INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION
for the
CONSERVATION of ATLANTIC TUNAS

R E P O R T
for biennial period, 2000-01
PART I (2000) - Vol. 1
English version

MADRID, SPAIN 2001

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS

CONTRACTING PARTIES

(as of 31December 2000)

Algeria, Barbados, 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 (22 November 1999 though 31 March 2000) J. BARAÑANO, EC-Spain (Acting, since 1 April 2000)	J. BARAÑANO, EC-Spain (since 22 November 1999)	A. SROUR, Morocco (since 22 November 1999)

Panel No.	***PANEL MEMBERSHIP***	***Chair***
-1- Tropical tunas	Angola, Brazil, Canada, Cape Verde, China, Côte 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	Cape Verde
-2- Temperate tunas, North	Canada, China, Croatia, European Community, France (St. Pierre & Miquelon), Japan, Libya, Morocco, Panama, Tunisia, United Kingdom (Overseas Territories), United States	European Community
-3- Temperate tunas, South	European Community, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Namibia, South Africa, United Kingdom (Overseas Territories), United States	South Africa
-4- Other species	Angola, Brazil, Canada, China, European Community, Japan, Morocco, Namibia, South Africa, Trinidad & Tobago, United Kingdom (Overseas Territories), United States, Uruguay, Venezuela	United States

SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE COMMISSION

	Chairman
STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION (STACFAD)	J. JONES, Canada (since 21 November 1997)
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 (since 24 October 1997)
CONSERVATION & MANAGEMENT MEASURES COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE	J. F. PULVENIS (Venezuela) (since 22 November 1999)
PERMANENT WORKING GROUP FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF ICCAT STATISTICS AND CONSERVATION MEASURES (PWG)	E. PENAS (EC) (since 22 November 1999)

ICCAT SECRETARIAT

Executive Secretary: Dr. A. RIBEIRO LIMA
Assistant Executive Secretary: Dr. P. M. MIYAKE
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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, 2000-2001, Part I (2000)"***, which describes the activities of the Commission during the first half of said biennial period.

This issue of the Biennial Report contains the reports of the Twelfth Special Meeting of the Commission, held in Marrakech, Morocco, in November, 2000, 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.

The Report for 2000 has been published in two volumes. ***Volume 1*** includes the Reports of yhe 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.

J. Barañano
Acting Commission Chairman

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ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT 2000
(COM/00/06)[*]

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 December 13, 2000, the Government of Barbados had deposited an instrument of adherence to the ICCAT Convention. In accordance with Article XIV, paragraph 3, of the Convention, Barbados became a full member of the Commission.

Consequently, as of December 31, 2000, the Commission was comprised of 29 Contracting Parties, as follows: Barbados, Angola, Brazil, Canada, Cape Verde, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Equatorial Guinea, European Community, France (St. Pierre & Miquelon), Gabon, Ghana, Guinea Conakry, Japan, Korea, Libya, Morocco, Panama, Russia, St. Tome & Principe, South Africa, United Kingdom (Overseas Territories), United States, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

2 Commission Chairman

In March, 2000, Mr. Ichiro Nomura (Japan), who had been elected Chairman of the Commission at the November, 1999 meeting, informed the Executive Secretary that he had been named to a post in the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Rome. Consequently, Mr. Nomura presented his resignation as Chairman of ICCAT. Until a new election is held, Mr. J. R. Barañano (EC-Spain), First Vice-Chairman, is serving as Acting Chairman of ICCAT.

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

In accordance with 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.

The Department of Legal Services of FAO notified the Secretariat that on March 6, 2000, France had deposited an instrument of approval with the Director General of FAO, which completes the required number of developed market economy countries. Furthermore, FAO notified that Gabon had deposited an instrument of acceptance on October 26, 2000. Approval, ratification or acceptance is still pending from two of the countries that were not part of this category on June 5, 1992: Angola, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Ghana, and St. Tome & Principe. It should be noted that the Ghana had already signed the Protocol. As is done every year, the Executive Secretary repeatedly contacted the governmental authorities of those countries, reminding them of the need to ratify the Madrid Protocol.

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[*] The Administrative Report presented at the Commission Meeting in November has been updated to December 31, 2000.

In December, 2000, the following Contracting Parties have officially ratified or accepted the Protocol (some of these automatically accepted upon becoming Contracting Parties to the Convention):

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
France	Approval on March 6, 2000
Gabon	Acceptance on October 26, 2000
Barbados	Acceptance on December 13, 2000

4 ICCAT Regulations and Resolutions

4.1 Adopted in 1999

The Recommendations adopted at the 16th Regular Meeting of the Commission (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, November 1999) entered into force on June 15, 2000.

The text of the Recommendations and Resolutions are included in Annex 5 to the 1999 Commission Proceedings *(Report for Biennial Period, 1998-99, Part II, Vol. 1)*.

4.2 Adopted in 2000

On December 27, 2000, the Secretariat officially transmitted, to the Contracting Parties, non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities having an Atlantic coast or that fish tunas in the Convention Area, and to intergovernmental fishery organizations, the texts of the Recommendations and Resolutions adopted at the 12th Special Meeting of the Commission (Marrakech, Morocco, November 2000), requesting their cooperation in this respect. These Recommendations will enter into force on June 26, 2001, provided that no objections are received. The texts of the Recommendations and Resolutions are included in Annex 7 to the 2000 Commission Proceedings in this volume *(Report for Biennial Period, 2000-2001, Part I, Vol. 1)*.

5 Monitoring and inspection

As of December, 2000, the following Contracting Parties had accepted the ICCAT Scheme of Port Inspection, which was adopted by the Commission at its First Special Meeting (Madrid, 1978) and which has been in effect since 1983: Brazil, Côte d'Ivoire, France, 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*), which entered into force on June 13, 1998. This Recommendation amended the ICCAT Port Inspection Scheme.

6 ICCAT inter-sessional meetings and Working Groups in 2000

In accordance with Commission decisions, the following meetings of a scientific-technical nature took place in 2000. The Report on Statistics and Coordination (COM-SCRS/00/9, included in this volume), provides information on these meetings:

- Coordination Meeting of the ICCAT Bigeye Year Program (BETYP) *(Madrid, Spain, 24-26 January)*
- 2nd Meeting of the ICCAT Working Group on Allocation Criteria *(Madrid, Spain, 6-8 April)*
- Meeting of the ICCAT Working Group on Assessment Methods *(Madrid, Spain, 8-11 May)*
- ICCAT Atlantic Yellowfin Tuna Stock Assessment Session *(Cumaná, Venezuela, 10-15 July)*
- 4th ICCAT Billfish Workshop *(Miami, Florida, USA, 18-22 July)*
- 5th GFCM/ICCAT Working Group on Stocks of Large Pelagic Species in the Mediterranean *(Sliema, Malta, 11-15 September)*
- ICCAT West Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Stock Assessment Session *(Madrid, Spain, 18-22 September)*
- ICCAT North and South Atlantic Albacore Stock Assessment Session *(Madrid, Spain, 9-14 October 9 to 14)*
- ICCAT Session to Evaluate the Moratoria on Tropical Tunas *(Madrid, Spain, 9-14 October 9 to 14)*

7 Meetings at which ICCAT was represented in 2000

- IOTC - Indian Ocean Tuna Commission Scientific Committee and Commission Meeting *(Kyoto, Japan, 7-10 December & 13-16 December, 1999)*. ICCAT was represented by Dr. P. M. Miyake.
- CWP Inter-sessional Meeting: Subgroup on Publication of Integrated Catch Statistics for the Atlantic *(Copenhagen, Denmark, 10-11 February)*. ICCAT was represented by Dr. P. M. Miyake.
- CWP Inter-sessional Meeting on Precautionary Approach Terminology *(Copenhagen, Denmark, 14-16 February)*. ICCAT was represented by Dr. V. R. Restrepo.
- International Pelagic Shark Workshop *(San Francisco and Monterey, California, USA, 12-18 February)*. ICCAT was represented by Dr. P. M. Miyake.
- FAO Expert Consultation on Implications of the Precautionary Approach for Tuna Biological and Technical Research *(Phuket, Thailand, 6-15 March)*. ICCAT was represented by Drs. P. M. Miyake and V. R. Restrepo.
- IATTC - 2nd Working Group on Incidental Catches *(La Jolla, California, USA, 1-6 April)*. ICCAT was represented by Mr. J. Ariz Telleria (EC-Spain).
- IATTC - 1st Meeting of the Scientific Working Group *(La Jolla, California, USA, 10-13 April)*. ICCAT was represented by Dr. V. R. Restrepo.
- GFCM - Sub-Committee on Statistics *(Madrid, Spain, 25-28 April)*. ICCAT was represented by Dr. P. M. Miyake.
- CAFF - Workshop on Seabird Incidental Catch in Waters of Arctic Countries *(Dartmouth, Canada, 26-28 April)*. ICCAT was represented by Dr. J. Porter (Canada).
- GFCM - Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC). Several ICCAT scientists participated in this meeting *(Madrid, Spain, 2-5 May)*. ICCAT was represented by Dr. P. M. Miyake.

- Workshop on the Biology of Bluefin Tuna in the Mid-Atlantic *(Hamilton, Bermuda, 5-7 May).* ICCAT was represented by Dr. P. M. Miyake.

- Expert Consultation on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing *(Sydney, Australia, 15-19 May).* ICCAT was represented by Dr. P. M. Miyake.

- COFI - 7th Meeting of the COFI Sub-Committee on Fishing Commerce *(Bremen, Germany, 22-25 May).* ICCAT was represented by Mr. C. Larrañaga (EC-Spain).

- U.N. - United Nations Informal Consultive Process on Ocean Affairs (UNICPO) *(New York, USA, 28 May-6 June).* ICCAT was represented by Mrs. C. P. Martí Dominguez (EC-Spain).

- IATTC - Symposium on Worldwide Tuna Fisheries *(San José, Costa Rica, 13 June).* ICCAT was represented by Dr. A. Ribeiro Lima, Executive Secretary.

- FAO - Technical Consultation on the Suitability of the CITES Criteria for Listing Commercially Exploited Aquatic Species *(Rome, Italy, 28-30 June).* ICCAT was represented by Dr. P. M. Miyake.

- WTO - Meeting of the Committee on Trade and Environment *(Geneva, Switzerland, 5-6 July).* ICCAT was represented by Dr. A. Ribeiro Lima.

- EC - Project to Evaluate Methods for Estimating Uncertainty in Fish Stock Assessments *(Reykjavik, Iceland, 29 August-1 September).* ICCAT was represented by Dr. V. R. Restrepo.

- ASFA - Training for Aquatic Science and Fishery Abstracts *(Rome, Italy, 4-8 September).* ICCAT was represented by Dr. V. R. Restrepo.

- GFCM - Meeting of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean *(Sliema, Malta, 12-15 September).* ICCAT was represented by Dr. P. M. Miyake.

- FAO - Technical Consultation on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing *(Rome, Italy, 2-6 October).* ICCAT was represented by Dr. P. M. Miyake.

- EC - International Conference on Fisheries Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (European Commission) *(Brussels, Belgium, 24-27 October).* ICCAT was represented by Dr. A. Ribeiro Lima.

- IOTC - 3rd Session of the Scientific Committee *(Victoria, Seychelles, 5-8 December).* ICCAT was represented by Dr. P. Pallarés (EC-Spain).

- IOTC - 5th Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission *(Victoria, Seychelles, 11-15 December).* ICCAT was represented by Mr. E. Penas (EC).

8 ICCAT Bigeye Year Program (BETYP)

From October 1999 to November 2000, the following activities were carried out: The Program Coordinator, Mr. G. Fisch, visited the national laboratories of the major areas involved in the Program the on June 1, 1999. He visited the national laboratories of major areas of the Program, including Azores, Madeira, Canary Islands, Côte d=Ivoire, and Ghana. The BETYP Coordinating Committee met in Madrid in January and May. Conventional tagging activities started in Ghana after a training course that took place in October/November, 1999, and these activities are still on-going. Agreements were signed with fishing boat owners of Ghana and Azores to carry out tagging with convention tags on aboard their vessels. In the Azores and Canary Islands, convention tagging cruises were carried out. A consultant who is an expert in tagging participated in a Working Group during the SCRS meetings in October,1999. A tagging manual was prepared and distributed to the national laboratories. Contacts were maintained to carry out studies on genetics and growth (hard parts), as well as for the application for electronic tags. The development of the program for the research vessel *Shoyo-maru* was followed by the BETYP Committee.

9 Tagging lottery

The annual lottery for participants in the ICCAT International Cooperative Tagging Program for Tuna and Tuna-like Species was held in Madrid on October 16, 2000. Three US$500 and one US$1000 prizes were awarded, corresponding to four categories, as follows:

- *Tropical tunas* (635 tags entered in the lottery). The winner was tag HM-36735, on a yellowfin tuna tagged by the United States and also recovered by the United States, after 365 days at liberty.
- *Temperate tunas* (176 tags). The winner was tag R-353065, on a bluefin tuna tagged by the United States and also recovered by the United States, after 417 days at liberty.
- *Billfishes* (479 tags). The winner was tag BF-159229, on a sailfish tagged by the United States and recovered by Venezuela, after 422 days at liberty.
- *Bigeye tuna* (1,022 tags). The winner was tag AT-6413, on a bigeye tuna tagged by France and recovered by Senegal, after 2 days at liberty.

10 Relations with other countries, organizations, and entities

Document COM/00/20 provided details on the Secretariat's activities in this area. Of note are:

In accordance with instructions from the Commission, Dr. I Nomura, Commission Chairman, sent letters to the following in January, 2000:

- To Belize, Cambodia, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea Conakry, Honduras, Kenya, Philippines, Sierra Leone, St. Vincent and The Grenadines, and Trinidad & Tobago, with regard to the 1998 *Resolution by ICCAT Concerning Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Catches of Tunas by Longliners in the Convention Area.*
- $ To Kenya and Vanuatu, regarding swordfish fishing in the Atlantic.
- To Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands) Iceland and Turkey, requesting information on bluefin tuna catches in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean in 1998 which were in excess of the levels established by the ICCAT conservation measures.
- To Equatorial Guinea, pursuant to the 1996 ICCAT *Recommendation on Compliance in the Bluefin Tuna and Swordfish Fisheries in the North Atlantic.*
- To Honduras, concerning the lack of compliance with ICCAT conservation measures.
- To Singapore, identifying vessels flying its flag that fish in contravention to ICCAT measures for the conservation of swordfish.
- To Sierra Leone, requesting information on the fishing activities of one of its vessels.
- To the Philippines, concerning the lack of compliance with ICCAT bluefin tuna conservation measures.
- To Belize, concerning its lack of compliance with ICCAT's swordfish conservation measures.
- To Barbados, requesting information on its swordfish catches.

The Commission Chairman also wrote to Mexico and Chinese Taipei, informing that they maintained their ICCAT Cooperating Party status. In addition, the Philippines requested Cooperating Party status.

In 2000, Algeria, Argentina, Barbados, Honduras and Netherlands Antilles requested information on the conditions to become Contracting Parties to ICCAT. Barbados later become a Contracting Party to ICCAT (see Section 1 of this Report.)

11 Publications

The following publications were issued in 2000:

- Statistical Bulletin, Vol. 29 (part printed and part on diskette)
- Report for Biennial Period, 1998-99, Part II, Vols. 1 and 2. Spanish
- Report for Biennial Period, 1998-99, Part II, Vols. 1 and 2. French
- Report for Biennial Period, 1998-99, Part II, Vols. 1 and 2. English
- Collective Volume of Scientific Papers, Vol. LI (on CD ROM)

12 Secretariat staff

In May, 2000, Mr. Etienne Cartuyvels, of the French Department, resigned for personal reasons. On June 1, Mrs. Christine Peyre joined the staff to fill the vacancy in that department.

On September 1, Mr. Carlos Palma, joined the Secretariat to fill the post of Biostatistician.

Mrs. Gloria Messeri, of the Spanish Department, retired at the end of December, 2000.

As of December, 2000, the Secretariat is comprised as follows: Executive Secretary (D-1), Assistant Executive Secretary (P-5), Systems Analyst (P-2), Population Dynamics Expert (P-4), BETYP Coordinator (P-4), Biostatistician (P-3), five multi-lingual secretaries (3 in the GS-7 1 in GS-6, and 1 in GS-4), two Statistics Department staff (1in the GS-4 category and 1 local contract), and 4 clerical staff (1 in GS-3, 3 in GS-1).

2000 FINANCIAL REPORT
(COM/00/7)[1]

1 Auditor's Report - Fiscal Year 1999

The Executive Secretary transmitted a copy of the Auditor's Report to the governments of all the Contracting Parties in April, 2000. The General Balance at the close of Fiscal year 1999 **(Statement 1)** showed a balance in Cash and Bank of 45,722,554 Pesetas, corresponding to the available in the Working Capital fund (37,347,542 Pesetas), to advances on future contributions accumulated at the close of Fiscal year 1999 (185,372 Pesetas), and to the available in funds for other programs (8,239,640 Pesetas).

The balance of accumulated pending contributions at the close of Fiscal Year 1999 (corresponding to 1999 and to previous years) amounted to 213,965,099 Pesetas.

2 Financial Status of the 1st half of the Biennial Budget - Fiscal Year 2000

All the financial operations of the Commission corresponding to Fiscal Year 2000 were accounted for in Pesetas. The accounting entries which originated in U.S. dollars are also registered in Pesetas, applying the official monthly exchange rates facilitated by the United Nations.

The 2000 Regular Budget (245,752,000 Pesetas) was approved by the Commission at its 16th Regular Meeting (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, November 1999). The General Balance Sheet **(Statement 2)** reflects the Assets and Liabilities at the close of Fiscal Year 2000, and are shown in detail in **Tables 1 to 6**.

Statement 1 shows the status of the contributions of each Contracting Party at the close of Fiscal Year 2000.

Of the total budget approved, income received towards 2000 contributions amounted to 177,875,554 Pesetas at the close of the Fiscal Year. Only 14 of the 28 Contracting Parties included in this Budget have paid their total contribution (Angola, Canada, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, France-St. Pierre & Miquelon, European Community, Japan, Korea, Morocco, Namibia, Panama, Tunisia, and United States). United Kingdom-Overseas Territories paid 88.17% of its 2000 contribution (4,101,780 Pesetas); Russia paid 99.6% (3,509,365 Pesetas); South Africa has paid 99.94% (4,822,948 Pesetas); and Trinidad and Tobago paid 32.01% (1,338,976 Pesetas). Advances received in 1999 from China (35,167 Pesetas) and Tunisia (150,205 Pesetas) were applied towards payment of their 2000 contributions. Advances totaling 1,508,534 Pesetas were also received from Angola (80,259 Pesetas), from China (72,413 Pesetas), and Tunisia (1,355,861 Pesetas) will be applied towards payment of their future contributions.

The contributions to the 2000 Regular Budget that were pending payment by the Contracting Parties, at the close of Fiscal Year 2000, amounted to 67,876,446 Pesetas.

The total accumulated debt from budgetary and extra-budgetary contributions, at the close of Fiscal Year 2000, amounted to 229,172,414 Pesetas, that included, among others, the debt of Benin, Cuba, and Senegal, which are no longer Contracting Parties to ICCAT. Barbados, which recently joined the Commission, could not be included, since necessary information from that country is pending receipt.

Statement 2 shows the liquidation of budgetary expenses at the close of Fiscal Year 2000, broken down by chapters. Following herewith are some general comments, by chapter:

1 The Financial Report presented at the 2000 Commission Meeting has been revised and updated to the close of Fiscal Year 2000.

Chapter 1 - Salaries: The salaries and remuneration for 11 members of the ICCAT Secretariat staff were charged to this chapter.

The total amount for Chapter 1 includes the updating of salaries and remunerations to those currently in effect for staff classified in the United Nations categories, including step (tenure) raises.

Chapter 2 - Travel: The amount charged to this Budget chapter corresponds to the travel expenses and per diem for Secretariat participation in inter-sessional meetings.

Chapter 3 - Commission Meetings: Included in this Chapter are expenditures for the Meeting of the Working Group on Allocation Criteria in Madrid. The Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Fishing and Food assumed the major part of the expenses for the aforementioned meeting. Also included are expenses for the Commission Meeting in Marrakech. The Authorities of Morocco assumed extraordinary expenditures incurred due to holding the ICCAT annual meeting outside its Headquarters.

Chapter 4 - Publications: The Commission publications mentioned in the Administrative Report (COM/00/6) were charged to this budget chapter.

Chapter 5 - Office Equipment: Expenses charged to this Chapter to the close of Fiscal Year 2000 included the third year of leasing costs (with option to buy) of a sorter, and the purchase of some office furniture for the ICCAT Secretariat.

Chapter 6 - Operating Expenses: This chapter reflects expenses incurred in the operation of the Secretariat to the close of Fiscal Year 2000. The increase in the expense is due to the important increase in postal rates for mailing official ICCAT correspondence, and for the increases in the telephone and fax expenses.

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

Chapter 8 - Statistics and research

A) Salaries: Salaries and remuneration for five Secretariat staff members are charged to this sub-chapter. The observations made under Chapter 1 as regards the salary schemes currently in force for 2000 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: Included in this sub-chapter are the trip expenses and per diem for the Secretariat's participation in inter-sessional meetings. Details on these meetings are given in COM-SCRS/00/9.

C) Statistics/Biology: Expenses charged to this sub-Chapter include email, the purchase of software for the Secretariat (Windows NT, Office 2000, Delphi, Map Viewer, etc.) and expenses for Secretariat participation in the Yellowfin Stock Assessment Session, held in Cumaná, Venezuela.

D) Computer-related items: A breakdown of the computer equipment purchased by the Secretariat and charged to this sub-chapter, to the close of Fiscal Year 2000, is given in COM-SCRS/00/9.

Data base revision: As of the close of Fiscal Year 2000, the total amount budgeted for this sub-chapter has been spent.

E) Scientific meetings (including the SCRS): Expenses for the SCRS Plenary Sessions as well as for the Species Groups were maintained within the amount budgeted.

F) Bluefin Year Program (BYP): The Contracting Parties financed 2,200,000 Pesetas from the Regular Commission Budget towards this Program. The breakdown of deposits and expenditures is given in the table in Section 4 of this report.

G) Bigeye Year Program (BETYP): The Contracting Parties did not allocate any special contribution to this Program this year. The breakdown of deposits and expenditures is given in COM-SCRS/00/16, prepared by the BETYP Coordinator.

H) Billfish Research Program: The Contracting Parties financed 1,700,000 Pesetas from the Regular ICCAT Budget towards this Program. The breakdown of deposits and expenditures is shown in Section 3 of this report.

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

Chapter 9 - Contingencies: Expenses incurred in this Chapter to the close of Fiscal Year 2000 correspond to the installation expenses for the Biostatician, and to the separation indemnity of a staff member who resigned from the Secretariat. Also charged to this Chapter was the payment the interpreters' overtime at the Commission Meeting in Rio de Janeiro in 1999.

Statement 3 shows budgetary and extra-budgetary income received by the Commission in Fiscal Year 2000. Budgetary income amounted to 177,690,182 Pesetas, from Contracting Party contributions paid in 2000 towards the 2000 Budget, contributions corresponding to previous budgets by Côte d'Ivoire (2,395,907 Pesetas) Ghana (23,372,645 Pesetas), Morocco (266,165 Pesetas), United Kingdom-Overseas Territories (461,766 Pesetas), Uruguay (1,811,150 Pesetas) and Venezuela (9,913,666 Pesetas), and other income (extra-budgetary) received in 2000. The extra-budgetary income received in 200 includes the contribution from Namibia (adherence in 1999), Panama (adherence in 1998), Trinidad and Tobago (adherence in 1999), observer fees, bank interest, reimbursement for publications and reimbursement for Value Added Tax (VAT).

Statement 4 shows the composition and balance of the Working Capital Fund to the close of Fiscal year 2000. The Fund shows a positive accounting balance of 32,963,154 Pesetas, which represents 13.41% of the 2000 Budget.

Statement 5 shows cash flow in Fiscal Year 2000, as regards income received and expenses incurred.

Statement 6 shows the status of Cash and Bank to the close of Fiscal Year 2000, with a balance of 49,300,229 Pesetas, which correspond to the total available in the Working Capital Fund as well as to the funds available for other Programs and advances on future contributions.

3 Billfish Research Program

	Pesetas	*Pesetas*
Balance at start of Fiscal Year 2000		3,558,941
Deposits:		
Financed by ICCAT	1,700,000	
Voluntary contribution-Chinese Taipei ($5000)	985,835	
Voluntary contribution--The Billfish Foundation ($20,000)	3,497,440	
Voluntary contribution-The Billfish Foundation ($15,699)	2,928,162	
Total deposits		9,111,437
Expenses:		
Program expenses	5,972,196	
Bank charges	7,487	
Total expenses		-5,979,683
Balance at close of Fiscal Year 2000		**6,690,695**

4 Bluefin Year Program (BYP)

	Pesetas	*Pesetas*
Balance at start of Fiscal Year 2000		4,680,699
Deposits:		
Financed by ICCAT	2,220,000	
Voluntary contribution-Chinese Taipei ($10,000)	1,971,670	
Voluntary contribution-Japan ($10,000)	1,777,000	
Total deposits		5,948,670
Expenses:		
Program expenses	2,484,059	
Bank charges	7,464	-2,491,523
Balance at close of Fiscal Year 2000		**8,137,846**

STATEMENT 1. GENERAL BALANCE (at the close of Fiscal Year 1999) (Pesetas)

ASSETS			*LIABILITIES*		
Available:		*Pesetas*			*Pesetas*
			Acquired holdings (net)		9,707,906
– Argentaria (BEX)					
Acct. 030-17672.60-A (Pts.)		1,012,097	Guaranty deposit		61,564
Acct. 030-17329.51-F (Conv. Pts.)		3,262,660			
Acct. 030-31279.9E (US$)	$39,943.00	6,599,422	Available in the Working Capital Fund		37,347,542
			Available in funds for other programs		
– Barclays			- Billfish Research Program	3,558,941	
Acct. 21001466 (Pts.)		7,053,506	- Bluefin Year Program	4,680,699	8,239,640
Acct. 41002088 (US$)	$39,281.23	6,490,084			
– Banco Luso Espanol			Advances on future contributions		185,372
Acct. 9150255223 (Conv. Pts.)		1,279,785			
Time deposit (Pts.)		20,000,000	Accumulated pending contributions		213,965,099
Cash on hand (Pts.)		75,000			
Total Available (Pts.)		45,772,554			
(Exchange rate: 1US$ = 165.221 Pts.)					
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**

STATEMENT 2. GENERAL BALANCE AT THE CLOSE OF FISCAL YEAR 2000 (Pesetas)

ASSETS			*LIABILITIES*		
Available:		*Pesetas*			*Pesetas*
			Acquired holdings (net)		10,044,431
– BBVA:					
Acct. 020-0176725 (Pts.)		1,239,251	Guaranty deposit		61,564
Acct. 020-0173290 (Pts.)		2,501,383			
Acct. 201-0012035 (US$)	$164,111.86	31,568,393	Available in the Working Capital Fund		32,963,154
– Barclays			Available in funds for Programs:		
Acct. 21001466 (Pts.)		1,107,094	- Billfish Research Program	6,690,695	
Acct. 41000347 (US$)	$12,508.94	2,406,207	- Bluefin Year Program (BYP)	8,137,846	14,828,541
– Banco Luso Espanol			Advances on future contributions		1,508,534
Acct. 0150255223 (Conv. Pts.)		10,402,901			
			Accumulated pending contributions		229,172,414
Cash on hand (Pts.)		75,000			
Total Available (Pts.)		49,300,229			
(Exchange rate: 1US$ = 192.359 Pts.)					
Receivables:					
Past due contributions		229,172,414			
Fixed Assets:					
Acquired before 2000	27,643,781				
Acquired during 2000	2,174,801				
Retired during 2000	0				
Total Fixed Assets, in use	29,818,582				
Accumulated depreciation	(19,774,151)				
Fixed Assets (net)		10,044,431			
Guaranty deposit		61,564			
TOTAL ASSETS		**288,578,638**	**TOTAL LIABILITIES**		**288,578,638**

TABLE 1. STATUS OF CONTRACTING PARTY CONTRIBUTIONS (Pesetas) (at the close of Fiscal Year 2000)

	Contracting Party	Balance due at start of Fiscal Year 2000	2000 Contracting Party contributions	Contributions paid in 2000 or applied to the 2000 Budget	Contributions paid in 2000 towards other budgets	Balance due at the close of Fiscal Year 2000
A)	**A) Regular Commission Budget:**					
	Angola [1]	0	3,459,499	3,459,499	0	0
	Brazil	9,290,024	12,798,758	0	0	22,088,782
	Canada	0	4,918,959	4,918,959	0	0
	Cape Verde	23,982,293	2,956,826	0	0	26,939,119
	China [2]	0	3,517,643	3,517,643	0	0
	Cote d'Ivoire	2,395,907	2,642,396	2,642,396	2,395,907	0
	Croatia	0	2,496,651	2,496,651	0	0
	European Community	0	86,214,804	86,214,804	0	0
	France (St.Pierre & Miquelon)	0	2,259,132	2,259,132	0	0
	Gabon	9,898,885	2,306,384	0	0	12,205,269
	Ghana	83,830,796	22,844,701	0	23,372,645	83,302,852
	Guinea Ecuatorial	9,675,440	1,757,699	0	0	11,433,139
	Guinea Conakry	7,182,958	1,226,800	0	0	8,409,758
	Japan	0	13,967,499	13,967,499	0	0
	Korea	0	3,792,753	3,792,753	0	0
	Libya	1,574,719	4,065,231	0	0	5,639,950
	Morocco	266,165	8,160,429	8,160,429	266,165	0
	Namibia	0	4,794,424	4,794,424	0	0
	Panama	0	6,198,182	6,198,182	0	0
	Russia	0	3,510,569	3,509,365	0	1,204
	Sao Tome & Principe	9,451,399	2,446,249	0	0	11,897,648
	South Africa	0	4,825,361	4,822,948	0	2,413
	Trinidad & Tobago	0	4,182,948	1338976	0	2,843,972
	Tunisia [3]	0	3,136,125	3,136,125	0	0
	United Kingdom (Overseas Territories)	461,766	4,652,039	4,101,780	461,766	550,259
	United States	0	18,543,989	18,543,989	0	0
	Uruguay	4,026,315	2,466,620	0	1,811,150	4,681,785
	Venezuela	10,456,251	11,609,330	0	9,913,666	12,151,915
	Sub-total (A)	*172,492,918*	*245,752,000*	*177,875,554*	*38,221,299*	*202,148,065*
B)	**New Contracting Parties:**					
	Panama (1998)	8,545,786	0	0	8,545,786	0
	Trinidad & Tobago (1999)	3,720,946	0	0	3,720,946	0
	Namibia (1999)	2,181,100	0	0	2,181,100	0
	Sub-total (B)	*14,447,832*	*0*	*0*	*14,447,832*	*0*
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):	**213,965,099**	**245,752,000**	**177,875,554**	**52,669,131**	**229,172,414**

(1) Advance from Angola (80,259 Pesetas) received in 2000, will be applied towards future contributions.

(2) The advance from China of 35,167 Pesetas has been applied towards partial payment of China's 2000 contribution; of the advance received in June, 2000, there is a balance of 72.413 Pesetas that will be applied towards future contributions.

(3) The advance from Tunisia of 150.205 Pts has been totally applied towards partial payment of Tunisia's 2000 contribution. An advance was also received in 2000 for 1,355,861 Pesetas that will be applied towards future contributions.

TABLE 2. LIQUIDATION OF BUDGETARY & EXTRA-BUDGETARY EXPENDITURES (Pesetas) (at the close of Fiscal Year 2000)

Chapters		*2000 Budget*	*Expenditures to the end of Fiscal Year 2000*	
1. Budgeted and real expenditures:				
Chapter 1.	Salaries	109,752,000	108,634,033	
Chapter 2.	Travel	6,500,000	5,894,235	
Chapter 3.	Commission Meetings (annual & inter-sessional)	11,000,000	11,166,728	(1)
Chapter 4.	Publications	5,000,000	4,432,634	
Chapter 5.	Office Equipment	1,200,000	1,410,216	
Chapter 6.	Operating Expenses	14,500,000	16,767,909	
Chapter 7.	Miscellaneous	900,000	969,899	
	Sub-total Chapters 1-7	*148,852,000*	*149,275,654*	
Chapter 8.	Statistics and Research:			
	8A Salaries	60,600,000	54,880,905	
	8B Travel to improve statistics	5,500,000	5,471,641	
	8C Statistics/Biology	5,000,000	4,603,638	
	8D Computer-related items	3,500,000	3,492,548	
	Data base revision	6,050,000	6,050,000	
	8E Scientific meetings (including SCRS)	9,700,000	9,644,285	
	8F Bluefin Year Program (BYP)	2,200,000	2,200,000	(2)
	8G Bigeye Year Program (BETYP)	0	0	
	8H Billfish Research Program	1,700,000	1,700,000	(2)
	8I Miscellaneous	900,000	900,000	
	Sub-total Chapter 8	*95,150,000*	*88,943,017*	
Chapter 9.	Contingencies	1,750,000	2,486,292	
TOTAL BUDGETARY EXPENDITURES (Chapters 1 to 9)		245,752,000	240,704,963	
2. Extra-budgetary expenditures				
Negative difference in currency exchange			24,666	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES IN 2000			**240,729,629**	

(1) The Authorities of Morocco assumed the extraordinary expenses for holding the Commission Meeting in Marrakech.

(2) ICCAT contibution to these programs.

TABLE 3. BUDGETARY & EXTRA-BUDGETARY INCOME RECEIVED (Pesetas) (to the close of Fiscal Year 2000)

1.1	**Contributions received in 2000 towards the 2000 Budget:**			
	Canada	(02 Feb)	4,918,959	
	European Community	(28 Feb)	86,214,804	
	Namibia	(07 Mar & 02 Aug)	4,794,424	
	United States	(18 Mar)	18,543,989	
	France (St. Pierre & Miquelon)	(22 Mar)	2,259,132	
	Japan	(27 Mar)	13,967,499	
	Côte d'Ivoire	(12 Apr & 31 Dec)	2,642,396	
	UK (Overseas Territories)	(12 & 14 Apr; 05 & 22 May; 23 Jun & 23 Sep)	4,101,780	
	Korea	(04 May)	3,792,753	
	China	(28 Jun)	3,482,476	
	Croatia	(04 Jul)	2,496,651	
	Panama	(20 Jul)	6,198,182	
	Angola	(05 Sep)	3,459,499	
	South Africa	(18 Sep)	4,822,948	
	Morocco	(28 Nov)	8,160,429	
	Trinidad and Tobago	(28 Nov)	1,338,976	
	Tunisia	(31 Dec)	2,985,920	
	Russia	(31 Dec)	3,509,365	177,690,182
1.2	**Contributions received in 2000 towards previous budgets:**			
	Uruguay	(16 Mar)	1,811,150	
	Côte d'Ivoire	(12 Apr)	2,395,907	
	UK (Overseas Territories)	(12 Apr)	461,766	
	Venezuela	(14 Jun)	9,913,666	
	Morocco	(28 Nov)	266,165	
	Ghana	(28 Nov)	23,372,645	38,221,299
1.3	**Extra-budgetary contributions from new Contracting Parties received in 2000:**			
	Namibia	(07 Mar)	2,181,100	
	Panama	(20 Jul)	8,545,786	
	Trinidad and Tobago	(28 Nov)	3,720,946	14,447,832
1.4	**Other extra-budgetary income:**			
	Observer fees at ICCAT Meetings		2,857,232	
	Bank interest		1,311,445	
	Refund from VAT		1,524,886	
	Reimbursement for publications		106,993	5,800,556
TOTAL INCOME RECEIVED IN 2000				**236,159,869**

TABLE 4. COMPOSITION AND BALANCE OF THE WORKING CAPITAL FUND (Pesetas) (at the close of Fiscal Year 2000)

Balance available in the Working Capital Fund (at the start of Fiscal year 2000)		37,347,542
a) Liquidation of income and expenditures of the Budget for Fiscal Year 2000		
Deposits:		
- Contributions paid in 2000 and/or in advance for application to the 2000 Budget	177,875,554	
Deductions:		
- Real budgeted expenditures (Chapters 1 to 9) in Fiscal Year 2000	(240,704,963)	(62,829,409)
b) Other income and expenditures not included in Budget for Fiscal Year 2000		
Deposits:		
- Contributions paid in 2000 towards previous budgets	38,221,299	
- Extra-budgetary contributions from new Contracting Parties	14,447,832	
- Other extra-budgetary income	5,800,556	
	58,469,687	
Deductions:		
- Extra-budgetary expenditures	(24,666)	58,445,021
Balance available at the close of Fiscal year 2000		**32,963,154**

TABLE 5. CASH FLOW (Pesetas) (in Fiscal Year 2000)

INCOME & ORIGIN			*EXPENSES & APPLICATION*		
Balance in Cash and Bank (at the start of Fiscal Year 2000)		45,772,554	Available in Program funds at close of FY 1999 and applied in Fiscal Year 2000		8,239,640
Income:					
Contributions paid in 2000 and/or advanced for application to the 2000 Budget	177,875,554		Advances on contributions at the close of FY 1999 and applied in Fiscal Year 2000		185,372
Contributions pending from previous budgets and paid in 2000	38,221,299		Budgetary expenditures of Fiscal Year 2000 (Total of Chapters 1 to 9)		240,704,963
Other extra-budgetary income received in 2000	14,447,832		Extra-budgetary expenditures		24,666
Other extra-budgetary income received in 2000	5,800,556		Available at the close of Fiscal Year 2000		
Advances on future contributions received in 2000	1,508,534	237,853,775	- Available in the Working Capital Fund	32,963,154	
Balance at close of Fiscal Year for Programs:			-Advances received pending application to future contributions at the close of FY 2000 (China,		
Billfish Research Program	6,690,695		Tunisia, Angola, Namibia)	1,508,534	
Bluefin Year Program (BYP)	8,137,846	14,828,541	Available in Programs:		
			- Billfish Research Program	6,690,695	
			- Bluefin Year Program (BYP)	8,137,846	
				14,828,541	49,300,229
TOTAL INCOME & ORIGIN		**298,454,870**	**TOTAL EXPENSES & APPLICATION**		**298,454,870**

TABLE 6. STATUS OF CASH & BANK (Pesetas) (at the close of Fiscal Year 2000)

SUMMARY		*BREAKDOWN*		
Balance in Cash and Bank	49,300,229	Available in the Working Capital Fund		32,963,154
		Total advances received		1,508,534
		Available in Funds for Programs:		
		- Billfish Research Program	6,690,695	
		- Bluefin Year Program (BYP)	8,137,846	14,828,541
TOTAL CASH IN CASH & BANK	**49,300,229**	**TOTAL AVAILABLE**		**49,300,229**

REPORT ON STATISTICS AND COORDINATION OF RESEARCH IN 2000

(SCRS/00/9)

1 Introduction

Five major ICCAT inter-sessional scientific meetings were held during the year, i.e. the Working Group on Stock Assessment Methods, the Yellowfin Stock Session, the Billfish Workshop, GFCM/ICCAT Working Group on Large Pelagic Fish Stocks in the Mediterranean, and the West Atlantic Bluefin Stock Assessment Session. The North and South Atlantic Albacore Stock Assessment Session and the Session to Evaluate the Moratoria on Tropical Tunas were held immediately prior to the SCRS annual meeting. Many meetings held by FAO and other organizations which are closely related to the ICCAT scientific and statistical activities were attended by various Secretariat staff members.

Following the proposal by the SCRS, adopted by the Commission, the Secretariat hired a Biostatistician, Dr. Carlos Palma. This recruitment, together with the hiring of the Population Dynamist Expert, Dr. Victor Restrepo, has led to many improvements in the activities of the Secretariat in relation to data management and electronic media.

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 1999 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 sessions. As many groups met between July and October, all of which requested that catch-at-size (CAS) be updated, this delay in data submission seriously hindered the work of the Secretariat.

2.b Date processing by the Secretariat

Task I data are updated several times during the year and each updated version is placed on the web site. Until recently, the data base was distributed with the DOS based software as TUNASTAT. This year, the data base was adjusted to be used with Windows-version of FISHSTAT-PLUS, developed by FAO. Therefore, the base is now available in these two packages.

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. As mentioned below, CATDIS now has an extra field to record FAO area codes. This facilitates the user in summarizing catches by ICCAT areas or FAO areas, which are different.

The following catch-at-size data bases were created or updated by the Secretariat.

- Yellowfin catch at size up to 1999 (for the yellowfin stock assessment in July, 2000)
- West bluefin catch at size up to 1999 (for the west Atlantic bluefin assessment in September, 2000)
- North and South albacore catch at size up to 1999 (for the albacore assessments in October, 2000)

- Bigeye catch at size up to 1999 (to assess the effects of the moratorium, October, 2000)

- Catch , catch and effort and size sample bases were updated for blue marlin and white marlin (for the Billfish Workshop in July 2000).

2.c Modification of historical data

During the Billfish Workshop, some new historical data series were presented (e.g. China, Venezuela and Cote d'Ivoire). Those were justified and accepted by the Workshop. There were no other substantial changes requested for the historical data for any fisheries.

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. Also the Secretariat, in collaboration with national scientists, has eliminated many NEI category catches. Document SCRS/00/15 provides the estimates of unreported catches.

2.e Shark statistics

All data on shark catches taken by tuna fishing vessels have now been entered into a temporary base (Access). At present, most of the data received at the Secretariat is Task I type data. Very few biological data have been collected.

2.f Tagging files

Tagging files have been periodically revised and updated. During the Billfish Workshop, some discrepancies were found between U.S. data base and the ICCAT base. These were corrected for both cases.

2.g Other special research programs

There are three major on-going programs. Progress made on the Bigeye Year Program is reported in SCRS/00/16, on the Bluefin Year Program in Appendix 7 of the 2000 SCRS Report, and the Enhanced Research Program for Billfish in Appendix 8 of the 2000 SCRS Report.

3 Special actions taken in 2000 (not covered in paragraph 2)

3.a Secretariat actions taken in response to SCRS recommendations

Many of the actions taken in response to SCRS recommendations are discussed throughout the report.

- *Establishment of LAN*. With the permission of Spanish Fisheries Administration, the LAN was established inside the ICCAT Secretariat, utilizing already installed lines in the building. The cost of installing cables was therefore saved. Two server computers (one is for back-up) were set up and all the computers of the staff have been connected to the server, and a common file structure was established. LAN will be essential for providing the scientists with access to the relational data base when this becomes operative. The system has an additional benefit in that communication between staff members has been improved and exchange of files has become easier.

- *Creation of Relational Data Base*. This program has started when the new biostatistician was recruited at the Secretariat. Since then, a work program stating the short, medium and long-term development phases has already been implemented. More details are given in COM/00/18 and in SCRS/00/43.

- *Bibliographic data base*. An agreement was signed to make ICCAT an international partner of ASFA (Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts), which will require the Secretariat to enter bibliographic records to the ASFA database; in return, the Secretariat will receive various entitlements for using the database. For details, see COM/00/17.

- *Home page*. The ICCAT home page was established in 1998 and has proved to be very useful for public relations and faster communication among the scientists. In 2000, major improvements were made in both its structure and contents. Details are given in SCRS/00/93. The Secretariat might need some guidance as to what should be made available to the public and how other files, such as reports not yet adopted etc, should be handled in relation to the electronic media.

- *Atlantic integrated fishery data base* . Following the CWP Inter-Agency Consultation on Atlantic fishery statistics, the new integrated data base containing fishery statistics for the entire Atlantic was developed. For details, see SCRS/00/26 as well as Section 4 of this report.

- *Questionnaire on availability of observer data*. Following the recommendation by the Sub-Committee on By-Catch, the Secretariat circulated questionnaire concerning the availability of observer data for ICCAT scientific purposes. A summary of the responses are in SCRS/00/180.

