Hatteras (35°N, 75.5°W) and recaptured off the Côte d'Ivoire off west Africa (1.7°N, 11.5°W), a distance of about 4,924 NM, in 739 days. All CTC and TBF release and recapture data for 1998 were made available to ICCAT to supplement its database.

Various electronic tagging efforts directed at bluefin tuna were continued in 1998. Satellite linked pop-off tags and internally implanted archival tags have been placed on numerous bluefin over these past few years. Documents describing results of these studies to date have been prepared and presented to SCRS meetings.

3.9 Fishery observer deployments

Domestic Longline Observer Coverage: The NMFS, Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC), Miami Laboratory initiated, in early 1992, the Pelagic Observer Program for coverage of the U.S. pelagic longline fleet. In conjunction with the Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC), Woods Hole Laboratory, both regional Centers, using contracted and NMFS observers, have collected catch data while aboard longline vessels fishing in the waters of the northwest Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, and the Caribbean Sea. Selection of the vessels is based on a random, 5% sampling of the number of sets reported by the longline fleet. A total of 3,570 sets were recorded observed by personnel from the SEFSC and NEFSC programs from May, 1992, to December, 1998. Observers from the SEFSC region recorded over 77,000 fish species (primarily swordfish, tunas, and sharks), marine mammals, turtles, and seabirds during this time period.

Drift Gillnet Fishery Observer Coverage: There was 100% observer coverage of the drift gillnet fishery for swordfish in 1998; this fishery was closed in January, 1999.

Pelagic Pair Trawl Fishery Observer Coverage: Pelagic pair trawls were excluded from allowable gears for the pursuit of tunas and swordfish. No fishery occurred in 1998.

Foreign Fishery Observers: There was no foreign fishing activity in the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) off the east coast during 1998.

4. Implementation of ICCAT conservation and management measures

– Recommendation Regarding Atlantic Billfishes

Through restrictions on the recreational fishery, the United States intends to achieve at least a 25% reduction in landings by the end of the 1999 fishing year. The United States took steps to decrease landings by increasing the minimum size for white marlin to 168 cm (66 inches) and increasing the minimum size for blue marlin to 244 cm (96 inches). These

measures were implemented on March 23, 1998 (63 FR 14030). Following the 1998 fishing season, the minimum size for blue marlin was increased further, to 251 cm (99 inches), on September 29, 1998 (63 FR 51859). Beginning in 1999, the fishing year for the recreational billfish fishery will be June 1 - May 31, as in the U.S. swordfish fishery (see FR notice, 5/28/99).

The only billfish landings permitted in the United States are recreationally harvested fish, and even in this fishery, catch and release rates are very high (90-95%). Recreational landings are estimated through a combination of tournament surveys (RBS), the Large Pelagic Survey (LPS), and state landings data. Final regulations implemented in 1999 require selected HMS charter/headboat vessels who do not already do so to complete a logbook; implementation of this requirement is underway. Two papers submitted to the SCRS in October of 1999 report on trends in billfish landings in the United States. These papers evaluate the possible effects of the increased minimum size in the recreational fishery. Additional research will be conducted and reported to the ICCAT Billfish Workshop in Summer 2000.

– Rebuilding Program for West Atlantic Bluefin Tuna

The twenty-year rebuilding program for west Atlantic bluefin tuna has been implemented through the HMS Fishery Management Plan (FMP). The regulations also require balancing the 8% tolerance for fish <115cm over a four-year period. Beginning in 1999, the fishing year for tunas will be June 1 - May 31, as in the U.S. swordfish fishery. The FMP prohibits the use of pelagic longlines in the NW Atlantic from 39° to 40°N and 68° to 74°W during the month of June; analyses indicate that this time/area closure will reduce dead discards of bluefin tuna by approximately 55% from the level of discards that would be experienced without a closure. This estimate is based on an analysis of bluefin tuna dead discards during 1996 and 1997 (see 64 FR 29090, May 28, 1999).

-- Registration and Exchange of Information on Bigeye Vessels

The United States has submitted a report listing all U.S. commercial vessels of more than 24 meters LOA that reported bigeye tuna landings during 1998. Some of these vessels may fish for bigeye tuna only occasionally, as the list includes all permitted vessels that landed at least one bigeye tuna during the 1998 fishing season.