- Dr. P. Miyake was invited to China by the Government of the People's Republic of China and visited the country on 16 to 22 of March on his return from Phuket, Thailand, after attending the Working Group of Precautionary Approach. His visit is reported in COM/00/11.

- A prototype catalogue of stock assessment methods was started as a result of a recommendation made by the Assessments Methods Working Group meeting in May 2000 (see SCRS/00/40)

- An annotated Glossary of Fishery Terms was developed, based partly on an existing glossary. The new Glossary, in three languages, contains over 230 definitions and many of the more technical terms contain references.

3. b Improvement of computer related facilities and software

The Secretariat purchased some of the items recommended in 1999 and previous years, as follows:

2 Pentium III servers, 4 hard disks (9 GB), 2 desktop PCs, 1 portable computer, 1 Printer, 1 Backup unit, 1 Router, 1 Hubb, 1 Windows NT software, 1 Microsoft Office 2000 software, 1 Delphi software and 1 MapViewer and Surfer software.

These purchases do not include equipment for the BETYP Coordinator.

4 Meetings

4.a ICCAT Inter-sessional meetings relating to SCRS activities in 2000

- Working Group on Assessment Methods *(Madrid, Spain, 8-12 May)*. The report was edited and translated by the Secretariat and is available as SCRS/00/20 (Executive Summary) and SCRS/00/21 (Detailed Report).

- Yellowfin Stock Assessment Session *(Cumana, Venezuela, 10 -15 July)*. This meeting was held at the invitation of Venezuelan Government, who also provided funding for one member of the Secretariat staff. Dr. V. Restrepo, Mr. P. Kebe and Ms. J. Cheatle attended from the Secretariat. The report was edited and translated by the Secretariat and was presented as document SCRS/00/22.

- 4th Billfish Workshop *(Miami, USA, 18-28 July)*. This was held at the invitation of U.S. Government. Dr. P. Miyake, Dr. V. Restrepo and Mr. P. Kebe attended from the Secretariat. The report was edited by the Secretariat and was presented as document SCRS/00/23.

- GFCM/ICCAT Working Group on Large Pelagic Fish Stocks in the Mediterranean *(Sliema, Malta, 11-15 September)*, held at the invitation of the Maltese Government. The Joint session was proposed to review the data availability of the Mediterranean Sea bluefin, swordfish and albacore. Dr. P. Miyake served, as usual, as Technical Secretary to the meeting, which was also attended by Mr. P. Kebe and Ms. P. Seidita from the Secretariat. The report was edited and translated by the ICCAT Secretariat and presented as document COM/00/13.

• West Atlantic Bluefin Stock Assessment Session (*Madrid, Spain, 18-22 September)*. The report was edited by the Secretariat and was presented as document SCRS/00/24.

• Other ICCAT scientific meetings in 2000 included the North and South Albacore Stock Assessment Session and the Session to Evaluate the Moratoria on Tropical Tunas. These were held at the Secretariat in Madrid, immediately prior to the SCRS meeting.

4.b Other scientific meetings at which ICCAT was represented

• The Working Party on Monitoring Status and Trend of Fish Resources. *(Rome, Italy, 30 November-3 December, 1999)*. Dr. P. Miyake attended this meeting as an expert. His report can be found in SCRS/00/174.

• Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) Scientific Committee (SC) and Commission meeting (*Kyoto, Japan, 7-10 December and 13-16 December, 1999)*. As the meeting coincided with Dr. P. Miyake's personal vacation in Japan, he participated in the meetings as an observer from ICCAT. His report was presented as COM/00/14.

• CWP Inter-sessional Atlantic Agency Meeting *(Copenhagen, Denmark, 10-11 February)*. Dr. P. Miyake attended representing ICCAT. His report was presented as SCRS/00/26.

• CWP Inter-Sessional Meeting on Precautionary Approach Terminology *(Copenhagen, Denmark, 14-16 February)*. Dr. V. Restrepo attended, representing ICCAT. His report was presented as SCRS/00/27.

• International Pelagic Shark Workshop (*Monterey, California, USA, 14-17 February)*. Many ICCAT scientists participated this Workshop. According to the recommendation by the Sub-Committee on By-catch, Dr. P. Miyake from the Secretariat also participated and presented the report summarizing ICCAT activities related to sharks (see SCRS/00/88). His report on the meeting was presented as SCRS/00/173.

• Expert Consultation on Implications of the Precautionary Approach for Tuna Biological and Technical Research (*Phuket, Thailand, 6-15, March)*. The meeting was organized by FAO and quite a few scientists regularly working with ICCAT participated this meeting. From the Secretariat Drs. P. Miyake and V. Restrepo attended the meeting. The report on the meeting was presented as COM/00/12.

• First Meeting of the Scientific Working Group of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) (*La Jolla, California, USA, 10-13 April, 2000)*. The meeting was attended by Dr. V. Restrepo representing ICCAT. A report on the meeting was presented as SCRS/00/28.

• Meetings of General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean Sea (GFCM). ICCAT was represented by Dr. P. Miyake at three GFCM meetings in 2000; Sub-Committee on Statistics *(Madrid, Spain, 25-28 April)*; the Scientific Advisory Committee *(Madrid, Spain, 2-5 May)*; and the GFCM Commission meeting *(Sliema, Malta, 12-15 September)*, simultaneously with GFCM/ICCAT Joint Working Group). The reports of these meetings are in COM/00/13.

• Technical Consultation on The Suitability of The Cites Criteria for Listing Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species *(Rome, Italy, 28-30 June)*. ICCAT was represented by Dr. P. Miyake. His report was presented as COM/00/22.

• Expert Consultation on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing *(Sydney Australia, 15-19 May)* and FAO Technical Consultation on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (*Rome, Italy, 2-6 October, 2000)*. Dr. Miyake participated in the first meeting as an invited expert and the second meeting representing ICCAT in an observer capacity. His report on both meetings was presented as COM/00/26.

5 Publications

Details of the ICCAT scientific publications issued in 2000 can be found in the Administrative Report in this volume (*Report for Biennial Period, 2000-2001, Part I, Vol. 1)*

However, the major subjects relating to publications and relevant to the SCRS are as follows:

- *Statistical Bulletin, Vol. 29*. In 2000, this was issued in a combination of printed text and a diskette. The summary (total catch aggregated by flag or by gear) is printed, while the desegregated catches were distributed in TUNASTAT, so that users can aggregate the data in their preferred format.

- *Data Record, Vol. 41*. Due to the pressure of work of a higher priority, the Data Record is not yet published. However, the important part of catch and effort data were updated as CATDIS and available on the web site. It is planned to publish the Data Record in a similar form as the Statistical Bulletin, with a printed catalogue and the data on diskette or CD-Rom, but possibly in pdf files.

- *Collective Volume of Scientific Papers, Vol. LI*. As the quantity of papers and total volume has increased considerably (over 2,300 pages), the preparing in hard copy form has become difficult. The Secretariat circulated a questionnaire in early 2000 asking all the recipients of the volume whether they would prefer to receive this publication on CD-ROM or in printed form. More than 80% of those who responded preferred CD-ROM. Only libraries preferred the printed version. The Collective Volume was therefore published on CD-ROM, after all the papers had been re-formatted by the Secretariat and converted into PDF files. As this was the first year, some difficulties were encountered, particularly in re-formatting the files provided by scientists. In the future, scientists should adhere strictly to the instruction given by the Secretariat in order for this form of publication to be successful. Nevertheless, the CD-ROM version has been well accepted by the majority of recipients.

- *Report for Biennial Period, 1998-99, Part II, Vol. 1 (Commission)* and *Vol. 2 (SCRS)* are on the ICCAT web-site in three languages, and are also available in hard copy.

RECORDS OF MEETINGS

PROCEEDINGS OF THE 12th SPECIAL MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS

(Marrakech, Morocco - November 13 to 20, 2000)

FIRST PLENARY SESSION

1 Opening of the meeting

1.1 The 12th Special Meeting of the Commission was opened on Monday, November 13, 2000, by Mr. Said Chbaatou, the Minister of Maritime Fishing of Morocco, who welcomed all the delegations to the beautiful and historical city of Marrakech. He noted that this is the first time that this Commission has met in Africa and noted the importance to Africa of the conservation and rational use of its biological resources, based on responsible fishing.

1.2 While the resources must be protected, such protection must be based on equitable standards. The Minister praised the efforts of ICCAT to promote sound tuna management based on the precautionary approach. He stressed the need to avoid irreversible damage to the fisheries which can thus jeopardize food security.

1.3 Morocco has been applying the recent FAO agreements on the Code of Conduct. He noted that the scientific community recognizes the complexity of such agreements. This Commission has to make important decisions on quotas in a fair and equitable manner. He stressed that the right of the coastal States must be taken into consideration. In the case of Morocco, its stocks were under-evaluated, which has adversely affected its quota allocation. In this regard, he referred to Morocco's objection to the 1998 ICCAT Recommendation on the limitation of catches of bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea. As we begin the new millennium we have to orientate our decisions so that developing nations can contribute more to their economic and social development

1.4 The Minister of Maritime Fishing further noted the need to apply universal compliance measures to assure that they are effective. Morocco is a partner to all initiatives that are aimed at responding to coherent development of the fisheries. Sustainable and responsible development of the fisheries is essential, as are the optimal use of the resources and the protection of the marine eco-system. Greater control is needed to combat IUU fishing.

1.5 Minister Chbaatou expressed gratitude to all who worked to make this meeting possible and assure the perfect logistics of the meeting. He wished all the delegates a productive meeting and a pleasant stay in Marrakech. The Minister's opening address is included as **ANNEX A**.

1.6 The Chairman, Mr. Jose Ramon Barañano, thanked the Authorities of Morocco for hosting this meeting, and in particular, Mr. Said Chbaatou, the Minister of Maritime Fishing of Morocco, for honoring us with his presence at the opening ceremony. In welcoming the close to 300 delegates from the Contracting Parties, Cooperating Parties, non-Contracting Parties, intergovernmental fisheries organizations and NGOs, the Chairman emphasized the

important and difficult work facing the delegates during this meeting. He also thanked the Executive Secretary and the Secretariat staff for their part in organizing this meeting.

1.7 Mr. Barañano referred to recent events such as the increases in crude oil prices that were having an effect not only on the profitability of the fishermen, but was also in bringing about changes in fishing areas and species. He noted that as a model organization for other regional fisheries organizations and a reference for conservation and management, ICCAT's work is closely followed by the international fishing community. It is important for ICCAT to adopt measures that are acceptable to all. The Commission has made considerable progress in management, but the conservation measures must be respected in order for them to be effective.

1.8 The Commission has many subjects to cover this week, all aimed at our commitment to conserve the stocks under ICCAT's mandate. The Chairman referred to the important on-going work of the Commission's Ad Hoc Working Group on Allocation Criteria, and pointed out that while progress has been made since the Working Group was formed in 1998, there are still important issues to resolve before arriving at the guidelines for assigning quotas.

1.9 One of the current major concerns of the Commission is compliance. The Contracting Parties want to combat the problem of illegal fishing by the so-called IUUs or FOCs, since such activity is the fundamental element affecting monitored species. He pointed out that between 30 and 40% of the tuna catches are taken by such fleets. Furthermore, such activities affect the feasibility of the fisheries themselves.

1.10 In closing, the Chairman reiterated appreciation to the Moroccan Authorities for the excellent meeting facilities, which he hoped would be conducive to effective debates on the numerous important issues to be considered. Mr. Barañano's opening address is included as **ANNEX B**.

2 Adoption of Agenda and arrangements

Prior to adopting the Agenda, some delegations expressed their intention to present proposals under "other matters", noting that these would be circulated in advance of the formal discussions. The Agenda was adopted and is attached as **ANNEX 1**. The List of Commission Documents is attached as **ANNEX 3**.

3 Introduction of Contracting Party delegations

3.1 Delegations from the following 22 Contracting Parties were present: Angola, Brazil, Canada, , Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, European Community, France (St. Pierre & Miquelon), Gabon, Ghana, Japan, Korea, Libya, Morocco, Namibia, Russia, South Africa, Trinidad & Tobago, Tunisia, United Kingdom (Overseas Territories), United States, and Venezuela. The Head Delegate of each respective Contracting Party delegation introduced the members of the delegation. The List of Participants is attached as **ANNEX 2**. The following Contracting Parties were absent: Cape Verde, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea Conakry, Panama, Sao Tome & Principe, and Uruguay.

3.2 Opening statements were made and presented in writing by the following Contracting Parties: Brazil, Canada, European Community, Japan, Korea, Morocco, Namibia, South Africa, Trinidad & Tobago, United Kingdom (Overseas Territories) and the United States. These statements are included in **ANNEX 4**.

4 Introduction and admission of observers

4.1 Observer delegations of Cooperating Parties/Entities/Fishing Entities from Mexico and Chinese Taipei attended the meeting. Other observers admitted were: Algeria, Argentina, Colombia, Denmark (Faroe Islands), Honduras, Iceland, Mauritania, Netherlands Antilles, Norway, Philippines, Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Food & Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), Greenpeace International, the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), and the Ocean Wildlife Campaign (OWC) (see **ANNEX 2, List of Participants**).

4.2 The opening statements made and presented in writing by the observers from Algeria, Chinese Taipei, Denmark (Faroe Islands), Iceland, Mexico, Netherlands Antilles, Norway, and the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) are included in **ANNEX 4**.

5 Review of procedures for Commission Meetings

5.1 The Chairman opened this point for discussion by referring delegates, in particular to the letter which had been circulated earlier by the Secretariat containing eight specific proposals for improving meeting procedures, based on previous correspondence and proposals from several delegations. He also drew attention to a further proposal by Canada to allow more time between the SCRS annual meeting and the Commission annual meeting.

5.2 There was considerable discussion on two of the proposals contained in the above mentioned letter. One was a suggestion that before being adopted, the draft texts of recommendations and resolutions be checked for completeness and compatibility with other ICCAT or international rules by a legal expert or by a small group of legal advisers from the Contracting Parties. Several of the smaller delegations expressed concern about their inability to participate and some were unwilling to leave final decisions to a small group, while it was also mentioned that no legal complications had yet arisen, and thus such a step was probably not necessary. While it was pointed out that the origin of the proposal stemmed from problems of interpretation of regulatory measures at the moment of implementation, consensus was reached that this would not be included in the new procedures to be adopted.

5.3 The other proposal was in relation to prior submission of draft recommendations and resolutions, aimed at assisting delegations by allowing time for consultation with relevant experts should not be mandatory. It was agreed that prior submission should not be mandatory, but should be somewhat flexible, in order to preserve the innovative nature of the Commission.

5.4 It was agreed that more time between the SCRS annual meeting and the Commission meeting would be helpful, providing that this did not hinder the work of the SCRS. Where possible, the SCRS would meet one week earlier than customary, and the Commission one or two weeks later. The final dates for the meetings in 2001 were discussed under Agenda item 16.

5.5 The revised procedures adopted for Commission meetings are attached as **ANNEX 5**.

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

6.1 Dr. J. Powers, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) introduced the Report of the 2000 SCRS meeting. Dr. Powers outlined the activities and progress of the various research programs and working groups, and explained that further details on the results of stock assessments would be presented to the relevant Panels.

6.2 Progress on the activities of the Bigeye Tuna Year Program (BETYP) had been a little slower than hoped due to difficulties encountered in the tagging activities. However, both conventional and archival tagging had been carried out, and work had started on the collection of material for genetic studies. Biological studies and attempts to improve statistics, particularly in the West African region, were also underway. The activities of the Japanese research vessel, the *Shoyo Maru*, were of particular importance to this program. Concerns were expressed over the lack of progress of the BETYP and the decision to defer the bigeye stock assessment for a year. It was explained that the latter was due rather to a need for the scientists to review available information in detail and to develop a specific bigeye model than to a failure of the BETYP. It was hoped that the next tagging cruises would be more successful.

6.3 The Bluefin Year Program (BYP) has been underway for several years and was mainly limited to the coordination of national sampling programs on bluefin. In addition, independent tagging programs, including both conventional tagging and archival and pop-up tags have yielded results that suggest avenues to investigate possible spawning areas not previously known to exist. The proposed research was endorsed by the SCRS. A question was raised as to how long it would take the SCRS to come to new conclusions regarding possible alternative spawning

areas and levels of east/west mixing. No definite time frame could be given, but these issues would be addressed seriously at the next SCRS and taken into account in future assessments. Additionally, the SCRS recommended that an inter-sessional meeting be held in 2001 to address appropriate options to incorporate these in data in stock assessments and management.

6.4 The Enhanced Billfish Research Program was also still active, supporting at-sea and dock side sampling for the improvement of biological data on billfish. High-tech tagging had also been carried out on billfish in order to evaluate the survival rate for released billfish, one of the most important issues in relation to this stock.

6.5 In relation to the Sub-Committee on Statistics, Dr. Powers was pleased to note that previous recommendations by the SCRS for the hiring of a biostatistician at the Secretariat had been implemented. The newly-hired biostatistician is responsible for the implementation of a relational data base which will greatly facilitate the work of the SCRS and the Commission, which is becoming increasingly more complex.

6.6. One of the tasks of the Sub-Committee on Statistics was to examine ways in which the best possible data could be made available for stock studies and assessments. It was therefore important that the Commission not use scientific data for compliance purposes. Other matters dealt with by this Sub-Committee included transparency and ease of communication and, as a result of its recommendations, improvements had been made to the ICCAT web site, FTP sites had been established, and the *Collective Volume of Scientific Papers* was published on CD in 2000. ICCAT has also become a partner to the Aquatic Sciences Fisheries Abstracts (ASFA), which will make available an electronic bibliography of ICCAT publications.

6.7 Quality control and peer review were also of concern to the SCRS, for which a Working Group on Assessment Methods had been established. This Working Group was in the process of establishing a catalogue of assessment methods used in order to document the validation of the computer applications used. It was noted that while the open nature of the SCRS allowed for a good system of internal peer review, the use of external peer reviews would strengthen reliability and credibility. The SCRS intends to present a concrete proposal on external peer review at the 2001 Commission meeting. This will require a moderate amount of funding from the Commission.

6.8 The Sub-Committee on Environment, which aimed at improving knowledge on environmental influences on tuna recruitment, intended to hold workshop during 2001 in order to determine the necessary research and modeling activities required. It was recommended that this be followed by a Symposium in 2002.

6.9 The aims of the Sub-Committee on By-Catch were to improve statistics on species caught as by-catch to tunas, and to monitor trends of stocks in harmony with other international organizations dealing with these species. This Sub-Committee recommended holding a data preparatory meeting in 2001 and assessments on mako shark, blue shark and porbeagle shark in 2002. However, this would require all shark statistics to be reported to ICCAT, not only those taken as by-catch.

6.10 Concerns were expressed over the lack of reliable stock assessments for some species, mostly due to the lack of reliable data. The Commission noted that the submission of reliable data was imperative and that mechanisms for inducing or, where necessary, forcing Contracting Parties to submit correct data should be examined. The SCRS proposals on external peer review were also welcomed by the Commission, as was the plan to hold a Symposium on environmental issues in 2002. Some concern was expressed in relation to the deferring of stock assessments in 2001, as this may lead to too many stock assessments being scheduled for the following year. However, it was agreed that better, rather than more, stock assessments would be most beneficial to the Commission

6.11 The Commission thanked Dr. Powers for his clear and concise presentation of the 2000 SCRS Report. The Commission also expressed its appreciation for the work of the scientists.

6.12 The Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) was adopted by the Commission, including all the recommendations contained therein. The 2000 SCRS Report is published in Volume 2 of the *Report for Biennial Period, 1999-2000, Part I (2001)*.

SECOND PLENARY SESSION

7 Review of the Report of the 2nd Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Allocation Criteria

7.1 The Chairman introduced this Agenda item and noted that the Working Group had met in Madrid on April 5 and 6, 2000, in Madrid. It was recognized that the Group had made significant progress, but that no consensus was reached on the allocation criteria. The Report of the 2nd Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Allocation Criteria was adopted by the Commission and is attached as **ANNEX 6**.

7.2 Numerous Contracting and non-Contracting Party, Entity and Fishing Entity Delegations indicated in their opening statements and during the discussion of this Agenda item that the work of this Group must be concluded promptly and that a third meeting should be held in the first quarter of 2001. Madrid and Brussels were mentioned as possible venues for the meeting, and the delegates agreed that either city would be suitable for such a meeting. Notwithstanding, the delegations pointed out the need for flexibility at this Commission meeting and stressed that conservation and management issues should not be delayed here because of the pending allocation criteria meeting.

7.3 After some discussion, it was decided to hold an informal working group meeting, to be chaired by Canada, whose mandate would be confined to determining the procedure, tentative agenda, and other matters of a logistical nature aimed at facilitating preparations for the 3rd Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Allocation Criteria to be held in 2001. Thus, further discussion of this Agenda item was postponed until after the informal working group met.

8 Status of the ratification/acceptance of the Protocol of Amendment to the Convention adopted in Madrid in 1992

The Executive Secretary noted that this matter is included in the 2000 Administrative Report and proposed that the discussion be referred to the meeting of STACFAD, in view of the financial repercussions involved.

THIRD PLENARY SESSION

7 Review of the Report of the 2nd Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Allocation Criteria (Continued)

7.4 The Delegate of Canada informed the Commission of the results of the informal working group which had met three times since the Second Plenary Session. Brazil, Croatia, the EC, Japan, Korea, Morocco, Namibia, South Africa, the United States and the United Kingdom (Overseas Territories) had participated in the discussions.

7.5 The informal working group recommended to the Commission that the 3rd Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Allocation Criteria be held in Brussels, May 21 to 23, 2001. The European Community offered to host the meeting and provide translation services, while the EC, Canada and the United States would examine the possibility of financing the attendance of Secretariat staff members. This proposal was approved by the Commission.

7.6 It was recommended that the Chair of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Allocation Criteria develop a detailed agenda highlighting allocation criteria issues that need to be discussed or resolved. This agenda should be distributed for review by all parties prior to the meeting. It was also agreed that parties be encouraged to bring forward any new documents and ideas which may enhance the process and discussions of the Working Group. Parties were encouraged to work together to do so, and to provide any documents well in advance of this meeting. The United States, Canada, Japan and the European Community proposed to review all existing documentation and bring forward new summary documents which could assist the discussions. Any such documentation would be available for review 30 days prior to the meeting. The informal working group also discussed the issue of chairmanship of the Working Group on Allocation Criteria.

9 ICCAT responsibilities in relation to international fishery agreements

9.1 The Secretariat drew the attention of the delegates to the report prepared by the Secretariat which discusses the International Plan of Action (IPOA) to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing. The Committee noted that this issue had already been discussed at the PWG.

9.2 The Delegates of United States and Canada urged all ICCAT Contracting Parties which had not yet done so to ratify the 1993 FAO Compliance Agreement and the 1995 United Nations Agreement on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, and to do all in their power to ensure that the three FAO International Plans of Action on Fishing Capacity, on the Conservation and Management of Shark Species, and on the Reduction of Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries were implemented. It was noted that ICCAT did not work in isolation but within a framework of international law which, in principle, had been endorsed by the ICCAT Contracting Parties.

9.3 Delegates of the European Community and Morocco informed the Commission that steps had been taken by their respective authorities towards ratifying the 1995 UN Agreement. The Chair thanked the EC and Morocco and joined the United States and Canada in urging other Contracting Parties to take similar steps.

10 Relations with other fora

10.1 The Executive Secretary referred delegates to the Administrative Report, which includes information relative to this Agenda item. In addition, Dr. V. Restrepo of the ICCAT Secretariat informed the Commission of relations with other fora with regard to scientific work, including the possibility of holding either a joint or consecutive meeting with ICES on stock assessment methods, and planned cooperation with the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission. As many regional fisheries organizations faced similar issues, it was felt that such integrated processes for scientific work would be very constructive.

10.2 The Delegate of the United Kingdom (Overseas Territories) informed the Commission of the recent meeting of the South East Atlantic Fisheries Organization (SEAFO). This new organization looked forward to fruitful cooperation with ICCAT. The Delegate of Namibia further informed the Commission that a conference of SEAFO was scheduled for February 2001, when the Convention would be open for signature.

10.3 The Delegate of Brazil informed the Commission that he had submitted a report on the 1999 Commission meeting held in Rio de Janeiro to the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) as an observer representing ICCAT, and that this information had been incorporated into the report of the last meeting of CCAMLR.

11 Review of the Precautionary Approach

11.1 Dr. V. Restrepo, the Chairman of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on the Precautionary Approach, referred delegates to Appendix 5 of the 2000 SCRS Report. Since its establishment, this Working Group had summarized existing biological, technological and environmental information relating to the most important ICCAT species, held a meeting to review this information and develop a work plan, initiated the development of simulation framework for evaluating management strategies and co-sponsored an Expert Consultation on Implications of the Precautionary Approach for Tuna Biological and Technological Research in 2000. Further information on the latter was contained in COM/00/12.

11.2 It was agreed that the adoption of the Precautionary Approach required a proper balance between acquiring knowledge and management actions, and that there were certain financial costs involved in scientific research. It was noted that a group of ICCAT scientists have submitted a proposal to the European Community for the funding of simulation studies in support of precautionary approach evaluations. The Commission endorsed this initiative. The Delegate of Canada strongly supported the work of the Working Group and proposed that this be taken into consideration when calculating the budget at the next meeting of the Commission in 2001. It was also agreed that

the possibility of holding a future joint meeting of managers and scientists would be considered at the next Commission meeting.

FINAL PLENARY SESSION

12 Review of the Report of the Meeting of the Compliance Committee and consideration of any proposed recommendations

12.1 Mr. Ernesto Penas, interim Chairman of the Compliance Committee, presented the Report and referred the Commission to the three Recommendations and three Resolutions proposed by the Committee:

- *Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding Equatorial Guinea Pursuant to the 1998 Resolution Concerning the Unreported and Unregulated Catches of Tunas by Large-Scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area* (attached as **ANNEX 7-16**)
- *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Registration and Exchange of Information of Fishing Vessels Fishing fur Tuna and Tuna-Like Species in the Convention Area* (attached as **ANNEX 7-17**)
- *Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding Compliance with Management Measures Which Define Quotas and/or Catch Limits* (attached as **ANNEX 7-14**)
- *Resolution by ICCAT Concerning the Preparation of a Management Standard for the Large-Scale Tuna Longline Fishery* (attached as **ANNEX 7-18**)
- *Resolution by ICCAT for Integrated Monitoring Measures* (attached as **ANNEX 7-20**)
- *Resolution by ICCAT to Establish a Compliance Working Group* (attached as **ANNEX 7-21**)

12.2 In relation to the proposed Recommendation cited above concerning Equatorial Guinea, which calls for a prohibition on the import of Atlantic bigeye tuna and its products in any form from Equatorial Guinea, the Compliance Committee drafted a letter to be sent to the Authorities of that Contracting Party. This letter will inform Equatorial Guinea of the actions to be taken regarding bigeye, and that the prohibition of bluefin tuna imports from that country, which was recommended in 1999 (Ref. 99-10), will be maintained, in view of their non-compliance with ICCAT management measures. (see **Appendix 7 to ANNEX 8**).

12.3 The Compliance Committee Chairman pointed out that the Committee's proposed *Resolution for Integrated Monitoring Measures* (see **ANNEX 7-20**) includes holding, prior to the next Commission meeting, an inter-sessional meeting of the Working Group created by this Resolution. It was suggested that this meeting be held in May, in Brussels, immediately prior to/or after the 2001 Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Allocation Criteria.

12.4 In referring to the proposed *Resolution to Establish a Compliance Working Group* (see **ANNEX 7-21**), the Compliance Committee Chairman noted that this Working Group should meet as early as possible during the 2001 Commission meeting to initiate its work.

12.5 Mr. Penas reiterated the Committee's request that the Secretariat prepare a report, prior to the next meeting, on the possibilities of improving the legal quality of the ICCAT recommendations and the issue of resolving future conflicts.

12.6 The Compliance Committee asked the Commission for a decision that priority be assigned to the collection and transmission of information, not only as concerns compliance, but also concerning the effects of ICCAT research.

12.7 The Commission reviewed and adopted the 2000 Report of the Compliance Committee, including the recommendations, resolutions, and draft letter to Equatorial Guinea, the summary table on compliance with minimum size limits, and the list of vessels fishing for bigeye tuna and northern albacore attached to the Report. The Report is attached as **ANNEX 8**.

13 Review of the Reports of Panels 1 to 4 and consideration of regulatory measures proposed

13.1 The Reports of Panels 1, 2, 3 and 4 were presented by the respective Panel Chairpersons. The Commission reviewed the Reports and recommendations and resolutions proposed by the Panels and adopted the following measures:

Panel 1

- *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Bigeye Tuna Conservation Measures* (attached as **ANNEX 7-1**)
- *Supplemental Resolution by ICCAT Concerning the Recommendation on the Bigeye Tuna Conservation Measures* (attached as **ANNEX 7-2**)

Panel 2

- *Recommendation by ICCAT on Bluefin Tuna Research in the Central North Atlantic Ocean* (attached as **ANNEX 7-8**)
- *Resolution by ICCAT on Bluefin Tuna Farming* (attached as **ANNEX 7-10**)
- *Resolution by ICCAT for SCRS to Examine the Effects of Mixing for Stock Assessments and Management and Consider the Appropriateness of the Current Boundary Between the Western and Eastern Management Units for Atlantic Bluefin Tuna* (attached as **ANNEX 7-11**)
- *Resolution by ICCAT on Conversion Factors for Bluefin Tuna from Product Weight to Live Weight* (attached as **ANNEX 7-12**)
- *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Bluefin Tuna Catch Limits in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean* (attached as **ANNEX 7-9**)
- *Recommendation by ICCAT on Northern Albacore Catch Limits* (attached as **ANNEX 7-6**)

Panel 3

- *Recommendation by ICCAT on Revision and Sharing of the Southern Albacore Catch Limit* (attached as **ANNEX 7-7**)

Panel 4

- *Resolution by ICCAT on Juvenile Mediterranean Swordfish* (attached as **ANNEX 7-5**)
- *Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Plan to Rebuild Blue Marlin and White Marlin Populations* (attached as **ANNEX 7-13**)
- *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Swordfish Catches by the Tuna Longline Fishery* (attached as **ANNEX 7-3**)
- *Recommendation by ICCAT on South Atlantic Swordfish* (attached as **ANNEX 7-4**)

13.2 The Reports of Panels 1 and 3 were adopted at the time of the meeting, whereas it was agreed to that the Reports of Panels 2 and 4 would be adopted through correspondence. The Reports of Panels 1 to 4, as adopted, are attached as **ANNEX 9**.

13.3 Canada stated that despite clear advice on the status of East Atlantic bluefin tuna and South Atlantic swordfish, the Commission has continued to set TACs too high. By ignoring scientific advice and by putting short-term interests first, Canada noted that ICCAT is failing in its responsibility as a Commission and is poorly serving the interests of those who depend on this resource for their livelihood. Canada asked that its closing statement be referred to in the minutes (see ANNEX 4-1).

14 Review of the Report of the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG) and consideration of regulatory measures proposed

14.1 Mr. David Balton, the interim Chairman of the PWG, presented the Group's Report to the Commission Plenary, and pointed out two proposed Recommendations and a Resolution which the PWG wished to forward to the Commission for its consideration and final adoption. These are as follows:

- *Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding Belize, Cambodia, Honduras, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines Pursuant to the 1998 Resolution Concerning the Unreported and Unregulated Catches of Tuna by Large-Scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area* (attached as **ANNEX 7-15**)

- *Recommendation by ICCAT on Establishing Statistical Document Programs for Swordfish, Bigeye Tuna, and Other Species Managed by ICCAT* (attached as **ANNEX 7-22**)

- *Supplemental Resolution by ICCAT to Enhance the Effectiveness of the ICCAT Measures to Eliminate Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported Fishing Activities by Large-Scale Tuna Longline Vessels in the Convention Area and Other Areas* (attached as **ANNEX 7-19**)

14.2 The PWG Chair noted that the PWG had agreed to extend the Cooperating Status of Mexico and Chinese Taipei for another year and to grant, for the first time, such status to the Philippines, and these actions were approved by the Commission. The letters drafted by the PWG to Mexico, Chinese Taipei, and the Philippines concerning Cooperating Status are included in **Appendix 4 to ANNEX 10**.

14.3 The PWG Chairman noted that it had agreed, in principle, to the updated list of IUU vessels, although corrections could still be introduced (attached as **Appendix 7 to ANNEX 10**).

14.4 Mr. Balton noted that the Working Group conducted a case by case review of compliance by non-contracting parties, entities and fishing entities, particularly in response to the ICCAT Chairman's letters which were mailed on January 25, 2000. Based on those responses and other information available to the Working Group relative to actions taken to rectify non-compliance, the PWG drafted **16 letters** (attached the PWG Report as **Appendices 5-1 to 5-16 to ANNEX 10**), pursuant to the ICCAT Bluefin Action Plan (Ref: 94-3), the Swordfish Action Plan (Ref: 95-13) and to the 1998 ICCAT Resolution concerning unregulated and unreported catches (Ref: 98-18), to be sent to the following:

4 Letters of **Warning** to:
- Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands) regarding Atlantic bluefin tuna harvests
- Iceland on Atlantic bluefin tuna and swordfish harvests
- Malta regarding bluefin tuna fishing, and
- Turkey regarding bluefin tuna fishing

1 Letter of **Identification** to:
- Vanuatu, as having vessels that are diminishing the effectiveness of ICCAT swordfish conservation measures

7 Letters **requesting information** to:
- Argentina, Barbados, Grenada, Liberia, Mozambique and Netherlands Antilles on swordfish catches; and to Norway on eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna catch overages

4 Letters regarding **non-compliance** with ICCAT conservation and management measures and **bigeye tuna trade restrictions** to:
- Belize, Cambodia, Honduras, and St. Vincent & the Grenadines

14.5 The Report of the PWG, together with the proposed recommendations, resolutions and letters, was adopted by the Commission and is attached as **ANNEX 10**.

15 Review of the Report of the Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD)

15.1 Mr. Jim Jones, Chairman of STACFAD, summarized the Committee's work. He noted that a total 2001 budget of **252,943,060 Pesetas** had been approved by the Committee as well as the corresponding Contracting Party contributions to finance the budget, which were forwarded to the Commission for final adoption (see **Tables 1** and **2** attached to the STACFAD Report).

15. 2 The STACFAD Chairman also pointed out the adoption of modifications to the texts of certain Articles of the *ICCAT Staff Regulations and Rules* (specifically Articles 6, 16 and 17) to reflect the 1999 Commission decisions concerning the Secretariat staff.

15.3 Mr. Jones noted that STACFAD had been informed of the imminent ratification of the Madrid Protocol by two Contracting Parties (Angola and Ghana). It was also noted that some Parties had informed the Committee that payments towards pending contributions were immediately forthcoming, which would improve the Commission's financial status considerably.

15.4 The Committee was referred to a draft proposal by Ghana concerning the collection of data to calculate the contributions. The Delegate of Ghana pointed out the importance of providing accurate catch and canning data to the Commission for the calculation of the contributions. Due to time constraints, yet given the importance of the need for further discussion of this proposal, the Committee considered that it should be deferred to the 2001 meeting (see **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 11**).

15.5 The 2000 STACFAD Report was adopted by the Commission, including the 2001 Budget and Contracting Party Contributions, and the modifications to the *ICCAT Staff Regulations and Rules* and is attached as **ANNEX 11**.

16 Date and place of the next meeting of the Commission

The EC, on behalf of Spain, extended an invitation to hold the 17th Regular Meeting of the Commission in Murcia, Spain, from November 12 to 19, 2001. It was also noted that the 2001 Meeting of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) will be held from October 8 to 12 in Madrid, i.e. a four-week interval between the SCRS and Commission meetings.

17 Election of Commission Chairman

Although the Commission Chairman, Mr. N. Nomura, had resigned in mid-2000, no election was held since, as informed by the Executive Secretary, according to Rule 6 of the *Rules of Procedure*, the election of the Chairman can only take place during a regular meeting of the Commission and not a special meeting. Hence, the next election of Commission Chairman will take place at the 17th Regular Meeting in 2001.

18 Other matters

18.1 While pointing out the exceptional work by the Secretariat, not only in terms of efficiency but also in terms of speed, the EC Delegate noted the need for further improvement in our meeting organization and that the Commission should strive for an even more efficient structure of our meetings.

18.2 The U.S. Delegate reiterated commendation of the Secretariat's efficient work, as well as the need for improving the overall ICCAT meeting system. He suggested that presentation of the SCRS Report as it is currently done, be discontinued, and instead the SCRS Chairman should be available for any questions that might be posed about the Committee's work or its report. In view of the numerous legal issues involved in the work of the Commission, the U.S. Delegate also suggested that ICCAT may wish to consider further the need to hire a legal counsel. He added that all recommendations and resolutions should be submitted on the first day of the Commission meeting whenever possible and that the Agenda should be revised to assure that the Commission focuses on key issues.

18.3 The Executive Secretary added he will work in the coming months on ways to improve the ICCAT meetings and would inform the Commission in due course.

18.4 Closing statements to the Final Plenary Session were presented and submitted in writing by Canada, Chinese-Taipei and Namibia. These statements are included in **ANNEX 4**.

18.5 The Executive Secretary announced that Dr. Peter Miyake will be retiring from service. He commended Dr. Miyake's 30 years of dedicated work as the Assistant Executive Secretary of ICCAT. He recalled that the "1996 ICCAT Tuna Symposium" enhanced publication had been dedicated to Dr. Miyake. He added that Dr. Miyake has not only played a significant role in the scientific work of ICCAT, but he also helped shape ICCAT since its beginning in the early 1970s. Several delegations took the floor and lauded Dr. Miyake's accomplishments in ICCAT, pointing out his knowledge and expertise in all aspects of the Atlantic tuna fisheries, his high professional ethics, and honesty and thanked him for contributing so many years to the success and prestige of this Commission. The delegations expressed their good wishes to Dr. Miyake for a pleasant retirement.

18.6 In his farewell intervention, Dr. Miyake thanked the delegations for their kind words and best wishes. He highlighted briefly the many changes and advancements the Commission has undergone over the past 30 years and how the Commission has gained in prestige and has become a model fisheries management organization. He thanked all the delegates, past and present, for their support throughout his tenure at ICCAT. Dr. Miyake expressed a special note of thanks to the Government of Spain and the Spanish Authorities for facilitating his and his family's stay in Spain since 1970. Finally, he thanked the Executive Secretaries he has worked under and the Secretariat staff for their support and cooperation.

18.7 The Executive Secretary also announced that Mrs. Gloria Messeri, a staff member in the Spanish Department, would be retiring at the end of this year. He expressed appreciation to her on behalf of the Commission for more than 20 years of work at the ICCAT Secretariat and wished her all the best in her retirement.

19 Adoption of Report

19.1 While the Proceedings of the Opening, Second and Third Plenary Sessions were distributed during the session for review by the delegates, it was agreed the Plenary Sessions in their entirety (i.e. including the Final Session) would be adopted by correspondence.

20 Adjournment

20.1 The Commission Chairman, the Executive Secretary and numerous delegations expressed appreciation to the Authorities of Morocco for hosting this year's Commission meeting in such a pleasant venue, for the excellent facilities and logistics provided for the meeting, and for the generous, warm hospitality extended to all the delegations.

20.2 The Chairman, on behalf of the Commission, also thanked the Secretariat staff, the interpreters, and the local staff for their efficient work

20.3 The Chairman declared the 12th Special Meeting of the Commission adjourned on Monday, November 20, 2000.

ANNEX A

OPENING ADDRESS BY MR. SAID CHBAATOU, MINISTER OF MARITIME FISHING OF MOROCCO

Mr. Le Wali, President of the Region of Marrakech Tensift-Al hahouz
Mr. Chairman of ICCAT, Mr. Executive Secretary
Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is a pleasure for me to welcome you to Morocco and in particular to Marrakech, this prestigious city of the interior of the Kingdom with a great Atlantic vocation, that has the privilege of having been selected by you to be the host of this Twelfth Special Meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas.

Morocco highly values this initiative, particularly since it is a demonstration of consideration towards the African continent which, in spite of the difficulties it faces, wants to be a vector of the new ethic that advocates organized and reasonable exploitation of the fishery resource in an international environment.

This new form of managing the marine biological patrimony, based essentially on the concepts of responsible fishing and trade of the marine products, is the center of the fishing policies of our continent.

This is also expressed strongly and in a collective way within the framework of the Ministerial Fisheries Conference of the African Coastal States of the Atlantic Ocean, whose Permanent Secretariat is in Morocco, which is very proud to assume this great responsibility for the cause of African fisheries.

This means that we have chosen decidedly to take an active part in the new obligations in favor of the rationalization of fishery and for a improved use of the catches obtained from the sea, and in the best interest of the community and hence, for all mankind.

I am convinced that this same values and these same concerns are shared by all the responsible persons who participate in this first session of the third millennium, which urges us for various reasons to find the most adequate equilibrium among our immediate interests and the obligations to conserve the resource, based on fairer rules.

For these reasons, I want to commend the constant efforts that the Commission has made since its creation to foment a management policy of the tunas under its mandate, based on foresight and caution, and trying to avoid irreparable harm to the Atlantic tuna fishery.

It is more than demonstrated that at this point in time, the right to the resource is not now determined by a simple capacity to carry out its exploitation. The new international fishing doctrine requires that the fishing activities be sustainable and require accepting sacrifices so that the marine biological richness can contribute, over the long-term, to food and to reducing the poverty in the developing nations.

We are pleased to observe that the Commission has responsibly integrated this logic to its line of conduct, taking decisions and adopting diverse recommendations and resolutions destined at rebuilding and maintaining the tuna stocks at levels of exploitation that are sustainable from a biological point of view.

It is clear that the objective of this specialized institution is to always search for reasonable methods of ecological management of the living marine resources, in order to optimize the yields of the industrial fishery, yet at the same time reducing the waste that is taking place in the tuna fisheries by catching immature fish and the discards at sea, both reproachful acts, which are unanimously condemned by the international community.

In this respect, I have to point out the vanguard role of the Commission, which frequently has applied the precautionary principle, a principle that has been established with decision by our organization, by the FAO which has worked no-stop and successfully, since Cancun in 1992, in the implementation of a agreement aimed a the responsible management of the marine biological resources.

No one can deny that these mechanisms to manage the resource are ever more necessary, since scientific consensus is complex and for the time required for their implementation, which could lead to situations of poor functioning of the fisheries that are difficult to control.

Therefore, and taking into account the over-exploitation of the tuna resources and the signs of collapse shown by some stock, the Commission is obliged to resort to allocation of the resources as a management method.

Notwithstanding, it is evident that this formula based on the assignment of quotas is a difficult to apply. It could prove insufficient, even frustrating and unfair for many of the Parties, among them Morocco, that has suffered for a long time now from an insufficient assessment of its tuna fishing capacity in the area of competence.

We observe with satisfaction that since the creation of ICCAT the number of countries that have joined has not ceased to increase, and which currently stands at 28. This is a testimony of the credibility of the Commission and of the adherence of its members to the noble objectives that have been assigned to ti and which I have just mentioned.

The Commission has been called to establish a new approach with respect to an ever more efficient management of the tuna sector, in order to be able to accept the challenges of the present millennium, which begins in terms of a just distribution of the resulting dividends of tuna fishing, in favor of the respective economies of each one of the Parties and taking into account the biological requirements which are imposed on all of us and of the degree of development of the member countries.

In effect, in a world marked by internationalism and globalization, we have the obligation to seek decisions that permit developing countries to use made good use of tuna fishing, and trying to improve in the economic and social aspects.

The legitimate initiatives undertaken by those countries that have the necessary support, of the Commission as well as the member countries, to be able to consolidate their competence in matters of technology and innovation, to help them develop their respective fisheries within the framework of a sustainable and profitable exploitation from an economic point of view.

We have the conviction that ICCAT has taken note of these concerns. This implies supporting new mechanisms capable of helping us to achieve success in the changes that are on going and to translate into deeds the equity that all the members of our community strongly desire.

The good end of this task requires, on our part, a constant mobilization and awareness that form part of the laudable actions of the NGOs, to safeguard the resource, and optimum use of the catches in favor of the present and future generations.

To this end, we are convinced that ICCAT, which has become a pioneer regional organization in terms of initiatives and sustainable management measures of the tuna resources, will efficiently and strengthen it role in this area, in order to contribute to the universal and effective application of the agreements and instruments implemented with a view to render morality to fishing on a world level.

Only by accepting this compromise will it be possible to conserve and reinforce the credibility, legitimacy and audience which the international scope has today.

In this perspective, Morocco declares, is customary, solidarity with all the initiatives that respond to the concerns of the member countries of our organization and which assure the compliance of its desire to reach a coherent and optimum agreement of its fisheries, which for some of us are authentic levers of a constant economic growth.

Our country has initiated this route, by voluntarily implementing a strategy and a plan of action inspired by the new international framework of the fisheries and based on the concepts of sustainable development and responsible fishing.

This new dynamics includes the restructuring of the of national legislation, taking into account the guiding principles in matters of management and the optimum use of the resources as well as the conservation of the marine eco-systems.

This juridic device is supported by the reinforcement of the control measures at sea, by means of the creation of a satellite monitoring system combined with a coastal radar network, aimed at fighting against illegal and unregulated and unreported fishing.

In addition, Morocco has created a national identification file on the fishing fleet to carry out continuous monitoring of its activities and movements in order to, in the case of biological imperative, determine the necessary options to re-structure it and get it going again.

Within the framework of the new fishery vision, the important task that concerns us today is to remain vigilant of the constant dangers that threaten the future of our oceans and seas, within a concerted management strategy that guarantees the duration of the stocks, the viability of the fisheries and the socio-economic well-being of the communities that depend on them.

Morocco is ready, as are the other members of the Commission, to guarantee the success of our work during this session, in order to obtain results that are satisfactory to all.

We continue to be convinced that the essential condition for the success of our common work resides in the willingness of the member countries to take into account the state of the tuna stocks, to be flexible and to satisfy the interests and rights of each one of the Parties and, at the same time, to guarantee the future, which pertains to future generations.

I am convinced that this special meeting of ICCAT will provide the opportunity for interesting discussions that generate syngeries capable of fulfilling the aspirations of all of us to defend the tuna fisheries from problems and situations that are difficult to control.

In the meetings of the Panels, the Commission will go in depth in its discussions and in the agreements on the matters that are included in the Agenda, in order to evaluate our actions and to calmly reach the objectives that we have established.

In finalizing, my most sincere expression of thanks to all those who made this important encounter possible, particularly the Executive Secretary of ICCAT, and the authorities of the Wilaya of Marrakech, who have not spared any efforts to facilitate everything necessary for the success of this meeting.

Many thanks for your attention and I wish you all a pleasant stay in Morocco and in Marrakech.

ANNEX B

OPENING ADDRESS BY JOSÉ RAMÓN BARAÑANO COMMISSION CHAIRMAN

First of all, I want to extend to all of you a most cordial welcome and wish you a pleasant stay in Marrakech.

It is pleasant to be among the numerous familiar participants. In the majority of the cases we see each other only one or two times of year, or even less, but the intensity of our discussions and the close contacts throughout these days make us all seem a bit like “alumni” of the same school or university.

In spite of a saturated work agenda that the Executive Secretary has proposed for us, I hope we have time to enjoy the many possibilities that this marvelous and mythical city offers us.

In the name of ICCAT, I would like to thank sincerely the Moroccan Government for its kind invitation to host this meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas.

I would also like to extend a special note of thanks for the presence of the Moroccan authorities which contributes

to the prestige of this meeting of our Commission and which, without a doubt, will facilitate our stay in every way possible, as invited guests of this fantastic city.

I do not want to forget, within the chapter of acknowledgments, the ICCAT Secretariat, which, with few resources, have made an important effort to prepare this meeting.

Nor can I forget Mr. Driss Meski, who without a doubt, is one of the persons who has made the most effort towards the preparation and success of this meeting.

It is a great satisfaction and an honor for me to preside over this meeting of the Commission in which highly matters of extreme importance for the future of our organization will be discussed.

Through its almost 30 years of existence, ICCAT has matured, has become stronger, and is now a clear point of reference for other regional fishery organizations in the conservation and management of fishing stocks.

ICCAT now has 28 Contracting Parties and numerous cooperating parties and its work is closely followed by many non-governmental organizations and communications media.

Besides the Contracting Parties, there are participants at this meeting from many non-contracting parties, entities and fishing entities, as well as regional fishery organizations and non-governmental organizations.

The catches of the species under ICCAT mandate amount to about 600,000 MT, of which 95% correspond to various tuna species.

The economic importance of these catches explains the difficulties which the Commission faces to agree on conservation and management measures. Notwithstanding, if we hope to maintain these catches and the activities of our fishing sector, it is fundamental that our work culminate in the adoption of measures accepted by all.

ICCAT has made notable progress in recent years and we should congratulate ourselves for this, with the adoption of various recommendations for the conservation and management of the species and with the adoption of measures to promote compliance by all the fleets that participate in the fisheries.

However, the presence of new acts, the development of new technologies and the development of the law of the sea, make it necessary to undertake the study of new measures.

Of the numerous items included on our agenda, I would like to point out a few that I believe will be given special attention during this week:

- Practically all the species regulated by ICCAT are fully exploited or over-exploited. It is essential to our compromise to rebuild the stocks be firmly continued.
- While it is true that we have made progress, each and every parties has to insist on augmenting efforts towards compliance measures.
- Also, I would like to highlight the need to advance and set clear directives for the discussions on the criteria to assign quotas.
- I would point out the importance of compliance by the Contracting Parties if we want to apply effective measures to the grave problem that is undermining the effectiveness of ICCAT. As you all know, I am referring to illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing.
- This activity, is not only a fundamental element in the state of over-fishing of some regulated species, it also contributes to the decline in market prices, thereby endangering the economic well being of our fishing sector.

I would like to finalize by wishing you all a pleasant stay and success in your work, and also by expressing again our appreciation to the Moroccan authorities for their invitation and support.

ANNEX 1

2000 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 Review of procedures for Commission Meetings
6 Report of the Meeting of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS)
7 Review of the Report of the 2nd Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Allocation Criteria
8 Status of the ratification/acceptance of the Protocol of amendment to the Convention adopted in Madrid in 1992
9 ICCAT responsibilities in relation to international fishery agreements
10 Relations with other fora
11 Review of the Precautionary Approach
12 Review of the Report of the Meeting of the Compliance Committee and consideration of any proposed recommendations therein
13 Review of the Reports of the Meetings of Panels 1 to 4 and consideration of regulatory measures proposed
14 Review of the Report of the Permanent Working for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG) and consideration of regulatory measures proposed
15 Review of the Report of the Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD) - Revised 2001 Commission Budget and Contracting Party Contributions
16 Date and place of the next meeting of the Commission
17 Election of Commission Chairman
18 Other matters
19 Adoption of Report
20 Adjournment

ANNEX 2

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ANNEX 3

LIST OF COMMISSION DOCUMENTS

COM/00/1	Tentative Commission Agenda
COM/00/2	Tentative Agenda of the Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD) /
COM/00/3	Tentative Agenda for Panels 1-4
COM/00/4	Tentative Agenda of the Compliance Committee
COM/00/5	Tentative Agenda of the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG)
COM/00/6	2000 Administrative Report
COM/00/7	2000 Financial Report
COM/00/8	Revised 2001 Budget
COM/00/9	Report on Statistics and Coordination of Research in 2000 - ICCAT Secretariat
COM/00/10	Compendium of Management Recommendations and Related Resolutions Adopted by ICCAT for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas and Tuna-like Species - ICCAT Secretariat
COM/00/10bis	Historical Table - ICCAT Secretariat
COM/00/11	Report of ICCAT Assistant Executive Secretary's visit to the People's Republic of China *(March 16 to 23, 2000)* - P. M. Miyake
COM/00/12	Expert Consultation on Implications of the Precautionary Approach for Tuna Biological and Technological Research *(Phuket, Thailand, 7 to 15 March 2000)* - V. R. Restrepo and P.M. Miyake
COM/00/13	ICCAT Relationship with the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) - P. M. Miyake
COM/00/14	Report on the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) Scientific Committee (SC) and Commission Meeting *(Kyoto, Japan, 7 to 16 December 1999)* - P. M. Miyake
COM/00/15	Unreported Catches of Atlantic Bluefin (Preliminary Report) - ICCAT Secretariat
COM/00/16	Report on the BETYP (Bigeye Year Program) Activities from October 1999 up to September 2000 - G. Fisch
COM/00/17	A Partnership with ASFA for Maintaining the ICCAT Bibliographic Database - V. R. Restrepo
COM/00/18	Strategy Towards the ICCAT Relational Database Management System (ICCAT-RDB) - C. A. M. Palma
COM/00/19	Report of the 2nd Meeting of the ICCAT Ad Hoc Working Group on Allocation Criteria *(Madrid, Spain, 6 to 8 April 2000)*
COM/00/20	Compendium of Responses to Special Letters Sent by ICCAT - ICCAT Secretariat
COM/00/21	Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document (BTSD): Summary of Information Available on Validation Procedures - ICCAT Secretariat
COM/00/22	Report on the Technical Consultation on the Suitability of the CITES Criteria for Listing Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species *(Rome, Italy, 28 to 30 June 2000)*
COM/00/23	Procedures for ICCAT Commission Meetings
COM/00/24	Register of Tuna Fishing Vessels - ICCAT Secretariat
COM/00/25	ICCAT Staff Rules and Regulations: Inclusion of 1999 Commission Decisions - ICCAT Secretariat
COM/00/26	International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported Fishing - P. M. Miyake

ANNEX 4

STATEMENTS TO THE PLENARY SESSIONS

STATEMENTS BY CONTRACTING PARTIES

Statement by Brazil to the Opening Plenary Session

Brazil attends this 12th Special Meeting of ICCAT with great expectations. These expectations are related to the treatment of issues of the Commission's regular agenda as well as to the decisions ICCAT will take in regard to how to carry out its activities in the future.

Previous meetings have indicated that a new reality has come to the work of this Commission. Therefore, changes are needed in order to make this reality fair, equitable and beneficial to all countries engaged in the sustainable use of tuna and tuna-like resources in the Atlantic. Moreover, these changes are also crucial for the strengthening of this Commission.

On the other hand, Brazil understands that these changes will entail difficult challenges to all Contracting Parties. This is the reason why we have to trust our capacity to find mutually satisfactory solutions through constructive, creative and flexible proposals. Brazil prefers to believe that the positions of Contracting Parties within this Commission should be built on complementary and not on opposing bases.

In this context, my Delegation is convinced that the changes that ICCAT needs have to occur in the light of the relevant international legal framework upon which the right of coastal States to develop their fisheries in the high seas is recognized and assured. Brazil is also convinced that all delegations present here share the same intention to move forward with a view to overcome differences and to reach consensus.

The Brazilian Delegation, as usual, is ready to collaborate in the search for a way, within cooperation and partnership, to attain every goal at which we are all aiming.

Statement by Canada to the Opening Plenary Session

Canada is pleased to participate at this 12th Special Meeting of the Commission and we extend our thanks and appreciation to the Government of Morocco for hosting this meeting in the beautiful city of Marrakech.

As we begin our deliberations, it is useful to remind ourselves of the responsibility assigned to this Commission, and to reflect on the consequences of the choices we make. ICCAT has the duty to ensure the conservation and sustainable management of tuna and tuna-like species in the Atlantic Ocean. The well-being of these resources and the long-term future of those people and fishing communities which rely upon these resources for their livelihood is dependent on the decisions we make.

In recent years, ICCAT has begun to make the right choices. We have established rebuilding programs for Western Atlantic bluefin tuna and North Atlantic swordfish. ICCAT has also adopted measures and processes to enhance the compliance of members and the cooperation by non-members with the Commission's conservation and management measures. Canada is pleased that, together, we have taken difficult decisions over the years and become a much more meaningful conservation organization, whose deeds have begun to reflect and reinforce its words.

Each year, it seems that the issues we must confront become more complex, and more difficult. This truism certainly applies to our agenda this year. We face very serious challenges of stock rebuilding, coupled with expanding pressure for access to a declining resource. I want to highlight a number of areas that must be addressed if we are to be successful as an organization, and meet our obligations to the resource, and to those dependent upon it.

First, we believe that ICCAT must continue to implement measures to rebuild fish stocks that are over fished. If we take a snapshot of the status of the stocks, the situation is quite bleak: of the sixteen stocks assessed by SCRS this year, eight are below Maximum Sustainable Yield, three are at or above biomass levels that would support MSY, and five are of unknown status. It is clear that the Commission needs to reinforce its commitment to rebuilding stocks to Maximum Sustainable Yield – which is the management reference point required under the ICCAT Convention. We need to take concrete steps to ensure the recovery and long-term sustainability of these stocks and to invest in the necessary scientific research in order to reduce uncertainties.

Second, we believe that ICCAT needs to reinforce its commitment to compliance. Canada is pleased with the progress ICCAT has made to adopt measures to require member compliance. However the implementation of these measures needs much greater diligence. There are three general compliance areas that need to be addressed on an urgent basis.

First, the non-reporting or misreporting of Task 1 data is a critical deficiency, in particular for Eastern Atlantic bluefin tuna. The SCRS was unable to assess this stock because of the significant lack of data. We need to ensure that the catch statistics provided to ICCAT are reliable, of top quality and are submitted in a timely manner. In the absence of proper statistical reporting, scientists cannot with confidence fulfill their role in estimating fishing mortality, MSY, and replacement yield. Second, the lack of adherence to quota limits remains a concern for many stocks. This is a fundamental issue which must be addressed. Third, the lack of adherence to size limits is of continuing concern. The SCRS reports that 70% of yellowfin, 55% of bigeye, 50% of Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin, and 23% of Atlantic Swordfish violate their respective ICCAT prohibitions on taking fish less than the minimum size. We must do a better job to protect juvenile tunas.

Canada is also concerned about the increasing catch by flag of convenience vessels. We are committed to working with other delegations to address illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing. This fishing activity poses a serious threat to the conservation of stocks and undermines the achievement of ICCAT objectives.

Finally, Canada remains very concerned about the lack of significant progress by the Working Group on Allocation Criteria. We believe that the Commission must address this issue as an immediate priority. The Working Group should meet intersessionally early next year and there needs to be an indication of flexibility and compromise by all Parties that changes can be accommodated. In the absence of reaching a consensus on this issue, we risk jeopardizing the future of ICCAT as a relevant and effective fisheries management organization. We recognize that the issue of allocation reform is a difficult and challenging issue. It is our hope that progress on other important conservation matters will be not forestalled pending progress on allocation criteria.

Before I conclude, I want to express a final concern about the budget of the Commission. We note that a number of countries have not provided contributions for two or more years. The resulting shortfall in funding is affecting the ability of the Commission to implement its program. I appreciate the difficulties faced by some Parties in securing approval of their contribution. However, there is a solution. I would remind Parties of the need to ratify the Madrid Protocol. In addition, I would urge those Parties in arrears to provide their outstanding contributions. Through these two measures, we can place the Commission program on a stable and secure foundation.

We have an imposing agenda. Canada looks forward to working cooperatively with other delegations to find solutions, and to make the right choices for present and future generations.

Statement by Canada to the Final Plenary Session

During my opening remarks at this meeting I reviewed the status of the stocks for which ICCAT has responsibility. At that time, I pointed out that of the 16 stocks under our responsibility, eight are below MSY biomass levels, three are above, and five are unknown. Canada came to this meeting with the objective that we would achieve some improvement in stock status. We had expected that ICCAT would take the necessary measures to reduce over fishing, reverse stock declines and begin to rebuild stocks. So, how have we done this past week? While we have laid the basis for improvement on billfish, our performance elsewhere has been inadequate, unsatisfactory and disappointing.

For East Atlantic bluefin tuna we are continuing to fish at levels 50% over those required to begin to reverse stock decline. For South Atlantic swordfish, we are fishing well above the level of a sustainable TAC, and for bigeye and northern albacore we continue to fish above MSY. Despite clear advice on the status of these stocks, the Commission has continued to set TACs too high. I fully appreciate the difficulty of reducing TACs and Canada is only too familiar with the costs and human hardship when harvest opportunities are reduced, and when they collapse. But by ignoring scientific advice and by putting short-term interests first, we are failing in our responsibility as a Commission. We are also poorly serving the interests of those who depend on this resource for their livelihood.

ICCAT cannot continue to discharge its responsibility in this manner. What may have been acceptable 15 or 20 years ago is not longer so. ICCAT must change its approach to management to take better care of the fish. If we do not change, we will not have a resource to manage.

Statement by the European Community to the Opening Plenary Session

First of all, the Delegation of the European Community would like to thank the Authorities of the Royal Kingdom of Morocco for their hospitality. It is a real pleased to be here in this magnificent city of Marrakech.

The 2000 annual meeting will be without a doubt one of the most important in the history of ICCAT. We are faced with an important challenge and we hope that all the Parties concerned will work in a constructive spirit to maintain the climate of cooperation that is essential for the success of this organization.

As concerns the Community, there are several agenda items of particular importance:

- *Bluefin tuna.* We would like to point out the importance of this stock to the European Community. The EC hopes to find adequate solutions to assure the sustainable exploitation of this stock. The Community considers that it is not necessary to change the current TAC allocations and that the non-Contracting Parties that have quotas assigned should make every effort to assure their cooperation with ICCAT.

- *South Atlantic swordfish.* The TAC and the distribution of this stock are very important for the Community. We believe that the management objectives for this stock should correspond to those that have been used in the case of the North stock in 1999. As concerns the allocation, the Community believes that the *status quo* among the Parties that already have quota allocations should be maintained.

- Good management of the *tropical tuna fisheries.* The Community considers it essential to assure that all the Parties respect the Gulf of Guinea prohibition in order to assure its effectiveness. Furthermore, the EC believes that it essential to maintain a list of vessels and control the overall fleets that fish tropical tunas.

- *Albacore.* This fishery also has considerable importance for the European Community. In view of the scientific recommendations, the Community would like to propose a draft recommendation aimed at establishing a TAC for this species.

- *Monitoring.* The Community considers this point to be of maximum importance. Without a monitoring scheme adapted for ICCAT, no management measure will be effective. While ICCAT has adopted in the past a series of monitoring measures, it has not yet developed a scheme that is integrated and coherent, which takes into account the characteristics of the tuna fisheries, and which considers at-sea monitoring, the reinforcement of controls at ports, the utilization of new technologies and actions against illegal fishing. The Community would like to propose an inter-sessional meeting in 2001 to review the basic elements of an integrated monitoring scheme.

- *Flags of convenience.* Once again, this grave problem has not yet resolved. The Community is ready determined to promote initiatives aimed at resolving this serious problem (trade sanctions, vessel lists, statistical documents, etc.) whose solution conditions, to a large measure, the possibilities of reaching agreement on other matters, such as allocations. It is thus essential to find quick solutions to this matter.

- The EC is very concerned about the financial situation of ICCAT, given the non-payment by some Parties, which jeopardizes the activities of this organization.

- The EC, while respecting the right of objection, considers it essential that the Parties that present objections adopt alternative measures to conserve the resources and that ICCAT be informed of such measures.

- Finally, the Community considers that the spirit of cooperation and respect for the conservation measures should prevail so that ICCAT can attain its fundamental objectives which are to conserve and manage the tuna stocks. In this regard, the European Community hopes that the work of the Working Group on Allocation Criteria will continue and for this we are prepared to host the 2001 meeting in Brussels.

Statement by Japan to the Opening Plenary Session

Japan would like to express her special thanks to the Government of Morocco for hosting the 2000 meeting of ICCAT in this beautiful historic city of Marrakech.

This year again we must face and challenge tough issues in this forum. The number of those issues has increased and involve elements that are more difficult and more complex than the issues we dealt with in the past. Japan came to this meeting, however, with the firm intention to make every effort to find solutions to those issues and would like to ask for close cooperation from all the delegates to this meeting. Among those issues before us, the Japanese delegation would like to present here the major issues of concern to us and our fundamental views on them.

The issue of the illegal, unregulated and unreported fisheries is one of the most serious, one that greatly undermines the conservation and management measures of regional fisheries management organizations. Because of this seriousness, a global plan of action is being developed in FAO. Among the relevant international organizations, ICCAT has an outstanding record of achievements in this field. The Commission initiated its work on this issue in the mid 80s and has always played a leading and active role in dealing with this difficult problem. Japan is particularly pleased to see the international collective actions developed in the recent years by ICCAT for various countermeasures against IUU tuna fishing activities.

After painful consultations over two years, Japan and Chinese Taipei reached an agreement this year on the joint programs to eliminate IUU large-scale tuna longline vessels. The programs are in the stage of implementation. Last year, the Commission unanimously resolved to support this initiative and urged Japan and Chinese Taipei to implement the programs fully and promptly. However, the owners of IUU tuna longliners have been trying to escape from the programs by using registrations of developing Contracting and non-Contracting Parties or charter arrangements with them. Although Japan recognizes and respects the legitimate desires of developing countries for their own tuna fishery development, working with IUU vessels is the worst option for them to take for this purpose. Japan feels the responsibility for having created the source of the present IUU operations through the past export of second-hand vessels. That is why we set up the program to scrap the Japanese-built IUU longliners with huge Governmental financial support as much as over 30 million U.S. dollars. Similarly, Chinese Taipei made a tough decision to re-call Chinese Taipei- built IUU vessels. We strongly hope that the Commission takes the necessary measures at this meeting to allow Japan and Chinese Taipei to complete the tasks, namely the elimination of all the IUU tuna longline vessels of their origins.

We would also like to point out here that the Commission's deliberations in the past lacked an important aspect for fishery development. That is the aspect of implementation of fishery management measures. In our view, just setting a quota for a developing country is somewhat irresponsible and incomplete for the sound and healthy development of fisheries. In the case of large-scale tuna longline fisheries, the vessels of which are highly mobile and extremely hard to control, this management aspect is of increased importance. At this meeting, therefore, Japan is going to propose minimum management standards for large-scale tuna longline vessels. Unless the standards are implemented promptly, loose implementation of management measures of a certain country become a loophole for the ICCAT resource conservation programs and counter-measures against the IUU tuna longline vessels. In this respect, however, we are not calling for an excessive burden to be put on the shoulders of

developing countries. In the proposal, Japan is showing her willingness and specific measures to help developing countries enhance their management capabilities. In this way, we believe, not only the issue of catch quotas but also that of management and enforcement capabilities have to be considered and settled together in a package, when the Commission seeks sound development of fisheries. And when we consider the current excessive overall fishing effort of the large-scale tuna longline fishery, it goes without repeating that developing countries should not use IUU vessels for their fishery development but duly licensed vessels, without increasing the current total number of existing licenses all over the world.

Japan will also propose the following measures in relation to the IUU issue:

- Re-identification of some of the 11 countries identified last year and the imposition of sanction measures for bigeye tuna products for those re-identified countries
- A Bigeye Tuna Statistical Document Program in association with the above measures
- Introduction of a catch limitation on bigeye tuna for longline fisheries based upon the effort limitation established in 1998

At this meeting, we would like to raise questions on the reported catches by certain countries. Our intention is not to criticize or embarrass those countries but to help them improve their catch statistics, which are the basis for stock assessment and management actions by the Commission. In our view, the Commission should have a mechanism to review and improve the reported catch statistics by using the information and data of other relevant sources, such as trade data.

With respect to the allocation criteria, it is the sincere desire of the Japanese delegation to achieve a consensus as soon as possible, since this is the issue that will decide the future of ICCAT. Unfortunately, however, it is inconceivable to achieve a final agreement on the criteria at this meeting in view of the wide discrepancy of positions among the concerned parties and the severe time constraints of the meeting. Nonetheless, Japan is willing to work hard for progress of this matter so that the soonest settlement becomes foreseeable. In this sense, I would like to support the suggestion made by Canada and the United States concerning the 3rd Working Group on Allocation Criteria meeting next year. At the same time, Japan is ready to tackle specific allocation issues such as bluefin tuna and southern Atlantic swordfish with the utmost flexibility. In this difficult situation, where the allocation criteria have yet to be established, flexibility by the concerned parties is an essential key factor the negotiation is depending upon. We would like to ask the same attitude of other delegations, as we are ready to take on the specific allocation issues this year.

Lastly, the Commission will conduct a comprehensive review of the Japanese block quota for North Atlantic swordfish, taken as by-catch of longline operations targeting bigeye tuna. The Japanese fishermen are facing great difficulties in their fishing operations because of the scarcity of the swordfish quota. Now they are required to release 100% of swordfish caught in the North Atlantic, whether the fish are alive or dead. However, Japan reduced its swordfish catch in the entire Atlantic by 63 % in recent seven years, which is the largest reduction among all the fishing nations. To ease the difficulties of our fishermen, Japan will propose a minimal remedial measure. The measure has salient features of that give fishermen an incentive to shift their fishing grounds from the North to the South Atlantic as well as compensating for an excessive catch of northern Atlantic swordfish by reduction of a southern Atlantic catch. We strongly hope that the Commission will make a fair and reasonable consideration of our proposal and adopt it.

In addition, I would like to echo the concerns expressed by some previous speakers. The Commission is facing the danger of bankruptcy. Then, I would like to say in concluding my statement, let's pay the dues immediately. Thank you.

Statement by Korea to the Opening Plenary Session

Korea thanks the Government of Morocco for hosting the 12th Special Meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas in this magnificent city of Marrakech.

ICCAT, with respect to world tuna fishing, is one of the leading regional fisheries organizations. The fisheries under ICCAT regulations have been a good example to conserve and manage tuna stocks, in particular for sustainable use. In this regard, Korea as a Contracting Party has made every possible effort in a cooperative manner fully compatible with ICCAT recommendations and measures.

However, Korea regrets that seven Korean tuna longliners are included on the list of IUU fishing vessels adopted by the Commission last year at the regular meeting. It has been proven that this is an inappropriate choice of time in obtaining such results in the list since the nationalization of those Korean vessels took place before last year's meeting. Korea has taken immediate actions to show the irrelevance of the list and to request that the Korean vessels be deleted from the list as soon as possible.

Japan announced the list of IUU fishing vessels early this year on the home page of its Fisheries Agency. Since information on the home page is globally accessible, the Japanese actions severely damaged Korean honor and national image as a responsible fishing country. Korea has been requesting the removal of those Korean vessels from the IUU list not only on a bilateral basis between Korea and Japan, but also through the relevant channel of ICCAT. The Japanese Government's response was that it could not delete the Korean vessels until the ICCAT meeting made an appropriate decision, since amending the list of the IUU fishing vessels itself was beyond its control. However, Japan recently added several IUU fishing vessels to the list. Korean is not quite sure whether there has been an agreement with ICCAT to insert such vessels. In this regard, Korea wants to emphasize the importance of the quality of data which is not limited to scientific survey. The same extent of the quality is required for all documents created by the Commission, in particular, when a nation's honor and image are directly or indirectly concerned.

I would also like to comment on agenda item 7, the report of the Working Group on Allocation Criteria. Korea supports the work of this Group that has seen progress since its establishment in 1999, and is also conscious of the importance of the on-going discussions. In developing new allocation criteria, Korea would like to recall the spirit of FAO's IPOA that a nation's fishing capacity should be maintained at least at the present level for better conservation and management of the tuna stock.

Finally, I would like to say clearly that Korea has taken international obligations and is very willing to cooperate with ICCAT's further progress towards sustainable tuna fishing as best we can.

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

Statement by Morocco to the Opening Plenary Session

First of all, Morocco wishes to express its gratitude for the opportunity you have given us to organize the 12th Special Meeting of the Commission.

This session, which coincides with the beginning of the new millennium, in which we are going to be witnesses to the historical transformation that is taking place in ICCAT.

As you can see, the effective participation of all those involved in the maritime fishing sector of Morocco reflects the importance which Morocco accords to the work and the deliberations of our Commission.

Its two maritime coasts, which give Morocco a strategic geographic position in the migratory path of a large number of tuna resources, and its coastline of more than 3,000 km, make Morocco a coastal country "par excellence". Therefore, the population depends largely on the fisheries resources to fulfil its essential needs.

In order not to jeopardize the numerous jobs that are linked to these activities, Morocco reiterates its firm commitment to subscribe to the principle of conservation and rational management of the tuna resources.

It goes without saying that seeking an equitable exploitation of the fisheries resources found off our coasts has always been a matter of serious concern of Moroccan authorities, who, based on the recommendations and management measures adopted by this Commission, have put numerous, and often drastic, measures in force aimed at the rational management of the fishing sector.

We are convinced that the difficult but inevitable path that leads to equitable fishing cannot be covered unless all the countries agree to advance in the same direction Cooperation and more increased participation of all the parties concerned has become a necessity.

During this session, we are particularly interested in discussing the delicate matter of the quotas.

In this respect, it is important to recall that Morocco presented and confirmed its objection to a quota allocated to our country, since we considered that this allocation was not done based on fair and equitable criteria.

In this sense, Morocco reiterates it wish that the Working Group on Allocation Criteria reviews this matter as soon as possible and respond in a concrete manner to all the questions relative to quotas in order to propose an alternative that takes into consideration the interests of the different Parties, so as to avoid the ICCAT recommendations being subjected to exceptions and objections.

Thanks to a new alternative of assigning quotas, Morocco hopes to have some margin that will permit us to develop our fisheries as other countries have been doing for many years.

Finally, Morocco wishes to reiterate once again its willingness to contribute to the improved monitoring of the management of tunas and to fight against all abuse of their exploitation.

We would like to appeal to all the delegations to be exercise objectivity and sensibility to assure equitable approach management and fishing of the tuna resources within the competence of ICCAT.

Let's hope we have full success in the work of our Commission.

Statement by Namibia to the Opening Plenary Session

The issue of a just allocation of the tuna resources in the Atlantic is of immense importance to Namibia. We depend overwhelmingly on our fisheries resources, which contribute more than 10 percent of our GDP. Tuna is a significant contributor to that and its importance is growing steadily.

As we have stated at previous meetings of this Commission, Namibia would not have joined ICCAT was it not for the inevitable entry into force of the 1995 New York Agreement which clearly states that developing coastal states should get their fair share of highly migratory stocks.

Namibia remains disappointed that no progress was made during the last Working Group on Allocation Criteria meeting in Madrid. In our view, this Commission has no other alternatives but to speedily come up with a fair allocation system completely replacing the current status quo.

Our position is clear in that we cannot accept new sharing arrangements before the Working Group has come up with fair system which takes into account the rights of coastal developing states as envisaged in relevant international legal instruments.

If the Working Group cannot come to a sensible solution, it is Namibia's view that there is a need to seriously look into the whole convention text of this organization. Our experience with negotiation of the convention for the Southeast Atlantic Fisheries Organization taught us that this Commission must be harmonized with the international legal framework, such as 1995 New York Agreement.

Therefore we are of the opinion that rather than wasting our efforts on a Working Group that make no progress, ICCAT should review the convention text which will, we believe, redress the current unfair allocation practices.

It is our sincere trust that progress will be made soon on allocation and we appeal to all other delegations to work towards resolving the issue. If we waste too much time, Mr. Chairman, the credibility of our organization will be at stake; but even worse there might be no tuna to allocate.

Statement by Namibia to the Final Plenary Session

Namibia is convinced that today's fisheries management organizations should adopt and adhere to principles of conservation and management measures based on an acceptable international legal framework. It is, therefore, time that this Commission takes cognizance of relevant provisions of UNCLOS, the UN Implementation Agreement of 1995, the 1993 FAO Compliance Agreement, as well as the Code of Conduct of Responsible Fishing. In our view, this requires serious review of the Basic Texts of this Commission, which will result in major amendments or probably complete replacement.

We have taken note that the current ICCAT Convention does not make provision for a number of important management aspects, for example, for flag states' responsibilities, the special requirements of coastal states, port state duties, and fishing opportunities, just to mention a few. Namibia intends to table a proposal at next year's Commission meeting regarding the status of the ICCAT Convention and would like to invite any other delegations who wish to join us.

My delegation finds negotiations on sharing arrangements on every Panel in which we are members very frustrating. As a young nation rebuilding our fish resources, we are continuously faced with a struggle to have access to these resources that are occurring in our coastal waters by distant water fishing nations. We are always reminded by rich and powerful distant water fishing nations that we do not have a catch history of these resources and therefore there is no fishing quota for us, or alternatively, we are allocated a few tons, apparently as a political gesture.

At the Working Group on Allocation Criteria in Brussels next year, we are prepared to engage in serious negotiations that will lead, we hope, to fair sharing arrangements that take into account sovereign rights and special rights of coastal developing states, including the rights to have access to the resources in our waters. We therefore look forward with high expectation to an equitable sharing arrangement.

We further encourage members of this organization who have not yet ratified or acceded to the 1995 New York Agreement to do so.

Finally, I will fail my duty if I do not mention once more the hospitality accorded to us by the people and the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco. Thank You.

Statement by South Africa to the Opening Plenary Session

South Africa would again like to thank Morocco for hosting this 12th Special ICCAT Commission Meeting here in Marrakech. We are particularly pleased to be participating in an ICCAT meeting held on the African continent, and we hope that holding this year's meeting at this new venue will prompt all participants to approach the problems facing us with new and innovative ideas.

South Africa believes that this year's meeting may be the most important one held to date during the long and distinguished career of ICCAT. We certainly believe that the outcome of this meeting will be pivotal to the future of ICCAT, and to it's reputation as an effective regional fisheries management body. In particular, we note that sharing arrangements for two of the most important species under active ICCAT management need to be re-negotiated this year. The outcome of these negotiations is undoubtedly going to establish a precedent for future ICCAT sharing arrangements and, ultimately, determine ICCAT's success as the responsible management authority for Atlantic tunas. The outcome of this year's meeting regarding these sharing arrangements will certainly have far-reaching implications for all aspects of ICCAT's work, including monitoring and compliance.

In making these observations, we recognize that the deliberations of the Working Group on Allocation Criteria are not complete. However, we note that proposals discussed during the first two meetings of this Working Group, and indeed the very reasons for the initial establishment thereof, have identified the urgent need to achieve a balance between the existing rights of established high-seas fleets and the legitimate aspirations of coastal states with developing fisheries. South Africa looks forward to participating actively and constructively in debates in this regard, and we earnestly hope that the outcome will provide us all with successful results to take back to our respective countries.

Finally, may I wish you and all the meeting participants every success with this highly important meeting, and express the hope that the outcome will be jointly based on the principles of fairness and responsible fisheries management.

Statement by Trinidad & Tobago to the Opening Plenary Session

First of all, I wish to state, that I am indeed pleased and honored to address the Commission this morning. I am Ann Marie Jobity, Senior Fisheries Officer, in the Fisheries Division of Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources.

Trinidad and Tobago became a Contracting Party to the ICCAT on March 2, 1999. This 12th Special Meeting of ICCAT in Marrakech, Morocco, is especially significant to us, since it represents our first attendance at a Commission Meeting as a Contracting Party.

Trinidad and Tobago wishes to re-affirm its commitment to the principles of sustainable management and conservation of fisheries resources and responsible fishing practices, both nationally and globally, as embodied in the Food and Agriculture Organization, Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. In particular, we acknowledge our national obligations to ensure that adequate data collection systems and monitoring mechanisms are maintained, in particular, for those large pelagic migratory species for which ICCAT has management and regulatory responsibility.

We are currently diligently pursuing, at the national level, a review of the compliance requirements to becoming a signatory to the 1995 UN Fish Stock Agreement, one of the international legal instruments supporting the work of ICCAT.

There has been an active pelagic longline fishery in Trinidad and Tobago since the 1980s. Our current national long line fleet for large migratory pelagics consists of seven medium size vessels ranging in length from 13.7 to 23 meters. However, there are three other categories of long line vessels targeting these species that use our port facilities, viz: (1) Foreign flagged vessels, locally owned; (2) Foreign flagged vessels, foreign owned; and (3) Foreign fleet with mother ships.

The vessels mentioned in (1) owned by our nationals, were foreign flagged due to the absence in the past of a National Registry for fishing vessels. A National Registry is now in place.

In this regard, we wish to register our support for the Working Group on Allocation Criteria. This Working Group is very important to us, from the perspective of a developing country, since we wish to encourage those vessels that are foreign flagged but that are owned by our nationals to register as Trinidad and Tobago vessels. This would facilitate more accurate data collection and greater compliance with ICCAT by our national longline fleet.

The existence of a transshipment port in Port of Spain, Trinidad, poses a serious challenge to us in terms of our port state responsibilities, especially for categories of vessels included in (2) and (3). It is a situation that demands immediate and major improvements. Queries have been raised with respect to discrepancies in Trinidad and Tobago swordfish export data submitted in our annual report to ICCAT viz- a-viz import data recorded at the ports of ICCAT Contracting Parties. This problem stems from the mis-representation of transshipments as Trinidad and Tobago swordfish export data. Trinidad and Tobago would welcome assistance from the United States to address this situation since most of our swordfish is exported to that country. Effective June 1999, the implementation of the Swordfish Certificate of Eligibility, assisted in improving our system of export data verification.

We are addressing the problem of discrepancies in data reporting by presently conducting a study of the movement of fish and fishery products in and out of Trinidad and Tobago. Preliminary findings suggest that statistics provided in the national report do not cover swordfish and tuna re-exports bought by local exporters from the foreign owned transshipment operation. In addition, errors in the documents accompanying transshipments, have assigned these exports to Trinidad and Tobago as the Country of Origin. The expected time frame for completion of this study is six months.

This study would therefore:

- Provide information and inform adjustments to the current data collection system,
- Enable an enhanced monitoring system to be put in place,
- Allow Trinidad and Tobago to meet its compliance obligations to ICCAT with respect to data reporting.

ICCAT has raised concerns with us related to our vessel registration and reporting policies as well as the listing of four fishing vessels believed to be Trinidad and Tobago vessels engaged in illegal, unregulated, and unreported fishing. Our policies on registration and reporting have been documented for circulation prior to this Meeting. The latter concern has been addressed in our response to ICCAT dated March 3, 2000. We wish to reiterate that these four (4) vessels are not listed under our National Registry.

I wish to thank you once again for affording me this opportunity to address the Commission and I also wish on behalf of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, to add my share of thanks to the Government of Morocco for their gracious offer to host this meeting. We look forward to participating in a successful and fruitful meeting. Thank you

Statement by the United Kingdom (Overseas Territories) to the Opening Plenary Session

The United Kingdom, in respect of its overseas territories participating in ICCAT, reaffirms its gratitude to the Government of Morocco for hosting this meeting in the fine location of Marrakech.

As ICCAT members are aware, the United Kingdom overseas territories participating in ICCAT are Bermuda, Anguilla, Turks and Caicos Islands, St. Helena and its dependencies of Tristan da Cunha and Ascension Island, and the Falkland Islands. We are pleased that experts from Bermuda and St. Helena are present and regret that due to the costs of travel, representatives from the other territories are not here on this occasion.

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

On point 7, the review of the second Working Group on Allocation Criteria. The United Kingdom in respect of its overseas territories has supported the work of this group. Agreement on new allocation criteria should be a priority for the organization. The UK's 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 point 8, 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 of the five overseas territories represented, which is not related to the economic status of the UK mainland.

On point 9, ICCAT responsibilities in relation to international fisheries agreements, the United Kingdom in respect of its overseas territories believes that it is important for ICCAT to act in a constructive way in order to support implementation of these agreements. Some good work has already been done. There is more ahead. ICCAT should also take into account the ongoing work to agree an International Plan of Action on Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported fishing. We welcome the ICCAT Secretariat's contribution to this work and hope ICCAT will play a full role in helping to implement the eventual plan.

Statement by the United States to the Opening Plenary Session

The United States would like to thank the Government of Morocco and Commission Mesld for hosting this 12th Special Meeting of the Commission in the beautiful city of Marrakech. We would also like to compliment the ICCAT Secretariat and the SCRS for their hard work in preparation for this meeting.

As you know, ICCAT has made significant progress in a variety of areas over the past few years. We have established historic rebuilding programs for western Atlantic bluefin tuna and North Atlantic swordfish. No less important, we have established measures and procedures to enhance member compliance and non-member cooperation with the Commission's conservation and management measures.

In spite of this progress, the Commission faces difficult tasks at this meeting. We must continue to demonstrate our commitment to rebuilding all over-exploited fish stocks. A number of billfish species, eastern Atlantic bluefin tuna, bigeye tuna, and northern albacore are over-fished. In fact, SCRS advises that while three stocks are considered to be of status consistent with the Convention objectives, eight stocks are over-fished, and for five others there is insufficient information to determine stock status. The Commission must articulate its commitment to rebuilding over-fished fisheries as well as take concrete steps this year to put these stocks on the road to recovery and to ensure that sufficient data are available to permit the SCRS to conduct adequate stock assessments.

The issue of quota allocation is closely related to stock management and rebuilding discussions. While the United States is optimistic that the working group charged with developing allocation criteria will complete its work, we must rededicate ourselves to this mission. To achieve this goal, the United States supports a third inter-sessional meeting in April or May, at a cost-effective site. In the meantime, we believe that the current lack of agreed allocation criteria must not preclude the adoption of necessary conservation and management measures at this year's meeting. Over-fishing of stocks is not in the interest of any Commission member and will only add complexity to allocation discussions.

In addition, ICCAT must continue to address compliance with the Commission's recommendations. The United States is pleased with the progress thus far in adopting compliance procedures; we are less pleased, however, with their implementation. We are prepared to discuss additional measures as may be necessary to enhance the effectiveness of ICCAT's conservation and management decisions. Further, the Commission must address the issue of non-reporting and misreporting of catch data to SCRS. Complete reporting is the most fundamental obligation of ICCAT members, as basic catch and effort data are the most critical component of stock assessments and form the foundation of all management measures developed by the Commission. Indeed, as the Commission places greater demands on its scientific advisory body, it must also take steps to assure that sufficient data are available to support these requests.

Similarly, the U.S. Delegation is committee to working with other delegations at ICCAT this year to continue the Commission's efforts in addressing illegal, unregulated, and unreported (IUU) fishing in the Convention area. We continue to support the use of multilateral trade restrictive measures, when warranted, and we believe that the Commission should consider new international trade tracking programs for certain species, such as swordfish. As we have seen in the case of bluefin tuna, such programs improve our understanding the fisheries under ICCAT's authority and provide information that can be of assistance in identifying IUU fishing activities.

The United States is also seriously concerned about by-catch in the Atlantic highly migratory species fisheries. We continue to support the work of the FAO in developing International Plans of Action (IPOA) on Sharks and Seabirds. We also commend the SCRS initiative to collect catch data for sharks in preparation for an assessment. It is important to further consider ICCAT's role in collecting data on and reducing mortality of by-catch species, such as sharks and sea turtles, taken in fisheries under ICCAT's purview.

Finally, the United States is concerned about the fiscal stability of ICCAT. Nearly 25% of contributions are not being covered. With continued strong demands being placed on ICCAT, it will be impossible to meet out commitments unless each member pays its dues. This situation could be improved through the adoption of the Madrid Protocol.

The U.S. Delegation looks forward to working with its colleagues during the week ahead to address these important issues.

STATEMENTS BY NON-CONTRACTING PARTIES, ENTITIES AND FISHING ENTITIES

Statement by the Observer of Algeria to the Opening Plenary Session

Algeria fully supports the conservation of fisheries resources and has adopted a regulation in accordance with that adopted by ICCAT.

To this effect, all the necessary procedures are in place so that our country can become a Contracting Party to ICCAT.

With its 1,200 km coastline, Algeria's fishing activities are very important, and the subsistence of thousands of fishermen depend on such activities.

Therefore, in view of our eminent participation in ICCAT, we appeal to you to take our future position into consideration in the discussions on quotas that are carried out within Panel 2 or the Working Group on Allocation Criteria.

Statement by the Observer of Chinese Taipei to the Opening Plenary Session

On behalf of my delegation, I would like to extend my appreciation to the Secretariat of ICCAT for the greatest efforts. I would also like to join other delegations in extending our gratitude to our host, the Government of Morocco, for the hospitality and fine arrangements for the meeting in this beautiful and historical city of Marrakech.