Regarding the 1998 *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Bigeye Tuna Conservation Measures for Fishing Vessels Larger than 24 m LOA*,, it should be noted that the United States is exempt from this requirement under the conditions specified under paragraph 3. Average U.S. catches over the period from 1993 to 1997 were 1,099 MT, which is below the 2,000 MT threshold for applicability of this Recommendation. As such, paragraphs 3 and 4 of the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Registration and Exchange of Information of Bigeye Tuna Fishing Vessels* do not apply to the United States.

Although paragraph 3 of the 1998 *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Bigeye Tuna Conservation Measures for Fishing Vessels Larger than 24 m LOA* exempts the United States from the effort limitations described in paragraphs 1 and 2 of that Recommendation, it should be noted that the United States has already implemented a limited access program in the longline fishery for Atlantic tunas, which is the primary gear type for the bigeye tuna fishery. While the number of permits in the longline fishery will not increase in future years, the owner may transfer a limited access permit to another vessel that he owns, or to another person, subject to upgrading restrictions. Thus, the vessel list that was submitted to ICCAT may not be accurate after the 1999 fishing year, if the current owners decide to transfer their permit to another vessel. The United States will provide an updated list of vessels fishing for bigeye on an annual basis.

Finally, it should be noted that the United States has implemented a higher minimum size than that required by ICCAT, which provides additional protection for juvenile bigeye. This minimum size of 27 inches applies to all U.S. fisheries landing bigeye tuna, both commercial and recreational.

-- Limitation of Fishing Capacity on Northern Albacore

In the United States, other than recreational vessels, the primary vessels directing fishing effort on northern albacore are those that use pelagic longline gear. During 1993-1995, vessels fishing for northern albacore did not need an Atlantic tunas permit since they were allowed to fish for Atlantic tunas other than bluefin if they had an Atlantic shark or an Atlantic swordfish permit. Since most landings of northern albacore are taken with pelagic longline gear, and the

predominant gear used by permitted swordfish vessels is pelagic longline gear, the number of vessels with Atlantic swordfish permits from 1993-1995 is used as a proxy for the number of vessels directing fishing effort on northern albacore for these years. Thus, the average number of commercial vessels that were permitted to land northern albacore in the United States in the period 1993-95 is estimated as approximately 943 vessels. Note that this proxy should be considered an inclusive estimate, since some of these vessels may have fished primarily for swordfish, with very few landings of albacore.

Effective July 1, 1999, the United States implemented limited access for longline vessels permitted to participate in directed Atlantic swordfish and shark fisheries, as well as the Atlantic tunas longline fishery (see 64 FR 29090, May 28, 1999). This limited access program reduced the number of permitted vessels in the longline fishery by approximately 48 percent relative to the average number of permitted longline vessels during 1993-1995. Currently, the total number of longline vessels permitted to fish for Atlantic swordfish and Atlantic tunas, including northern albacore, is 453. Applications and appeals are expected to increase this number slightly, but not to a level exceeding 550 permits. While the number of permits in the longline fishery will not increase in future years, the owner may transfer a limited access permit to another vessel that he owns, or to another person, subject to upgrading restrictions. The upgrade or transfer may not result in an increase in horsepower of more than 20% or an increase of more than 10% in length overall, gross registered tonnage, or net tonnage from the vessel's baseline specifications.

In addition to this effort limitation in the longline fishery, it should be noted that although vessels using pair trawls landed a substantial portion of the U.S. total northern albacore landings during the years 1993-1995, pair trawl gear is no longer an allowable gear type for Atlantic tunas.

-- Recommendation Concerning a Vessel Monitoring System Pilot Program

NMFS has published regulations requiring that all fishermen with pelagic longline gear on board fishing in the Atlantic Ocean or Gulf of Mexico must report every hour from a NMFS-approved vessel monitoring system (VMS). This Highly Migratory Species VMS program is a part of a larger nationwide multi-fishery VMS program. NMFS will be able to monitor these vessels in regional offices in order to determine if vessels are fishing inconsistent with U.S. regulations. Time/area closures are in place to reduce by-catch of bluefin tuna and VMS is utilized for enforcement of those closures. Approximately 150-400 vessels are expected to purchase a VMS by June 1, 2000.

-- Recommendation On Limitation of Southern Albacore

U.S. landings decreased from 5 MT in 1997 to 1 MT in 1998. Southern albacore is an incidental catch for U.S. vessels targeting swordfish. Due to the fact that reporting requirements were not mandatory for U.S. vessels fishing in the South Atlantic until October, 1997, U.S. catches for 1992-96 were under-reported in the South Atlantic. The United States is still reviewing these historical data.