As most of you may have noticed, we have long been cooperating in good faith with ICCAT and have adopted voluntary measures to comply with the management measures adopted by ICCAT. While we are putting every effort trying to comply to the greatest extent with the management measures adopted by ICCAT, comparable to many Contracting Parties, we are concerned about the recent development within the framework of ICCAT, notably the allocation criteria, that we fear may prejudice the interests of our fisheries. We would therefore like to express that in the future allocation of quota, equal treatment should be given to those who have shown good faith in cooperation with ICCAT but who cannot become a member of ICCAT.

Through years of cooperation with ICCAT, a resolution was finally adopted to enable us to attain Cooperating Status. For a party who is willing to become a member, but unable to do so, we see that the annual application for Cooperating Status is an underlying unfair treatment. Mr. Chairman, let me draw your attention to the recent development of a new Regional Fisheries Management Organization (RFMO), which provides a mechanism for us to fully participate. We are not inclined to request ICCAT to take corresponding action immediately in wake of the recent development. However, it is our strong view that the arrangement of ICCAT should not be too far from that of the new fisheries convention. At least for the time being, we should not be required to apply annually for "Cooperating Status".

It is worth mentioning that in our efforts to address the issue of IUU fishing by FOC vessels, amendments of our fisheries laws and regulations were completed, whereby establishing a mechanism for those FOC vessels built by our shipyards to acquire our registration. Fighting for the amendments of law was not an easy task, even risking the criticism of social unjust, especially when additional catch quota is not in sight. I sincerely hope that the international community can extend full support in this respect. A full report on our action against IUU fishing by FOC vessels will be presented during the course of the meeting.

In conclusion, I would like to give our best wishes to you, Mr. Chairman, and all the participating delegates, and look forward to a successful and amicable meeting.

Statement by the Observer of Chinese Taipei to the Final Plenary Session

On behalf of the Chinese Taipei delegation, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Chairman for his able guidance and to the Secretariat for its administrative work to make this meeting proceed efficiently. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Government of Morocco for its hospitality in hosting this meeting.

My delegation greatly appreciates the efforts and the substantive inputs put forth by all participants at the meeting. While we appreciate that the participants have finally reached conclusions on many difficult issues, in taking this opportunity, my delegation would like to reiterate our position on some points.

First of all, we regret that our proposal on the amendment of the Resolution on Cooperating Status has not been thoroughly discussed in the PWG. When the Resolution was originally formulated, we believe many of the subsequent developments as have appeared at present were not considered, particularly with respect to the rights and obligations of Cooperating Status and the special situation for those who, for the time being, cannot become members. We sincerely hope that this issue can be thoroughly discussed at the next meeting. It is further hoped that a mechanism will be developed to provide for us to be accorded a status equivalent to membership, as has been done by the newly-developed regional fishery management organization in the Pacific. Secondly, with Japan's and Chinese Taipei's effort to address the issue of IUU fishing by FOC vessels, we are disappointed that vehicles still exist for FOC vessels with a record of IUU fishing to find a host to continue fishing. By leaving such a door open, the result of our efforts to re-register the FOC fishing vessels we have built may not be successful.

In spite of the fact that the results of this meeting have not fully met our expectations, we still appreciate that ICCAT has exerted its greatest efforts to tackle many difficult and sensitive issues during this meeting. Thank you.

Statement by Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands) to the Opening Plenary Session

I want to thank ICCAT for once again inviting Denmark (on behalf of the Faroe Islands) to attend a Commission meeting. Our authorities regard this step by ICCAT as recognition of the Faroe Islands as a pertinent co-operating partner concerning fisheries dealt with by the 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 their 200 mile fishery zone; and the sustainable management of the fish resources is of vital importance.

According to international law as expressed by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) the Faroe Islands as a coastal state have the sovereign right to exploit the natural resources in their EEZ/exclusive fisheries zone.

Since 1997, Faroese fisheries authorities have granted permits to Japanese vessel owners, in co-operation with Faroese partnerships, to carry out an exploratory fishery for Atlantic bluefin tuna in Faroese waters. The exploratory fishery was expanded in 1998 by also granting licenses to Faroese vessels.

The licenses have been issued on very strict terms, including a strict reporting procedure to the Faroese Fisheries Authorities, and full compliance with relevant ICCAT measures regarding Atlantic bluefin tuna, including the Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document. The fishery has been under supervision by the Fisheries Laboratory of the Faroe Islands, who have had observers on board.

In order to obtain a Faroese fishing permit, the Japanese vessels have had to provide the Faroese authorities with documentation for possessing valid licenses from Japanese authorities to fish for Atlantic bluefin tuna.

In 1997, the catch of Atlantic bluefin tuna in the Faroese zone was 226 MT, in 1998 the catch was 237 MT, in 1998 it was 172 MT, and in 2000 the catch was 23 MT.

The exploratory fishery has persuasively demonstrated that Atlantic bluefin tuna occurs in significant quantities in Faroese waters, and can be harvested there in a sustainable manner, in a fishery targeting large fish. 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 the rights of a coastal State with regard to Atlantic bluefin tuna.

This status entitles the Faroe Islands to an appropriate share of any TAC established for the relevant tuna stock and confers an obligation upon the Faroese authorities to take part in an effort to secure sustainable use of this stock, which is shared with a number of other countries, be they coastal or high seas fishing States.

Regarding the ICCAT as an appropriate forum for international co-operation on the sustainable use of tuna resources, Faroe Islands fishery authorities have been contemplating the possibilities of Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands) becoming a Contracting Party to ICCAT. This would be in keeping with traditional Faroese policy of taking an active part in international regional co-operation on straddling and migrating fish stocks.

Membership in ICCAT would only be meaningful, however, in a context where the other parties were willing to respect the rights of coastal States, such as the Faroe Islands, to a share in the TAC. It is evident that the present allocation key adopted by ICCAT for Atlantic bluefin tuna does not fulfil this criterion. It does not take into account the status of the Faroe Islands as a coastal State and as a newcomer to this fishery. As long as this anomaly is not properly addressed by ICCAT, Faroese membership be without perspective. With regard to newcomers, I would particularly like to draw your attention to Article 11 of the UN Agreement on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks.

However, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands) welcome the fact that ICCAT apparently has realized the problems caused by its use of old-fashioned allocation keys and has taken steps which could enable newcomers such as the Faroe Islands to seriously consider membership, by setting up the Working Group on Allocation Criteria.

Faroese fisheries authorities follow this process very carefully and we would like to thank you for the opportunity for Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands) to attend the meetings of this Working Group in May/June 1999 and in April 2000.

At these meetings, we have supported proposals for allocation criteria, which take into account the rights and legitimate interests of coastal States, in whose waters ICCAT species occur, but which have until recently not had the opportunity to develop a harvesting capacity of their own. Likewise we have supported proposals which taken into account the interests of economies which are overwhelmingly dependent on exploitation of living marine resources.

Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands) is fully aware of the concern expressed by ICCAT in regard to fishing activities of non-contracting parties to ICCAT. As partners in other regional fisheries management organizations, we are familiar with that problem. As befits a fisheries-dependent coastal State dedicated to the principle of sustainable use of marine living resources, the Faroese authorities fully share your concern.

In the context of other regional fish management organizations where the Faroe Islands play an active role as members, such as NAFO and NEAFC, Faroese authorities have –as responsible partners– prohibited vessels from non-contracting parties of these organizations to transship their catches in Faroese ports.

Even if Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands) has noted with regret that so far membership of the ICCAT has not been meaningful to the Faroe Islands, Faroese fisheries authorities have –as a token of willingness to co-operate with the ICCAT– refused vessels from non-contracting parties of ICCAT to transship their catches in Faroese ports. Likewise, Faroese authorities intend to continue to request both Faroese vessels and foreign vessels fishing for tuna in Faroese waters to comply with relevant ICCAT recommendations.

Wishing to take our share of the responsibility for proper management of stocks with a presence in Faroese waters, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands) is willing to continue the discussion with ICCAT with a view to establishing a co-operation based upon shared rights and obligations. We will follow the proceedings of this meeting with great interest in order to see to what extent this wish is shared by ICCAT members.

Statement by the Observer of the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) to the Opening Plenary Session

The Delegation from the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) would like to express its sincere appreciation to the Commission for the invitation to participate as an observer to its 12th Special Meeting. The Delegation would like to take this opportunity to present its compliments to the Commission, the Chairperson, the organizers and all the participants to this 12th Special Meeting of the Commission. We would like to thank the Government of Morocco for a warm welcome and hospitality to our delegation.

We are very pleased to be here in Marrakech and we look forward to learning the workings and operations of the ICCAT Commission. This is the first time that FFA has participated as an observer to a meeting of the Commission.

With the recent adoption of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean, we in the Pacific would be very interested in how an international Commission works. It is with this in mind that we have traveled far to these shores.

Although we are in the process of establishing a Commission in the western and central Pacific Ocean, the FFA States would need to look to international organizations such as the ICCAT Commission for guidance and advice. It also seeks ways of promoting coordination and cooperation between regional tuna organizations.

FFA is an organization involved in the management of tuna stocks and its members are deeply involved in the establishment of a new Commission for the conservation and management of highly migratory fish stocks. The ICCAT experience is of great interest to FFA States as it embarks on establishing a new Commission..

Finally, FFA would like to extend its sincere wishes for a successful meeting. I hope your deliberations and discussions would be productive and fruitful so that your fisheries resources would be abundant and plentiful for the generations of the future.

Statement by the Observer of Iceland to the Opening Plenary Session

The principle of co-operation between coastal States and distant water fishing States, in the conservation and management of fish stocks that occur both within and outside national jurisdiction, is a very important one for Iceland. Our participation in the work of ICCAT will therefore continue.

At this meeting, we will hopefully see ICCAT's regulatory measures changed in a way that will make them consistent with the relevant rules of international law, making it possible for Iceland to become a full member of ICCAT. The current allocation system, where the sovereign rights of coastal States such as Iceland are disregarded, is unacceptable and we can not allow measures based on this approach to become binding for us. Until the allocation system is changed, Iceland's involvement in ICCAT meetings will have to be limited to participating as observers.

Iceland has hoped that the work of the ICCAT Working Group on Allocation Criteria will result in positive changes and we have remained optimistic although there has been conclusion yet. It is still Iceland's hope that the Working Group will continue its work and reach an acceptable conclusion soon. It would be even better if the whole matter of making ICCAT's regulatory measures conform with international law could be resolved at this meeting.

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 have been fishing from ICCAT quotas.

Iceland has carried out substantial scientific work regarding bluefin tuna. We will continue this work and continue informing ICCAT of our findings. After all, good scientific information is essential for good fisheries management.

Finally, I would like to stress that Iceland is a State whose economy is overwhelmingly dependent on the exploitation of living marine resources and therefore the sustainability of fisheries is essential for us. Iceland would, in this context, like to encourage ICCAT members to ensure that total allowable catches are set at a reasonable level. It is both necessary to conserve the stocks and to create room for coastal States to develop their tuna fisheries.

Statement by the Observer of Mexico to the Opening Plenary Session

The Mexican delegation wishes to thank the Government of Morocco for hosting and organizing this 12th Special Meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, as well as the members of the Commission for inviting Mexico to continue participating in these meetings.

As in other years, Mexico is participating in this meeting in the hopes of continuing to cooperate in a responsible way with ICCAT and to maintain its commitment of applying the conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission, aimed at guaranteeing the sustainable use of the fishery resources under ICCAT mandate. Mexico has asked the Commission to maintain Mexico's status as a Cooperating Party, understanding that such status does not prejudice the rights of our country, in accordance with international law, concerning the use of the living marine resources in Mexico's jurisdictional waters. In this sense, we would like to note that we have initiated the internal procedures to become a full Commission member in the decision making process on fishery conservation and management measures.

Without a doubt, the most important goal facing the Commission today is to reach consensus on the allocation criteria for quotas, which guarantee a fair and equitable scheme, which consider not only those countries whose fleets have been fishing in the Atlantic, but also those coastal states that have demonstrated their commitment towards sustainability and who have a legitimate interest in developing their own fisheries both in waters under their jurisdiction and on the high seas. Such is the case of Mexico, which has been participating in the meetings of the Working Group created to define these criteria, and which will continue to do so.

With respect to the different criteria, Mexico believes that historical rights should not be the only or the major criterion to define quota assignments, that these criteria should be established in a manner consistent with international law, considering, among other factors, the distribution of the resources within the Exclusive Economic Zone of the coastal countries, compliance with conservation and management measures, the state of the resource, and applying the principle that whoever contaminates pays. In the same way, these criteria, once adopted, should be applied to all the species under the Commission's mandate.

We have heard at various meetings of the Commission about the lack of compliance with the conservation measures, not only by the non-contracting parties, but also including the Contracting Parties, which undoubtedly weakens the Commission. Therefore, we respectfully propose that this plenary meeting consider extending the on-board observer programs of the fleets that fish species under ICCAT mandate in the Atlantic, and the establishment of a fishing vessel registry, consistent with the provisions of the FAO Compliance Agreement.

As concerns the recovery of some tuna stocks in the Atlantic, it is also important to recall that such recovery is the result not only of the efforts exerted by those fleets that have fished in this area, but also efforts by fleets of those countries that have a legitimate interest in developing their fisheries and who have respected the decisions of this Commission in order to assure sustainability.

Considering that expressed above, Mexico reiterates its interest in catch limits on the fishing of bluefin tuna and swordfish in the Atlantic.

Finally, we would like to refer to the problem of the so-called "flags of convenience", which is of concern to all of us. As regards this problem, Mexico is of the opinion that we should also consider and take actions with respect to what we could call "capitals of convenience", which try to flag to countries that do not have the capacity to monitor and apply the conservation measures, in order to avoid compliance with conservation and management measures, as well as subsidization policies that support the movement of the fleet towards such countries.

Mexico will continue to cooperate with the Commission, applying fisheries conservation and management measures that assure responsible fishing, while at the same time assuring an ensemble of quota allocation criteria that is consistent with international law, and which recognizes the rights and obligations of all those interested in the different fisheries.

Statement by the Observer from Netherlands Antilles to the Opening Plenary Session

On behalf of the Minister of Transport and Traffic of the Netherlands Antilles, Engineer Mr. Maurice Adriaens, I am pleased to address this International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas.

My name is Bernhard Komproe and I am the Director of the Department of Shipping and Maritime Affairs of the Netherlands Antilles, which is part of the Ministry of Transport and Traffic. My delegation also consists of Captain Fitzroy Dorant, a nautical expert of the aforementioned Department.

The Netherlands Antilles is present at this meeting as an observer in the process of becoming a Contracting Party to ICCAT.

The Netherlands Antilles is also committed to the principles of sustainable management and conservation of fisheries resources and responsible fishing practices, especially in a global environment of actual date. As a country that maintains a fleet of vessels subject to the highest standards of safety and environment friendliness, we recognize the obligation to provide adequate data to the ICCAT and to apply mechanisms with respect to monitoring migratory species.

The Netherlands Antilles is implementing a compliance requirement for its vessels in order to support and comply with international and legal instruments and conditions.

The Registry of the Netherlands Antilles has a fifty years history of ships flagged and is a well known register in the maritime world.

The existence of a local and international fishing fleet creates a serious challenge to the Department of Shipping and Maritime Affairs, especially considering the management of policy development to a fleet with high standards.

On behalf of the Government of the Netherlands Antilles, we thank you for the opportunity to address this conference and express to this floor our highest esteem.

The delegation of the Netherlands Antilles looks forward to affirming its desire to become members of ICCAT.

Statement by the Observer of Norway to the Opening Plenary Session

As an observer to ICCAT, Norway would like to thank the Chairman of the Commission and the Contracting Parties for their indulgence and for this opportunity to address this plenary session.

Norway attends this meeting with a keen interest in following the discussions on allocation criteria, in particular. The question of criteria for quota is always difficult but increasingly necessary as it affects the fundamental interests of very many stakeholders to the tuna fishery.

To a large extent, the existing ICCAT allocation key reflects historical rights. One of the arguments for not changing this allocation key is the need for stability, and we do understand that point.

Norway, however, thinks it is important to recognize the dynamics of the tuna fish stocks. Tuna is a highly migratory fish stock. This implies that its occurrence in various areas has changed and, most likely, will change over time. Tuna stocks may thus form commercially interesting concentrations both in the high seas, in the EEZ (Economic zones) of Contracting Parties as well as in the EEZ of some non-contracting parties to ICCAT.

If tuna fish occur in large quantities in the EEZ of a specific nation, whether a contracting or non-contracting party, we believe that the nation has a right to take part in the exploitation of the resource. As we are all interested more than ever in sustainable management of fish stocks, the exploitation of tuna in some EEZs should not lead to an overall higher fishing pressure on that stock than what is sustainable.

Recognizing that the question of quota allocation is sensitive, and that any change in allocation keys may be very difficult to achieve, we still think it is important to recognize the rights of parties with occurrence of tuna fish in their EEZ. This in order to strengthen the very efficiency and credibility of the ICCAT regime itself.

For this reason, Norway proposes the inclusion of a criterion that focuses on the extent to which the stocks occur in areas under national jurisdictions. In principle, we find this criterion to be relevant both for straddling stocks and for highly migratory fish stocks.

Thank you again for allowing this observer delegation to address this important meeting. Thank you.

ANNEX 5

REVISED PROCEDURE FOR COMMISSION MEETINGS

1 Rapporteurs and Chairmen of Panels and Committees will be required to produce draft reports within 24 hours following the end of each session.

2 Annual meetings should be organized in such a way that Parties have at least 24 hours between the final meeting of the panels and the final session of the Commission to examine in detail the draft proposals for recommendations and/or resolutions, so as to allow all parties to look carefully at the text and ensure their quality.

3 The numbering system for adopted recommendations and resolutions introduced by the Secretariat in 1999 should be formally adopted and continued.

4 In order to allow that the most important documents (draft recommendations and resolutions) be readily available in the three working languages, top priority should be given to these translations. Other types of documents, whose translation is very time consuming, should be as brief as possible. The length of the reports should be kept to a minimum, suppressing individual interventions and reporting only the essence of the discussions and conclusions reached. Delegations may submit statements for publication and a limitation on length of statements should be introduced.

5 In order to make better use of the meeting time available, proposals to be circulated on substantial matters, which require consultation with legal, technical or trade experts, should, where possible, be presented and circulated to all delegations 30 days in advance of the annual meeting, in order to allow sufficient time for delegations to adequately prepare their position. This would not apply to those proposals which cannot be drafted until the final SCRS report becomes available.

6 As a result of the application of the inter-annual quota flexibility, the Compliance Committee should prepare every year a list of quota overages and underages so that the quantities to be deducted or added to each Party's quotas the following year are clearly and unequivocally laid down in ICCAT reports (all delegations are required to provide the Secretariat with national compliance tables in advance).

7 Timely submission of full information is required in advance of the Commission meetings. The deadlines for submission (which may be revised by the Commission where appropriate) of the following information must be respected by Contracting Parties:

- Statistical data for the SCRS
- Reporting forms for the Compliance Committee
- List of tuna fishing vessels according to current regulations (albacore and bigeye)
- Catch and canning statistics in applicable years.
- National Reports

8 More time should be allowed to elapse between the SCRS Plenary Session and the Commission meeting, insofar as this does not hinder the work of the SCRS. A minimum of five weeks should be allowed to elapse when possible.

ANNEX 6

REPORT OF THE 2ND ICCAT WORKING GROUP ON ALLOCATION CRITERIA

(Madrid, Spain - April 6 to 8, 2000)

1 Opening of the Meeting

1.1 The Second Meeting of the ICCAT Working Group on Allocation Criteria was held at the Hotel Eurobuilding, from April 6 to 8, 2000, at the invitation of the Government of Spain. The meeting was opened by the Acting Commission Chairman, Mr. José Ramón Barañano. Delegations from the following Contracting Parties (Angola, Brazil, Canada, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, China, European Community, France-St. Pierre & Miquelon, Gabon, Japan, Korea, Libya, Morocco, Namibia, Panama, South Africa, Tunisia, United Kingdom-Overseas Territories, United States, and Venezuela), as well as the following Observers (Costa Rica, Cyprus, Denmark-Faroe Islands, Guatemala, Iceland, Mexico, Netherlands Antilles, Norway, Philippines, Seychelles, Chinese Taipei, and the ITSAS GEROA Association), attended the meeting. The Chairman welcomed all delegations to Spain, and expressed appreciation to the Government of Spain on behalf of ICCAT for hosting this meeting.

1.2 Mr. Barañano noted that it will be a challenge to serve as Chair of the Working Group, since Mr. Nomura had only recently resigned from the Chairmanship of ICCAT due to other professional responsibilities. The Chairman asked the Delegates of Japan to extend best wishes to Mr. Nomura in his new endeavors.

1.3 The Chairman further noted that it would be difficult to reach agreement on all issues, given the interests at stake, and that the situation required imaginative solutions that would be satisfactory to all Parties. He expressed a desire to conclude the meeting by Saturday at noon, if possible, and produce a succinct report from the Second Meeting.

2 Nomination of rapporteur

2.1 The United States proposed a similar approach to last year's Working Group Meeting, where rapporteurs from the United States and Brazil worked together to prepare the report. The Delegate proposed Ms. Rachel Husted to serve as one of the rapporteurs. The Delegate from Venezuela expressed support for this approach.

2.2 The Delegate from Brazil proposed Mr. Sergio Gomes de Mattos to serve as rapporteur in cooperation with Ms. Husted, and the Chairman concurred with these nominations.

3 Adoption of the Agenda

3.1 In response to the Chairman's request for comments, Brazil questioned the meaning of "Review of the Report of the First Working Group" in Item 5 of the Agenda. Was it the Chairman's intention to review the entire Report from the First Meeting of the Working Group, although that Report was approved at the Commission meeting in November held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Morocco expressed a similar concern. The Chairman clarified that this item was intended to remind the delegations that the three proposals that were products of the First Meeting would serve as the starting point for this meeting's discussions.

3.2 Brazil noted that the proposal made by them at the First Meeting represented the interests of 16 Parties, including 7 other Contracting Parties plus 8 observers. The Delegate of Brazil suggested that Item 5 on the agenda could be combined with Item 6, and the title could be simplified to read "Discussion of Quota Allocation Criteria". There were no objections to this proposal.

3.3 Morocco requested that Item 8 ("Date and Place of Next Meeting") be removed, since the Working Group had not yet determined whether an additional meeting would be necessary. The Chairman replied that this was a formality, and that this item could be dropped later if the Working Group determined that it was not necessary to hold an additional meeting.

3.4 With the deletion of Item 5, and the renaming of Item 6 (new Item 5), the Agenda was adopted (**Appendix 1 to ANNEX 6**).

4 Opening statements

4.1 Opening statements were presented by the following Contracting Parties: Brazil, Canada, European Community, Japan, Morocco, Namibia, South Africa, United Kingdom (Overseas Territories), and the United States. The following observers also presented opening statements: Cyprus, Denmark-Faroe Islands, Norway, Iceland, Chinese Taipei and ITSAS GEROA. The opening statements are attached as **Appendix 3 to ANNEX 6** to the Report.

4.2 The List of Participants is attached as **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 6.**

5 Discussion of quota allocation criteria

5.1 The Chairman recalled that at the 1999 annual meeting in Rio de Janeiro, the Commission adopted the Report of the First Meeting of the ICCAT Working Group on Allocation Criteria, and there was unanimous consent among the Parties that discussions should continue. Mr. Barañano advised the Delegates that Appendices 4, 5 and 6 of that Report should serve as the starting point for today's discussions. The closing statements in Appendix 7 to the Report of the First Meeting should also be taken into account.

5.2 The Chairman then described three major issues of concern: (1) qualifying criteria, i.e., which States are qualified to have a quota; (2) allocation criteria; and (3) stocks, i.e. the issue of whether these criteria are to apply to all stocks, or only those for which there is no allocation scheme in place. Other matters to be considered by the Working Group were identified as the possibility of quantifying and prioritizing these criteria, the proposed implementation and time frame, and the role of the panels in implementation.

5.3 The European Community stated that it had prepared a new working paper, similar in philosophy though differing in structure, that would replace their previous document. The Delegate of Morocco expressed concern with consideration of a new proposal at this time and suggested that the three original proposals should be used as the starting point for negotiations.

5.4 The Delegate of the United States expressed interest in seeing an improved document from the European Community. Nevertheless, he suggested that the best way to proceed would be to build on progress made at the last meeting, using the three original documents as templates to assess their relative similarities and differences. Brazil, Venezuela and Canada concurred with this suggestion, noting that the Working Group should build on existing material to arrive at a consensus document containing the common elements.

5.5 The European Community suggested that since their document had not yet been translated, the Working Group could proceed with a discussion of the three primary issues identified by the Chairman. The Delegate of Japan seconded this proposal. (The EC proposal was later submitted and is attached as **Appendix 5-2** to this Report.)

5.6 The Chairman concluded that although the three proposals must serve as the basis of further discussion, some delegations would focus their comments on the primary issue that reflects their particular interest. Although Japan expressed a desire to review the new EC document before proceeding, it was decided that given time limitations the discussion should continue. The United States requested an oral summary of the changes proposed by the European Community. The European Community noted that there were no substantive changes to the document, but declined to elaborate further.

5.7 Discussion began with the issue of qualifying criteria. The European Community maintained that quotas should be allocated for each stock on the basis of general criteria: first the Contracting Parties, then Cooperating Parties, and lastly Fishing Entities. The Delegate noted that real interest should be reflected in effective fishing capacity; commercial transactions should not be allowed. The European Community indicated that it would not be prepared to accept chartering, with two exceptions: (1) fishing vessels changing their flags (i.e. bare boat chartering), and (2) under conditions established by ICCAT.

5.8 Morocco intervened to note that the European Community's proposal would exclude coastal states only because they have not yet fully developed their large-scale longline fleet. The Moroccan Delegate stated that this proposal is not in accordance with international agreements, and contradicts the spirit of cooperation with developing countries.

5.9 Namibia noted that real interest is an important consideration that cannot be linked solely to existing capacity. This approach would ignore the concerns of the developing coastal states.

5.10 Japan responded that while Japan has supported the honest development of coastal fisheries with small-scale boats, states should not increase capacity of large-scale tuna vessels by chartering or accepting registry, especially given efforts are being taken by Chinese Taipei and Japan to eliminate flag of convenience (FOC) vessels and that most stocks are over-exploited and Contracting Parties have been directed to develop effort limitations. In order to be a qualified country for a quota allocation, a country should be required to demonstrate genuine ability to control and manage large-scale tuna vessels, so as not to give leeway to FOC vessels.

5.11 Canada suggested that only members in good standing should qualify for consideration. The intent is not to exclude developing coastal states, but rather to ensure compliance with ICCAT's conservation and management recommendations. The Delegate from South Africa noted that dealing with the aspirations of new members was likely to present the main challenge, and Namibia expressed agreement.

5.12 The Delegate from Brazil stated that UNCLOS should be fully respected in the development of qualifying criteria. Japan questioned how flag of convenience vessels can be managed, and Brazil responded that each Contracting Party must take action to control illegal, unreported and unregulated fisheries. Japan was not satisfied with this response, and voiced concern with what will happen in the future when charter contracts end. Brazil replied that this was not the proper time and place to discuss the issue of flags of convenience.

5.13 The European Community expressed a willingness to consider possibilities other than status quo allocation. However, developing coastal states should not be given a quota which could then be exploited for commercial transactions. Aspirations of these countries must be taken into account, but they must show their capacity to develop their fleet. Brazil intervened to note that the right of developing coastal states to develop their high-seas fisheries was not dependent on their capacity to develop their fleet.

5.14 Morocco questioned how any developing coastal state can improve their fishing capacity under the current proposal. Cape Verde expressed agreement, noting that countries that are dependent on fisheries may wish to develop them further in the future. This interest should be recognized by the Commission.

5.15 The Delegate of Korea stated that the Commission should consider each Party's ability to control and manage their fisheries, in addition to considering their current fishing capacity.

5.16 France, in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon, noted its unique position. It is not a developing coastal state or a major player at ICCAT, but would like to have its rights recognized. Temporary chartering should be considered as an option, with some restrictions.

5.17 The Delegate of Morocco suggested that the working group should move on to a discussion of the allocation criteria, looking at the original three proposals from this perspective. South Africa agreed that the qualifying criteria are not worth discussion at this point, since allocations can only be made in consideration of the status of the stock.

5.18 The Delegate of the United States expressed the opinion that the Commission should not take actions that discourage Parties to join ICCAT. Regarding eligibility, Parties should demonstrate the ability to monitor their fisheries effectively and provide scientific information, as well as comply with ICCAT recommendations. Chartering should be allowed only within an established plan consistent with ICCAT rules. Finally, developing coastal states should be provided the opportunity to develop their fisheries within the framework of ICCAT and such development should exclude quota selling. The European Community intervened to emphasize that any expansion of the fisheries must be accompanied by obligations to monitor fisheries, collect data, and conduct research.

5.19 The Chairman restated the agreement of the Parties regarding chartering: it is admissible, provided that it is consistent with the development process. He then closed the session, directing the working group that it would discuss quota allocation criteria when the session reconvened.

5.20 The proposal prepared by the European Community (**Appendix 5-2 to ANNEX 6**) was distributed to the delegations (included in **Appendix 5**). The European Community explained that the basis of this new document was the consideration of two separate cases: (1) stocks for which an allocation already exists; and (2) stocks not previously allocated.

5.21 In principle, the European Community supports the status quo in cases where an allocation already exists (e.g., bluefin tuna, swordfish). The Delegate noted that these stocks are actually a small percentage (approximately 10 percent by weight) of all reported catches of ICCAT species. These stocks are overexploited, and the European Community noted that they contributed to the development of these fisheries and has recently participated in efforts to conserve the stocks. The stability of industry depends on continuing the historical allocation, therefore, this should be the principal element of the allocation criteria. While the European Community indicated that they would consider a compromise, any cooperation quota should take into account the status of the stock and the current fishing effort.

5.22 Regarding stocks that have not yet been allocated, the European Community expressed the opinion that historical catch is still the essential element, although other criteria could also be considered. Additional criteria should not be subject to weighting or prioritization. The status of the stock should be taken into account. The European Community stated that they are prepared to be flexible on the question of real interest.

5.23 The Delegate of Brazil stated that the idea of having different sets of criteria for different stocks is unacceptable, even through the criteria will be applied on a case by case basis. Further, Brazil noted that although the stocks that have already been allocated may be a small percentage of the total ICCAT catch, in some cases they represent a large percentage of the fish that are available to a particular coastal state.

5.24 In response to a question from the United States, the European Community clarified that the phrase "to newcomers having a real interest" does not suggest that such an allocation would be automatic. Rather, the real interest would need to be demonstrated.

5.25 The Delegate from the United States asked the European Community how the existing sharing arrangements would be affected by a quota for newcomers, according to this proposal. The European Community replied that the relative shares of those Parties already in the sharing arrangement would not be affected. A certain percentage of the total allowable catch would be devoted to the newcomers' quota, and the remainder would be subject to the status quo allocation. The Delegate of the United States suggested that compliance and cooperation with ICCAT rules should be taken into account in any consideration of quota for newcomers or those already in the fishery.

5.26 The United States questioned the practical difference between "fishing patterns" and "fishing practices." The Delegate from the European Community was not certain, since the language was taken directly from Article 11 of the United Nations Agreement on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (UNIA).

5.27 Morocco expressed frustration with the difficulty in making progress, and suggested that the three original proposals should be used as the basis of the discussion. The European Community responded that these proposal were never actually adopted by the working group. They maintained that their new working document does not

change the spirit of their previous proposal. Morocco replied that the report of the first Working Group Meeting was adopted by the Commission, and it included these three proposals as working documents.

5.28 Morocco stated that the list of criteria should be the focus of the discussion, independent of the framework suggested in the new European Community proposal. South Africa added that they have no problem with the list of criteria in the new proposal. However, they found the new document to be substantially different from the original proposal of the European Community, given its two-tier approach and the implicit weighting of historical catch. Not all Parties are in agreement on this point, especially in cases where past participation in the fishery contributed to overexploitation of the resource.

5.29 The Delegate of Japan welcomed the new proposal from the European Community and suggested adding three elements to the list of criteria that were separately proposed by the three Parties; a Party's genuine ability to control and manage its large-scale tuna fishing vessels, the extent of taking measures to prevent or eliminate over-fishing and excess fishing capacity, and the extent of implementing and enforcing conservation and management measures through effective control mechanisms (see **Appendix 5-3 to ANNEX 6**).

5.30 The European Community indicated that it would be willing to consider a list of commonly-accepted criteria, as developed from the group's previous work.

5.31 The Chairman noted that any Party has the right to submit a proposal for consideration. The criteria contained in the European Community's proposal are taken directly from Article 11 of UNIA, so all Parties should be able to accept the list, although there is disagreement on the relative weighting. Japan responded with some concern over UNIA's Article 11, noting that they are for new members only and perceive an imbalance in the criteria, and thus find the new proposed list used on UNIA's Article 11 to be unacceptable.

5.32 Morocco suggested that the delegations must discuss the broader approach, in addition to developing a list of criteria. Each of the criteria must be analyzed individually to determine the positions of the Contracting Parties. The Chairman agreed that this would be a good approach. Venezuela requested that the Chairman guide the delegations through a discussion of each of the criteria.

5.33 Canada offered to distribute a table that it prepared as a comparative summary of the three original proposals. Brazil agreed that this paper could facilitate the discussion, but requested that it be translated into all languages. Morocco also supported this concept, and had already prepared a similar comparison in French. Venezuela suggested that a simple table would be easy enough for all Contracting Parties to understand, thus, there was no need to wait for translation.

5.34 The European Community maintained that, as expressed in **Appendix 5-2 to ANNEX 6**), the criteria applying to stocks already allocated and the criteria for those stocks not allocated are two distinct cases, and should be discussed separately.

5.35 Due to the need to translate and distribute the comparison table, the Chairman suggested that the Working Group should adjourn and discuss the criteria in great depth the following morning. The Chairman indicated that he would take all delegations' positions into account and would then develop a compromise document the following afternoon. He thanked all delegations for their hard work thus far.

5.36 The Chairman opened the meeting on Friday morning by welcoming the delegations of Gabon and Angola. He then invited Canada to introduce comparison table of the three proposals for ICCAT allocation criteria (attached as **Appendix 4 to ANNEX 6**).

5.37 The Delegate clarified that this was not a Canadian proposal, but rather a table that was constructed to facilitate comparison of existing proposals. The table outlines which country would be eligible, what stock types the criteria would apply to, which criteria are similar in the proposals, as well as which criteria are unique. The order in which the criteria were listed did not imply any prioritizations or weighting.

5.38 South Africa suggested that the exercise could be facilitated by synthesizing those proposals into a single document.

5.39 Discussion of the table began with the issue of historical catch. The European Community stated that historical catch should be the only criteria for stocks that have already been allocated.

5.40 Namibia indicated that they would never accept historical catch as the main criterion. The Delegate noted that coastal states must have a much greater incentive to conserve stocks than distant water fishing nations. Nations that have contributed to the over-exploitation of stocks should be held accountable.

5.41 The Delegate of Brazil stated that using historical catch as the only criterion for stocks that have been previously allocated would not be consistent with the task of the Working Group, and South Africa agreed. Morocco questioned how historical catches would be defined, and what time frame would be considered for the purposes of assessing the historical period.

5.42 Discussion proceeded to paragraph (f) from the proposal of the United States: "importance of ensuring equitable opportunities for all members". Japan supported the U.S. proposal, which provides an incentive for Contracting Parties, noting the necessity of fair treatment of a cooperative non-Contracting Party/Entity/Fishing Entity which is unable to become a member due to its political situation. The United States agreed that these Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities should have the opportunity to fish within the specifications established in ICCAT recommendations. Canada, the People's Republic of China, and Venezuela also voiced support for the U.S. proposal, noting that membership should have privileges. Morocco pointed out that ICCAT should continue to encourage others to join the Commission.

5.43 The observer from Chinese-Taipei stated that "equitable opportunities" includes equal opportunities to discuss and to cooperate, especially for those non-Contracting Parties that have historical catches. They believe that UNCLOS and the UNIA encourage States to cooperate in the conservation and management of highly migratory stocks. The contribution to ICCAT from each participant, as well as their cooperation with ICCAT recommendations, should be taken into account in determining quota allocation.

5.44 The European Community agreed that fairness is an important principle, but suggested that this would be a consequence rather than one of the criteria. France (St. Pierre & Miquelon) noted that, in principle, it was difficult to dispute the importance of equity. Japan also agreed with the importance of ensuring equitable opportunities to all members, and suggested that this concept be included in the preamble.

5.45 Discussion proceeded to the issues regarding artisanal fisheries and small-scale fisheries. South Africa noted a gradual movement among developing coastal states from artisanal fisheries with minimal impact on the stocks, to small-scale fisheries which may catch a substantial amount of fish. Namibia supported this point, noting that millions of people in developing coastal states depend directly on these fisheries. Japan, on the other hand, expressed concern with the impact of a large number of small-scale fleets to the stocks in total.

5.46 Venezuela called attention to Article 24 of UNIA, which says to ensure access by small-scale fisheries, although Japan pointed out that this article should be read in the context of avoiding adverse impacts on them when establishing conservation and management measures. Japan also raised a concern that paragraph (h) of the U.S. proposal is covered by paragraph (g) of the same proposal and that double counting may occur when they are applied to quota allocation. Brazil agreed with Venezuela and added that the question of access is important for those nations wishing to develop their longline fisheries.

5.47 The Delegate of Morocco supported the position of Venezuela and Brazil in emphasizing the importance of the Moroccan artisanal fishery.

5.48 The Chairman introduced a new issue, requesting comments on the needs of coastal communities. The Delegate of Japan reminded the other delegations of the closing statement it submitted at the First Meeting of the Working Group on Allocation Criteria, and proposed that paragraphs (d) and (e) of the EU proposals and paragraphs (e) and (f) of the Proposal of the Sixteen should be substituted by paragraph (g) in the U.S. proposal, since this paragraph covers the needs of coastal communities while maintaining balance between different interests.

5.49 Morocco asked the United States to add the following to its list of criteria: "interests of developing states from the sub-region or region in whose areas of national jurisdiction the stocks also occur". Namibia agreed, saying

that the overwhelming need of coastal communities should be considered. The United States replied that this concern was addressed in paragraph (g) in a more balanced manner.

5.50 France (St. Pierre & Miquelon) and Venezuela noted that the needs of coastal states must be listed separately from the needs of developing nations, since these two are sometimes distinct. The European Community explained the need to distinguish between coastal states and coastal communities, and the United States expressed agreement on this point. Japan mentioned the importance of distinguishing between new members and existing members when using UNIA Article 11 for criteria and reiterated that UNIA's Article 7.2(e) should be adopted as a criterion if such distinguishing cannot be made.

5.51 Morocco requested that the phrase "living marine resources" be replaced by "high seas resources" in paragraph (f) of the EC proposal and the Proposal of the Sixteen. South Africa suggested that "living marine resources" should be qualified by noting "under ICCAT jurisdiction", since harvest of other marine species could not be the basis of allocation of ICCAT quotas. Venezuela stated that the phrase "living marine resources' has already been accepted in the international fora.

5.52 Morocco asked the United States to delete "on the high seas" from paragraph (g) of their proposal. The United States agreed to replace that phrase with "on ICCAT stocks". Japan suggested that paragraph (f) of the European Community's proposal and paragraph (g) of the Proposal of the Sixteen were discriminatory and the idea is covered by paragraph (b) of the respective proposals, and should be deleted so that the proposal is consistent with international agreements. Brazil, Morocco, and Namibia disagreed and maintained that it was necessary to preserve this paragraph.

5.53 Discussion moved to the topic of respective contributions and cooperation. The United States and Canada highlighted the distinction between the reporting of scientific data, which is a basic obligation, and the conduct of scientific research, which is a contribution that is dependent on the resources of individual Parties. Venezuela and Brazil agree that this is an important distinction. The European Community also agreed with the language proposed by the United States, provided that it would apply only as one of the secondary criteria of stocks that have not yet been allocated. Morocco disagreed, stating that this standard should apply to all Parties fishing for ICCAT species. Canada reaffirmed the importance of basic monitoring and reporting as this provides the essential foundation for conservation measures.

5.54 Discussion then moved to consideration of the status of the resource. The Delegate of the United States indicated that they could support the EC proposal, but emphasized the importance of recognizing maximum sustainable catch as the goal of the Convention. Brazil maintained that this is a separate issue from allocation. Canada stated that TACs should not be increased to accommodate new members; in cases where stocks are in need of rebuilding, overall effort should not increase. The European Community maintained that the current level of effort should be used as the benchmark for stocks that have already been allocated.

5.55 Namibia suggested that current participants should be prepared to sacrifice some quota in order to accommodate developing states, if stocks are over-exploited and additional quota is not available. Mexico called attention to the U.S. proposal to include compliance as one of the criteria, and noted that a penalty for non-compliance could make additional quota available for redistribution.

5.56 The observer from ITSAS GEROA made an intervention to express concern over the use of non-selective fishing techniques, and their adverse impacts on the status of the stocks. He expressed agreement with the Proposal of the Sixteen.

5.57 South Africa circulated a working documents (included as **Appendix 5-4 to ANNEX 6**), based on the three previous documents, to be considered as a starting point for negotiating an agreement on the allocation criteria.

5.58 The United States noted that in cases where there are rebuilding programs in place for ICCAT stocks, the sacrifices of those fishermen should be considered, and additional access of newcomers to the over-exploited fishery should not be considered unless catch quotas are increasing.

5.59 The Chairman summarized the discussion: we all agree that we should ensure that the maximum sustainable catch should not be exceeded. The developing coastal states feel that this is an important principle, but should not be a limiting factor for allocation. Developing states noted that some of the developed states are responsible for causing over-exploitation, but in response, the developed states noted their sacrifices to advance conservation and their collection of scientific data.

5.60 The United States questioned the meaning of "participants" in item (b) in the EC proposal. The European Community defined this as non-contracting cooperating Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities, and noted that this would be one of the secondary criteria for stocks that have not already been allocated. South Africa suggested alternative language (see **Appendix 5 to ANNEX 6**). Morocco questioned the need for this particular criterion.

5.61 Regarding the need to minimize economic dislocation, Brazil noted that their proposed language is consistent with UNCLOS. Japan and Canada expressed support for the European Community's proposal as a more balanced approach. The United States suggested that "Convention Area" replace the term "high seas" or "zone" and South Africa supported this proposal.

5.62 The United States emphasized the need to acknowledge the importance of compliance, but offered to add language that would not penalize countries that have already paid the appropriate penalty for non-compliance. Mexico noted that all Parties have an obligation to ensure that there is compliance.

5.63 Japan referred to its proposal for a number of additional criteria relating to Parties' ability to control and manage their fisheries (attached as **Appendix 5-3 to ANNEX 6**). The first of these proposed criteria would be an alternative to (h) of the European Community's proposal. The second would be an alternative to (j) of the EC proposal, (c) of the U.S. proposal, or (d) of the Proposal of the Sixteen.

5.64 The Delegate of Canada requested that the item regarding domestic consumption be deleted from the EC proposal, noting that this criterion is not fair since by its nature it discriminates against new comers. China, Morocco, and Namibia supported the elimination of this paragraph. Tunisia indicated that some countries prefer to export tuna products after their domestic consumption needs have been met. South Africa agreed, noting that while this could be relevant to the needs of coastal countries, these concerns have already been addressed. The European Community expressed a wish to retain this criterion, given that the Convention addresses the issue of consumption. Japan, Gabon and France (St. Pierre & Miquelon) expressed support for the paragraph.

5.65 Japan expressed concern with the vague wording of paragraph (h) in the Proposal of the Sixteen, which could cause difficulty in implementation by the Panels. South Africa noted that the intent of this paragraph was similar to item (f) of the European Community's proposal, and referred to the document presented by South Africa. The European Community stated that this paragraph was redundant with other paragraphs that were discussed previously, and Canada suggested that it be deleted. Japan agreed, expressing concern with the lack of balance and the term "potential". Venezuela, Brazil and Morocco argued that the content of this paragraph should be maintained if it is combined with any other criteria.

5.66 South Africa, Morocco and Mexico expressed a preference for the broader interpretation of responsibility for over-exploitation of the resource, not only in cases where conservation measures were in place. The United States rejected this approach as too broad, because it could penalize countries that had already abided by historical measures. Japan agreed that ICCAT as a whole should be responsible for the history of over-exploitation, not individual Contracting Parties. The European Community opposed both of these proposals: it found the Proposal of the Sixteen unacceptable and the U.S. proposal redundant. Canada supported the United States's paragraph (i), in principle, but suggested that it could be combined with U.S. paragraph (c).

5.67 The Chairman raised two related issues: whether countries should be penalized temporarily or permanently for non-compliance, and whether such penalties would discourage full and accurate reporting of catch data.

5.68 Canada introduced a proposal (included as **Appendix 5-1 to ANNEX 6**), which proposes that Contracting Parties that are more than two years behind in their contributions shall not be eligible to receive allocations. This would encourage all members to fully support the effective functioning of the Commission, as they are obligated

to do, and alleviate the serious financial problems the Commission is experiencing as a result of the arrears in contributions. Canada also noted the importance of ratification of the Madrid Protocol. The United States supported the proposal and noted that half of all Contracting Parties are currently in arrears. China supported the proposal, and suggested that those Contracting Parties that are in arrears should not have a vote in matter before the Commission. Japan also expressed support, noting the importance of these contributions for scientific research programs.

5.69 Morocco, Namibia, Brazil, Venezuela and the European Community objected to the Canadian proposal, arguing that while this issue is an important concern, it should not be considered as an allocation criterion and it should be treated as an ICCAT operational requirement. South Africa suggested that this issue should be taken up at the next Commission meeting. The EU concurred that the issue should be discussed at the annual meeting of STACFAD. The Chair agreed to draw this issue to the attention of the Commission. Moreover, the matter of the ratification of the 1992 Protocol has been raised to induce the Parties to ratify.

5.70 The United States circulated compromise language to address the issue of compliance included as **Appendix 5-5 to ANNEX 6**). The U.S. Delegate emphasized that compliance is essential to the effectiveness of ICCAT; adoption of this as one of the criteria would reward those Parties that have made the necessary sacrifices for conservation.

5.71 Japan suggested that the second criterion **in Appendix 5-3 to ANNEX 6** could be used instead, and the European Community supported this suggestion. Canada expressed concern that the Japanese proposal does not directly address the issue of compliance. Canada suggested replacing the words "implementing and enforcing" with the words "compliance with". Venezuela and Brazil agreed, but the European Community rejected this suggestion.

5.72 South Africa expressed support for the U.S. wording of the first two lines, but suggested dropping the rest of the text for the purposes of clarity. The United States requested that the language proposed in **Appendix 5-6 to ANNEX 6** be incorporated into the original U.S. proposal and suggested that it would be up to the discretion of the Chairman to develop a compromise.

5.73 After some discussion on how the Working Group should proceed, the Chairman explained that the three original proposals were not to be considered in isolation. New proposals can be tabled for consideration. As well, Contracting Parties had submitted closing statements following the First Meeting of the Working Group and opening statements at this meeting which contain issues of substance that should be considered.

5.74 Discussion continued on whether allocation should take into account the relationship between the distribution of the stocks, the fisheries, and the region concerned. The Delegate of Brazil explained that this was one of their foremost priorities among the possible list of criteria. Namibia suggested that this concept, as presented by Brazil, should be assigned a letter and included among the list of criteria.

5.75 The European Community rejected this proposal and suggested that this matter should be considered by the Panels. Canada voiced opposition to any criteria based on biomass distribution, given that ICCAT species are highly migratory and that the SCRS Chairman has indicated that reliable data on distribution are not available and would result in the SCRS making significant decisions on allocation. Japan shared this concern, noting no preferential right is granted to coastal states for highly migratory species, and supported the delegation. The U.S. Delegate withdrew the U.S. proposal regarding the biological characteristics of the stocks, given the scientific concerns. Brazil reminded the Working Group that the actual implementation of the criteria was not appropriate to consider at that time. Morocco questioned the need for this criterion.

5.76 Observers from Iceland, the Faroe Islands, and Norway emphasized the importance of recognizing the rights of countries that have ICCAT species in their EEZs, and expressed support for the proposed language of Brazil. South Africa suggested that this criterion does not necessarily need to be scientifically quantified, but could be applied on an absence/presence basis. The United States suggested that it might be better to consider a criterion that more directly addressed the issue of the presence or absence of species in a nation's waters. The European Community rejected this idea, citing concerns that it would be too difficult to make this determination based on the available scientific information. The Delegate of Venezuela suggested that the situation described by South Africa could be considered in the application of the criteria, and would not necessarily change the proposed

language. Japan pointed out that the Proposal of the Sixteen lacks the terms "biological unity" and "biological characteristics" when it quotes UNIA Article 7.2(d).

5.77 The Chairman then led a discussion on the application of allocation criteria. Venezuela expressed a strong interest in flexible implementation of the criteria. The European Community agreed that the Panels should apply these criteria on a case by case basis with a quantitative weighting scheme, although historical catch would remain the primary factor.

5.78 The Delegate from South Africa clarified that they believe that these criteria should apply for new allocations, but also when existing allocations are renegotiated. Countries with existing quota should not expect to hold these quotas in perpetuity, and South Africa suggested that the principle of quota attrition be incorporated in future sharing arrangements to provide potential for re-allocation. The European Community noted that this proposal could be similar to their proposal for a "cooperative quota", although this would be dependent on the status of the stock. Regarding the principle of quota attrition, the United States indicated that such a system requiring automatic redistribution of quota irrespective of established allocation criteria would be unacceptable.

5.79 Canada suggested that the Working Group should try to reach consensus on a list of criteria that could be applied by the Panel on a case by case basis, noting that it was not practical to expect that all Parties could agree to a quantitative weighting scheme. The United States agreed.

5.80 Regarding quota trading, the Chairman noted that none of the Parties had expressed support for this practice. The Delegate of Venezuela suggested that everyone could agree on the language in the last paragraph of the Proposal of the Sixteen, which would explicitly exclude quota trading. The European Community agreed that it would be unacceptable for a Party to request a new allocation simply for trading purposes. However, the EU noted that countries that already had quotas in place could legitimately engage in a swap, as long as it will not have a negative impact on conservation. Japan agreed with this interpretation. Brazil expressed its strong disagreement with any quota swap arrangement and proposed that the words "and swap" should be added to the last item of the Proposal of the Sixteen in the Chairman's Note, after the words "such as quota trading".

5.81 Brazil reemphasized the fundamental disagreement regarding the application of criteria. They refused to accept the EC proposal that stocks that have already been allocated should be treated differently from stocks that have not yet been allocated. The European Community replied that they were just as firmly committed to their original position.

5.82 The United States asked the European Community to clarify which stocks they consider to be already allocated. The Delegate of the European Community replied that they would consider North and South Atlantic swordfish as well as East and West Atlantic bluefin to be the only stocks that are already allocated.

5.83 The Chairman noted that fishing by flags of convenience still represented a serious fishing effort. It should be a priority of the Commission to put an end to this practice, so that additional quota could be made available to Contracting Parties with an interest in the fishery.

5.84 The Chairman promised to prepare a compromise document for discussion the following morning and the Working Group adjourned for the day.

5.85 The following day, the Chairman introduced the Chairman's Note (included as **Appendix 5-7 to ANNEX 6**) and explained that the document reflected his personal views of the discussions of the past few days and is based, in part, on the proposals submitted by the Contracting Parties.

5.86 The document prepared by the Chairman was not approved by the participants for discussion. It was agreed that it be attached as an annex as a personal document by the Chairman, rather than a working document.

5.87 The Working Group still has many pending issues to consider, including the question of what criteria should be applied to which stocks. The qualifying criteria must be determined by the Working Group, not referred to the Panels.

5.88 The Chairman further noted that closing statements should reflect the opinion of each Party regarding his paper. These statements may be submitted in writing to the Commission after the meeting.

5.89 All Parties expressed their appreciation for the Chairman's effort to develop a paper, especially given the difficult nature of the task.

5.90 The Delegate of Brazil expressed dissatisfaction with the resulting paper, and voiced the opinion that this document should not be appended to the report.. He considered the document unbalanced because it did not reflect properly the points of view of more than half of the delegations present at the meeting. Moreover, he considered that the document does not represent progress towards consensus.

5.91 Venezuela stated that while this paper is a step forward, additional efforts are necessary to improve the basis for future negotiations, perhaps a drafting group to polish the text and to fully reflect all positions.

5.92 Morocco indicated that the paper did not reflect all discussion carried out and does not wish to take part in the discussion of the report.

5.93 South Africa recognized the paper as an honest attempt to reflect the discussion, but noted that the Working Group had not received any guidance on the way to gain consensus on unresolved issues.

5.94 Namibia expressed disappointment in the lack of progress, and suggested that a drafting committee could be convened prior to the next Commission meeting.

5.95 The Delegate from the European Community praised the Chairman's paper as true progress. They considered it to be a factual document that fairly reflects the differences of opinion that have been expressed. The European Community would not support the establishment of a drafting committee. The United Kingdom (Overseas Territories) expressed a similar opinion.

5.96 Cape Verde indicated that they would not accept the Chairman's paper as a basis for future discussions because it does not completely and accurately reflect all positions.

5.97 Japan expressed its view that a well balanced document was achieved and should be attached to the report, but supported the Chairman's suggestion that each Party's comments should be included in their closing statements. Further discussions are needed, with the Chairman's guidance. The Delegate of Japan also would not support the creation of a drafting committee because of the relative large difference of opinions among the Parties.

5.98 Canada noted that some progress has been made, as reflected in the single document that identifies areas of diverging opinions. It would not be necessary to agree with each element within the paper in order to support it. While Canada intends to submit specific comments, they do wish to see the Chairman's paper attached to the meeting report and used a basis for further discussion. The establishment of a drafting working group would be premature at this time.

5.99 The United States also accepted the paper as an accurate assessment of the positions that have been expressed by the Parties, and agreed that it should be used as the basis for further discussion.

5.100 Panama disagreed, stating that the Chairman's paper does not fully reflect positions of all Parties. Tunisia suggested that a working group is needed to make progress. China noted that an additional meeting of the Working Group would be costly.

5.101 The difficulty of the Chairman's task was noted by some delegations. France (St. Pierre & Miquelon) expressed satisfaction with the paper as a significant step forward and rejected the idea of a drafting committee at this time.

5.102 Côte d'Ivoire stated that given the complex nature of the task, this paper should not be accepted as an annex to the Working Group Report. Instead, a drafting committee should be formed and assigned the task of trying to reach consensus.

5.103 The observer from Iceland mentioned the paper does not always reflect the discussion. While some progress has been made, there still is a long way to go.

5.104 The observer from Denmark-Faroe Islands does not feel that the Chairman's paper is balanced, and recommended that a drafting group should make additional efforts.

5.105 The Delegate of Gabon noted that each Contracting Party is naturally trying to defend its own interests, and these diverse views are reflected in the Chairman's paper.

5.106 Croatia and Angola stated that the Chairman's paper does not reflect all views and noted that much progress is still needed to reach consensus.

5.107 The United States suggested the paper be appended to the report as a Chairman's Paper, without the endorsement of the Working Group, and that Contracting Parties could submit specific comments on the paper to the Secretariat, to allow the Chairman to revise and circulate a new version prior to the next meeting of the Working Group.

5.108 Canada noted that Parties could accept the Chairman's paper as a general summary, although they may disagree with certain parts of the paper. Canada reminded the Working Group that they will have the opportunity to submit comments. It would be unfortunate to leave this meeting without a synopsis of all the different views that have been expressed.

5.109 The European Community agreed, and noted that the Working Group had indeed made progress on these difficult issues. The Chairman's paper was not intended to be a compromise document. However, it does reflect the views of all Parties and should be attached to the Report of the Working Group so that further progress can be made in the future.

5.110 Japan expressed support for the interventions of Canada and the European Community. The Chairman's paper should be attached to the Report. In addition, the Parties' opening and closing statements will also be an important part of the record of the meeting.

5.111 The Chairman explained the difficulty in developing a paper that fully reflects the views of all Parties. He noted that all criteria that were discussed by the Group are included in the paper, although it does not indicate which Parties supported each of the criteria. These positions will be reflected in the report of the meeting. Each Party should ensure that their closing statement gives a clear explanation of their positions on the various criteria.

5.112 The Chairman proposed all Parties to delete the title "working paper" from the Chairman's Note. It fulfils the Chairman's responsibility to provide an account of the discussions and will be appended to the report as the Chairman's note. He also proposed to put criterion No. 18 into brackets since it was not yet discussed by the Working Group.

5.113 The Delegate of Japan agreed with the Chairman's suggestion to put criteria No. 18 in brackets in a spirit of compromise to wrap up the meeting. Japan expressed frustration that some Parties did not welcome any new proposals. This resistance to new proposals should not set a precedent for future meetings.

5.114 Morocco urged the Working Group to set up a small drafting committee. The Chairman's paper should not be the starting point of future discussions. It should be noted that the Chairman's paper was not discussed or adopted by the Working Group. The Chairman replied that there is no consensus on the need to set up a drafting committee, therefore this suggestion cannot be adopted.

5.115 Brazil stated that it did not object to including the Chairman's paper as an appendix, if it is clear that it represents the personal views of the Chairman, and not necessarily the views of all Parties. The Chairman's paper, now entitled "Chairman's Note" is attached as **Appendix 5-7 to ANNEX 6**.

5.116 The Chairman invited all Parties to submit written comments on the paper, and these will be attached to the report of the meeting. The comments on the Chairman's Note submitted during the meeting and later in writing are all included in **Appendix 5 to ANNEX 6**. He then asked the Parties to present their closing statements.

5.117 The United States indicated its intention to submit a written statement to clarify several points, including the treatment of Cooperating Parties. Also, the Delegate emphasized that TACs must take into account all catches, and there should be special consideration for stocks which are being managed under a long-term rebuilding program. The three most important criteria to the United States are status of the stocks, record of compliance, and historical catches.

5.118 Namibia expressed disappointment with the lack of progress. The Delegate stated that they cannot accept the use of historical catch as the main basis of allocation. The criteria should apply to all stocks, not just those which have not yet been allocated.

5.119 The Canadian Delegate complimented the Chairman, noting that some progress had been made, though not as much as hoped. The Chairman's Note is a reasonable basis on which to proceed. Some clarification is required regarding stocks that currently have a rebuilding program, but overall, the Note is an accurate reflection of the list of criteria discussed.

5.120 South Africa expressed disappointment with some Parties' unwillingness to compromise. Status quo is no longer a viable option. The Delegate urged all Parties to review their positions and consider the need for flexibility.

5.121 Brazil stated that their expectations for this meeting were not met. Current allocations are not acceptable, and not consistent with international agreements. The sovereign rights of coastal States in the EEZ must be recognized. ICCAT should move forward to gain consensus that is based on cooperation, trust and good will among its members.

5.122 The United Kingdom (Overseas Territories) remains committed to continuing efforts to find a balanced solution.

5.123 The Moroccan Delegate noted with satisfaction that many members have expressed the will to find a solution. Nonetheless, it has been difficult to reach consensus on these issues. As a developing country, Morocco will be adversely affected by further delays in the preparation of the report. The Delegate suggested that the current allocation should be suspended until a more equitable solution is reached.

5.124 Panama intends to submit comments in writing. The Delegate referred to the FAO International Plan of Action (IPOA) for fishing capacity. He emphasized that the terminology used by ICCAT should be aligned to that of the IPOA.

5.125 The European Community stated that this meeting has highlighted points of agreement and disagreement. The Working Group should continue to meet.

5.126 The Delegate of Japan expressed appreciation for the frank discussion that had taken place. Japan would oppose any radical change in current allocation pattern; historical catch is the most important of the criteria. A more detailed closing statement will be submitted.

5.127 Korea noted that while progress was slow, the Parties should be able to reach consensus with a cooperative attitude.

5.128 The observer from Mexico stated that any progress must be based on a balanced approach and consideration of all views.

5.129 The observer from Norway emphasized the rights of coastal states which have highly migratory species in their EEZ, and the need to take these concerns into account in developing a solution.

5.130 The observer from Chinese-Taipei noted the importance of this process and the need for equity in consideration of allocation.

5.131 The observer from ITSAS GEROA expressed its appreciation for the opportunity to participate as an observer. Their members are concerned with overexploitation of the stock that has been caused by large-scale fishing fleets, and the negative effect on traditional fishing in coastal communities.

5.132 The closing statements submitted in writing during and after the meeting (Brazil, Canada, European Community, Gabon, Japan, Morocco, Namibia, South Africa, United Kingdom (Overseas Territories), United States and the observers from Iceland and Chinese Taipei) are included in **Appendix 6 to ANNEX 6**.

5.133 The Chairman reminded the Working Group that while it seems that progress is slow, it is significant that the Group has agreed on some general principles and standards. It is always more difficult to reach agreement on the details. In two meetings, the Working Group has made considerable progress on this complex issue.

6 Other matters

6.1 The Chairman recalled the earlier discussion regarding the financial difficulties of the Commission. He noted the Working's Groups request that the Commission give serious consideration to these important issues.

6.2 The Chairman then emphasized the importance of the discussions on issues of allocation criteria for the effective implementation of conservation and management measures of ICCAT.

7 Date and place of next meeting

There were no proposals. This matter will be discussed at the next Commission meeting.

8 Adoption of Report

8.1 The draft report covering the first two days' sessions and pertinent appendices was presented to the Working Group.

8.2 The Executive Secretary suggested that all Parties should review the draft report of the meeting and submit written comments by mail. As suggested by Venezuela and Brazil, it was agreed that the deadline for the submission of comments would be the end of May.

8.3 The Group was informed that a second draft report with the addition of the report of the final session (duly translated), and any statements that were submitted to the Secretariat prior to adjournment (in their original language) will be transmitted by email, wherever possible, or by mail, to participants by April 17.

8.4 The Chairman informed the Working Group that the adoption of the Report would be done by correspondence some time in June. The report adopted by the Working Group will then be submitted to the Commission for its review and final adoption at its annual Meeting (Morocco, November 2000).

9 Adjournment

9.1 The Chairman thanked all delegations, the Secretariat, the rapporteurs and the interpreters for their participation in this process.

9.2 The Second Meeting of the Working Group on Allocation Criteria was adjourned on April 8, 2000.

Appendix 1 to ANNEX 6

Agenda - 2000 Allocation Criteria

1 Opening of the Meeting
2 Adoption of Agenda
3 Nomination of Rapporteur
4 Opening statements
5 Discussion of quota allocation criteria
6 Other matters
7 Date and place of next meeting
8 Adoption of report
9 Adjournment

Appendix 2 to ANNEX 6

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Appendix 3 to ANNEX 6

Opening Statements to Allocation Criteria Meeting - 2000

ICCAT CONTRACTING PARTIES

3.1 Opening Statement by Brazil

As it is well known, Brazil has played quite an active role in the establishment of this Working Group. Therefore, our expectations on the outcome of this meeting are also well known by all delegations present here. As we have stated in previous occasions, ICCAT practices need to be revised since, in our view, they are outdated and dissonant with the principles and rules of the relevant international instruments, particularly the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the United Nations Agreement on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (United Nations Implementation Agreement - UNIA). By the way, I take this opportunity to inform the Commission that the National Congress has recently approved Brazil's adherence to UNIA, which means that the Government is in the process of ratifying it. These legal instruments represent the result of long and difficult negotiations certainly they were not meant to become just pieces of international law literature. They must make their way into reality. Besides, for the sake of coherence, the rules and provisions they contain ought not to be applied in a selective way. They were approved in their entirety and therefore it is in their entirety that they must be applied. Above all, moreover, it is necessary to ensure that the application of conservation and management measures do not deprive coastal states, particularly the developing ones, of their right to develop their fisheries of highly migratory species. We understand that there is a great degree of resistance to change old practices and to move ahead. Nevertheless, we believe that ICCAT must take this courageous step forward, in order to fulfill its mandate. There is no way back. We are certain that at this point in time, the future of the Commission itself is at stake.

The last meeting of the Working Group, however, was very promising and definitively constituted a significant step towards what we think is the right direction. It represented an outstanding exercise of negotiation, by acknowledging fundamental rights and at the same time preserving the compromise for the sustainability of renewable resources. We would like to emphasize that the document we sponsored together with seven other Contracting Parties, and supported by eight observers to ICCAT, represents a great deal of compromise as well as a significant exercise of accommodation of different points of view. We hope that all the effort engaged in the previous meeting of this Working Group will be fully considered at the present meeting, and not simply put aside. In other words, Brazil is convinced that we should begin from where we stopped and progress with a view to consensus translated into concrete results in this meeting.

Finally, Brazil strongly believes that this meeting represents a crucial step in the strengthening of ICCAT and we are committed to working together with you and all the Contracting Parties to reach this goal. Thank you.

3.2 Opening Statement by Canada

It is a pleasure for Canada to participate at this second meeting of the Working Group on Allocation Criteria. We would like to thank the ICCAT Secretariat for undertaking the usual excellent logistics for this meeting and to express our appreciation to Spain for hosting this meeting.

As we begin our second session on allocation criteria, we would like to thank those Contracting Parties which submitted proposals on general principles at the 1999 meeting. The proposals, and the constructive discussion they prompted, will provide a good foundation for our discussions this week. Our past discussions will also serve to ensure that there are no illusions about the significance of the task which faces us. There is much at stake. This issue holds consequences for all Parties. It will influence the success of ICCAT in meeting its obligations for the sustainable management of tunas. It will have implications for the long term well-being of large pelagic stocks.

Canada is here to lend its effort to finding common understandings. It is our hope that we will be able to move beyond debate over concepts, and focus on developing practical solutions that are balanced, and represent a sustainable consensus.

As we move forward, we must constantly test our solutions against the reality of the resource situation. Many of the tuna resources are fully and in some cases over exploited. As Contracting Parties seek to protect or advance their respective interests, there is the danger that conservation of the stocks will be compromised. We must resist the temptation to accommodate the difficult allocation issues by increasing TAC levels beyond the scientific advice. Conservation and sustainable management of tuna resources is ICCAT's paramount objective. The Working Group must keep this objective foremost in mind during its discussions.

The first meeting of the Working Group highlighted the complexity and sensitivity of the issues to be addressed. Contracting Parties understand the interests of countries traditionally involved in tuna fisheries and their contribution to the conservation and management of the tuna stocks. They also recognize the legitimate aspirations of coastal and developing states to develop fishing activity on stocks which migrate through their EEZs. There appears to be a recognition of the rights and obligations of both coastal states and states fishing on the high seas.

As we seek a consensus, several questions will arise. Is there a set of universal allocation criteria for tuna stocks or will each situation have its own criteria? What relative weight should be attributed to the various allocation criteria? These questions need to be examined carefully, but we should avoid becoming mired in prolonged and unconstructive debate.

It is our view that we need to work toward a consensus on a list of allocation criteria. Once such a consensus is achieved, prolonged discussion on issues such as a quantitative weighting of various criteria is unlikely to be productive. In order to make progress, we need to agree on a pragmatic approach to the application of the criteria in specific circumstances. We believe this step would best or most appropriately be done in the Panels.

Out of all of this, there will need to be adjustments of the current quota sharing arrangement. Canada shares the view of some other Parties that it is unrealistic that any quota changes can be achieved quickly or over a short period of time. In some cases, stocks will need to be rebuilt before adjustments could be made. We envisage this initiative as a gradual process - whereby some of the traditional high seas quota beneficiaries will inevitably need to concede a portion of their quotas, over a period of time, to coastal and developing states. We see this process as a gradual transition rather than any precipitous realignment of quotas.

In order for any transition on quotas to be effective, the Working Group must also look carefully at the obligations to be undertaken and the necessary conditions to ensure responsible fisheries management and conservation of the stocks. If some Contracting Parties wish to receive quota, it will be important that they demonstrate their domestic harvesting capacity. They must also demonstrate the capacity to implement comprehensive monitoring, control and surveillance mechanisms to safeguard the resources and to invest in the research necessary for sustainable management of these stocks. Finally, we will need to look very carefully at rules for chartering vessels, use of flags of convenience, serial re-flagging of vessels, and the selling or trading of quotas, to ensure that fishing capacity does not outstrip the capacity of the resource. In this context, ICCAT should be guided by the FAO International Plan of Action on Fishing Capacity.

Canada looks forward to discussing practical solutions with a view to developing an enduring consensus on the allocation issues while ensuring the continued conservation and sustainable management of ICCAT stocks.

3.3 Opening Statement by the European Community

The first meeting of this working group demonstrated a very co-operative attitude from all participants. We hope that the same co-operative spirit will also prevail for this second meeting. The question at issue is, as we all know, extremely important and difficult and therefore progress will not be easy. For this reason, we must not try to force an agreement at any cost. It would be better to take the necessary time to reach a result acceptable to everyone.

The European Community strongly believes that this exercise should be based on co-operation and responsibility, based on existing international law, and that it takes due account of the need to ensure the sustainable use of tuna resources.

The European Community believes that the allocation of resources should be based primarily on historical catch records and, where allocations already exist, on the present quota sharing. This criterion represents the real

interest of the parties on the resources, and also takes into account the efforts made to manage the resources at sustainable levels.

However, the European Community also recognizes the rights of parties having a real interest to develop their fishing industries. We believe however that the exercise of these rights must be accompanied by the obligation to co-operate actively in the management of the stocks in the framework of ICCAT, and must take into account the status of the stocks and the existing fishing practices. In that context, we are open to finding solutions that will be reasonable and satisfactory to all parties.

It is also be to be borne in mind that parties with the major historical catch records have also developed the existing markets for tuna and swordfish. Parties wishing to develop their own industries, intend essentially to sell their products in these same markets.

As we said last year, making progress in this group will be very difficult. While we must make all efforts to reach an agreement, we must not push for a quick agreement at any cost. Additional meetings may be required, and the Community is, as we have demonstrated so far, prepared to make an effort in this regard.

Finally, the European Community wishes to thank the government of Spain for hosting this second session of the Working Group on Allocation Criteria. This hospitality is making it possible for this working group to meet and make progress.

3.4 Opening Statement by Japan

On behalf of the Japanese delegation, I would like to express our pleasure to return to Madrid for this important Working Group meeting. Taking this opportunity, Japan would appreciate the EC-Spain, and the Executive Secretary and his staff members for the preparation of this meeting.

At the last Working Group meeting, several different views were expressed on factors which would be taken into account for quota allocation. Japan fully recognizes the desire of developing coastal states that they would like to have opportunity of fishing tunas with national quota. At the same time, the existing fishing capacity of fishing states must be respected. Japan hopes that mutual understanding will be further deepened and the positions of respective members will become closer towards a balanced outcome through discussion during the next three days.

Three proposals were submitted at the last meeting. All of them quoted UNIA Article 11 as a part of elements of allocation criteria. At a glance, these three proposals look similar, however, Japan notes that the basic positions of respective proponents are quite different and such similarity does not always direct toward the fundamental solution. We should not seek apparent consensus with ease while maintaining conceptual difference. Should an allocation criteria be produced in such a manner, the Commission would face a tremendous difficulty in applying it at each Panel. Japan is of the view that criteria should not be made hastily. Due discussion is essential to work out practical and workable criteria. Japan commits itself to making its best effort to do so.

There is one factor which everybody shall never ignore. It is the fact that there already exist fishing capacities. It is our grave concern that some members made statements at the last meeting as if they denied the existence of current fishing capacity. Japan does not come here to create a completely new scheme from scratch disregarding existing fishing capacity of the current fishing states. On the contrary, existing fishing capacity and historical catch must form the very base of quota allocation from the outset, and on top of them, we start discussion on how to accommodate allocation for existing members which have not actively fished for tunas and new members. Japan reiterates its position that historical catch must have the highest priority. Without this, ICCAT would stray into muddy and unguided sea whatever criteria be produced.

In addition to the paramount importance of historical catch as a factor of criteria, there are several indispensable factors to achieve resource conservation, sustainable use of the stocks and the objectives of the Convention. These are:

- The status of the stock,
- The extent of implementing and enforcing conservation and management measures through effective control mechanisms,
- Data provision and conduct of scientific research which ICCAT requires, and

- Genuine ability of controlling and managing large-scale tuna fishing boats

These factors should be treated as essential component and should not be mixed with other factors which seem to be also important according to the individual concern. If we make a shopping-list type of criteria without any weighting, and let Panels make dog-fight, the Commission's ability of managing tuna stocks would be gravely undermined. Japan is of the view that priority should be put on the above mentioned five factors including historical catch in order to achieve sustainable use of the tuna stocks.

Finally, Japan sincerely hopes that practical and workable factors which also maintain economic dislocation of existing fishing fleets at minimum be identified for new allocation criteria by compiling wisdom of all participants. Thank you.

3.5 Opening Statement by Morocco

You have found yourself faced with the surprise of having to preside over this important meeting, a task that you have accepted, and for which we would like to congratulate you and thank you, while at the same time we would like to wish success in this task.

Allow me also to express on behalf of the Moroccan Delegation my appreciation to the Spanish Authorities and to the Secretariat of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas for their efforts in organizing this important meeting.

At this time, I would like to point out that Morocco, as other ICCAT member countries, recognizes that quotas are a cause of concern, since the only criteria that is currently taken into account does not allow any response to the needs of our country, where tuna fishing in particular constitutes an ancient and vital activity.

Consequently, we are very interest in the work of this important meeting, whose discussions will be determinant, for the future of this fishery as well as for ICCAT's activities.

Morocco is perfectly aware that the task given to this Working Group is not easy, taking into account several factors:

- The desire to conserve the resources and manage them in a rational manner;
- Divergent economic interests;
- The socio-economic conditions of the States concerned;
- The legitimate right of developing countries to assure their fisheries progress;
- The legitimate right of developing countries to maintain the level of their fisheries;
- The desire of new members and cooperators to benefit from catch quotas.

As concerns the results of the work of this Group, Morocco is optimistic that it will be able to establish a set of criteria that, in a spirit of collaboration, will permit a fair equilibrium among these different considerations, the wishes of all the parties, and their determination to decide by consensus on the new methods to assign these quotas.

In addition, Morocco is confident that the position of the coastal States as governed by international law will be respected within the framework of ICCAT and that criteria adopted will result in establishing fishing methods based on conservation of the resources and their lasting development.

It should be pointed out that Morocco is concerned about the protection of marine resources against abusive exploitation and acts in the sense of ensuring lasting development in benefit of stocks on which it depends.

If at the international level there is serious concern about the management of marine resources, this is due to the willingness to end the historic slip up which has led to the depletion in the stocks and which continues to threaten the durable exploitation of these high seas resources.

It is in this context that Morocco expressed it official position during the last meeting which took also place in Madrid and Morocco is willing to contribute towards establishing a consensus on a fair and equitable quota allocation scheme. Thank you.

3.6 Opening Statement by Namibia

Namibia is very dependent on its fishing sector. Since Namibia's independence ten years ago, the fishing industry has developed in such a way that it is the second most important sector of the economy and will likely soon become the most important. This was achieved, firstly, by a commitment to rebuilding the resources off Namibia's coast that were ruined by destructive fishing by foreign fleets, and secondly, by a constant struggle to ensure that Namibians get the full measure of benefits from the resources of their EEZ.

Namibia has never accepted the current allocation procedure of ICCAT. The only reason that Namibia became a member of ICCAT was because of UNIA and the inevitable changes in allocation criteria that must follow.

It is clear, from Namibia's perspective that, in the Southern Atlantic, redistribution of quotas is inevitable. Developed countries from outside the region will have to give up quotas to the benefits of coastal developing States from within the region.

Namibia is not demanding that this change occurs overnight. We realize that this change in quota holdings will have difficulties for the developed nations, and some time must be given for the adjustment. However, Namibia believes that the gains to poor developing coastal States will be much greater than the losses for the developed States.

Namibia sees this Working Group meeting as crucial in determining the future success of ICCAT. If fair allocation criteria cannot be agreed upon, there is a danger that the effectiveness of ICCAT's conservation measures will begin to dissipate.

I am optimistic that this Working Group will succeed in its endeavor to arrive at an acceptable and fair allocation of tuna and tuna-like resources. Thank you.

3.7 Opening Statement by South Africa

South Africa believes that ICCAT is currently facing a crucial challenge with regard to cooperative management of international tuna resources: That of attempting to accommodate both existing and developing aspirations of a diverse variety of tuna fishing nations in the face of maximally exploited, or dwindling, tuna resources. Unlike past challenges which have emanated from outside of ICCAT, the current challenge results largely from within. In the interests of maintaining and strengthening ICCAT's status as a respected international fisheries management organization, it is therefore important that this challenge be addressed effectively within ICCAT.

ICCAT is not unique in facing this issue. Indeed, debates over resource sharing arrangements have risen to prominence in most international fisheries management organizations over the past few years. However, ICCAT is largely unique in having established a formal procedure to deal with this issue, in the form of this Working Group. At the last meeting of this Group, substantial progress was made with the development of quota allocation criteria proposals and, following hard negotiation and substantial compromise, three such proposals were developed. Over the past year South Africa has reviewed these proposals, as many other ICCAT members have surely done, and we note that, with the exception of a few contentious clauses and criteria, there is substantial similarity between them. In fact, many of the differences result only from differences in wording, and not from differences in intent.

South Africa therefore hopes that these three proposals serve as the starting point from which to progress at this meeting. As a first step, we believe that the Group should focus on the similarities between these proposals, with a view to resolving minor differences in wording and obtaining agreement on those criteria common to the three proposals. South Africa looks forward to working with the other Group members to develop a proposal in this regard. Thereafter we can progress to focusing on the more contentious clauses.

In conclusion we would note that the sharing arrangements for a number of resources under the jurisdiction of ICCAT have not been finalized, and that those for others are due for review in the near future. It is essential that this Group makes effective progress towards developing the basis for revised quota allocation schemes at this meeting in order to provide the Panels with the mandate and the mechanisms they require to negotiate acceptable, and therefore effective, sharing arrangements.

3.8 Opening Statement by the United Kingdom (Overseas Territories)

The United Kingdom in respect of its overseas territories is grateful to the Government of Spain for hosting this second meeting of this working group.

We look forward to progress at this meeting. The issue before us is a difficult one. It is one on which the annual meeting needs our guidance as soon as possible.

The United Kingdom in respect of its overseas territory have a small, but very real interest in ICCAT fisheries. In the same way, we are a small voice in the allocation debate, but with a real interest in resolution of this debate. In some ICCAT fisheries our interest is well established historically. We recognize the importance of historical catches and the contribution to the work of ICCAT made by members with a long record of fishing. We recognize that the historical catch record will form a key element in new allocation criteria.

At the same time, we would like to develop our small interest, and recognize the rights of other ICCAT members, including developing coastal States and all small states to do the same.

We look forward to an outcome which will balance these different interests in a manner acceptable to both new and old ICCAT members, and which does credit to ICCAT by demonstrating our collective ability to respond to the challenge of creating allocation criteria which will enable the long term sustainable catches of ICCAT species.

3.9 Opening Statement by the United States

We are delighted to be here with all of you once again, and on behalf of the U.S. Delegation, I would like to thank the Spanish Government for inviting ICCAT's Working Group on Allocation Criteria to have this very important meeting here in Madrid. It is always a pleasure to come to this lovely city. I would also like to thank the ICCAT Secretariat for their excellent work in preparing for this meeting. Let me also commend the Chair of this working group for accepting the position on such short notice.

The United States takes its responsibility to ICCAT, to this Allocation Criteria Working Group, and to U.S. fishermen very seriously. In that regard, we were pleased to fulfill the Chair's request at the first meeting of ICCAT's Working Group on Allocation Criteria to produce a proposal that reflected the various views expressed early in that meeting. Overall, we were pleased with the progress made by the working group last year. The three proposals developed at that meeting are in many ways quite similar, but they have significant differences as well. It is time to roll up our sleeves and begin to work out those differences. This will not be an easy task, but, as I have said before, it is critical for the future of the organization that we do so.

The United States wants this Working Group to develop allocation criteria that adequately balance the needs and interests of all ICCAT parties. ICCAT's integrity is at stake in this process, and I am confident that we can find the appropriate balance. Flexibility on the issues by all parties at this meeting will be the key to our success.

Our goal for this meeting is to make good progress in the development of a set of allocation criteria. Last year, we had very frank and open discussions, and these were essential for moving the working group forward. It is the hope of my delegation that we can continue working together in this vein to facilitate moving from the three proposals currently under consideration to a single proposal at this meeting. I wish everyone a productive meeting. Thank you.

OBSERVERS

3.10 Opening Statement by the Observer from Cyprus

Cyprus attends this meeting as an observer and I want to thank you for giving us this opportunity. This is our first participation in this important Working Group, especially in respect to quotas on bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean. We shall carefully follow the discussions.

Small countries like Cyprus are very much interested in allocation criteria and we shall consider the results of this meeting very carefully, since, as I have said earlier, Cyprus has already submitted a proposal to the Council of Ministers to become a member of ICCAT.

3.11 Statement by the Observer from Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands)

First of all I would like to thank the ICCAT Commission for the invitation to Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands) to participate in this Working group meeting on allocation criteria as an observer. As the Atlantic Blue fin tuna is distributed within the Faroese Fishery Zone the Faroe Islands regards itself as a Coastal State to this stock. In this context we would like to refer to the commercial fishery by vessels from the Faroe Islands and Japan for blue fin tuna within the zone of national jurisdiction of the Faroe Islands.

However, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands) may consider a membership of ICCAT in accordance with the provisions laid down in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and related to the UN-agreement to the Conservation and the Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks. When considering a membership this also consequently commits the Faroe Islands to comply with all ICCAT regulations and with the right and responsibility for a Coastal State.

During the last meeting of the ICCAT Working Group on Allocation Criteria the Faroe Islands supported the proposal for elements of allocation criteria submitted by Brazil, supported by Morocco, Libya, Panama, South Africa, Venezuela and Uruguay. This proposal was also supported by Belize, Columbia, Guatemala, Mexico, Namibia, Turkey, the Faroe Islands, Iceland and Norway, (Appendix 6 to Annex 6 of the report of the 1st Meeting of the ICCAT Working Group on Allocation Criteria).

In this regard we especially would like to refer to Article 1 e, f, j and Article 2 of this working paper, which reflect the interests of the Coastal States.

On behalf of the Faroe Islands, Denmark is a Contracting Party of NAFO and NEAFC. In accordance with regulations laid down by these organizations the Faroe Islands as an active partner have prohibited and refused admittance for vessels from non-contracting parties of these organizations to tranship their catches taken in these areas in Faroese ports. In accordance with pertinent resolutions of ICCAT the Faroe Islands have taken similar actions towards vessels, which are non-Contracting Parties of ICCAT.

Our delegation would like to inform the Contracting Parties of ICCAT that also NAFO is discussing the issues of allocation criteria for fish stocks under its purview. The general issues discussed within the NAFO Allocation Working Group are the qualifying criteria, the allocation criteria, the interests of the new comers and the re-opening of closed fisheries. The outcome of this process should be of pertinent interest for this Working Group.

In our opinion this Working Group of ICCAT should take these issues for further consideration.

As the present allocations of quotas within ICCAT , in our opinion, do not take into account the interests of the Coastal States, the Faroe Islands as a Coastal State to the blue fin tuna consider the discussions of this Working Group as a timely process.

Our delegation would like to see the interests of the Coastal States duly reflected in the outcome of this working group.

3.12 Opening Statement by the Observer from Iceland

I would like to join the previous speakers in expressing gratitude to the government of Spain for hosting this important meeting and to you for chairing the meeting at a very short notice which indeed is no easy task.

Iceland is pleased to take part in the work of this ICCAT Working Group on Allocation Criteria. Iceland has participated in the work of ICCAT since 1995 as an observer and will continue to do so until the situation in ICCAT changes to such an extent that it will be possible for us to become full members.

Tuna is important to Iceland, as are all other species which occur within the Icelandic Exclusive Economic Zone. In this context I would like to emphasize very strongly that the Icelandic economy is overwhelmingly

dependent upon the exploitation of living marine resources. Therefore it is of great importance to us to conduct all our fisheries in a sustainable manner and that is exactly what we do.

If Iceland was bound by the current ICCAT allocation it could not catch any of the tuna which occur in Icelandic waters. As Iceland has stated on numerous occasions before in earlier ICCAT meetings we cannot accept the present allocation system since it does not take into account our sovereign rights as a coastal state.

Iceland certainly hopes that the work of the Working Group will be efficient and fruitful and will result in the re-allocation of fishing rights within ICCAT. In this re-allocation the rights and duties as well as the interests of coastal states must be fully recognized in accordance with international law. Thank you.

3.13 Opening Statement by the Observer from Chinese Taipei

On behalf of my delegation, I greatly appreciate the opportunity to participate in the meeting of Working Group on Allocation Criteria. It is our hope that we can analyze and consider recommending criteria for quota allocation so that we can build up a well-organized conservation and management system for the sustainable development of fishery resources in the ICCAT Convention Area.

This delegation takes note of the importance to set up allocation criteria for sustainable development of fishery resources in this region. However, we assume that it would be better to leave the detailed regulation on quota allocation to the respective panels. For the same reason, it would be reasonable to consider the allocation criteria on a species-by-species basis. In other words, variance in biological characters, modes of fishery patterns, and grounds of fishery operations in relation to respective species are all the influence factors to quota allocation. Therefore, the application of universal criteria would not be practical.

In order not to prejudice the existing conservation and management mechanism, we also believe that all quota allocation should take stocks status into consideration.

Furthermore, we insist that historical catch record is the most substantial factor in quota allocation, not only because it is the easiest factor to be quantified, as compared with other factors, but also because it has been applied by many international organizations. We have to reiterate that historical catch record is the results and accumulation of hard work and investment of the industry. It is not appropriate to ignore the contribution of historical catch records that builds up knowledge on the stocks analysis and assessment.

We do wish that, in this meeting, the contribution to ICCAT from each participant should be taken into account. Particularly, the rights of those which cooperate with ICCAT but not be able to accede to the Convention should have the same basis of quota allocation as contracting parties. Therefore, equal status on discussion and determination of quota allocation is the precondition to reach the end of fishery resources conservation and management.

I thank you for the privilege of being here and of sharing experiences in fishery management with all the delegations here. Last but not least, I am speaking on behalf of my delegation in thanking the hospitality of Spanish Government and the hard work had done by the Secretariat. Thank you.

3.14 Statement by the Observer from ITSAS GEROA Association (Future of the Sea)

We would like to thank the Commission for giving us the opportunity to attend as an observer to this important meeting.

We declare ITSAS GEROA's confidence and trust in ICCAT as the main body to guarantee tuna conservation in the Atlantic.

We do underline the importance of the conservation of tuna resources in the North Atlantic, particularly with regard to albacore and bluefin tuna for the entire fishing community we are representing in ICCAT.

We also express our grave concern about the status of over-exploitation of both resources.

We would like to emphasize that the uncontrolled development of large capacity fishing gears with poor or doubtful selectivity, such as driftnets and pelagic trawlers, have contributed in an important manner to this situation of over-exploitation.

In addition, these fishing methods are substantially disrupting the sustainable fishing activities of traditional fleets, causing a negative impact on them.

ITSAS GEROA, in the context of the Working Group on Allocation Criteria, wishes to point out that fishing activities with responsible and selective gears should be considered as a key element in the establishment of allocation criteria. This task must close the door to irresponsible fishing activities, and therefore, we consider this issue to a *sine qua non* requirement to establish allocations.