5. Data collection and monitoring systems

-- Resolution by ICCAT Concerning the Unreported and Unregulated Catches of Tunas by Large Scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area

The United States is committed to collecting and examining as much import or landing data and associated information as possible on frozen tuna and tuna-like species. A summary of information to date is included in Appendix 8. The United States intends to explore options for expanding data collection systems, including over the long term, possible consolidation of all current import monitoring systems for tuna and tuna-like species (Bluefin Statistical Document, Swordfish Certificate of Eligibility, NOAA Form 370, etc.) and expansion of coverage so that all HMS imports are tracked through a universal monitoring system.

-- Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program

All bluefin tuna (Atlantic and Pacific) imported to, or exported from, the United States must be accompanied by a Bluefin Statistical Document (BSD). In the United States, the completed BSD must be sent to NMFS' Northeast Regional Office within 24 hours of a bluefin tuna shipment entering or leaving the country.

-- Recommendation Concerning Implementation of an Alternative Option for the Conservation of Undersized Atlantic Swordfish and the Reduction of Fishing Mortality

To facilitate enforcement of the U.S. minimum size, the import of Atlantic swordfish less than 33 lb (15 kg) dressed weight is now prohibited. In 1999, NMFS launched a new program that requires a Certificate of Eligibility for all swordfish imports (see 64 FR 12903, March 16, 1999). This program will facilitate the tracking of swordfish shipments into the United States and the enforcement of ICCAT minimum size requirements, and will provide information on international swordfish harvesting and trade activities. The regulations require dealer permitting and reporting for importation of swordfish from any source. Preliminary data on the origins of swordfish imported into the United States have been collected through the Certificate of Eligibility program during June and July, 1999. It is expected that reformatted data will be provided for the program prior to the November 1999 meeting.

-- Recommendation for a Revised Port Inspection Scheme

A summary of the U.S.-Canada Enforcement Exchange Program that took place in 1999 is available upon request. The report of enforcement actions from September, 1998, through August, 1999, taken in U.S. fisheries for Atlantic tunas and tuna-like species is also available upon request.

-- Recommendation Concerning a Ban on Landings and Transshipments

The United States has banned all transshipments at sea and does not allow landings from foreign vessels in U.S. ports.

NOTE: Requests for detailed information on the measures taken at the national level concerning ICCAT management recommendations should be directed to the U.S. Authorities.

Table 1. Catches and landings (rounded to the nearest MT) of Atlantic tunas and tuna-like fishes, excluding billfishes, by U.S. fishermen, 1967-1998 [1]

Year	*BFT* [2]	*YFT* [3,4]	*ALB*	*BET* [3]	*LTA*	*SKJ* [3]	*BON*	*SWO* [5]	*SSM* [6]	*KGM* [6]	*OTH* [7]	*TOTAL*
1967	2320	1136	0	0	7	493	22	474	3577	2767	10	10806
1968	807	5941	0	18	6	3314	43	274	5342	2813	2	18560
1969	1226	18791	0	148	7	4849	98	171	4952	2814	1	33057
1970	3327	9029	0	195	158	11752	83	287	5506	3050	0	33387
1971	3169	3764	0	544	5	16224	90	35	4713	2571	50	31165
1972	2138	12342	10	212	212	12290	24	246	4863	2213	0	34550
1973	1294	3590	0	113	20	21246	261	406	4437	2710	0	34077
1974	3638	5621	13	865	51	19973	92	1125	4990	4747	1	41116
1975	2823	14335	1	67	67	7567	117	1700	5288	3095	19	35079
1976	1931	2252	0	28	5	2285	23	1429	6385	4053	30	18421
1977	1956	7208	2	331	53	6179	268	912	5453	3837	71	26270
1978	1848	9747	9	248	113	8492	224	3684	3310	2507	31	30213
1979	2297	3182	11	212	12	3102	502	4618	2926	6293	11	23166
1980	1505	2164	7	203	88	3589	195	5624	5429	10726	513	30043
1981	1530	3155	577	159	97	5553	333	4529	2748	12565	200	31446
1982	812	1729	694	423	87	112	209	5410	3747	9863	962	24048
1983	1394	2541	347	315	107	696	253	4820	2784	7069	453	20779
1984	1317	2143	2207	538	41	852	217	4749	3904	7445	883	24296
1985	1423	9720	98	639	74	1815	109	4705	3984	6010	247	28824
1986	1655	9925	250	1085	103	1115	83	5210	5957	5682	336	31401
1987	1543	9626	291	1069	118	722	130	5247	5071	5628	385	29830
1988	1505	11036	237	1109	204	40	88	6171	5097	5810	410	31707
1989	1732	8450	243	845	128	73	278	6411	4444	4365	335	27304
1990	1769	5647	358	627	173	304	298	5519	4272	5940	390	25297
1991	1781	6896	479	975	227	858	468	4525	5884	6502	367	28962
1992	1128	6938	440	813	595	563	497	4236	5724	7091	545	28570
1993	1268	6283	509	1092	1286	367	171	4191	5058	7746	1517	29488
1994	1238	8298	741	1403	1142	101	129	4074	4632	6186	886	28830
1995	1451	8552	562	1303	1312	76	116	4551	3524	7346	1371	30164
1996	1361	8286	512	796	2230	121	156	4320	3020	7052	1141	28995
1997	1385	7674	581	1136	2015	84	183	3840	3321	7930	1365	29514
1998	1301	5619	830	928	1546	105	76	3655	3321	7930	1320	26631