Comparison of Three Proposals for ICCAT Allocation Criteria

	EUROPEAN UNION PROPOSAL	UNITED STATES PROPOSAL	BRAZILIAN PROPOSAL
WHO IS COVERED?	Those with Real Interest -w/ capacity to implement cons. Measures -no quota trading or chartering	Contracting Parties -new members must show compliance with measures	No distinction - but calls for 'cooperation quota' for new members -no quota trading
WHAT STOCK TYPES?	Only future non-allocated stocks For existing TACs, existing keys w/ cooperation quotas. -each stock on a case by case basis	Only stocks that are rebuilding (i.e., quotas increasing) -case by case basis	Not specified -case by case basis
WHICH CRITERIA ARE SIMILAR IN THE PROPOSALS?			
	g) historical catches	b) historical catches	i) historical catches
		f) importance of ensuring equitable opportunities for all members	m) importance of ensuring equitable opportunities for all Contracting Parties or cooperating Non contacting Parties/Entities/ Fishing entities
	i) interests of artisanal and subsistence fisheries	h) extent to which fisheries are fished by subsistence, artisanal, or small-scale	k) interests of subsistence, artisanal or small scale fisheries
UNFA: d) needs of coastal fishing communities which are dependent mainly on fishing for the stocks	d) needs of coastal fishing communities which are dependent mainly on fishing the stocks m) fishing traditions		e) needs and fishing traditions of coastal communities dependent mainly on fishing the stocks
UNFA: e) needs of coastal States whose economies are overwhelmingly dependent on the exploitation of living marine resources	e) needs of coastal states whose economies are overwhelmingly dependent on the exploitation of living marine resources	g) respective dependence of coastal states and States fishing on the high seas on the stocks concerned	f) needs of coastal states whose economies are overwhelmingly dependent on the exploitation of living marine resources
UNFA: f) interests of developing States from the subregion or region in whose areas of national jurisdiction the stocks also occur	f) interests of developing states from the sub-region or region in whose areas of national jurisdiction the stocks also occur		g) interests of developing states from the sub-region or region in whose areas of national jurisdiction the stocks also occur
UNFA: c) respective contributions of new and existing members or participants to conservation and management of the stocks, to the collection of accurate data and to the conduct of scientific research on the stocks	c) 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) 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	c) 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

UNFA: a) status of the straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks and the existing level of fishing effort in the fishery	a) status of the fish stocks and existing level of fishing effort in the fishery	a) status of the resource relative to maximum sustainable catch	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 existing level of fishing effort in the fishery
UNFA: b) respective interests, fishing patterns and fishing practices of new and existing members or participants	b) The respective interests, fishing patterns and fishing practices of new and existing members or participants		b) the respective interest and fishing practices of new and existing Contracting Parties or cooperating non contracting parties/ entities/fishing entities
	k) the need to minimize economic dislocation in states whose fishing vessels have habitually fished in the zone	e) the economic importance of the fishery to the ICCAT member, including the importance of minimizing economic dislocations;	l) the need to minimize economic disruptions in states whose fishing vessels have fished in the high seas of the Convention area;
	j) contribution to the establishment of control mechanisms h) fishing effort limitations	c) the record of compliance with ICCAT's conservation and management recommendations	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
WHICH CRITERIA ARE UNIQUE TO THEIR RESPECTIVE PROPOSAL?	l) dependence from the fishery for direct domestic consumption		h) the potential social and economic contribution of the fisheries to developing coastal states, particularly in small island developing states
		i) extent to which states have contributed to over-exploitation of stocks due to their failure to abide by ICCAT's conservation program	j) extent to which members or cooperating non contracting parties/ entities/fishing entities have contributed to over-exploitation of fish stocks in the convention area
WHAT ADDITIONAL RIDERS DO THE PROPOSAL ATTACH TO THE CRITERIA?	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.	If appropriate to the fishery under consideration, the allocation of catch quotas 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.	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. 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. 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.

REVISIONS AND/OR ADDITIONS TO CRITERIA

Appendix 5-1 to ANNEX 6

Addition to Qualifying Criteria, Submitted by Canada

Contracting Parties which are more than two years in arrears at their contributions shall not be eligible to receive allocations.

Appendix 5-2 to ANNEX 6

A Possible Compromise for Quota Allocation, Proposed by the European Community

1 Stocks for which an allocation already exists

Allocation to ICCAT members having a specific quota allocated, according to existing key.

Co-operation quota for newcomers having a real interest, of a magnitude dependent upon the status of the stock and the current levels of fishing effort.

Such co-operation quota, allocated according to the following criteria:

- The status of the straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks and the existing level of fishing effort in the fishery.
- The respective interests, fishing patterns and fishing practices of new and existing members or participants,
- 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.
- The needs of coastal fishing communities which are dependent mainly on fishing for the stock.
- The needs of coastal States whose economies are overwhelmingly dependent on the exploitation of living marine resources.
- The interests of developing States from the subregion or region in whose areas of national jurisdiction the stocks also occur.

2 *Stocks not previously allocated*

Allocation based primarily on historical catch records. Reference period, recent and representative, and specific for each stock.

As secondary criteria, the following will be used:

- The status of the straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks and the existing level of fishing effort in the fishery.
- The respective interests, fishing patterns and fishing practices of new and existing members or participants.

- 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.

- The needs of coastal fishing communities which are dependent mainly on fishing for the stock.

- The needs of coastal States whose economies are overwhelmingly dependent on the exploitation of living marine resources.

- The interests of developing States from the subregion or region in whose areas of national jurisdiction the stocks also occur.

- The interests of artisanal and small scale fisheries.

- The need to supply domestic markets.

3 Conditions for application

Quotas to be allocated specifically for each stock on the basis of the general criteria, and restricted to qualifying parties:

- ICCAT members and co-operating non-contracting parties, entities and fishing entities.

- Having a real interest in the fishery. This would include the existence of a fishing fleet capable of fishing for tuna or a fully-fledged plan to develop such a fleet, and would exclude quota allocation solely for trading.

Vessel chartering not allowed to exploit allocated quotas, except in the case of bare-boat chartering, or under conditions agreed by ICCAT.

Catches attributed to the Flag State of the vessel that realizes the catches, unless there is an agreement between the parties concerned to the contrary.

Appendix 5-3 to ANNEX 6

Additional Criteria to Criteria, Proposed by Japan

Japan proposes the following additional elements to the criteria:

- The extent of taking measures to prevent or eliminate over-fishing and excess fishing capacity and to ensure that levels of fishing effort do not exceed those commensurate with the sustainable use of fishery resources.

- The extent of implementing and enforcing conservation and management measures through effective control mechanisms.

- Genuine ability of controlling and managing large-scale tuna vessels.

Appendix 5-4 to ANNEX 6

Working Document on Draft Allocation Criteria, Proposed by South Africa

South Africa proposes that the following set of draft allocation criteria, synthesized from the three proposals presented at the first meeting of the ICCAT Working Group on Allocation Criteria, be considered as the starting point from which to develop an approved set of criteria to be considered by ICCAT when developing sharing arrangements for Atlantic Ocean TACs:

1 Allocation of catch quotas within established ICCAT TACs should be considered on a case-by-case basis, when sharing arrangements are devised or revised, according to each fishery under consideration, and should take into account the following factors (not in order of priority):

	Allocation Criteria	A	B	C
a	The status of the stocks concerned and existing fishing effort levels relative to maximum sustainable catch and effort levels.	y	y	y
b	The historic and current interests, fishing patterns and fishing practices of ICCAT contracting and co-operating parties.	y		y
c	The respective contributions of ICCAT contracting and co-operating parties to management and conservation of the stocks, to collection and provision of accurate data and to conduct of scientific research on the stocks concerned.	y	y	y
d	The record of compliance with ICCAT conservation and management recommendations, including adoption of legal measures and establishment of control measures.	(y)	y	y
e	The traditional needs of coastal communities that are dependent on fishing for the stocks concerned.	y		y
f	The needs of coastal states whose economies are dependent on exploitation of the stocks concerned.	y	y	y
g	The potential contribution to developing states of the region in whose areas of national jurisdiction the stocks concerned occur.	y	(y)	y
h	Reported historical catches of ICCAT contracting and co-operating parties.	y	y	y
i	The extent to which contracting or co-operating parties have contributed to over-exploitation of the stocks concerned.		y	y
j	The extent to which subsistence, artisanal or small-scale fisheries are dependent on the stocks concerned.	y	y	y
k	The need to minimize economic disruption in states whose fishing vessels have traditionally fished the high-seas in the ICCAT Convention Area.	y	(y)	y
l	The importance of ensuring equitable fishing opportunities for all members or co-operating parties.		y	y

NOTE:
A Supported in the initial draft proposal by the EU.
B Supported in the draft proposal by the USA.
C Supported in the final draft proposal by Brazil, Morocco, Libya, Panama, South Africa, Venezuela and Uruguay.

2 While all these factors shall be considered when developing ICCAT TAC sharing arrangements, the relative weight accorded to each of the above factors should be determined by the ICCAT Panel responsible for developing management proposals for the species concerned, at the time of development or revision of such sharing arrangements.

Appendix 5-5 to ANNEX 6

Proposed Blended Compliance Criteria: U.S. Revision to EC item (j), U.S. item (c), and Brazil item (d) in Appendix 4 to Annex 6

The record of compliance and cooperation with ICCAT's conservation and management measures, including the establishment of effective control mechanisms, recognizing that compliance problems that have been duly addressed pursuant to ICCAT's measures to ensure compliance shall not be a negative factor.

Appendix 5-6 to ANNEX 6

Possible Modification of U.S. Item (d) in Appendix 4 to Annex 6, Proposed by the United States

The respective contributions of ICCAT members to conservation and management of the stocks, to the collection and provision of accurate data required by ICCAT and, taking into account their respective capacities, to the conduct of scientific research on the stocks.

Appendix 5-7 to ANNEX 6

Chairman's Note

- ***Qualifying criteria***

For inclusion in possible quota allocations within the framework of ICCAT, the Commission should identify the Parties that are eligible, in accordance with the following criteria:

Criterion #1 Be a Contracting Party in good standing or a Cooperating Non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity.

Criterion #2 Be committed to apply the conservation and management measures adopted by ICCAT.

Criterion #3 Be committed to undertake research, taking into account their respective capacity, and data collection for the relevant resources.

Criterion #4 Have a real interest in the fishery. This would include the existence of a fishing fleet capable of fishing for tuna or a fully-fledged plan to develop such a fleet, and would exclude quota allocation solely for trading.

- ***Stocks to which the new criteria would be applied***

One of the factors that has a fundamental effect on the discussion of allocation criteria is that of determining the stocks to this the new criteria would be applied.

For some delegations, the new criteria would be applied to all the species regulated by ICCAT.

For other delegations, the new allocation criteria should only be applied to non-allocated stocks. For the stocks that are already allocated, the current allocation key would be maintained. In addition, a cooperation quota could be created for new participants in the fisheries. This quota would be established according to the status of the stock.

- ***Allocation criteria***

Criterion #1 Historical catches

Some delegations consider that this criterion is the basis for the allocation of quotas which should prevail over all the other criteria.

Other delegations, on the other hand, consider this position unacceptable, while admitting that it is one more criterion that should be adequately weighted in accordance with each case.

Criterion #2 **The importance of insuring equitable opportunities for all the Contracting Parties, Cooperating Non-Contacting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities**

While this is an allocation criterion for some, for others it is a general principle that should be considered in the application of the overall criteria.

Besides, further analysis is needed on whether or not to extend this principle of equity to the Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities.

Criterion #3 **The interests of the artisanal, subsistence fisheries (or small-scale fisheries)**

There are differences of criteria concerning the inclusion of small-scale fishing or on such catches.

Criterion #4 **State of the stocks of fish in (relation to the maximum sustainable catch) and the current level of fishing effort in the fishery (with respect to new Contracting Parties, Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities).**

Criterion #5 **The interests, fishing methods and fishing practices (traditions) of the members or new participants and the (already existing) (Contracting Parties, Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities).**

Criterion #6 **The respective contribution of ICCAT members to conservation and management of the stocks, to the collection and provision of accurate data required by ICCAT and, taking into account their respective capacities, for the conduct of scientific research on the stocks.**

Criterion #7 **The needs of the coastal fishing communities which depend mainly on the fishing of stocks concerned.**

Criterion #8 **The needs of the coastal States whose economies largely depend on the exploitation of the living marine resources regulated by ICCAT.**

Criterion #9 **The interests of the developing States from the region or sub-region in whose areas of national jurisdiction the stocks also occur.**

For some delegations, items 7), 8) and 9) which reflect points d), e) and f) of Article 11 of the New York Agreement define criteria for new members and should not be used to assign quotas to the already existing members. The application of these criteria is biased in favor of the coastal States.

Criterion #10 **The respective dependence of the coastal States and the States that fish species regulated by ICCAT.**

Criterion #11 **The economic importance of the fishery for the ICCAT members and the need to minimize the economic disruptions in those States whose fishing vessels have habitually fished in the Convention area.**

Criterion #12-A **Record of compliance and cooperation with ICCAT's conservation and management measures, including the establishment of effective control mechanisms, recognizing that compliance problems that have already been duly addressed pursuant to ICCAT's measures to ensure compliance should not be a negative factor.**

Criterion #12-B **The capacity of application and enforcement of conservation and management measures through effective control mechanisms.**

The major point of controversy is found in including the concept of compliance as an allocation criterion. Some delegations also expressed that accepting the second proposal, this should be a qualifying criterion and not an allocation criterion.

Criterion #13 **The dependence of the fishery for direct domestic consumption**

Some delegations proposed eliminating this criterion.

Criterion #14 **(Potential) socio-economic contribution of the fisheries to the developing coastal States, especially small developing island States**

Some delegations proposed deleting this, indicating that this criterion could already be included in other criteria. Questions were raised on the term "potential", because of its imprecision.

Criterion #15 **Extent in which the Contracting Parties, Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities have contributed to the over-exploitation of the fish stocks in the Convention Area**

This criteria is unacceptable for some Parties, which consider it would penalize those Parties that have complied with the ICCAT measures.

Criterion #16 **Biological unit and other biological characteristics of the stock and the relationship between the distribution of the stocks, the fisheries, and the geographic peculiarities 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**

Some delegations proposed deleting this as it is inapplicable and for the negative effects that its inclusion could have on ICCAT's scientific work.

Criterion #17 **Capacity of preventing or eliminating over/fishing and excess fishing capacity and insuring that fishing effort levels do not exceed those compatible with the sustainable use of the fishery resources**

[Criterion #18 **Capacity to control and manage the large-scale tuna fishing vessels.]**

- ***Conditions for applying allocation criteria***

The allocation of quotas should be:

- Carried out by the corresponding Panels, and based on the criteria established by the Commission.
- Flexible.
- Case by case.

At this phase of the discussion, it was not considered adequate to enter into a debate on other elements that might affect the conditions of application of the criteria, such as weighting, reference periods of the criteria and the duration of the allocation keys.

It was proposed that chartering not be authorized except in cases of bare-boat or under conditions agreed by ICCAT.

The mechanism of catch allocation could include the establishment of cooperation quotas for new Contracting Parties, Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities, and should exclude practices leading to non-utilization of quotas by the Contracting Parties to which the quota has been assigned, such as, quota trading.

[The negative effect of illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing was pointed out, particularly fishing by flag of convenience vessels, and the need to effectively curb these practices, in order to improve the state of the stocks and thus facilitate the allocation of the additional quota.]

COMMENTS TO CHAIRMAN'S NOTE

Appendix 5-7A to ANNEX 6

Proposed Changes by Canada to the Chairman's Note

- ***Qualifying Criteria***

Criterion #1. Propose placing italics around the phrase "in good standing" and provide an explanation of what is understood by this term.

Criterion #2. Suggest that the term "be committee" be replaced with a more operational term such as "demonstrated by the application of" which is evidenced by actions.

Criterion #3. Same as 2 above.

Criterion #4. Suggest the following for sentence 2: "This would include the existence of a domestic fleet capable of fishing for tuna or a fully-fledged plan submitted to ICCAT to develop such a fleet and would exclude quota allocations for trading."

- ***Stocks to which the new criteria would be applied***

Criterion #1. First paragraph, Line 2: add "which" after "to" and delete "this".

Criterion #2. Third paragraph, line 2: suggest inserting after "In addition," and before "a cooperation quota ..." the following: "depending on the state of the stocks or if the stocks are subject to a rebuilding program,". Delete the last sentence as it is no longer necessary.

- ***Allocation Criteria***

Criterion #2. Line 1: replace "insuring" with "ensuring".

Criterion #3. Line 2: replace "criteria" with "view".

Criterion #4. Suggest that UNIA agreed language be used whenever possible, rather than new formulations. Suggest that this sentence follow UNIA Article 11(a) as follows: "the status of the highly migratory fish stocks and the existing level of fishing effort in the fishery;"

Criterion #5. Suggest that this sentence follow UNIA Article 11(b) as follows: "the respective interests, fishing patterns and fishing practices of new and existing members or participants,"

Criterion #6. Suggest that this sentence follow UNIA 11(c) as follows: "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;",

Criterion #7. Suggest that this sentence follow UNIA Article 11(d) as follows: "the needs of coastal fishing communities which are dependent mainly on fishing for the stocks;"

Criterion #8. Suggest that this sentence follow UNIA Article 11(e) as follows: "the needs of coastal States whose economies are overwhelmingly on the exploitation of living marine resources;"

Criterion #13. The dependence of the fishery for domestic consumption: Propose that you reflect rationale provided by some delegations for the elimination of this criterion by adding the following addition to the sentence: "noting that this criterion is not a fair one since by its nature it discriminates against new comers."

Criterion #16. Line 1: Replace "biological unit" with "biological unity".

- ***Conditions for applying allocation criteria***

First paragraph, suggest replacing "case by case" with "stock by stock".

Second paragraph, first line, suggest replacing "adequate" with "appropriate" - editing purpose only.

Appendix 5-7B to ANNEX 6

Comments by Japan to the Chairman's Note

With respect to the last paragraph of the Chairman's note, Japan proposes to delete the brackets [ ], since there was no decision at the meeting that this paragraph be put into brackets.

Appendix 5-7C to ANNEX 6

Comments by the United States to the Chairman's Note

- ***Qualifying Criteria***

Criterion #1. The United States has maintained that there should be a clear distinction between how ICCAT members and non-members are treated relative to catch allocations. In our view, catch allocations should not be made to non-ICCAT members as a general matter, although cooperating parties, entities or fishing entities may fish pursuant to catch limits established by ICCAT. As a minimum, reference to those with cooperating status should be bracketed in this item. In addition or as an alternative, explanatory language could be added after the item explaining the reason for the brackets.

Regarding the reference to Contracting Parties in good standing, such a qualifying criterion was not agreed by all parties and should probably be bracketed as well.

Criterion #2. In the U.S. view, ICCAT members should have both the commitment to apply the conservation and management measures adopted by ICCAT and the demonstrated ability to ensure compliance with those measures. The establishment of monitoring and enforcement mechanisms are important components of this item.

Criterion #4. From our perspective, the relevant point of this item is that parties seeking a quota have a fishing fleet capable of fishing for ICCAT species or a fully-fledged plan to develop such a fleet. The concept of real interest is difficult to define and prove and is perhaps more related to membership questions. We would prefer than language relative to this concept be bracketed.

Practices leading to non-utilization of quotas by the members to which the quota has been assigned (such as quota trading/selling and some types of chartering) should be prohibited, but since these issues are included in Section 4 of the Chair's paper, it may not be necessary to raise these issues here in Section 1. If they are to be included in Section, 1, perhaps they should be deleted from Section 4. In addition, if conditions of access are to be kept together, the IUU issue should probably be included in the Section containing chartering and quota trading/selling.

- ***Stocks to which the new criteria would be applied***

In the U.S. view, allocation criteria should apply to all ICCAT stocks; ;however, for species already subject to an allocated TAC, particularly those under long-term rebuilding program, existing sharing arrangements should be given special consideration.

With regard to the concept of a cooperation quota, it is our view that, as a general matter, new *members* should not expect to receive an allocation of al stock that is over-exploited, although a small allocation could be considered provided that catch quotas are increasing. Any such allocation should be consistent with scientific advice and within the overall total allowable catch. As noted under qualifying criteria above, members (including new members) must also be able to demonstrate an ability to ensure compliance with ICCAT recommendations (including monitoring and enforcement) before any allocation can be considered. We are concerned that the use of the term "new participants" is too broad as it could include non-members and this group should be treated separately from members.

- ***Allocation criteria***

Criterion #2. Regarding equity, it was discussed that the essence of this criterion could be included as a preambular or introductory statement. The United States could support this approach.

Criterion #4. Preferable language would be "Status of the fish stock..."

Criterion #5. As discussed at the meeting, "fishing methods" should be "fishing patterns". The term new participants should be bracketed as it is very broad and we think non-members should be treated separately from members. Also, it is not clear to us whether the notion of "fishing traditions" is best included in this term or somewhere else as was done in the original EC and group of eight proposals. It might be useful to add some explanatory language regarding the bracketed text.

Criterion #8. This criterion should be written to track more closely with the language from Article 11 of the UN Agreement, which states: "The needs of coastal states whose economies are overwhelmingly dependent on the exploitation of living marine resources." In addition, the clause "regulated by ICCAT" should be bracketed as the point is still under discussion.

Criterion #15. The phrase "...Cooperating parties...Entities ..." should be bracketed as it is not yet clear how non-members will be dealt with in the allocation criteria development process.

- ***Conditions for applying allocation criteria***

In the U.S. view, catches by non-members should be taken into account in stock assessments and in establishing catch levels for ICCAT members. This concept appears to be missing form the Chair's paper.

The issue of a cooperation quota and non-utilization of quotas (such as quota trading) are raised again in Section 4. U.S. comments concerning the cooperation quota are reflected in Section 2 above. U.S. comments on the issue of non-utilization of quotas are reflected in Section 1 (Item 4) above. U.S. comments relative to IUU fishing are also contained in Section 1.

Finally, issues such as which body will apply the criteria, how the criteria will be applied (e.g. case by case), how long allocation arrangements will last, etc., could be grouped under a separate heading that addresses the process and guidelines for determining the application of agreed criteria.

Appendix 6 to ANNEX 6

Closing Statements to Allocation Criteria Meeting - 2000

ICCAT CONTRACTING PARTIES

6.1 Closing Statement by Brazil

This year, the Brazilian Delegation came to Madrid inspired by the constructive results of last year's meeting of our Working Group. We therefore expected to find among Delegations a level of flexibility that would allow our negotiations to progress towards consensus. Unfortunately, these expectations were not met, which makes us worry about the future of our work.

The very reason that motivated the creation of this Working Group was the perception that the present criteria applied to allocate catch quotas were not equitable and, above all, not compatible with the pertinent instruments of international law.

The resolution that created the Working Group, by the way approved unanimously by ICCAT members, states that the applicable rules of international law and the principles of the relevant international agreements and instruments referring to conservation and management measures should be taken into account. It also emphasized the need to strengthen ICCAT as a fisheries management body.

The position expressed by some delegations that they will not accept the application of new criteria to quota-allocated stocks, as well as their intention to apply primarily the historical catch criterion to non-allocated ones, can only be understood by the Brazilian Delegation as a denial of the very purpose of this Group. In our view, this posture does not take into account the applicable rules of international law and surely does not contribute to the strengthening of this Commission. We can't help the feeling that we are moving back to the starting point.

In the view of the Brazilian Delegation, ICCAT practices should be revised to ensure that the two basic elements of UNCLOS special regime for highly migratory stocks, that is to say the sovereign rights of coastal states in the EEZ and international cooperation, be recognized and harmonized in a complementary way. Moreover, we should always keep in mind that according to Article 2 of the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas nothing shall be considered as affecting the rights, claims or views of any Contracting Party under international law.

The inflexible position of some delegations that insist to keep the status quo for the already allocated stocks permanently is tantamount to deprive permanently the developing coastal states of their right to also participate in this fishery.

This scenario makes us ask questions, such as: "Can anyone around this table truly believe that this is a fair and equitable standpoint?"; "Can such a perspective, by any means, be considered compatible with international law?". For Brazil, I am afraid, the answer is no.

ICCAT certainly is in a very delicate position right now. As we pointed out in our opening statement, its future is at stake. A choice has to be made. ICCAT may choose to turn its back to the legitimate aspirations and rights of coastal states and simply refuse to change its traditional practices. Or it may, in turn, choose to move forward. into the future, by forging a new relationship among its member, based on cooperation, trust, equity and good will. Brazil can only hope we will choose wisely. Thank you.

6.2 Closing Statement by Canada

I would like to thank you, the Secretariat staff, and all Representative and meeting participants for their cooperating during our challenging discussions this week.

As I noted in my opening statement, conservation and sustainable management of the tuna resources is ICCAT's paramount objective. We must keep this objective foremost in mind as we move forward. We must not accommodate difficult allocation issues by increasing TAC levels beyond the scientific advice.

It is evident that there are many difficult and challenging issues that remain to be resolved. This meeting has clearly demonstrated the areas of divergence among Contracting Parties and other participants. I do not believe that it would be necessary to agree with each element within the Chairman's Working Paper to support it. The draft Chairman's Working Paper represents a fair reflection of our discussions and provides some progress, thought not as much as had been hoped.

We have had difficult discussions this week and while our progress has not met all expectations, we have advanced understanding at this meeting, and have elaborated the various criteria which need to be considered in the allocation process.

While Canada is not pleased with the outcome of the meeting, at the same time we are not disappointed given the difficult issue under review. Despite the apparent gap in positions, we have managed to move the agenda forward.

We would concur that the establishment of a drafting working group is premature at this stage. We have a number of comments and suggestions for clarification on the paper with respect to the qualifying criteria, the stocks to which new criteria would be applied ans well other areas. Canada intends to submit specific comments to the Secretariat.

Canada would wish that the Chairman's Paper be annexed to the meeting report and used as a basis for further discussions. We believe that once it is finalized, it will represent a reasonable basis for moving forward.

We need to be open to discussing practical solutions with a view to developing consensus on allocation issues while at the same time ensuring the continued conservation and sustainable management of ICCAT stocks. Thank you.

6.3 *Closing Statement by the European Community*

The Community congratulates the constructive efforts of all the ICCAT Members to achieve progress on such a complex subject. The discussions allowed us to identify some points of convergence and divergence, which constitutes a substantial contribution to our future work.

These elements are reflected in the Chairman's Note, which we welcome with satisfaction, since it compiles the different positions that have been expressed. In spite of the important differences still remaining, this paper constitutes an extremely useful contribution from a methodological point of view and a precise reference for the future work of this Group.

The Community supports the continuance of the work of this Working Group and considers that future meetings should be organized at the most appropriate time. Because of the importance and the difficulty of this subject, it is important that sufficient time be available to prepare equitable, balanced and acceptable solutions for all the Parties, while maintaining the efficiency and credibility of ICCAT.

6.4 Closing Statement by Gabon

Gabon tends to disagree with the proposal by Canada aimed at denying allocations to the Contracting Parties that have not fulfilled their obligations relative to their contributions. This matter should be discussed at the next Commission meeting.

Gabon believes that ICCAT should promote and encourage the entry of non-contracting countries in order to give an equitable opportunity to all the member countries; in the same way, ICCAT could obtain information on scientific research from these countries.

Developing countries cannot carry out paragraph (j) due to the lack of means; ICCAT could act at the level of quotas after having verified a disequilibrium of the stock.

Gabon does not intend to block progress in the work aimed at putting into effect logical allocation of catch quotas. As an integral part of the 16 developing countries, Gabon hopes that all the criteria maintained produce the expected effects for all the member countries.

6.5 Closing Statement by Japan

On behalf of the Japanese delegation, I wish to congratulate the Chairman for his excellent guidance and efforts in producing an integrated document. We also extend our sincere thanks to the Secretariat and the interpreters for their excellent service. The deliberations during the last two sessions proved the eagerness of all the delegations to accomplish this important but difficult task with frank, open and constructive discussion. At the same time, all the participants here understand what is laid behind similar looking proposals.

Japan can not accept any argument which denies the importance of historical catch and the contribution throughout the decades by the existing member states. We also can not accept any assertion of denying access to the stocks by the states from outside of the Convention Area. Such assertion is totally inconsistent with international laws.

Taking this opportunity, Japan reiterates its basic position on this very important issue while maintaining four positions expressed in our closing statement of the last meeting. Some of them also relate to the Chairman's paper.

1 The historical catch must have the highest priority among the allocation criteria. An attempt to make radical changes to the existing allocation scheme would not create any fruitful results. In addition to the historical catch, some criteria, such as status of stocks, data collection and conduct of scientific research, which are directly related to conservation and sustainable use of the resources, also have higher priority. The creation of just a numerous shopping list would not be workable. Even though criteria would be applied at each Panel on a case by case basis, a consensus on granting highest priority to the historical catch is indispensable to guide the Panels.

2 Criteria should be well-balanced, practical and technically feasible. Japan can not accept any criterion which describes the interest of only one side. In this connection, UNIA Article 11 deals with participatory rights to new members only and is not acceptable to Japan to use this as criteria for existing members. For existing members, UNIA Article 7. 2. (e) needs to be adopted as a balanced criterion.

3 Preferential rights of coastal states for highly migratory species is not stipulated in any international agreements. Having jurisdiction in the EEZ is not a base for receiving allocation preference of highly migratory species. Highly migratory fish do not belong to any one zone. Those areas to which they migrate represent a transitional route only. Japan can not accept the concept of zonal approach for the management of tuna stocks.

4 We are dealing with stocks that are fully-utilized or even over-exploited. In reality, we can not afford in this situation to grant generously a substantial pie to new comers without sacrificing the rewards which have rightfully been granted to the existing members for the sake of their past sacrifice and contribution to the conservation of the stocks. At the same time, we should not forget the fact that flag-of-convenience (FOC) vessels continue to fish for the same stocks outside the management framework of ICCAT. As the Chairman pointed out, we could increase TAC by combating and eliminating them. We should not provide a place of peaceful living for FOC vessels. From this sense, the inclusion of Point 18 of the Chairman's paper "Capacity to control and manage the large-scale tuna fishing vessels" is indispensable as a qualifying criterion, i.e. criterion on qualified countries, as we stated during the deliberation of qualifying criteria.

In this connection, it is our grave concern that some members are substantially expanding their fishing effort in a very short period of time by chartering or accepting registry of even FOC vessels regardless of the Commission's recommendation on the limitation on fishing effort for the sake of stock conservation. Whatever criteria may be produced, such activities should not be rewarded by granting quota allocation. As we introduced at an earlier session, according to last year's resolution regarding "Calling for Further Actions Against Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported Fishing Activities by Large-Scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area and Other Areas," Chinese-Taipei and Japan are in the process of eliminating FOC vessels by either scrapping or repatriation. Japan urges both members and non-members not to provide FOC vessels with leeway. Japan can not accept any excuses which are actually against the efforts being made by Chinese-Taipei and Japan and result in the survival of FOC vessels.

We are informed by the Executive Secretary at this meeting that the Commission has a problem of non-payment of contribution by some members. Japan noted this situation with grave concern. Rights and obligations always go hand in hand and assertion of only rights should not be allowed.

Japan fully understands the desire and position of developing coastal states. On the other hand, the fact that our fishermen also depend on tunas in the Convention Area and have invested with long term business plan should be fully understood. Without mutual understanding and giving due consideration to the existing fishing effort, a realistic solution of making practical criteria will never be achieved.

We will provide detailed written comments on the Chairman's paper later. Thank you.

6.6 Closing Statement by Morocco

The Delegation of the Kingdom of Morocco congratulates the Chairman for leading us in our work and appreciates the efforts of all the delegations that participated in this meeting, as well as the ICCAT Secretariat and the interpreters who have assisted in the work of our group.

The Moroccan Delegation is pleased with the willingness of many participants at this exemplary meeting to reach a fair, equitable and balanced compromise concerning the establishment of allocation criteria of catch quotas.

However, it was not easy to reach a consensus on most of the criteria listed under the three proposals that served as a basis for our discussions.

Furthermore, Morocco notes that the progress achieved has not permitted us to advance with the desired clarity to establish a set of criteria that take into consideration the interests of the different parties concerned.

The delay in putting in place a fair and equitable scheme prejudices the Contracting Parties that aspire to proper quotas before assuring a congruent development of their respective fisheries within the framework of rational and durable exploitation.

Morocco, a developing country that has a freeze in effect on investment in the fishing sector since 1992 that is aimed at rebuilding the high seas resources, regrets this reported delay.

Morocco appeals to the parties to consider the possibility of setting a date in which to reach a consensus, taking into account the interests of all parties.

Morocco had hoped and still hopes to reach results within a reasonable time so that ICCAT can establish an allocation scheme of quotas that reflects the reality of each party. But, it was without taking into account possible opposition to this action.

Also, and since a compromise is far from being attained, the provisional suspension of the current quota allocation scheme that is based only on historical catches, might be considered , while efforts are being made to establish a new scheme that is fairer and more equitable.

Even though we are opposed to a discussion of the Chairman´s Note, we maintain the hope that one day we will achieve results and I promise you that Morocco will continue to work in this sense.

6.7 Closing Statement by Namibia

Namibia came to this meeting hopeful that considerable progress would be made during this meeting, perhaps even sufficient progress for the Working Group to be able to submit a final report to the Regular Meeting of the Commission later this year. Unfortunately less progress was made than Namibia hoped for and we are looking somewhat disappointed at the prospect of the Working Group having to meet for a third time.

As has been stated a few times during this meeting as well as in previous meetings, Namibia would not have joined ICCAT if it was not for the UN Fish Stock Agreement because Namibia does not agree with the way that ICCAT has used historical fishing patterns to determine patterns of access to Atlantic tuna and tuna-like species.

To reiterate Namibia's position, we cannot and will not accept any allocation procedure that puts the main emphasis on historical catches. To preserve access to these resources for the rich and powerful just because they were the first does not give appropriate weight to the special interests of developing states as provided for in UNIA. We can also not accept that the new allocation procedure should only apply to some stocks, it must apply to all, including fully exploited stocks. Namibia believes that future approaches must see a new balance in this relationship that reflects a greater respect for the rights and interests of coastal states in whose waters these resources occur, especially where there are developing states involved. We expect that the new approach should led to the withdrawal of distant water fleet and their replacement by fleets of coastal states of the region.

Namibia accepts that the necessary transition needs to be phased over time in order to minimize the cost to the current quota holders and Namibia is ready and open for discussion strategies for phasing out.

In spite of the results of this meeting not living up to our expectations, Namibia feels that ICCAT is tackling the difficult and sensitive issue of quota allocation, and we trust that the pace will be accelerated.

6.8 Closing Statement by South Africa

South Africa greatly appreciates the efforts, and the substantial inputs, made by all delegations to this 2nd meeting of the ICCAT Working Group on Allocation Criteria. It has been a particularly difficult meeting, but the large number of participants, and the intensity of the debates, clearly indicates the importance attached by all delegates to the work of this Group.

We must admit that we are disappointed by the apparent lack of willingness to compromise reflected in many of the statements made to this meeting. Given the potential importance of the ultimate outcome of this Group, this was predictable, and perhaps inevitable. However, we believe that the future of ICCAT depends on developing sharing arrangements which are broadly acceptable to all members. We simply no longer have the option of retaining the *status quo*.

We therefore strongly urge all delegations to review their current positions, to accept the need for compromise, and to commit themselves to incorporating flexibility in ICCAT sharing arrangements when we next resume our discussions.

6.9 Closing Statement by the United Kingdom (Overseas Territories)

In our opening statement, the United Kingdom, in respect of its overseas territories, made clear our hope for a balanced outcome acceptable to all parties. This remains our position. We hope that our deliberations will at least have helped us all understand each other more when future allocations are made, and that these decisions can enjoy the support of all ICCAT members.

I would like to thank fellow delegates, the Chair, the rapporteurs, the ICCAT Secretariat and the translators for all their efforts over the past three days.

6.10 Closing Statement by the United States

The United States would like to thank the Chairman and all the participants in this Working Group for a lively and productive session. As mentioned in our opening statement, we take the responsibilities of this Working Group very seriously, and are pleased to have had such free and open discussions. We extend our particular gratitude to the Chairman for his efforts to create one paper summarizing the discussions and positions represented at this meeting; it will be a useful springboard to the next stage of our consultations. Nonetheless, we do feel several points could be added to this paper to even better reflect the priorities and input of the Delegations that met this week, and to even better guide our future work.

For example, the paper could include the different views presented on the treatment of non-members under any new allocation scheme. We would like to reiterate our belief that, in general, specific catch allocations should be made only to ICCAT members. However, we do recognize the principles contained in Article 17, paragraph 3, of the UN Agreement, and understand that unique circumstances may not always allow those interested in participating in ICCAT from taking on full membership. We are sensitive to the need to accommodate such

situations, and believe there should be some flexibility to allow access to ICCAT allocations in line with a cooperating non-member's commitment to observe ICCAT conservation and management measures.

We would also hope that it is clear that any catches made by non-members and new members should be fully taken into account when calculating total allowable catch levels. Also, Some over-fished stocks are non under long-term rebuilding programs, which include specific catch sharing arrangements. The United States would like our future discussions to reflect the special considerations necessary in these situations. We will provide more complete comments on the Chair's paper at a later date.

We have spent a great deal of these past three days debating the relative merits of specific allocation criteria. Some appear to favor one type of Contracting Party, some others. Our goal, however, is a package of balanced criteria to guide future negotiations. We are committee to working towards guidelines that reflect all relevant factors, with the understanding that, in making allocation decisions, ICCAT's Panels will weigh all criteria, not just one or two. We challenge this group to keep this broad goal in mind.

Last year, at the end of the first meeting of this Working Group, we noted our view that of the many important allocation criteria, the most important are the status of the stocks relative to maximum sustainable catch, the record of a Party's compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures, and historical catch. Fisheries monitoring and control, and data reporting, also essential.

We look forward to continuing these very important decisions. Thank you again to the Chair for his hard work, and to the Secretariat, the interpreters, and the rapporteurs.

OBSERVERS

6.11 Closing Statement by the Observer from Iceland

Our sincere thanks to you for chairing this meeting which has certainly not been an uncomplicated task.

It is still our hope that this Working Group will accomplish its important task, although consensus seems to be quite far away at this moment.

We would like to reiterate that we do not think that using the Chairman's paper as a basis for further discussion is the right way to go forward. A great deal of work still needs to be done to merge the different views that have been expressed at this meeting. That must be done in an objective and balances way in order for us to make progress and reach a consensus, which is the aim of our work. Thank you.

6.12 Closing Statement by the Observer from Chinese Taipei

On behalf of my delegation, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Chairman for his leadership and to the Secretariat for its administrative work to make this meeting proceed efficiently. I also want to take this opportunity to thank the Government of Spain for its hospitality in hosting the meeting.

My delegation considers that an equitable opportunity to discuss and to allocate quotas among Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities, and Fishing Entities is a fundamental basis to achieve a successful conservation and management mechanism.

My delegation would also like to reiterate that the efforts and contributions to conservation and management of the stocks, to the collection and provision of accurate data required by ICCAT, and to the conduct of scientific research on the stocks carried out by the Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities, and Fishing Entities should be taken into account on an equal basis.

As to the historical catch record listed in the Chairman's Paper, we are deeply concerned that this be the most substantial factor in quota allocation. It is our perception that the historical catch record is the result and accumulation of hard work, investment, and experience of the industry. It contributions to our knowledge on stock analysis and assessment. Ignoring this factor would create a negative effect on the stability of existing economic activities.

We are not members of ICCAT, but we endeavor, to the best of our ability, to comply with the resolutions adopted by ICCAT, to contribute to the collection and provision of accurate data, and to the conduct of scientific research on the stocks, and to donate funds for scientific research organized by ICCAT and for administrative support.

We have made productive progress through constructive discussions and exchange of views for the last few days. We believe this is a crucial process to reach consensus among us. Thank you.

ANNEX 7-1

RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON THE BIGEYE TUNA CONSERVATION MEASURES

RECALLING that in 1997 the Commission urged parties to reduce catches of bigeye tuna to levels below maximum sustainable yield (MSY);

RECOGNIZING that in 1998 the Commission requested that the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) develop stock rebuilding scenarios to levels that support MSY;

RECALLING the 1998 *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Bigeye Tuna Conservation Measures for Fishing Vessels Larger Than 24 Meters Length Overall (LOA)* limiting the number of the fishing vessels, which will fish for bigeye tuna in the Convention Area, to the average number of its fishing vessels actually having fished for bigeye tuna in the Convention area for the two years of 1991 and 1992;

CONSIDERING the importance of establishing interim measures pending the development of a stock rebuilding plan;

EXPRESSING CONCERN that several states have increased the number of their large-scale tuna longline fishing vessels and their bigeye catches drastically;

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

1 Each Contracting Party and Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity shall, in 2001, limit their catch of Atlantic bigeye tuna to the average of the catch of bigeye tuna taken by all their vessels in the two years of 1991 and 1992.

2 Notwithstanding the paragraph above,

a China shall limit, in 2001, its catch of Atlantic bigeye tuna to 4,000 MT. China shall make every effort to limit the number of its fishing vessels fishing for Atlantic bigeye tuna to 30, while the overall number of its vessels registered with the Commission be frozen at 60 for 2001 and thereafter, unless the Commission decides otherwise. The catch and the number of the fishing vessels of China will be reviewed before the 2001 Commission annual meeting.

b The Commission shall request Chinese Taipei to limit, in 2001, its catch of Atlantic bigeye tuna to 16,500 MT and the number of its fishing vessels fishing for Atlantic bigeye tuna to 125.

c The Commission shall request the Philippines to limit, in 2001 and thereafter, the number of its fishing vessels fishing for Atlantic bigeye tuna to five (5).

3 The provision of paragraph 1 will not apply to Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities whose reported 1999 catch, as provided to the SCRS in 2000, was less than 2,100 MT.

4 Underages/overages of the 2001 catch limit for bigeye tuna may be added to/must be subtracted from the 2002 and/or 2003 catch limits for bigeye tuna.

5 The SCRS shall include in its next assessment of the Atlantic bigeye stock, possible recovery scenarios, including specific TAC recommendations, with the goal of rebuilding Atlantic bigeye tuna to biomass levels that will support MSY.

ANNEX 7-2

SUPPLEMENTAL RESOLUTION BY ICCAT CONCERNING THE RECOMMENDATION ON THE BIGEYE TUNA CONSERVATION MEASURES

RECOGNIZING that, while the Commission takes several conservation measures on bigeye tuna by adopting the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Bigeye Tuna Conservation Measures* at its 2000 meeting, supplemental action is indispensable to enhance the effectiveness of the Recommendation,

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

1 Japan and Chinese Taipei shall take every possible action, consistent with relevant laws, to urge their residents to refrain from engaging in and associating with activities that assist survival of IUU tuna longline vessels and with any other activities that undermine the effectiveness of the ICCAT bigeye and other conservation and management measures including the measures taken by the *Recommendation on the Bigeye Tuna Conservation Measures* adopted at the 2000 Commission meeting.

2 The Commission welcomes and supports cooperation between China and Japan to improve their catch data.

3 The Commission requests China, Chinese Taipei and Japan to report, at the meeting of the Commission in 2001, the results of measures and actions taken according to this Resolution and to the *Recommendation on the Bigeye Tuna Conservation Measures.*

4 In 2001, the Commission shall review the information submitted to the Commission pursuant to paragraph 3 above and consider, if necessary and appropriate, taking actions according to the *Resolution Concerning the Unreported and Unregulated Catches of Tunas by Large-Scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area* adopted at the 1998 Commission meeting.

ANNEX 7-3

RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT CONCERNING SWORDFISH CATCHES BY THE TUNA LONGLINE FISHERY

RECALLING that in 1999, the Commission adopted the *Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Rebuilding Program for North Atlantic Swordfish*, to rebuild swordfish of the North Atlantic to the level that will produce the maximum sustainable yield;

RECOGNIZING that tuna are the target species of the Japanese longline fishery in the North Atlantic, but that swordfish are taken as by-catch;

REALIZING that the catch of swordfish taken as by-catch by the Japanese longline fishery in the North Atlantic will exceed the Japanese five-year catch quota for swordfish, unless steps are taken to prevent it from doing so;

ACKNOWLEDGING that Japan has already taken steps to reduce the mortality of swordfish caused by the longline by-catch, by releasing all swordfish caught, and by avoiding fishing grounds where the by-catch of swordfish is relatively high;

NOTING that some countries, such as the United States, caught less than their North Atlantic swordfish quota due to temporary circumstances, and that they are entitled to carry over their uncaught quota;

FURTHER RECALLING that SCRS in 2000 stated that the precise boundary between the North Atlantic and South Atlantic stocks of swordfish is uncertain, and that mixing is expected to be highest near the boundary in the tropical zone;

FURTHER NOTING that in 1999 the Commission resolved that Contracting Parties should support research to reduce uncertainty about stock structure, mixing and boundaries of swordfish stocks, and that the SCRS in 2000 made several research recommendations aimed at the same objective; and

HIGHLIGHTING the Commission's desire to respond positively to Japan's efforts to adhere to its North Atlantic swordfish quota, so long as the Commission's rebuilding program for North Atlantic swordfish is not jeopardized;

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

1 Japan shall be allowed to count up to 400 metric tons (MT) of its 2001 swordfish catch taken from the part of the North Atlantic management area that is East of 35 degrees W and South of 15 degrees N, against the uncaught U.S. North Atlantic swordfish quota, with 1 MT of catch by Japan counted as 1 MT of the U.S. quota. Japan is encouraged to shift tuna longline effort out of the North Atlantic, as a means of reducing its swordfish by-catch.

2 Japan shall be allowed to count up to 400 MT of its 2002 swordfish catch taken from the part of the North Atlantic management that is East of 35 degrees W and South of 15 degrees N, against its uncaught South Atlantic swordfish quota, with 1 MT of catch from the aforementioned area of the North Atlantic swordfish management area counted as 2 MT of quota from the South Atlantic swordfish management area;

3 Japan implement a national observer program on 5% of vessels operating in the North Atlantic for 2001 and endeavor to increase such coverage to 10% for 2002;

4 In 2001 and 2002, the Japanese catch, including discards, will be reviewed by the SCRS and provided to the Commission, based upon the best available scientific information including new observer data for the Japanese fleet as well as data from other sources.

5 Japan shall conduct research that significantly improves the understanding of the stock structure and of mixing of Atlantic swordfish, as described in the 1999 SCRS Detailed Report for Swordfish, with emphasis on

electronic tagging and genetic studies. A research plan and progress report for this new Japanese scientific research on swordfish should be reviewed by the SCRS in 2001.

6 In 2002, the SCRS update the swordfish stock assessment for the North Atlantic and South Atlantic management areas; and

7 It be understood by all Contracting Parties that the arrangement for Japan to count some of its North Atlantic swordfish catch against its South Atlantic swordfish quota, as described in paragraph 2, is for 2002 only, unless renewed by a future Commission recommendation.

ANNEX 7-4

RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON SOUTH ATLANTIC SWORDFISH

NOTING that the existing sharing arrangement and total allowable catch (TAC) for South Atlantic swordfish expire at the end of 2000;

GIVEN that the Working Group on Allocation Criteria has scheduled a meeting in May 2001 in order to develop quota allocation criteria for adoption by ICCAT;

WITHOUT the necessary agreement to establish a sharing arrangement for 2001, pending the Commission's adoption of allocation criteria;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS RECOMMENDS THAT:

1 In 2001, the target for the TAC for South Atlantic swordfish shall be 14,620 MT.

2 Each Contracting Party, Co-operating non-Contracting Party, Entity and Fishing Entity fishing for South Atlantic swordfish shall establish a precautionary catch limit for 2001, being encouraged to set the catch limit such that the target for the TAC is not exceeded, and shall notify the Secretariat of the specified catch limit by the end of 2000.

3 At its 2001 meeting, the Commission shall negotiate and adopt a sharing arrangement for the TAC for South Atlantic swordfish.

ANNEX 7-5

RESOLUTION BY ICCAT
ON JUVENILE MEDITERRANEAN SWORDFISH

CONSIDERING that ICCAT has not adopted any measures to protect juvenile swordfish in the Mediterranean;

NOTING that the catches of juvenile swordfish in the Mediterranean are very high, and that there is a need to examine possible protection measures for juveniles of this stock, adapted to the characteristics of the stock and to the swordfish fisheries in the Mediterranean;

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

To ask the SCRS to present to the Commission, before the 2001 annual meeting:

A report on possible measures to protect juvenile Mediterranean swordfish, taking into account the biological characteristics and the nature of the Mediterranean swordfish fisheries.

ANNEX 7-6

RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON NORTHERN ALBACORE CATCH LIMITS

CONSIDERING that, to maintain the stability of the spawning stock biomass of northern albacore, the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) recommends that catches not exceed their current level of 34,500 MT;

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

1 A total allowable catch (TAC) of 34,500 MT be established for 2001.

2 This catch limit shall be allocated to the Contracting Parties according to the table below:

Party	*Quota (2001)*
European Community	28,712 MT
United States	607 MT
TOTAL	29,319 MT

3 With the exception of Japan, Contracting Parties other than those mentioned in paragraph 2 above should limit their catches to 200 MT.

4 Japan will endeavor to limit its total northern albacore catches to a maximum of 4% in weight of its bigeye tuna longline catch in the Atlantic Ocean.

5 For non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities, the catch limit for 2001 will be 4,459 MT*.

6 All overages and underages of quotas/annual catch limits of northern albacore should be deducted from or added to the quota/catch limit for the year 2002 and/or 2003.

7 The *1998 Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Limitation of Fishing Capacity on Northern Albacore* remains in force.

*This figure includes a special allocation for Chinese Taipei of 4,453 MT, since Chinese Taipei has Cooperating Status.

ANNEX 7-7

RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON REVISION AND SHARING OF THE SOUTHERN ALBACORE CATCH LIMIT

NOTING that the updated stock assessment conducted during 2000 indicates that the replacement yield of the southern albacore stock is estimated to be 29,200 MT, and that catches at that level should be sustainable;

NOTING FURTHER that established southern albacore catch limits have not been exceeded since establishment of the 1998 *Recommendation on Revision, Implementation and Sharing of the Southern Albacore Catch Limit*;

RECOGNIZING that the establishment of a long-term sharing arrangement should be negotiated once further progress has been made by the ICCAT Working Group on Allocation Criteria;

ACKNOWLEDGING that problems have been experienced in reporting albacore catches under the 1998 and 1999 sharing and monitoring arrangement, and recognizing the need to improve such reporting;

DESIRING to continue to implement effective measures to limit catches of southern albacore to sustainable levels;

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

1 The total catch limit for albacore caught in the Atlantic Ocean South of 5° N be set at 29,200 MT for 2001, that being the estimated replacement yield of the stock.

2 For the purpose of this recommendation, Brazil, Namibia, South Africa and Chinese-Taipei be considered to be Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities fishing actively for southern albacore, as contemplated in the 1997 southern albacore catch limit recommendation. All other Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities shall be considered to be not actively fishing for southern albacore, whether taking albacore as a target species or by-catch.

3 The catch limit for southern albacore caught by those Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities fishing actively for southern albacore be set at 27,500 MT for 2001.

4 Those Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities referred to in paragraph 2 above implement effective systems to ensure correct reporting of their respective cumulative southern albacore catches to a designated Contracting Party actively fishing for southern albacore within two months of those catches having been made.

5 The designated Contracting Party maintain records of those cumulative catches and notify, each two months, the actively fishing Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities, as well as the ICCAT Secretariat, of the cumulative southern albacore catches by those actively fishing.

6 The designated Contracting Party notify all those Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities referred to in paragraph 2 above when a total cumulative catch level of 22,000 MT is reached, this being 80% of their catch limit of 27,500 MT.

7 Those Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities referred to in paragraph 2 above immediately initiate multi-lateral discussions when the 22,000 MT warning catch level is reached, in order to decide on steps to be taken to prevent total catches by those countries, entities or fishing entities from exceeding the catch limit of 27,500 MT.

8 Those Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities referred to in paragraph 2 above immediately implement measures to stop fishing for southern albacore when the established catch limit of 27,500 MT is reached, so as to ensure that that limit is not exceeded.

9 Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities not fishing actively for southern albacore (as designated in paragraph 2 above), and having caught on average less than 100 MT of southern albacore per year during 1992-1996, be subject to an annual southern albacore catch limit of 100 MT.

10 Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities not fishing actively for southern albacore (as designated in paragraph 2 above), whether taking albacore as a target species or by-catch, and having caught on average more than 100 MT of southern albacore per year during 1992-1996, but excluding Japan, be subject to an annual southern albacore catch limit of 110% of their respective average 1992-1996 catches of albacore in the Atlantic Ocean South of 5°N.

11 Japan endeavor to limit its total catch of southern albacore to 4% by weight of its total longline bigeye tuna catch in the Atlantic Ocean South of 5°N.

12 The southern albacore catch limit, monitoring and other management measures be reviewed, and revised as necessary, at the 2001 Commission meeting.

13 This Recommendation replace, in their entirety, the 1998 *Recommendation on Revision, Implementation and Sharing of the Southern Albacore Catch Limit* and the 1999 *Recommendation by ICCAT to Extend the Southern Albacore Management Arrangement and to Improve Monitoring.*

ANNEX 7-8

RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON BLUEFIN TUNA RESEARCH IN THE CENTRAL NORTH ATLANTIC OCEAN

GIVEN that at its 1998 meeting the Commission adopted a 20-year rebuilding program for bluefin tuna in the West Atlantic;

CONSIDERING that the uncertainty associated with the boundary between the eastern and western management units for bluefin tuna highlights the need for sound management in both the East and West Atlantic;

CALLING ATTENTION to the research recommendations of the ICCAT Bluefin Year Program and to an international workshop that was held in Bermuda on May 5-7, 2000 to discuss the distribution and biology of Atlantic bluefin tuna in the central Atlantic, the stimulus for this workshop being to focus attention on compelling new scientific information that differs broadly from prevailing views of bluefin biology;

NOTING that since 1997, new fishery-independent pop-up satellite tagging efforts targeting adult and spawning size fish in New England, Atlantic Canada and North Carolina showed at least 30% of bluefin each year were located in the eastern management zone when their tags reported (30-45 degrees West longitude, 30-50 degrees North latitude);

AND NOTING that none of the spawning size fish were located in either known spawning ground when their tags reported their location, raising the possibility of a previously unknown spawning area in the Central Atlantic;

DESIRING to support the outcome of the Workshop on the Biology of Bluefin Tuna in the Mid-Atlantic (endorsed by the ICCAT Bluefin Year Program) that recommends both an exploratory research cruise for the sampling of spawning size bluefin tuna and larvae be conducted in May –July, 2001, and the use of ships of opportunity to collect biological samples;

FURTHER NOTING that the aforementioned Workshop encouraged that 15 metric tons of bluefin tuna be set aside for scientific sampling:

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

1 The Commission fully endorse the recommendation of the ICCAT Bluefin Year Program and the Workshop on the Biology of Bluefin Tuna in the Mid-Atlantic (SCRS/00/125) regarding new research on bluefin tuna in the central Atlantic;

2 All Contracting Parties, Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities undertake to consider providing funding or other logistical support in order to conduct this critical scientific endeavor;

3 Participants in this research be exempt from the Commission's conservation measures for up to 15 MT of bluefin tuna sampled during the research; and

4 The United Kingdom on behalf of the Overseas Territory of Bermuda assign exemptions, in accordance with Paragraph 3, to participants in the research such that the objectives of the research are fulfilled to the extent possible, and report to the Commission.

ANNEX 7-9

RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT CONCERNING BLUEFIN TUNA CATCH LIMITS IN THE EAST ATLANTIC AND MEDITERRANEAN

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) at its 2000 meeting reiterated that the Commission should note that there are numerous sources of uncertainty since no quantitative assessment of East Atlantic bluefin tuna has been conducted and given this situation it maintains its advice of 1998 whereby a level of annual catches equal to or greater than 33,000 MT would not be sustainable;

RECOGNIZING that it is essential to reconcile conservation with the needs of the coastal communities that are dependent mainly on the fishing of this stock;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that Morocco and Libya, in 1999, presented and confirmed their objection to the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Limitation of Catches of Bluefin Tuna in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean*;

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

1 A total allowable catch (TAC) of 29,500 MT be established for 2001.

2 In order to establish the fishing allocations, the 1993 and 1994 catches (whichever is higher of the two), as established by the SCRS before 1998, be used as a reference.

3 In accordance with paragraph 2, the following allocation plan be established:

Party	*Quota (2001)*
China (People's Republic)	76 MT
Croatia	876 MT
European Community (EC)	18,590 MT
Japan	2,949 MT
Korea	619 MT
Tunisia	2,144 MT

4 Paragraphs 2 and 3 do not apply to Morocco and Libya, which for 2001, will apply independent conservation and management measures on this stock and will inform ICCAT of these measures.

5 It is noted that Morocco and Libya have indicated they will establish bluefin tuna catch limits for 2001 as follows:

Morocco: 3,028 MT *Libya: 1,570 MT*

6 For the non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities that caught bluefin tuna in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean during the period starting in 1993, the catch limit for the year 2001 will be calculated according to paragraph 2:

2001: 2,291 MT

* This total includes a special allocation of 658 MT for Chinese Taipei in 2001, in virtue of their having been granted Cooperating Status.

ANNEX 7-10

RESOLUTION BY ICCAT ON BLUEFIN TUNA FARMING

IN VIEW OF the rapid development of the practice of bluefin tuna farming, mainly in the Mediterranean;

CONSIDERING that this practice could cause increased difficulties in terms of the catch statistics, monitoring, and concurrence of catch data with trade data, etc;

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

The SCRS should present to the Commission, prior to the 2001 annual meeting, a report on the effects of bluefin tuna farming on the collection of catch statistics, and recommendations on possible solutions, if needed, to improve the Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document (BTSD).

ANNEX 7-11

RESOLUTION BY ICCAT FOR SCRS TO EXAMINE THE EFFECTS OF MIXING FOR STOCK ASSESSMENTS AND MANAGEMENT AND CONSIDER THE APPROPRIATENESS OF THE CURRENT BOUNDARY BETWEEN THE WESTERN AND EASTERN MANAGEMENT UNITS FOR ATLANTIC BLUEFIN TUNA

RECALLING that the Commission adopted, in 1996, a *Resolution for SCRS to Evaluate the Appropriateness of the Current Boundary Between East and West Atlantic Bluefin Tuna;*

NOTING that every report of the SCRS since the early 1990's has noted the potential importance of mixing of western and eastern bluefin tuna for stock assessment and management advice;

ALSO NOTING that the 2000 SCRS Report recognizes that accumulating evidence, including recent results from electronic tagging, makes clear that the populations of fish and fisheries in the western and eastern management units are related;

CONSIDERING the continuous distribution of catches of Atlantic bluefin tuna across the Atlantic Ocean;

GIVEN THAT the SCRS called for an inter-sessional meeting to review and integrate research results on mixing;

RECOGNIZING that the specification of management units and management boundaries will, by necessity, require the integration of both management needs and scientific information;

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

1 That the SCRS should hold an inter-sessional meeting to:

i Review results from electronic and conventional tagging programs conducted in the West and East Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea;

ii Re-evaluate the appropriateness of the current boundary between the eastern and western Atlantic Ocean management units, and further consider how to take into account the mixing of bluefin tuna between the management units in stock assessments, and in management.

iii Develop recommendations to the Commission regarding future management strategies that take account of mixing.

2 That the inter-sessional meeting shall be held in a timely manner so that the results and recommendations can be presented to the Commission meeting in 2001.

ANNEX 7-12

RESOLUTION BY ICCAT ON CONVERSION FACTORS FOR BLUEFIN TUNA FROM PRODUCT WEIGHT TO LIVE WEIGHT

CONSIDERING the recent diversity of product type obtained from bluefin tuna and the necessity to revise the factors used for the conversion of products to live weight (round weight);

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

The SCRS present to the Commission, before the annual meeting in 2001, a report on updating the conversion factors for bluefin tuna products to live weight.

ANNEX 7-13

RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT TO ESTABLISH A PLAN TO REBUILD BLUE MARLIN AND WHITE MARLIN POPULATIONS

UNDERSTANDING that the landings reductions required by ICCAT's *Recommendation Regarding Atlantic Blue Marlin and Atlantic White Marlin*, adopted in 1997, extended in 1998, and in effect through 2000, though accomplished, are not sufficient to rebuild these stocks and that, according to the SCRS, the assessments conducted in 2000 indicate that the stock of blue marlin has been reduced to a level of 40% of that needed to produce maximum sustainable yield (MSY), that the stock of white marlin has been reduced to a level of 15% of that needed to produce MSY, although those estimates particularly for white marlin are uncertain, and that neither stock is likely to recover if the current levels of mortality continue into the future;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that the SCRS recommended, after considering the high uncertainty involved in the stock assessment, that the Commission take steps to reduce the catch of blue marlin and white marlin as much as possible;

RECALLING that the objective of the Convention is to maintain populations of tuna and tuna-like species in the Atlantic Ocean at levels that will permit the maximum sustainable catch (usually referred to as MSY) for food and other purposes;

RECOGNIZING that the great diversity of gears and fleets by which these species are caught, both as target species and as by-catch, makes it necessary to establish a general regulatory framework valid for developing and implementing domestic regulatory measures in each case, with the aim of seeking the maximum efficiency for the adequate management of these species.

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

1 A two phase program be undertaken to rebuild blue marlin and white marlin populations to levels sufficient to support MSY. Phase 1 measures are to commence in 2001 and apply through 2002, with re-evaluation and adjustment in 2002 for the beginning of Phase 2.

2 All Contracting Parties, non-Contracting Parties, Entities, and Fishing Entities shall take steps aimed at reducing the uncertainty in the SCRS stock status evaluations by substantial investment into SCRS research on blue marlin and white marlin habitat requirements and further verification of the historical catch and effort data for these species from all fisheries.

Phase 1

3 During Phase 1, the annual amount of blue marlin that can be harvested in years 2001 and 2002 by pelagic longline and purse seine vessels and retained for landing must be no more than 50% of the 1999 landing levels. During Phase 1, for white marlin, the annual amount of white marlin that can be harvested by pelagic longline and purse seine vessels and retained for landing must be no more than 33% of the 1999 landing levels. All blue marlin and white marlin brought to pelagic longline and purse seine vessels alive shall be released in a manner that maximizes their survival. The provisions of this paragraph shall not apply to marlin that are dead when brought along the side of the vessel and that are not sold or entered into commerce.

4 During Phase 1

a All Contracting Parties, non-Contracting Parties, Entities, and Fishing Entities shall maintain daily records of live and dead releases of blue marlin and white marlin from longline and purse seine vessels, by area no greater than 5 degrees by 5 degrees;

b To improve information for future stock assessments of blue marlin and white marlin, all Contracting Parties, non-Contracting Parties, Entities, and Fishing Entities shall establish or maintain systems to collect scientific information on total catch composition and the release of marlin through new or on-going observer programs for their industrial and recreational fleets. The purse seine and longline fleets will aim to have coverage at levels recommended by SCRS;

c The United States shall monitor the landings of billfish tournaments through scientific observer coverage of at least 5% that includes collection of data on marlin landings from each observed billfish tournament. The United States shall endeavor to attain 10% scientific observer coverage of billfish tournament landings by the end of 2002. The United States shall limit its landings to 250 recreationally-caught Atlantic blue marlin and white marlin combined on an annual basis for the period 2001 through 2002;

d All Contracting Parties, non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities other than the United States shall adopt domestic regulations that establish minimum sizes for landings of blue marlin and white marlin in their recreational fisheries, such as, for example, blue marlin not smaller than 251 cm LJFL and white marlin not smaller than 168 cm LJFL.

e All Contracting Parties, non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities shall require nationals to maintain records (in terms of weight or number) of landings of blue marlin and white marlin. Such countries shall collect catch and effort data on all marlins landed, and size data on at least 50% of the landings.

f The SCRS shall present at the 2001 Commission meeting, work plans to achieve Phase 2.

5 Contracting Parties, non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities shall encourage the initiation of research programs on technological improvements in the various fishing gears which promote the maximum reduction in mortality of these species, for example, the use of circle hooks as a means of minimizing post-release mortality of marlins;

6 Contracting Parties, non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities shall develop intensive research programs during 2001 and 2002 to reduce the uncertainties identified in the scientific assessments of both species, with special attention to the habitat requisites of both species, the historical records of catch, effort and catch per unit of effort of the various fleets.

Phase 2

7 The SCRS shall conduct stock assessments of Atlantic blue marlin and white marlin in 2002.

8 For blue marlin and white marlin, the SCRS shall, at the 2002 Commission meeting, present its evaluation of specific stock recovery scenarios that take into account the new stock assessments, any new information and any re-evaluation of the historical catch and effort time series.

9 Based on SCRS advice, the Commission at its 2002 meeting shall, if necessary, develop and adopt programs to rebuild the Atlantic stocks of blue marlin and white marlin to levels that would support MSY. Such rebuilding programs shall include a timetable for recovery to a scientifically derived goal consistent with the objectives of the Convention, with associated milestones and biological reference points. This objective could be reached through general plans of monitoring of effort and/or time-area closures and/or other measures practical to apply by the various Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-contracting parties, Entities, and Fishing Entities, taking the specific characteristics of their fisheries into account.

ANNEX 7-14

RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT REGARDING COMPLIANCE WITH MANAGEMENT MEASURES WHICH DEFINE QUOTAS AND/OR CATCH LIMITS

RECOGNIZING that the *Recommendation Regarding Compliance in the Bluefin Tuna and North Atlantic Swordfish Fisheries* was adopted at the 1996 Commission meeting and it was extended to include compliance in the South Atlantic swordfish fishery at the 1997 Commission meeting;

NOTING the treatment of overage and underage differs among the stocks and this complicates quota management and compliance;

RECOGNIZING the need to simplify the rules by generalizing the treatment of overage and underage to avoid future confusion;

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

For any species under quota/catch limit management, underages/overages from one year may be added to/must be subtracted from the quota/catch limit of the management period immediately after or one year after that year, unless any recommendation on a stock specifically deals with overages/underages, in which case that recommendation will take precedence.

ANNEX 7-15

RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT REGARDING BELIZE, CAMBODIA, HONDURAS, AND ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES PURSUANT TO THE 1998 RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED CATCHES OF TUNA BY LARGE-SCALE LONGLINE VESSELS IN THE CONVENTION AREA

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;

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

ALSO NOTING the obligation of all Contracting Parties and the commitment of Cooperating non-Contracting Parties/Entities/Fishing Entities to comply with ICCAT's conservation and management measures;

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

RECOGNIZING that the large-scale longline vessels registered in Belize, Cambodia, Honduras and St. Vincent and Grenadines are fishing in the Atlantic Ocean and have bigeye tuna as their primary target;

RECALLING its adoption in 1998 of the *Resolution Concerning the Unreported and Unregulated Catches of Tuna by Large-Scale Longline Vessels In the Convention Area* (hereinafter referred to as "the 1998 Resolution");

RECALLING FURTHER that the 1998 Resolution establishes procedures by which:

1 The Commission may identify Contracting Parties and non-Contracting Parties/Entities/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;

2 Identified Contracting Parties and non-Contracting Parties/Entities/Fishing Entities are notified and given the opportunity to rectify the situation;

3 The Commission shall identify those Contacting Parties and non-Contracting Parties/ Entities/Fishing Entities referred to above, which have not effectively rectified this situation; and

4 The Commission will recommend effective measures, if necessary including non-discriminatory trade restrictive measures on subject species, consistent with their international obligations, to prevent those longline vessels of identified Contracting Parties and non-Contracting Parties/Entities/Fishing Entities from continuing the fishing operations for tunas and tuna-like species in a manner which diminishes the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures.

NOTING that these procedures closely parallel the procedures established in the *Action Plan to Ensure the Effectiveness of the Conservation Program for Atlantic Bluefin Tuna* and the *Action Plan to Ensure the Effectiveness of the Conservation Program for Atlantic Swordfish*;

CALLING ATTENTION to the 1999 decision by the Commission, based on trade and landing data as well as associated information submitted by Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities to identify 11 countries, including Belize, Cambodia, Honduras and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, pursuant to the 1998 Resolution and that the Commission duly notified such countries of the identifications;

CAREFULLY REVIEWING the information regarding efforts by the Commission to obtain the cooperation of these four identified countries since the 1999 meeting, including information that these countries have taken insufficient action to rectify the situation;

RECOGNIZING, however, that Honduras has taken at least some steps to address the concerns of the Commission in this regard;

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

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

1 Contracting Parties take appropriate measures, consistent with provisions of the 1998 Resolution, to the effect that the import of Atlantic bigeye tuna and its products in any form from Belize, Cambodia, Honduras and St. Vincent and the Grenadines be prohibited, effective from the time this Recommendation enters into force, subject to paragraph 2.

2 Notwithstanding paragraph 1, the import prohibition on Atlantic bigeye tuna and its products in any form from Honduras shall take effect on 1 January 2002, unless the Commission decides otherwise, on the basis of documentary evidence, at its 2001 meeting that Honduras has brought its fishing practices for Atlantic bigeye tuna into conformity with ICCAT conservation and management measures.

3 The Commission again request these countries to cooperate with ICCAT by ensuring that the vessels in question fish in a manner consistent with ICCAT conservation and management measures and by providing catch statistics to ICCAT in accordance with ICCAT procedures.

4 The Commission continue to encourage participation by all these countries in all ICCAT meetings.

5 Contracting Parties lift the import prohibitions on any country covered by this recommendation upon the decision of the Commission and receipt of notification from the ICCAT Executive Secretary that fishing practices of such country have been brought into conformity with ICCAT measures.

ANNEX 7-16

RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT REGARDING EQUATORIAL GUINEA PURSUANT TO THE 1998 RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED CATCHES OF TUNAS BY LARGE-SCALE LONGLINE VESSELS IN THE CONVENTION AREA

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;

NOTING the obligation of all Contracting Parties to comply with ICCAT's conservation and management measures;

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

RECOGNIZING that large-scale longline vessels registered in Equatorial Guinea are fishing in the Atlantic Ocean and have bigeye tuna as their primary target;

RECALLING its adoption in 1998 of the *Resolution Concerning the Unreported and Unregulated Catches of Tunas by Large-Scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area* (hereinafter referred to as "the 1998 Resolution");

RECALLING FURTHER that the 1998 Resolution establishes procedures by which:

1 The Commission may identify Contracting Parties and non-Contracting Parties/ Entities/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;

2 Identified Contracting Parties and non-Contracting Parties/Entities/Fishing Entities are notified and given the opportunity to rectify the situation;

3 The Commission shall identify those Contacting Parties and non-Contracting Parties/Entities/Fishing Entities referred to above, which have not effectively rectified this situation; and

4 The Commission will recommend effective measures, if necessary including non-discriminatory trade restrictive measures on the subject species, consistent with their international obligations, to prevent those longline vessels of identified Contracting Parties and non-Contracting Parties/Entities/Fishing Entities from continuing fishing operations for tunas and tuna-like species in a manner which diminishes the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures.

NOTING that these procedures closely parallel the procedures established in the *Action Plan to Ensure the Effectiveness of the Conservation Program for Atlantic Bluefin Tuna* and the *Action Plan to Ensure the Effectiveness of the Conservation Program for Atlantic Swordfish*;

CALLING ATTENTION to the 1999 decision by the Commission, based on trade and landing data as well as associated information submitted by Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities to identify 11 countries, including Equatorial Guinea, pursuant to the 1998 Resolution and that the Commission duly notified such countries of the identifications;

CAREFULLY REVIEWING the information regarding efforts by the Commission to obtain the compliance of Equatorial Guinea since the 1999 meeting, including information that this country has taken insufficient action to rectify the situation;

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

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

1 Contracting Parties take appropriate measures, consistent with provisions of the 1998 Resolution, to the effect that the import of Atlantic bigeye tuna and its products in any form from Equatorial Guinea be prohibited, effective from the time this Recommendation enters into force.

2 The Commission again request Equatorial Guinea to fulfil its obligations as a Contracting Party to ICCAT by ensuring that the vessels in question fish in a manner consistent with ICCAT conservation and management measures and by providing catch statistics to ICCAT in accordance with ICCAT procedures.

3 The Commission continue to encourage participation by Equatorial Guinea in all ICCAT meetings.

4 Contracting Parties lift the import prohibitions adopted by this recommendation upon the decision of the Commission and receipt of notification from the ICCAT Executive Secretary that fishing practices of Equatorial Guinea have been brought into conformity with ICCAT measures.

ANNEX 7-17

RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT CONCERNING REGISTRATION AND EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION OF FISHING VESSELS FISHING FOR TUNA AND TUNA-LIKE SPECIES IN THE CONVENTION AREA

RECALLING that ICCAT adopted at its 1998 meeting a *Recommendation Concerning Registration and Exchange of Information of Bigeye Tuna Fishing Vessels,*

FURTHER RECALLING that ICCAT adopted at its 1994 meeting a *Resolution Regarding the Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas,*

NOTING that large-scale fishing vessels are highly mobile and easily change fishing grounds from one ocean to another, and have high potential of operating in the Convention Area without timely registration with the Commission,

RECOGNIZING that most of the stocks of tuna and tuna-like species in the Convention Area are fully or over-exploited, and

FURTHER RECOGNIZING that the FAO International Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity states in its Objective and Principles that "States and regional fisheries organizations confronted with an over-capacity problem, where capacity is undermining achievement of long-term sustainability outcomes, should endeavor initially to limit at present level and progressively reduce the fishing capacity applied to affected fisheries",

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

1 All the Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities that fish for tuna and tuna-like species in the Convention Area shall submit to the ICCAT Executive Secretary, by August 31st each year, the list of their respective vessels larger than 24 meters length overall (LOA) (hereinafter referred to as the "large-scale vessels") that are licensed to fish for tuna and tuna-like species 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 (if any)
- type of vessels, length and gross registered tonnage (GRT)
- name and address of owner(s)

2 The ICCAT Executive Secretary shall circulate the lists annually or upon request of a Contracting Party or Parties.

3 The Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities shall notify the ICCAT Executive Secretary of any information concerning fishing vessels which are not listed according to paragraph 1, but believed to be fishing for tuna and tuna-like species in the Convention Area.

4 a If the vessel(s) mentioned in paragraph 3 is (are) flying a flag of an identified Contracting Party or a non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity, the Executive Secretary shall request that Contracting Party or non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity to take the necessary measures to prevent the vessel(s) from fishing for tuna and tuna-like species in the Convention Area.

b If the flag state of the vessel(s) mentioned in paragraph 3 is not identified, the Executive Secretary shall compile such information for future consideration by the Commission.

5 The *Recommendation Concerning Registration and Exchange of Information of Bigeye Tuna Fishing Vessels* adopted at 1998 Commission meeting be substituted by this Recommendation.

ANNEX 7-18

RESOLUTION BY ICCAT CONCERNING PREPARATION OF A MANAGEMENT STANDARD FOR THE LARGE-SCALE TUNA FISHERY

RECOGNIZING the necessity of establishing a management standard for the large-scale tuna longline fishery and enhancing management ability of the Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities to exclude IUU tuna longline fishing vessels under their registry,

BEARING IN MIND that different initiatives on monitoring are being taken by the Commission,

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

The Commission encourages the concerned Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities which have large-scale tuna longline fleets to review the attached draft management standard through bilateral arrangements and report the results to the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Scheme, to be held in early 2001, and to the 2001 Commission for its consideration.

NOTE: The "Draft Proposal for a Recommendation Concerning a Management Standard for the Large-Scale Tuna Longline Fishery" (including its Attachments I and II) is appended herewith.

Appendix

Draft Proposal
For a Recommendation Concerning a Management Standard
for the Large-scale Tuna Longline Fishery

Recalling that the Commission has actively taken various measures and actions to eliminate illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing activities by large-scale tuna longline vessels in the Convention Area;

Further recalling that FAO has been taking initiatives to eliminate IUU fishing activities;

Recognizing that large-scale tuna longline vessels shift fishing grounds very easily from the Convention Area to the Pacific or the Indian Oceans and *vice versa* and that this highly mobile nature of this fishery makes control and management of this fishery difficult;

Further recognizing thatt their catches are transferred from the fishing grounds to the market directly without going through the flag countries;

Being aware that most of their bluefin, bigeye and yellowfin tuna catches are exported to Japan;

Noting, with grave concern, that many IUU large-scale tuna longline vessels, most of which are financed and operated by Chinese Taipei's business entities, still survive by shifting their flags from non-Contracting Parties to Contracting Parties with less management ability, and by changing their vessel names and nominal owners to evade international efforts to eliminate these vessels;

Further noting that the lack of a minimum management standard of the Commission allows such shifting to Contracting Parties; and

Recognizing the urgent necessity of undertaking due measures so as not to use Contracting Parties as shelters of such vessels,

The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) recommends that:

1 Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities shall take the necessary measures to meet the minimum management standard **(Attachment I)** when they issue fishing licenses to tuna longline vessels greater than 24 meters in overall length (or greater than 20 meters between perpendiculars, hereinafter referred to as "large-scale tuna longline vessels") to fish for tunas in the Convention Area under their registry.

2 All the Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities shall cooperate with those Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities which issue licenses to large-scale tuna longline vessels to meet the above standard.

3 Those Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities which issue licenses to large-scale tuna longline vessels shall report to the Commission annually measures taken according to paragraph 1 using the format shown in **Attachment II**. The Compliance Committee shall review these reports and consider necessary recommendations to ensure full compliance with this recommendation.

Attachment I

ICCAT MANAGEMENT STANDARD FOR THE LARGE-SCALE TUNA LONGLINE FISHERY

The Contracting Parties, Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities shall:

1 [Management in the fishing grounds]

i Dispatch patrol boats to the management area for surveillance and at-sea inspection in order to ensure compliance with the Commission's conservation and management measures. In the case where a Contracting Party, Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity does not have the ability to dispatch a patrol boat to the Convention Area, it shall make an arrangement with another Contracting Party/Parties that has/have such an ability. Under that arrangement, the Party without such ability shall be assured to obtain surveillance information on its own fleet from the Contracting Party/Parties with patrol boats and shall immediately call back the vessels alleged to violate the Commission's conservation and management measures to the home ports for prompt investigation according to its domestic laws and regulations;

ii Deploy observers on-board the vessels according to the Commission's recommendation;

iii Require their fishermen to install satellite-based vessel monitoring systems on board all the large-scale tuna longline fishing vessels operating in the Convention Area;

iv Implement a tagging system to differentiate catches by management area on the species managed by management area;

v Require their fishermen to report their catches on a real time basis for species for which there are catch limits;

vi Require their fishermen to report their entry/exit to and from the management areas and the Convention Area;

2 [Management of transshipment (from the fishing grounds to the landing ports)]

i Require their fishermen and transporters to report their transshipment of the catches by species and by management area;

ii Conduct port inspection according to the Commission's recommendation;

iii Implement statistical document programs according to the Commission's recommendation;

3 [Management at landing ports]

i Conduct inspection of off-loading at landing ports. In the case where such inspection is hard to conduct, the Contracting Party, Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity shall make the necessary arrangements with Japan and/or other market countries to obtain verified landing data on a real time basis;

ii Require their fishermen to report landings of their catches by species and by management area; and

iii Verify their catch and transshipment reports by using the transshipment and the landing data as mentioned in the above.

Attachment II

MODEL FORMAT FOR ANNUAL REPORTING OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ICCAT MANAGEMENT STANDARD FOR LARGE-SCALE TUNA LONGLINE VESSELS

a Management in the fishing grounds

	Surveillance & at-sea inspection by patrol boats	*Observer boarding*	*Satellite-based vessel monitoring system by management areas*	*Tags to differentiate catches by management areas*	*Real time catch report*	*Entry/Exit report*
Yes, No						
Note	Number of patrol boats Total number of patrol days at fishing grounds	%	% or number of vessels	Species Method	Method	Method

b Management of transshipment (from the fishing grounds to the landing ports)

	Transshipment report	*Port inspection*	*Statistical document program*
Yes, No			
Note	Method	Method	

c Management at landing ports

	Landing inspection	*Landing reporting*	*Bilateral agreement with Japan*
Yes, No			
Note	Method	Method	

ANNEX 7-19

SUPPLEMENTAL RESOLUTION BY ICCAT TO ENHANCE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE ICCAT MEASURES TO ELIMINATE ILLEGAL, UNREGULATED AND UNREPORTED FISHING ACTIVITIES BY LARGE-SCALE TUNA LONGLINE VESSELS IN THE CONVENTION AREA AND OTHER AREAS

RECALLING that ICCAT adopted at its 1999 meeting a *Resolution Calling for Further Actions against Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported Fishing Activities by Large-Scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area and Other Areas,*

PRAISING and strongly supporting the joint program implemented by Japan and Chinese Taipei to eliminate large-scale tuna longline vessels engaged in illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing by the scrapping of Japanese origin vessels and the re-registration of Chinese Taipei built vessels to the Chinese Taipei registry while ensuring no increase in the total number of her tuna longline fishing vessels,

BEING AWARE that a grace period is necessary to implement these scrapping and re-registration programs so as to avoid undue burdens on those vessels that participate in these programs,

BEING CONCERNED that a substantial number of owners of IUU large-scale tuna longline vessels, most of whom are Chinese Taipei's business entities, are still trying to continue IUU fishing by changing the flag of vessels and vessel name and/or ownership, and

BEING AWARE that the IUU tuna longline vessels de-registered by existing flag countries are trying to find new hosts,

RECOGNIZING the necessity and importance of cooperation by all Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities to achieve the effective implementation of these programs to eliminate all the IUU large-scale tuna longline vessels,

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

1 The Commission urge Japan and Chinese Taipei to take the necessary measures to complete the scrapping of IUU vessels built in Japan (the current list of participating vessels is shown in **Appendix I**), and the re-registration of IUU vessels built in Chinese Taipei and owned by its residents to Chinese Taipei registry (the current list of participating vessels is shown in **Appendix II**), respectively. Japan will complete the program by the end of 2003, whereas Chinese Taipei will complete re-registration by the end of 2005 without increasing the number of its licensed large-scale tuna longline vessels operating at sea (600 vessels). The Commission also urges Japan and Chinese Taipei to annually report the progress of the scrapping and re-registration programs to the Commission for its review.

2 Paragraph 2 of the *Resolution Calling for Further Actions Against Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported Fishing Activities by Large-Scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area and Other Areas*, adopted at the 1999 Commission Meeting, (hereinafter referred to as "the 1999 Resolution") may not be applied to the vessels which participate in the scrapping program by Japan as listed in **Appendix I** according to their scrapping schedule to be completed not later than the end of 2003, on condition that these vessels shall operate in compliance with the Commission's conservation and management measures. This paragraph may not be applied to the vessels that participate in the re-registration program by Chinese Taipei as listed in **Appendix II**, to be completed not later than the end of 2005, on the condition that these vessels shall operate in compliance with the Commission's conservation and management measures.

3 The Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities shall intensify their actions mentioned in paragraph 2 of the 1999 Resolution.

4 The Commission request Japan and Chinese Taipei to report any changes to **Appendix I** and **Appendix II** to the Commission without delay.