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.
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 Does not include recreational landings of Spanish (1967-83) or king (1967-78) mackerel. 1997 and 1998 landings preliminary.
6 This category includes blackfin and wahoo as well as the task1 category other tunas.
7 1998 data are preliminary.

Panel 1 - bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack tunas

Species/Region	Catch Limit	Catches	Estimated catch over/ under catch limit	Estimated Catch over 15% tolerance of fish below 3.2kg
Bigeye	N/A	928.35 MT	N/A	0 MT
Yellowfin	N/A	5619.3 MT	N/A	0 MT
Skipjack	N/A	105.17 MT	N/A	N/A

In case of over-harvest, explain how the over-harvest occurred and the actions taken, or to be taken, to prevent further over-harvest:

No over- harvests occurred in 1998.

In case of harvest in excess of specified minimum size, explain domestic measures implemented to avoid further overharvest, the monitoring of compliance with domestic measures, and any other actions to be taken to prevent over-harvest:

No over-harvests occurred in 1998.

Other comments:

The United States has implemented a minimum size for bigeye and yellowfin that corresponds to 6.4 kg (a higher minimum size than the 3.2 kg adopted by ICCAT). There is zero tolerance for fish less than 6.4 kg in both the commercial and recreational U.S. fisheries.

Panel 2 - North Atlantic bluefin tuna and albacore

Species/Region	Catch limit	Catch	Estimated Catch over/under catch limit	Catch of Age 0	Estimated catch over 15% tolerance of fish below 6.4kg	Estimated catch over 8% tolerance of fish below 30kg or 115cm
Western BFT	1344 MT (adjusted to 1355 MT due to 1997 underharvest of 11 MT), including 108 MT of BFT <115 cm	1226 MT landed, including 104 MT of BFT <115 cm	129 MT under the catch limit	0 MT	0 MT	0 MT
Eastern BFT	N/A	0 MT	N/A	0 MT	0 MT	N/A
N. Albacore	N/A	233.89 MT	N/A	0 MT	0 MT	N/A

In case of over-harvest, explain how the over-harvest occurred and the actions taken, or to be taken, to prevent further over-harvest:

No over-harvests occurred in 1998.

In case of harvest in excess of specified minimum size, explain domestic measures implemented to avoid further over-harvest, the monitoring of compliance with domestic measures, and any other actions to be taken to prevent over-harvest:

No over-harvests occurred in 1998.

Other comments:

The United States has zero tolerance for landings of bluefin less than 6.4 kg. 67 MT of bluefin were discarded dead during 1998. There were 104 MT of bluefin tuna less than 115 cm landed during 1998, accounting for 8.0% of the total catch of 1293 MT. Beginning in 1999, the United States will switch from managing bluefin tuna quota on a calendar year basis to a fishing year basis (June 1 through May 31), as was done for swordfish in 1996. The United States used the under-harvest of 129 MT from the 1998 calendar year to cover the interim period of January 1, 1999, through May 31, 1999. Therefore, 1999 quotas will apply for the 12 month period of June 1, 1999, through May 31, 2000.

Panel 3 - South Atlantic albacore

Species/Region	Catch limit	Catches	Estimated catch over/ under catch limit
S. Albacore	.22 MT	1.36 MT	1.14 MT

In case of over-harvest, explain how the over-harvest occurred and the actions taken, or to be taken, to prevent further over-harvest:

Albacore is an incidental catch for U.S. vessels targeting swordfish in the South Atlantic. Due to the fact that reporting requirements were not mandatory for U.S. vessels fishing in the South Atlantic until October, 1997, U.S. catches for 1992-96 were under-reported in the South Atlantic. The United States is still analyzing these numbers.

In case of harvest in excess of specified minimum size, explain domestic measures implemented to avoid further over-harvest, the monitoring of compliance with domestic measures, and any other actions to be taken to prevent over-harvest:

N/A

Other comments: None

Panel 4 - Swordfish and Billfish

Species/Region	Catch limit (SWO); Landings (BIL)	Catches (SWO); Landings (BIL)	Estimated SWO catch over / under catch limit	Estimated SWO catch less than 119 cm
N. Atlantic swordfish	3190 MT ww, (adjusted to 3635.9 MT ww due to a 1997 under-harvest of 445.9 MT ww)	3005 MT ww landed	631 MT ww under-harvest	Data not yet available for the 1998 fishing year
S. Atlantic swordfish	384 MT ww	295 MT ww	89 MT ww under-harvest	
Atl. white marlin	N/A until 1999	2.6 MT	N/A	N/A
Atl. blue marlin	N/A until 1999	49.2 MT	N/A	N/A

In case of over-harvest, explain how the over-harvest occurred and the actions taken, or to be taken, to prevent further over-harvest:

There was no over-harvest in 1998.

In case of harvest in excess of specified minimum size, explain domestic measures implemented to avoid further over-harvest, the monitoring of compliance with domestic measures, and any other actions to be taken to prevent over-harvest:

Information on 1998 fishing year landings of swordfish <119 cm is not yet available but will be provided in the 2000 National Report.

Other comments:

Note that the 1998 fishing year for swordfish in the United States began on June 1, 1998, and ended on May 31, 1999. There was an under-harvest of 446 MT ww from the 1997 fishing year quota for the North Atlantic. This excess quota was carried over and added to the 1998 U.S. quota of 3190 MT ww, resulting in an adjusted 1998 U.S. fishing year quota for the North Atlantic of 3636 MT ww. During the 1998 fishing year, U.S. landings totaled 3005 MT ww; thus, the 1998 underharvest of 631 MT ww will be added to the 1999 U.S. quota for North Atlantic swordfish. In the South Atlantic, U.S. landings of swordfish totaled only 295 MT ww, although the available quota was 384 MT ww, resulting in an under-harvest of 89 MT ww for the 1998 fishing year.

During the 1998 calendar year, weighout slips showed 10 MT dw of swordfish <33 lb dw. This corresponds to approximately 0.4% of the U.S. quota for the North Atlantic. More than 80 percent of the fish <33 lb dw were documented by fishermen as >119 cm, thus they would be legal-sized fish, since U.S. regulations allow the harvest of swordfish that are either >119 cm or >33 lb dw. There is zero tolerance for Atlantic swordfish that do not meet either the minimum length or the corresponding minimum weight, as specified in the ICCAT recommendation.

A total prohibition on commercial retention of Atlantic billfish has been in effect since 1988. Through restrictions on the recreational fishery, the United States intends to achieve at least a 25% reduction in landings by the end of 1999.

NATIONAL REPORT OF VENEZUELA, 1998*

by

Servicio Autónomo de los Recursos Pesqueros y Acuícolas
Fondo Nacional de Investigaciones Agropecuarias

I. Introduction

In Venezuela, the "Fondo de Investigaciones Agropecuarias" (FONAIAP) is the official agency in charge of carrying out agricultural research, including the fishing sector. The Autonomous Service for Fishery and Aquicultural Resources (SARPA) is the agency that is responsible for the management and administration of fishery resources.

Research projects on tunas and billfishes are carried out at the Center for Agro-fishery Research of the States of Sucre and Nueva Esparta (CIAE-Sucre/Nueva Esparta, which is based in Cumaná, and works in conjunction with different national and international institutes, such as the University of the Orient, SARPA, ICCAT and ORSTOM.

2. The fisheries

– Purse seine fishery

The Venezuelan fishing fleet is comprised of 36 vessels, of which 10 fish exclusively in the western Atlantic Ocean and the remainder fish in the eastern Pacific Ocean (**Table 1**). The fishing area of the Venezuelan purse seiners is located between 5° and 15°N and 51° and 73°W.

The 1998 purse seine catch amounted to 14,176 MT. Yellowfin tuna *(Thunnus albacares)*, comprised 64.62% of the catches of the fleet, while skipjack tuna *(Katsuwonus pelamis)* made up 25.41% of the total. Other species caught by the fleet were blackfin tuna *(Thunnus atlanticus)*, frigate tuna *(Auxis thazard)*, albacore *(Thunnus alalunga)*, bigeye tuna *(Thunnus obesus)* and these species comprised 9.97% of the catch (**Table 2**).

Effort exerted by these vessels in 1998 was 827 days fishing, with the highest effort levels in the third and fourth quarters, and for vessels greater than 65 GRT. Yellowfin catches oscillated between 0.29 and 4.75 MT/day fishing, and the highest catches correspond to the second and fourth quarters. Catches of skipjack tuna reached 14.82 MT/day fishing during the fourth quarter (**Table 4**).

– Baitboat fishery

The Venezuelan baitboat fleet is comprised of 14 fishing vessels that operate in the same areas as the purse seiners. The catches obtained by these vessels amounted to 4,884 MT. The most important species in the catches of this fleet were yellowfin tuna *(Thunnus albacares)* (87.37%) and skipjack tuna *(Katsuwonus pelamis)* (10.36%) (**Table 3**).

Effort exerted by the baitboat fishery this year was 1,406 days fishing (monitored). Catches of yellowfin tuna were between 0.66 and 2.54 MT/day fishing, with the highest catches during the third and fourth quarters. Skipjack catches were between 0.06 and 1.02 MT/day fishing, with the highest catches corresponding to the second quarter (**Table 4**).

– Longline fishery

The number of Venezuelan longliners that fished in the Atlantic Ocean in 1998 was 38. Catches by the tuna longline fleet amounted to 787 MT. Yellowfin tuna *(Thunnus albacares)* was the most important species in the catch, representing

* Original report in Spanish.

69.39% of the total, whereas catches of other tunas (*T. albacore, T. alalunga,* and *T. obesus*) comprised 2.29%. Billfish catches represented 9.66% of the catch and sharks comprised 15.57%. Effort applied by this fleet was 2,608,759 hooks (**Table 5**).

– Artisanal fishery

Billfish fishing activities in the Playa Verde area (central coast of Venezuela) are carried out throughout the year. The fleet is comprised of 33 vessels whose length is between 7 and 10 meters, and which use trammel nets as the fishing gear.

Catches by this fishery are comprised mainly of billfishes of the Istiophoridae family, notably sailfish *(Istiophorus albicans)* and blue marlin *(Makaira nigricans)*, representing 37.91% and 30.46%, respectively of the total catch. Tunas comprise 15.47% of the landings. Other species present in the catches were various shark species and dolphinfish *(Coriphaena hippurus)* (**Table 6**).

3. Research activities

Venezuela carries out research on the fishery for large pelagics, which includes tuna and billfishes. Biological sampling continued on the different species landed at ports of Sucre, Anzoátegi and Nueva Esparta States. In 1998, sampling was conducted on 20,336 tuna and billfishes from landings of the industrial fishery, and 8,742 fish from the artisanal fishery (**Table 7**). Catch and effort was monitored for the industrial fleet that fishes in the western Atlantic using baitboat, purse seine and longline. The landings from 441 fishing trips by industrial tuna vessels were also monitored (**Table 8**).

Catch and effort of the line fishery for king mackerel *(Scomberomorus cavalla)* in eastern Venezuela was assessed. This program is carried out at the Nueva Esparta Local Station of FONAIAP. Reported catches of this species in 1998 were 689,287 kg, with an effort of 43,148 lines/day and an average annual CPUE of 16.0 kg/line/day. This species shows a marked seasonality and major catches were taken between the months of May and August (**Table 9**).

Within the Enhanced Research Program for Billfish, under the auspices and coordination of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), sampling continued on billfishes at the ports of Playa Verde and Juangriego, off the central coast and eastern area of Venezuela, respectively. In addition, cruises are carried out on tuna longline vessels and those vessels directed at swordfish. In 1998, 45 trips were carried out with on-board scientific observers on these vessel types.

Table 1. Composition of the Venezuelan industrial fleet that operated in the Atlantic Ocean, by carrying capacity, for the period 1989-1998

Carrying capacity (in MT)	Year									
	1989	*1990*	*1991*	*1992*	*1993*	*1994*	*1995*	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*
					Purse seine					
201-400	2	2	2	2	3	2	1	1	1	1
401-600	3	3	4	7	8	8	9	9	9	6
601-800			1	1		1	1	1	1	
801-1000	7	7	9	6	4	8	3	4	4	2
1001-1200	1									
>1200	2	2	1	1	1	1				1
TOTAL	**15**	**14**	**17**	**17**	**16**	**20**	**14**	**15**	**15**	**10**
					Baitboat					
10-30	3	4	4	6	7	5	4	4	2	2
31-50	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
51-70	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
71-90	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
91-110	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
>110	7	7	7	7	8	8	8	8	6	8
TOTAL	15	15	15	17	19	17	16	16	12	14
					Longline					
0-50	20	21	19	27	24	29	33	33	33	30
51-100	2	2	2	2	3	5	4	3	3	4
101-150		2	2	3	3	4	6	6	4	4
151-200					1					
201-250										
251-300	1	2								
301-350				1						
351-400			1	1	1					
TOTAL	23	27	24	34	32	38	43	42	40	38

Table 2. Venezuelan purse seine catches (in MT) in the central western Atlantic in 1998

	Quarter					
Species	*I*	*II*	*III*	*IV*	*Total*	*%*
Yellowfin tuna (YFT)	2,819	1,410	1,566	3,362	9,157	64.62
Skipjack tuna (SKJ)	716	257	288	2,346	3,607	25.41
Frigate tuna (FRI)	71	12	15	103	201	1.42
Albacore (ALB)	11	17	24	39	91	0.64
Bigeye tuna (BET)	22	2	9	182	214	1.51
Blackfin tuna (BLF)	80	19	89	720	907	6.40
TOTAL	**3,718**	**1,717**	**1,990**	**6,751**	**14,176**	**100.00**

Table 3. Venezuelan baitboat catches (in MT) in the central western Atlantic in 1998

	Quarter					
Species	*I*	*II*	*III*	*IV*	*Total*	*%*
Yellowfin tuna (YFT)	744	589	1,538	1,396	4,267	87.37
Skipjack tuna (SKJ)	240	35	167	65	505	10.36
Frigate tuna (FRI)	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Albacore (ALB)	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Bigeye tuna (BET)	0	0	2	2	4	0.05
Blackfin tuna (BLF)	21	3	38	46	108	2.22
TOTAL	**1,005**	**627**	**1,742**	**1,509**	**4,884**	**100.00**

Table 4 Effort (days at sea) and catch per unit of effort (MT/days at sea) in the Venezuelan in the industrial baitboat and purse seine tuna fisheries, in the central western Atlantic, 1998

Quarter	*Gear*	*Fishing days*	*Carrying capacity*	*Yellowfin tuna*	*Skipjack tuna*	*Others*
I	Purse seine (PS)	15	<301	0.29	5.93	0.00
		129	>301<650	2.61	10.15	2.02
			>650			
II	Pure seine (PS)	51	<301	1.62	2.80	0.27
		105	>301<650	4.12	2.79	0.65
			>650			
III	Purse seine (PS)	41	<301	0.83	2.77	0.90
		178	>301<650	2.04	2.51	0.36
		6	>650	0.36	0.360	0.00
IV	Purse seine (PS)	16	<301	0.43	8.22	1.96
		253	>301<650	3.96	6.39	1.51
		33	>650	4.75	14.82	3.56
I	Baitboat (BB)	0	<60	0.00	0.00	0.00
		99	>60<150	0.81	0.06	0.06
		259	>150	1.19	0.98	0.00
II	Baitboat (BB)	0	<60	0.00	0.00	0.00
		95	>60<150	0.66	1.02	0.01
		178	>150	0.66	1.02	0.00
III	Baitboat (BB)	17	<60	1.41	0.10	0.00
		89	>60<150	1.30	0.11	0.00
		279	>150	2.37	0.54	0.10
IV	Baitboat (BB)	62	<60	0.71	0.02	0.07
		81	>60<150	1.81	0.00	0.00
		247	>150	2.53	0.25	0.00

Table 5 Venezuelan tuna longline catches (in MT) in the Atlantic Ocean in 1998

	Quarter					
Species	*I*	*II*	*III*	*IV*	*Total*	*%*
Yellowfin tuna (YFT)	58	158	213	118	546	69.39
Albacore (ALB)	3	2	1	8	14	1.76
Bigeye tuna (BET)	1	0	0	3	4	0.53
Blue marlin (BUM)	1	3	8	14	27	3.47
White marlin (WHM)	2	6	9	7	24	3.04
Sailfish (SAI)	2	1	17	4	25	3.15
Swordfish (SWO)	0	1	2	3	7	0.86
Wahoo (WAH)	0	6	2	1	9	1.20
Dolphinfish (DOL)	0	2	5	1	8	1.04
Sharks (SHK)	13	33	48	29	123	15.57
TOTAL	**81**	**212**	**306**	**188**	**787**	**100.00**

Table 6. Catch (kg) and fishing effort (number of vessels and number of trips) of the artisanal billfish fishery with trammel nets off the central coast of Venezuela (Playa Verde),1998

	Quarter				
Species	*I*	*II*	*III*	*IV*	*Total*
Blue marlin (BUM)	53,801	58,454	15,551	38,692	166,498
Sailfish (SAI)	9,469	78,088	60,136	32,045	179,738
White marlin (WHM)	940	1,397	6,459	3,820	12,616
Swordfish (SWO)	6,408	14,263	5,192	3,028	28,891
Dolphinfish (DOL)	4,682	5,648	1,661	572	12,563
Various tunas	2,495	2,853	1,685	5,950	12,983
Sharks (SHK)	5,623	7,414	3,282	3,757	20,076
Other species	33,640	3,644	3,710	12,249	53,243
TOTAL	**117,058**	**171,761**	**97,676**	**100,113**	**486,608**
No. of vessels	**80**	**87**	**97**	**84**	**348**
No. of trips	**681**	**1,490**	**769**	**939**	**3,879**

Table 7. Biological sampling of tunas, billfishes and accompanying species in the industrial tuna fishery and the artisanal billfish fishery in the central western Atlantic, 1998

Species	*Purse seine*	*Baitboat*	*Longline*	*TOTAL*	
				Industrial	*Artisanal*
Yellowfin tuna (YFT)	3,455	2,021	1,969	7,445	
Skipjack tuna (SKJ)	4,872	712	11	5,595	
Frigate tuna (FRI)	629			629	
Albacore (ALB)	19		3,186	3,205	
Bigeye tuna (BET)	178	5	842	1,025	
Blackfin tuna (BLF)	611	165	35	811	
White marlin (WHM)			307	307	710
Sailfish (SAI)			169	169	5,384
Spearfish (SPF)					
Blue marlin (BUM)			172	172	1,719
Swordfish (SWO)			651	651	929
Sharks (SHK)					
Dolphinfish (DOL)			211	211	
Wahoo (WAH)			116	116	
TOTAL	**9,774**	**2,903**	**7,669**	**20,336**	**8,742**

Table 8. Trips by industrial tuna vessels in the central western Atlantic, 1998

	Purse seine		*Baitboat*		*Longline*
Month	*Trips made*	*Trips monitored*	*Trips made*	*Trips monitored*	*Landings monitored*
January			11	8	2
February	8	6	19	16	15
March	1	1	20	15	22
April	3	3	14	11	18
May	4	4	12	9	23
June	1	1	12	9	23
July	3	3	22	14	21
August	4	3	18	12	22
September	4	4	22	19	21
October	5	4	28	23	26
November	5	6	23	17	21
December	6	3	24	14	16
TOTAL	**44**	**38**	**225**	**167**	**230**
%		**86.36**		**74.22**	

Table 9. Monthly catch (in kg), effort (in lines per day), and CPUE (in kg/lines-day) in the Scomberomorus fishery by the artisanal line fleet in eastern Venezuela, 1998

Month	*Catch (kg)*				*Effort*		*CPUE (kg/lines-day)*			
	KGM	*DOL*	*WAH*	*BIL*	*Lines-day*	*Trips*	*KGM*	*DOL*	*WAH*	*BIL*
Jan.	9,540	1,526	256	25	475	19	20.1	3.2	0.5	0.1
Feb.	20,130		2,569	7,369	1,269	27	15.9	0.0	2.0	5.8
Mar.	1,234		125	126	384	16	3.2	0.0	0.3	0.3
Apr.	8,173	6,156	1,456	659	2,712	68	3.0	2.3	0.5	0.2
May	72,658	7,845	3,987		5,502	131	13.2	1.4	0.7	0.0
Jun.	96,146	2,563	2,036	2,367	3,692	142	26.0	0.7	0.6	0.6
Jul.	289,632	32,659	21,656	624	11,264	256	25.7	2.9	1.9	0.1
Aug.	87,321	4,156	546	1,698	4,095	117	21.3	1.0	0.1	0.4
Sep.	32,569	9,027		123	3,718	169	8.8	2.4	0.0	0.0
Oct.	26,368	1,456			2,880	96	9.2	0.5	0.0	0.0
Nov.	36,012	2,789	2,678	6,987	5,088	95	7.1	0.5	0.5	1.4
Dec.	9,504	5,456	1,604	256	2,544	46	3.7	2.1	0.6	0.1
TOTAL	689,287	73,633	36,913	20,234	43,148	1,182	16.0	1.7	0.9	0.5