Appendix I

Scrap Vessels List (62)

	Scrap year	*Name of vessel*		*Tonnage*	*Years built*	*Age of ships*	*Place where built*	*Country of flag*	*Fishing area*
1	2001	協永366	HSIEH YUNG NO.366	486	1983	17	JAPAN	HONDURAS	INDIAN
2	2001	中義1	ZHONG I NO.1	383	1983	17	CHINA	E.GUINEA	INDIAN
3	2001	中義63	ZHONG I NO.63	526	1979	21	JAPAN	E.GUINEA	PACIFIC
4	2001	中義83	ZHONG I NO.83	456	1975	25	JAPAN	E.GUINEA	PACIFIC
5	2001	隆順662	DEVELOP	559	1979	21	JAPAN	E.GUINEA	INDIAN
6	2001	裕順	BRIGHT	405	1985	15	JAPAN	SEYCHELLE	INDIAN
7	2001	興順66	SHANG SHUN NO.66	549	1983	17	JAPAN	HONDURAS	INDIAN
8	2001	興順166	GREEN	477	1979	21	JAPAN	SEYCHELLE	INDIAN
9	2001	豪華	HAW HUA	637	1981	19	JAPAN	HONDURAS	INDIAN
10	2001	海仁3	HAI ZEAN NO.3	432	1978	22	JAPAN	E.GUINEA	ATLANTIC
11	2001	大佑11	TA YU NO.11	653	1978	22	JAPAN	HONDURAS	PACIFIC
12	2001	富安6	FU AN NO.6	478	1977	23	JAPAN	HONDURAS	INDIAN
13	2001	穩発236	WIN FAR NO.236	672	1978	22	JAPAN	HONDURAS	INDIAN
14	2001	明泰1	MING TAY NO.1	306	1979	21	JAPAN	ST.VINCENT	INDIAN
15	2001	穩発266	WIN FAR NO.266	535	1979	21	JAPAN	HONDURAS	INDIAN
16	2001	福稽1	FWU JI NO.1	566	1978	22	JAPAN	LAOS	ATLANTIC
17	2001	穩昶66	WOEN CHANG NO.66	492	1979	21	JAPAN	HONDURAS	INDIAN
18	2001	波補227	BOB NO.227	546	1981	19	JAPAN	BELIZE	ATLANTIC
19	2001	傑克11	JACKY NO.11	456	1982	18	JAPAN	BELIZE	ATLANTIC
20	2001	彼德617	PETER NO.617	537	1969	31	JAPAN	BELIZE	ATLANTIC
21	2001	吉普2	JI CHIN NO.2	285	1983	17	JAPAN	HONDURAS	ATLANTIC
22	2001	盟立101	MENG LI NO.101	585	1979	21	JAPAN	HONDURAS	INDIAN
23	2001	鎰新101	YI HSIN NO.101	349	1980	20	JAPAN	E.GUINEA	ATLANTIC
24	2001	豐豐	YI FENG	407	1978	22	JAPAN	HONDURAS	INDIAN
25	2001	長友68	PESQUERA NO.68	344	1979	21	JAPAN	HONDURAS	ATLANTIC
26	2001	天翔輪	TAN SANG	428	1984	16	CHI.TAIP	BELIZE	—
27	2002	中義85	ZHONG I NO.85	437	1976	24	JAPAN	E.GUINEA	PACIFIC
28	2002	海銘1	HAI MING NO.1	509	1981	19	JAPAN	E.GUINEA	PACIFIC
29	2002	福稽	FWU JI	600	1982	18	JAPAN	BELIZE	ATLANTIC
30	2002	連太	LIEN TAI	491	1979	21	JAPAN	BELIZE	ATLANTIC
31	2002	傑佛利131	JEFFREY NO.131	597	1980	20	JAPAN	BELIZE	ATLANTIC

Scrap Vessels List (62)

	Scrap year	*Name of vessel*		*Tonnage*	*Years built*	*Age of ships*	*Place where built*	*Country of flag*	*Fishing area*
32	2002	裕祥7	YU HSIANG NO.7	618	1979	21	JAPAN	BELIZE	ATLANTIC
33	2002	上裕	SHINE YEAR	592	1980	20	JAPAN	BELIZE	ATLANTIC
34	2003	啓宏121	CHI HUNG NO.121	640	1978	22	JAPAN	HONDURAS	INDIAN
35	2003	啓満	CHI MAN	556	1982	18	JAPAN	E.GUINEA	INDIAN
36	2003	鎮強1	CHEN CHIANG NO.1	578	1988	12	KOREA	E.GUINEA	INDIAN
37	2003	昌祐212	CHANG YOW NO.212	374	1980	20	JAPAN	ST.VINCENT	ATLANTIC
38	2003	讃立202	JAIN LIH NO.202	625	1980	20	JAPAN	HONDURAS	INDIAN
39	2003	中信26	ZHONG XIN NO.26	520	1974	26	JAPAN	HONDURAS	INDIAN
40	2003	東展6	TUNG ZHAN NO.6	319	1978	22	JAPAN	HONDURAS	PACIFIC
41	2003	豪勝202	HAU SHEN NO.202	728	1981	19	JAPAN	BELIZE	ATLANTIC
42	2003	建昶136	CHIEN CHANG NO.13	711	1979	21	JAPAN	BELIZE	INDIAN
43	2003	金成鴻	JIN CHENG HORNG	300	1978	22	JAPAN	E.GUINEA	INDIAN
44	2003	福莱爾3	FLAIR NO.3	493	1979	21	JAPAN	HONDURAS	ATLANTIC
45	2003	振発736	CHEN FA NO.736	636	1986	14	JAPAN	BELIZE	ATLANTIC
46	2003	盈智祥66	YING CHIN HSIANG	379	1979	21	JAPAN	HONDURAS	INDIAN
47	2003	鴻有606	HUNG YU NO.606	449	1979	21	JAPAN	E.GUINEA	INDIAN
48	2003	福環	FU HUAN	589	1980	20	JAPAN	HONDURAS	INDIAN
49	2003	金翔鵬	CHIN HSIANG MING	688	1980	20	JAPAN	HONDURAS	ATLANTIC
50	2003	昇興607	SUN RISE NO.607	346	1978	22	JAPAN	HONDURAS	ATLANTIC
51	2003	金友鵬	CHIN YOU MING	576	1981	19	JAPAN	E.GUINEA	ATLANTIC
52	2003	金長鵬	CHIN CHANG MING	578	1980	20	JAPAN	E.GUINEA	ATLANTIC
53	2003	鴻佑112	HUNG YU NO.112	690	1981	19	JAPAN	HONDURAS	ATLANTIC
54	2003	昌陞1	CHANG SHENG NO.1	497	1980	20	JAPAN	HONDURAS	INDIAN
55	2003	華成707	HUA CHENG NO.707	299	1980	20	JAPAN	HONDURAS	INDIAN
56	2003	華忠808	HUA CHUNG NO.808	299	1980	20	JAPAN	HONDURAS	INDIAN
57	2003	龍勝	LUNG THENG	663	1980	20	JAPAN	E.GUINEA	ATLANTIC
58	2003	順国	SHUN KUO	655	1980	20	JAPAN	E.GUINEA	ATLANTIC
59	2003	啓福16	CHI FUW NO.16	346	1980	20	JAPAN	E.GUINEA	INDIAN
60	2003	盟立301	MENG LI NO.301	585	1979	21	JAPAN	HONDURAS	INDIAN
61	2003	豪強	EVER RICH	446	1977	23	JAPAN	E.GUINEA	PACIFIC
62	2003	金億鵬	CHIN I MING	663	1979	21	JAPAN	HONDURAS	ATLANTIC

Re-registration Vessels List (67)

	Name of vessel		*Tonnage*	*Years built*	*Age of ships*	*Place where built*	*Country of flag*	*Fishing area*
1	長展1	CHANG JAAN NO.1	470	1998	2	CHI. TAIPEI	BELIZE	PACIFIC
2	振傑88	CHEN CHIEH NO.88	706	1997	3	CHI. TAIPEI	PHILIPPINES	ATLANTIC
3	振傑888	CHEN CHIEH NO.888	867	1998	2	CHI. TAIPEI	PHILIPPINES	ATLANTIC
4	鎮発1	CHEN FA NO.1	537	1997	3	CHI. TAIPEI	BELIZE	INDIAN
5	嘉盈6	CHIA YING NO.6	500	1998	2	CHI. TAIPEI	E.GUINEA	ATLANTIC
6	建群8	CHIEN CHUN NO.8	610	1997	3	CHI. TAIPEI	BELIZE	ATLANTIC
7	建中602	CHIEN CHUNG NO.602	706	1997	3	CHI. TAIPEI	BELIZE	INDIAN
8	春発	CHUN FA	470	1997	3	CHI. TAIPEI	HONDURAS	INDIAN
9	春億307	CHUN I NO.307	683	1998	2	CHI. TAIPEI	BELIZE	PACIFIC
10	春億316	CHUN I NO.316	683	1998	2	CHI. TAIPEI	BELIZE	PACIFIC
11	春盈212	CHUN YING NO.212	598	1998	2	CHI. TAIPEI	BELIZE	PACIFIC
12	春盈636	CHUN YING NO.636	598	1998	2	CHI. TAIPEI	BELIZE	INDIAN
13	春盈777	CHUN YING NO.777	498	1997	3	CHI. TAIPEI	BELIZE	PACIFIC
14	大和	DAI HO	573	1998	2	CHI. TAIPEI	BELIZE	ATLANTIC
15	東億1	DONG YIH NO.1	493	1999	1	CHI. TAIPEI	BELIZE	INDIAN
16	東億688	DONG YIH NO.688	493	1998	2	CHI. TAIPEI	E.GUINEA	INDIAN
17	豊国16	FONG KUO NO.16	521	1998	2	CHI. TAIPEI	BELIZE	PACIFIC
18	豊国3	FONG KUO NO.3	521	1997	3	CHI. TAIPEI	BELIZE	PACIFIC
19	豊国33	FONG KUO NO.33	521	1998	2	CHI. TAIPEI	BELIZE	PACIFIC
20	豊国36	FONG KUO NO.36	521	1998	2	CHI. TAIPEI	BELIZE	PACIFIC
21	豊国6	FONG KUO NO.6	521	1997	3	CHI. TAIPEI	BELIZE	PACIFIC
22	豊亜11	FONG YA NO.11	499	1998	2	CHI. TAIPEI	BELIZE	ATLANTIC
23	和春1	FORTUNA NO.1	498	1996	4	CHI. TAIPEI	HONDURAS	PACIFIC
24	和春11	FORTUNA NO.11	498	1996	4	CHI. TAIPEI	HONDURAS	PACIFIC
25	和春12	FORTUNA NO.12	498	1996	4	CHI. TAIPEI	HONDURAS	PACIFIC
26	和春2	FORTUNA NO.2	498	1996	4	CHI. TAIPEI	HONDURAS	PACIFIC
27	和春21	FORTUNA NO.21	498	1996	4	CHI. TAIPEI	HONDURAS	PACIFIC
28	和春22	FORTUNA NO.22	498	1996	4	CHI. TAIPEI	HONDURAS	PACIFIC
29	富元66	FU YUAN NO.66	683	1998	2	CHI. TAIPEI	BELIZE	PACIFIC
30	海仁11	HAI ZEAN NO.11	573	1997	3	CHI. TAIPEI	E.GUINEA	ATLANTIC
31	海仁31	HAI ZEAN NO.31	573	1997	3	CHI. TAIPEI	E.GUINEA	ATLANTIC
32	翔発18	HSIANG FA NO.18	598	1997	3	CHI. TAIPEI	BELIZE	INDIAN
33	翔発26	HSIANG FA NO.26	598	1997	3	CHI. TAIPEI	BELIZE	INDIAN
34	協永636	HSIEH YUNG NO.636	550	1997	3	CHI. TAIPEI	BELIZE	PACIFIC
35	信華103	HSIN HUA NO.103	598	1999	1	CHI. TAIPEI	E.GUINEA	INDIAN
36	鴻嘉202	HUNG CHIA NO.202	706	1998	2	CHI. TAIPEI	BELIZE	INDIAN
37	鴻慶212	HUNG CHING NO.212	706	1998	2	CHI. TAIPEI	BELIZE	INDIAN
38	鴻佑212	HUNG YU NO.212	550	1997	3	CHI. TAIPEI	E.GUINEA	INDIAN
39	華麒212	HWA CHIH NO.212	470	1998	2	CHI. TAIPEI	BELIZE	ATLANTIC

Appendix II

Re-registration Vessels List (67)

	Name of vessel		*Tonnage*	*Years built*	*Age of ships*	*Place where built*	*Country of flag*	*Fishing area*
40	華景202	HWA CHING NO.202	470	1997	3	CHI. TAIPEI	BELIZE	ATLANTIC
41	華懋202	HWA MAO NO.202	450	1997	3	CHI. TAIPEI	E.GUINEA	INDIAN
42	華珊301	HWA SHAN NO.301	498	1999	1	CHI. TAIPEI	SEYCHELLES	INDIAN
43	億滿鴻166	I MAN HUNG NO.166	496.13	1999	1	CHI. TAIPEI	E.GUINEA	ATLANTIC
44	讚永202	JAIN YUNG NO.202	599	1997	3	CHI. TAIPEI	BELIZE	ATLANTIC
45	傑佛利168	JEFFREY NO.168	573	1997	3	CHI. TAIPEI	BELIZE	ATLANTIC
46	瑞盈666	JUI YING NO.666	498	1997	3	CHI. TAIPEI	BELIZE	PACIFIC
47	高豐1	KAO FONG NO.1	598	1997	3	CHI. TAIPEI	BELIZE	INDIAN
48	連鴻777	LIEN HORNG NO.777	499	1998	2	CHI. TAIPEI	BELIZE	PACIFIC
49	隆昌3	LUNG CHANG NO.3	589	1998	2	CHI. TAIPEI	BELIZE	ATLANTIC
50	隆順212	LUNG SOON NO.212	573	1998	2	CHI. TAIPEI	E.GUINEA	PACIFIC
51	隆順282	LUNG SOON NO.282	573	1998	2	CHI. TAIPEI	E.GUINEA	PACIFIC
52	九福1	NINE LUCKY NO.1	508	1998	2	CHI. TAIPEI	BELIZE	PACIFIC
53	九福6	NINE LUCKY NO.6	508	1998	2	CHI. TAIPEI	BELIZE	PACIFIC
54	屏新201	PIN SHIN NO.201	706	1997	3	CHI. TAIPEI	BELIZE	INDIAN
55	屏源201	PING YUAN NO.201	706	1997	3	CHI. TAIPEI	BELIZE	INDIAN
56	興順622	SHANG SHUN NO.622	680	1998	2	CHI. TAIPEI	E.GUINEA	PACIFIC
57	信滿11	SHINN MANN NO.11	470	1997	3	CHI. TAIPEI	BELIZE	PACIFIC
58	信滿21	SHINN MANN NO.21	683	1998	2	CHI. TAIPEI	BELIZE	PACIFIC
59	順滿666	SHUEN MAN NO.666	498	1998	2	CHI. TAIPEI	BELIZE	PACIFIC
60	順裕	SHUN YU	573	1998	2	CHI. TAIPEI	BELIZE	ATLANTIC
61	協信1	SHYE SHIN NO.1	598	1997	3	CHI. TAIPEI	BELIZE	INDIAN
62	西鴻128	SI HONG NO.128	598	1999	1	CHI. TAIPEI	BELIZE	INDIAN
63	西泰326	SI TAI NO.326	598	1998	2	CHI. TAIPEI	BELIZE	INDIAN
64	松暉	SUNG HUI	598	1998	2	CHI. TAIPEI	BELIZE	INDIAN
65	億順212	YIH SHUEN 212	470	1997	3	CHI. TAIPEI	E.GUINEA	INDIAN
66	威慶	WEI CHING	498	1997	3	CHI. TAIPEI	E.GUINEA	ATLANTIC
67	穩發868	WIN FAR NO.868	497.61	1999	1	CHI. TAIPEI	BELIZE	INDIAN

ANNEX 7-20

RESOLUTION BY ICCAT FOR INTEGRATED MONITORING MEASURES

CONSIDERING that the monitoring of compliance with conservation measures is an essential element for the success of these measures;

NOTING that ICCAT has already adopted several monitoring measures;

FURTHER NOTING that integrated monitoring measures are desirable and efficient;

CONSIDERING that integrated monitoring measures should take into account the characteristics of the fisheries and the fishing areas covered by ICCAT;

RECOGNIZING that this is a complex task, but that it should be initiated without delay;

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

1 That a Working Group be established to develop integrated monitoring measures, in accordance with applicable international law, such as the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the 1995 United Nations Agreement on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, the FAO Compliance Agreement, the FAO Code of Conduct, and appropriate FAO International Plans of Action (IPOAs), for fisheries managed by ICCAT.

2 That in carrying out this task, the Working Group will:

   a be supported by the ICCAT Secretariat;

   b establish a time schedule for the development of its work, and will hold at least one meeting during 2001 before the next Commission meeting; and

   c invite observers attending ICCAT meetings, the FAO, and other regional fishery organizations to participate in the meetings of this Working Group.

ANNEX 7-21

RESOLUTION BY ICCAT TO ESTABLISH A COMPLIANCE WORKING GROUP

GIVEN the complexity of ICCAT's conservation and management recommendations and the need to apply the terms of the Commission's recommendations concerning compliance in a consistent manner,

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

1 The Compliance Committee shall establish a working group to facilitate development and implementation of Compliance Annexes, as agreed in ICCAT's *Recommendation Concerning the Application of Three Compliance Recommendations*, adopted in 1998. The Terms of Reference for the Working Group are as follows:

   a to develop and recommend to the Compliance Committee an appropriate structure for the 2001 and future compliance annexes;

   b to review annually member reporting tables and, as appropriate, task 1 data, and applicable ICCAT recommendations;

   c to compile the 2001 and future compliance annexes for consideration by the Compliance Committee;

   d to work closely with the ICCAT Secretariat in carrying out the activities specified in items a through c above.

2 The Compliance Working Group should meet as early as possible during the 2001 Commission meeting to begin its work.

ANNEX 7-22

RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON ESTABLISHING STATISTICAL DOCUMENT PROGRAMS FOR SWORDFISH, BIGEYE TUNA, AND OTHER SPECIES MANAGED BY ICCAT

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;

RECOGNIZING the nature of the international market for Atlantic swordfish and bigeye tuna;

AWARE that the SCRS has stated it is unable to estimate accurately the catch of Atlantic swordfish and bigeye tuna in the Convention Area and that the availability of trade data would greatly assist in making such estimates;

REAFFIRMING the usefulness of the Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document (BTSD) Program in tracking the trade of Atlantic bluefin tuna, especially Not Elsewhere Included (NEI) catch that has not been reported to the SCRS;

DESIRING to improve the quality and availability of data relating to trade in Atlantic swordfish, bigeye tuna and such other species for which ICCAT may adopt conservation and management measures;

HAVING AS ITS PURPOSE to improve the ability of ICCAT to develop effective conservation and management recommendations for such species, and to control trade in such species as are harvested in violation of ICCAT's conservation and management measures;

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

1 The Commission shall establish statistical document programs for swordfish and bigeye tuna, modeled, in principle, after the BTSD Program, with the aim of having the program or programs fully implemented by 1 January 2002, or as soon as possible thereafter.

2 The ICCAT Secretariat shall facilitate a meeting of technical experts prior to the 2001 meeting of the Commission to consider and resolve technical issues relating to the implementation of the program or programs.

3 Following the adoption of conservation and management measures for other species, the Commission should establish comparable statistical document programs for those species as well, as appropriate.

4 The Commission shall endeavor to harmonize all statistical document programs under its purview.

5 Pending the full implementation of the statistical program or programs for swordfish and bigeye tuna, Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities are encouraged to closely monitor imports and exports of swordfish and bigeye tuna, such as through the collection of import information relating to these species.

ANNEX 8

REPORT OF THE CONSERVATION & MANAGEMENT MEASURES COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

1 Opening of the meeting

The Meeting of the Conservation and Management Measures Compliance Committee was opened by Mr. Ernesto Penas (European Community).

2 Adoption of the Agenda

The tentative Agenda proposed by the Chair was adopted and is attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 8**.

3 Nomination of Rapporteur

Dr. François Gauthiez (EC-France) was nominated and accepted to serve as rapporteur of the Compliance Committee.

4 Status of the compliance of Contracting Parties as concerns statistics

The Assistant Executive Secretary briefly presented the "Report on Statistics and Coordination of Research in 2000" (COM-SCRS/00/9). He regretted that some Contracting Parties had not submitted any statistics to the SCRS this year. The table attached to document COM-SCRS/00/9 showed a summarized list of the data received during the year by the Secretariat. The Committee expressed its concern that some Parties had not reported any data. Canada noted the difficulty in attempting to digest statistics received at the last minute and expressed the view that while late submission of statistics is better than no submission of statistics, advance submission is the best course of action.

5 National rules for the application of the ICCAT measures and the collection of catch data

The Assistant Executive Secretary submitted summary tables to the Committee with information on the implementation of ICCAT regulatory measures and the statistical data reported to the Secretariat. It was noted that more timely submission of this information would facilitate the work of the Committee.

6 Current ICCAT Port Inspection Scheme

The Executive Secretary called the Committee's attention to the list of countries which had ratified the ICCAT port inspection scheme, these being Brazil, Côte d'Ivoire, France, Gabon, Panama, Sao Tomé & Principe, South Africa, United States, and Venezuela.

7 Review of the application and compliance of the ICCAT conservation and management measures

7.1 The Chairman indicated that this Agenda item mainly comprised the review of the compliance tables and of the recommendations regarding limitations on the number of vessels. He proposed that the Committee first examine compliance with catch limits, based on the tables prepared by the Secretariat.

7.2 The Delegate of the United States made a statement concerning Compliance Committee issues in general, which is attached as **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 8**.

7.3 Many Contracting Parties clarified or changed the figures shown on the tables distributed by the Secretariat. The Committee decided to attach the final "Table Regarding Compliance with Catch Limits" to the report (see **Appendix 3 to ANNEX 8**), but without adopting its content, given the reservations expressed by some delegations. More specific interventions were made concerning each stock.

West Atlantic bluefin tuna

7.4 The Delegate of the United States noted that Equatorial Guinea had caught 429 MT of West Atlantic bluefin tuna in 1999, even though it had no quota. He expressed his concern about the impact of such practices on the effectiveness of the rebuilding plan which had been established for this stock.

East Atlantic bluefin tuna

7.5 The Delegate of Japan reiterated his wish to clarify the management regulations with regard to quota underage of this stock.

7.6 The Delegate of Morocco commented on the recent catches of Morocco, recalling the objection which they had made to the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Limitation of Catches of Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean* (Ref: 98-5). He indicated that Morocco had undertaken not to exceed the catch level of 3018 MT in 1999 and 2000. Some delegates wanted to know why the catch limit for the years 1999 and 2000, as reported at the 1999 meeting, had been changed. The Delegate of Morocco gave the necessary explanations. Firstly, he stated that the principle of fixing the level had not changed : Morocco having objected to the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Limitation of Catches of Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean*, and the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Bluefin Catch Limits in the Eastern Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea* (Ref: 94-11) only limiting catches until 1998, Morocco decided to limit its catches in 1999 and 2000 to the 1998 level. Morocco had then improved its collection of catch and fleet statistics, and the 1998 catch was re-estimated to have been 3,028 MT. He informed the Committee that Morocco would apply the possible adjustments provided for in the *Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding Compliance in the Bluefin Tuna and Atlantic Swordfish Fisheries* (Ref: 98-13) and the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Application of Three Compliance Recommendations* (Ref: 98-14) to the catch limits. The Committee noted the explanations furnished by Morocco, and no one opposed them.

7.7 On the question of carrying over quota underages from 1998 to 2000, the Chairman recalled that the Committee had not reached an agreement since its meeting in 1999. Some delegations considered that there was no basis for this carry-over, while others considered, on the contrary, that there had been an agreement since the 1999 meeting about the legitimacy of this carry-over. The Delegate of the European Community made a statement on this issue, which is attached as **Appendix 4 to ANNEX 8**. In the end, the Committee could not agree, in principle, on whether or not to reopen the debate, although some delegations considered that the debate on this issue had never been closed.

7.8 Some delegates considered that the problem which confronted the Committee was of a legal nature, and that recourse to a third party to act as arbitrator could be envisaged. It was noted that such steps would not necessarily be in accordance with the text of the Convention. Other delegates considered that legal consultation would be, without doubt, useful, but in order to clarify future work of the Commission more than to deal with problems in the past. The Chairman concluded by asking the Secretariat to prepare, before the next meeting of the Committee, a report presenting the different possibilities of improving the legal quality of the Recommendations and the issue of resolving future conflicts. The Committee approved this conclusion.

North Atlantic swordfish

7.9 The Delegate of the European Community asked that the information with respect to individual members of the European Community be combined on the swordfish table, as it was for other stocks.

7.10 The Delegate of Japan expressed his concern about the increase in swordfish catches of China. He recalled the very strict measures imposed on Japanese fishermen, such as the release of 100% of fish caught. The Delegate of Canada shared the concerns of Japan about the catches of China. The Delegate of the United States was pleased to note that Japan was taking measures to address its North Atlantic swordfish quota over-harvests.

7.11 The Delegate of China stated that measures were being established to improve the collection of swordfish catch statistics in order to ensure a reduction in swordfish catches. He asked for one year to allow these measures to be fully established. He also expressed China's intention of becoming a member of Panel 4.

South Atlantic swordfish

7.12 The Delegate of Japan raised the question of responsibility for catch data relating to catches made by foreign vessels chartered by Brazil. He stated that Japan and Brazil should work together to resolve this issue. The Delegate of Brazil, while welcoming the offer of Japan, indicated that charter operations were of a commercial nature but in all cases Brazil included the catches made under the Brazilian flag. He also made mention of the management measures taken in respect of the Brazilian fleets targeting swordfish.

7.13 The Delegate of the European Community pointed out that the quota for the European Community included that allocated to Portugal.

7.14 With regard to all the stocks previously examined (western bluefin tuna, eastern and Mediterranean bluefin tuna, north Atlantic swordfish and south Atlantic swordfish), the Committee considered that the reports of authorized overages/underages in 1999, as established by the relevant recommendations, would pertain to the quotas in 2001. In some cases, however, disagreement remained on whether or not quota under- or over-harvests existed and on what adjustments could or should be made to future quotas in such cases.

7.15 The Committee agreed that the measures for the management of the "others" quota were still very imperfect, as they prevented the identification of the parties responsible in the case of the limit being exceeded.

Atlantic marlins

7.16 The Delegate of the United States noted the importance of conserving these stocks and expressed his wish for the improvement of management measures.

Minimum sizes

7.17 The Assistant Executive Secretary submitted to the Committee the "Tables Regarding Compliance with Size Limits of Various Species", which summarize the information reported by the Contracting Parties with regard to respecting minimum size limits (attached as **Appendix 5 to ANNEX 8**).

7.18 The Delegates of the United States, Japan and Canada expressed serious concerns about the lack of reporting by some Contracting Parties in relation to compliance with minimum size limits.

7.19 The Observer from the Ocean Wildlife Campaign presented a written statement regarding compliance with ICCAT management recommendations, which is attached as **Appendix 6 to ANNEX 8**.

7.20 The Chairman concluded by recalling the importance of submitting all necessary information to the SCRS and to the Compliance Committee, and by requesting Contracting Parties to submit to the Secretariat, before the next Commission meeting, their regulations in force in relation to implementing minimum size limits. He also referred the task of proposing appropriate management measures aimed at diminishing the catches of undersized fish to the relevant Panels.

Lists of vessels

7.21 The Assistant Executive Secretary presented a document summarizing information on the lists of vessels fishing for bigeye tuna and northern albacore, as reported to the Secretariat. Many Parties submitted additional information. The table is attached as **Appendix 7 to ANNEX 8**.

7.22 The Delegate of the European Community stated that the figures relating to vessels fishing for North Atlantic albacore should be examined in relation to the 1993-1995 reference period.

7.23 The Delegate of the European Community requested that the list of bigeye vessels be updated, indicating that the Community would provide the relevant information to the Secretariat for this purpose.

7.24 The Delegate of Japan expressed deep concern about the drastic increase of large-scale longline vessels by China and indicated his intention to propose to the Commission that the scope of the application concerning registry and the limitation on the number of large-scale fishing vessels be expanded.

7.25 The Delegate of Korea pointed out that Japan announced in 1999 the list of IUU fishing vessels on the home page of its Fisheries Agency and changed this list without an appropriate decision of the Commission. The Delegate of Korea emphasized the importance of the quality of all documents created by the Commission as one of the leading regional fisheries organizations, in particular, when a nation's honor and image are directly or indirectly concerned. She also reiterated that Contracting Parties should not make any changes in the ICCAT data and document without the Commission's permission.

Application of ICCAT management measures for bluefin tuna

7.26 The Committee decided to reaffirm the measures taken in 1999 in relation to Equatorial Guinea and drafted a letter to the Authorities of Equatorial Guinea to this effect, which is attached as **Appendix 8 to ANNEX 8.**

Management of overages and underage

7.27 The Delegate of Japan presented a draft recommendation aimed at establishing a general rule for the management of quota overages and underages. The Delegate also referred to the report on Japan's swordfish catch under a block quota system and its statement on Atlantic swordfish presented to Panel 4 (see **Appendices 23 and 23 to ANNEX 9**, respectively).

7.28 The Committee debated this issue. The lack of coherence with other recommendations already in existence was noted, as was the need to make provision for articles relating specifically to a particular stock. An amended proposal was finally adopted by the Committee (see *Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding Compliance With Management Measures Which Define Quotas and/or Catch Limits*, attached as **ANNEX 7-14**).

Application of ICCAT management measures for bigeye tuna

7.29 The Committee decided to take measures prohibiting the Contracting Parties to import bigeye tuna from Equatorial Guinea, through the adoption of a *Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding Equatorial Guinea Pursuant to the 1998 Resolution Concerning the Unreported and Unregulated Catches of Tuna by Large-scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area* (see **ANNEX 7-16**). This Recommendation was forwarded to the Commission for final approval.

8 Date and place of the next Compliance Committee meeting

8.1 It was agreed the next meeting of the Compliance Committee would be held at the same time and place as the next Commission meeting.

9 Other matters

Integrated Monitoring Measures

9.1 The Delegate of the European Community presented a draft Resolution to establish a working group, the mandate of which would be the establishment of an integrated monitoring scheme for ICCAT fisheries. He also

submitted a document outlining the general guidelines which the Community considered most appropriate to this matter.

9.2 Several delegations expressed their concern with regard to the practical difficulties which such a working group would certainly pose. The Delegate of Morocco also emphasized the difficulties which this group would probably encounter. Nevertheless, after lengthy debate, all the delegations agreed that this issue was of major importance and agreed that a meeting of the working group proposed by the Community be held in 2001.

9.3 The *Resolution by ICCAT for Integrated Monitoring Measures* was adopted by the Committee with some modifications and forwarded to the Commission for final approval (see **ANNEX 7-20**). The Delegate of the EC announced that the Commission of the European Union would host the meeting of the Working Group in Brussels, which would be held sequentially with the Working Group on Allocation Criteria. The Delegates of the United States and Canada stated that they would consider contributing financially towards the travel costs of Secretariat staff for this meeting.

Management standards for large-scale longliners

9.4 The Delegate of Japan expressed his serious concern about the management of large-scale longliners. He explained that Japan had prepared a draft resolution on minimum management standards for large-scale longliners. However, given the complexity of the issue, he indicated his wish to hold bilateral consultations before proposing the text to the Commission at its 2001 meeting for adoption. He contented himself with presenting a shorter text on the register of tuna vessels at the present session.

9.5 This approach was favourably viewed by the other delegations, particularly Brazil and Canada. Echoing a remark of the Delegate of the European Community, the Chairman considered that it would be appropriate to ensure coherence between work on the management of large-scale longliners with work on an integrated monitoring scheme.

9.6 The *Resolution by ICCAT Concerning the Preparation of a Management Standard for the Large-Scale Tuna Fishery* was adopted and forwarded to the Commission for final approval (see **ANNEX 7-18**).

Vessel register

9.7 The Delegate of Japan presented a draft recommendation concerning registration and exchange of information of tuna fishing vessels in the Convention Area. This draft was made following discussions on the management of large-scale longliners. Following some amendments suggested by various delegations, the final text *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Registration and Exchange of Information of Fishing Vessels Fishing for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the Convention Area* was adopted by the Committee and forwarded to the Commission for final approval (see **ANNEX 7-17**). This text extends the scope of application of the 1998 *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Registration and Exchange of Information on Bigeye Tuna Fishing Vessels* (Ref: 98-2) to all tuna fishing vessels.

Improvement in the functioning of the Compliance Committee

9.8 The Committee examined a draft resolution presented by the Delegate of the United States, concerning the formation of a Working Group, the mandate of which would be to improve the practical functioning of the Compliance Committee, especially as regards the compiling of the attached tables. The Committee adopted the *Resolution by ICCAT to Establish a Compliance Working Group*, which was forwarded to the Commission for final adoption (see **ANNEX 7-21**).

10 Adoption of Report

The 2000 Report of the Compliance Committee was adopted, including the inclusion of the changes presented at the time of adoption.

11 Adjournment

11.1 The Chairman concluded by requesting the Parties to make every effort to improve the quality of the data transmitted, not only to the Compliance Committee, but also to the SCRS, as well as to avoid the delays in such transmission. He pointed out that complying with these obligations was fundamental to the efficient functioning of the Committee and the Commission overall.

11.2 The 2000 Meeting of the Compliance Committee was adjourned on November 20, 2000.

Appendix 1 to ANNEX 8

Agenda of the Compliance Committee

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 Other matters
10 Adoption of Report
11 Adjournment

Appendix 2 to ANNEX 8

Statement by the United States to the Compliance Committee

The primary goal of the Convention, to maintain populations at levels that permit the maximum sustainable catch, can only be achieved through the full implementation of the conservation and management measures that ICCAT has adopted. These management measures are negotiated with the understanding that all members who agree to the terms of the recommendation will act in good faith to ensure that they are fully effective. To this end, the Commission has adopted a series of compliance recommendations.

The United States is again deeply disappointed to see that many members have refused to participate in the process of submitting tables with their National Reports for the purpose of a consistent evaluation of compliance. This lack of participation threatens to seriously undermine the work of this Committee. It is unfair to allow certain members to evade their obligations, while others have openly and honestly discussed their implementation of management measures.

The agree-upon compliance tables were designed to provide a streamlined system that is easy to complete and to review. Full participation in this process is essential, because without the participation of all members, ICCAT cannot fulfill its primary responsibilities. Nations that have exceeded their quota must report on the actions they are taking to address the problem, and the appropriate action for over-harvests will be assessed by the Committee. Over-harvests of catch limits reduce our ability to achieve our management goals and greatly disadvantage nations whose fishermen have respected the recommendations. Those parties who exceed their quotas must pay back the overages according to the agreed schedule. Those parties who exceed their quotas for multiple years are subject to penalties that reflect the serious nature of these chronic problems, making it difficult, if not impossible, to achieve the objective of the ICCAT Convention.

Complete and timely reporting of catch data forms the foundation of any future assessments and management measures. To disregard this fundamental obligation is the most egregious form of non-compliance among ICCAT members. Widespread non-reporting, misreporting and incomplete reporting make it difficult for ICCAT scientists to provide an accurate assessment of the status of the stocks. The quality of information provided by the parties has a direct impact on the scientific advice that the SCRS can provide, and this advice is essential to the development of effective management measures for our fisheries.

Another priority for the Compliance Committee at this year's meeting is to address the continued problem of widespread harvest of illegal undersized fish. Harvest s of undersized bigeye tuna and yellowfin tuna comprise more than half of the total catch of these species. For eastern Atlantic bluefin tuna, gross violations of the ICCAT minimum size tolerance continue to contribute to over-fishing and are likely detrimental to conservation efforts in the West. In fact, the latest stock assessments for western Atlantic bluefin tuna notes accumulating evidence, including recent results from state-of-the-art electronic tags, that fisheries in the western and eastern Atlantic management units are related.

The 1997 recommendation to improve compliance with minimum size regulations acknowledged the difficulty of reducing harvests of small fish, and accordingly provided each member with adequate time to phase-in appropriate management actions. This recommendation requires Contracting Parties must have measures in place to ensure the monitoring and enforcement of the minimum size regulations, and report on these measures at the 2000 meeting. We look forward to hearing about the steps that other nations are taking to address this serious problem.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize that once ICCAT has agreed upon a management measure, each party in agreement is then responsible for full and effective implementation. All members are held accountable for their actions in an equitable manner. Without full compliance, we will forego the social and economic benefits associated with fisheries that support the maximum sustainable catch. Member nations must take seriously their responsibility to fully implement all measures adopted by the Commission through the development of domestic regulatory programs designed to monitor and control fishing landings.

Tables on Compliance with Catch Limits for Various Species

BFT EAST Recommended catch limits and reported catches for East Atlantic bluefin tuna

For 1997 and 1998; Recommendatioon 95-5 applies, i.e. 25% reduction from 1993 or1994 catch, whichever higher, by 1998.
For 1999-2000; Recommendation 98-5 defined country quota.

		1997			1998				1999				2000			
	BASE	Quota	Catch	Balance	Quota	Adj. quota	Catch	Balance	Quota	Adj quota	Catch	Balance	Quota	Adj quota	Catch	
Contracting Parties																
CHINA.PR	84	84	43	41	63	63	74	-11	82	71	**103**	**-32**	76	44		4/
CROATIA	1410	1410	1105	305	1058	1058	906	152	**950**	950	**970**	**-20**	876	856		4/
EC-TOTAL	27748	27748	28045	**-4029**	**20811**	**20811**	**18230**	**2581**	**20165**	**16136**	**16164**	**-28**	**18590**	**21171**		2/
GUINEA ECUATOR.			904				267				76					5/
GUINEE-CONAKRY	330	330	362	0	248	248	368	248	0	0	0					5/
JAPAN	**3554**	**3554**	**3631**	**-77**	**2666**	**2589**	**3064**	**-475**	3199	**2605**	**2793**	**188**	**2949**	**2543**		3/
KOREA	688	688	613	75	516	516	0	516	672		0	672	619	1291		6/
LIBYA	1332	1332	1029	303	**999**	**999**	**1331**	**-332**	**1331**	**999**	**760**	**239**	**1331**	**1570**		1/
MAROC	**1812**	**1812**	**2603**	**-791**	**1359**	**1359**	**3028**	**-1669**	**3028**	**2237**	**2825**	**-588**	**3028**	**1359**		1/
TUNISIE	2503	2503	2200	303	1877	1877	**1745**	132	2326	2458	2352	106	2144	2250		4/

Figures in **bold** are those reported on the reporting tables required by Recommendation 98-14 and others are from official Task I figures.
BASE = 1993 or 1994 catch, whichever higher
Overage is adjusted since 1997 (Ref. 96-14, 98-5)
When overage occurred in two consecutive years, 125% to be subtracted from the quota (Ref. 96-14)
Discards are not included in the above calculations.
In this table, overage was, in general, applied to the quota of two years later and penalties are not applied unless specified otherwise.
Combined NEI of 666 MT for 1997 and 3242 MT for 1999 was estimated by SCRS but not included in the table.

1/ Exempted from application of Recommendation 98-5 as objections were reaffirmed.
The figures in the quota column for 1999 and 2000 are limits equivalent to 1998 catches, imposed by the countries themselves.
Morocco's final catch figure for 1998 was 3028 MT, which was used as limits for 1999 and 2000.

2/ Compliance is evaluated as EC for years 1998 and thereafter.

3/ By fishing year. Overage in 1998 was applied to the following year.

4/ Over/underages applied to the following year.

5/ Catch is not reported by the flag country and is the estimate by SCRS.

6/ Only underage of 1999 is carried over to the quota of 2000.

BFT WEST Recommended catch limits and reported catches for West Altantic bluefin tuna

Quota for 1997-1998 is set by Recommendation 96-4; for 1999-2000 by Recommendation 98-7

	1997			1998				1999				2000			
	Catch limit	Catch	Balance	Catch limit	Adj. limit	Catch	Balance	Catch limit	Adj. limit	Catch	Balance	Catch limit	Adj. limit	Catch	
BRAZIL								0	0	12.5	-12.5	0	-12.5		
CANADA	552.6	504.5	48.1	552.6	600.7	596	4.7	573	*577.7*	576.1	1.6	573	574.6		
FRANCE (OT)				4	4		4	4	*8*	0.54	7.46	4	11.46		
GUINEA ECUATORIAL	0			0				0		429	-429	0	-429		1/
JAPAN	453	470	-17	453	436	555	-119	453		433	20	453	324.2		3/
U.S.A	1344.4	1333	11.4	1344.4	1355.8	1237	118.8	1387	*1424*	1226	148	1387	1585		2/
UK-BERMUDA	4	2	2	4	*6*	1	5	4	*9*	1	8	4	12		

Figures in bold are those reported on the reporting tables required by Recommendation 98-14 and others are from official Task I figures.
Adjustment of quota according to Recommendation 91-1 (for West only) and Recommendation 96-14 (for both West and East) was not done until 1997.
Recommendation 96-14 has no provision for left over quota, which was well defined in Rececommendation 91-1. Overage in 1997 was addd to 1998 quota in above calculation.
In this table, all the overage and underage is applied to the following year unless otherwise specified (Ref. 96-14 & 98-13)
Discards are not included in the above calculations.
When overage occurred in two consecutive years, 125% was subtracted from the quota (Ref. 96-14).

1/ Catch is not reported by the flag country and is the estimate by SCRS.

2/ The US changed calendar year to fishing year (June-May) and applied 37 MT of the left over from 1998 to 1999 fishing year.
Therefore the adjusted limit for fishing year of 1999 was set as 1444 (1387+37) MT.

3/ According to Japanese compliance table. 1998 overage was applied to 2000 quota with 25% penalty (453+20-119*1.25)

Catch	1997 Limit	1997 Catch	1997 Balance	Reported 97 SCRS	Reported after 97	1998 Limit 98 SCRS	1998 Adjusted	1998 Catch	1998 Balance	1999 Limit	1999 Adjusted limit	Catch	Balance	2000 Limit	Adjusted
NORTH ATLANTIC															
Contracting Parties with quota															
CANADA	1130	1089	41	1100		1100	1141	1115	26	1070	1096	1118.5	-23	1018	995
EC-TOTAL	5508.75	6233	-534.3	5480		5480	5480	5105	375	5333	4799	4966	-167	5073	5448
JAPAN	706.25	1342		687.5		687.5		1361		668.8		690		636	
UK-OVERSEAS TERR.	28	5	23	27		27	50	43	7	26	33	12	21	24	45
U.S.A.	3277	2831	446	3190		3190	3636	3112	524	3103	3627	2896	731	2951	3682
Others' quota	*678*	*1204*	*-526*	*660*		*660*		*1101*	*-441*	*642*	*201*				
CHINA.PR				0	100	55		334	-334	55		304	-249	55	
KOREA				19	19	19		0	0	19		0	19	19	
MAROC				505	460	278		191	-191	278		119	397	278	
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO				0	43	43		15	-15	43		39	82	43	
VENEZUELA				85	85	85		35	-35	85		9	94	85	

Catch	1997 Limit 98 SCRS	1997 Catch	1997 Balance	1998 Limit 97 SCRS	Reported after 97	Limit	1998 Adjusted	1998 Catch	1998 Balance	1999 Limit	1999 Adjusted limit	Catch	Balance	2000 Limit	Adjusted
SOUTH ATLANTIC															
Contracting Parties															
BRAZIL	2013	4100	-2087	2339.2		2339		3847	-1507.6	2339	2339.2	4721.1	-2381.9	2339	831
EC-TOTAL		8902		6233		6233	6233	6216	17	6233	6250	6139	111	6233	6344
JAPAN	4600	929	3671	3765		3765		1166	2598.6	3764.6		353			
URUGUAY	260	760	-500	694.5		694.5		886	-191.5	694.5	503	791	-288	694.5	406.5
Other Contracting Parties				804.1		804.1		1233	-63.4	1169.6	1106.2				
CHINA PR	250	0	250	0	0	0	0	24	-24	0	0	534	-534	0	
COTE D'IVOIRE	250	16	234	0	30	0	0	17	-17	0	0	30	-30	0	
GHANA	250	0	250	140	140	140	140	106	34	140	140	106	34	140	
KOREA	250	18	232	7	19	7	7	0	7	7	7	0	7	7	
NAMIBIA	250	0	250	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	730	-730	0	
SAO TOME & PRINCIPE	250	14	236	0	0	0	236	14	222	0	222		222	0	
SOUTH AFRICA	250	1	249	1	1	1	1	169	-168	1	1	76	-75	1	
U.S.A.	250	127	123	171	171		384	295	89	171	384	51	333	171	

Figures in bold are those reported on the reporting tables required by Recommendation 98-14. Others are official Task I figures

EXPLANATORY NOTES TO SWORDFISH COMPLIANCE TABLE

NORTH ATLANTIC

The relevant recommendations are:

96-7	North Atlantic Swordfish Catch Quotas 1997, 1998 and 1999
97-6	Supplemental Recommendation : Catches of north Atlantic Swordfish for 1998 and 1999 (defines limits for other countries included in lump sum quota)
99-2	Rebuilding Program North Atlantic Swordfish (defines quota for 2000-2002)

EC- Total: The figures shown for EC are those reported by EC on their Compliance Report. The quota for 1997 corresponds to the sum of the quotas allocated to EC-Spain and EC-Portugal. The total catch figure for 1997 includes 6043 MT caught by EC-Spain and EC-Portugal and 190 MT caught by EC-France, EC-Ireland and EC-UK combined. The 1998 and 1999 quota corresponds to the sum of: (1) quotas allocated to EC-Spain and EC-Portugal, and (2) catch limits for other Member States (Ref. 97-6).

Japan: Japan has submitted revised figures for 1997 and 1998, which are included in the table. Overages and underages for Japan are calculated over a five-year period under the provisions of Recommendation 96-7. Figures are calculated by fishing year from August to July. The 1999 catch is therefore preliminary (Aug-Dec 1999).

UK-OT: UK-Overseas Territories (originally denominated UK-Bermuda) was allocated a special quota of 28 MT under the provisions of operative paragraph 3 of Recommendation 97-6.

USA: Overages are carried over each year. Discards are not included in catch totals.

China PR: China had reported 100 MT for 1996 in unknown area. This was later found to correspond to the North Atlantic. If this figure were taken as the base year figure for the North Atlantic, the quota would be 55 MT. However, strictly following a strict interpretation of the provisions of Recommendation 97-6, zero is shown on the table.

Korea: Provisions of Recommendation 97-6 apply. Korea has complied.

Maroc: Provisions of Recommendation 97-6 apply. Morocco has complied.

Sao Tomé: Sao Tomé data were originally mis-allocated to the North Atlantic. Sao Tomé catches are taken South of 5° North and should be included in the South Atlantic.

Trinidad-Tobago: Provisions of Recommendation 97-6 applied. Figures for all years have been under-reported according to the Government of Trinidad and Tobago. More complete statistics will be provided by Trinidad and Tobago in the near future.

Venezuela: Provisions of Recommendation 97-6 apply.

SOUTH ATLANTIC

The relevant Recommendations are:

94-14	Swordfish Catch Quotas.
97-7	Percentage Shares of TAC and 1998-2000 Catch Quotas for South Atlantic Swordfish.

Brazil: Overage in 1998 will be deducted from 2000 quota.

EC: 1998 limit corresponds to the sum of the quota allocated to EC-Spain (5848 MT) and 385 MT allocated to EC-Portugal (Ref. 97-7).

Japan: Japan has submitted revised figures for 1997 and 1998, which are included in the table. Figures are calculated by fishing year from August to July. The 1999 catch is therefore preliminary (Aug-Dec 1999).

Uruguay: The overage/underage is assumed to be carried over in consecutive years.

Others: 1996 catch levels (indicative base year- Recommendation refers only to "recent years")

China PR: 0; Cote d'Ivoire: 30; Ghana: 140; Korea: 7 (later updated to 19): Namibia: 0; Sao Tomé: 0: South Africa: 0

USA: The U.S. was not allocated a quota for South Atlantic swordfish. The catch level in 1996 was 171MT. The adjusted quota of 384 MT is based on fishing year landings in the base year (1996). This was agreed at the 1997 Commission meeting.

WHM & BUM Marlin catch table

Rec. 98-10 Reduction of landings by 25% from 1996 level, except small-scale artisanal fisheries .

COUNTRY	*1990*	*1991*	*1992*	*1993*	*1994*	*1995*	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	*1996 * 75%*	*1999*
WHITE MARLIN											
BRAZIL	205	377	211	301	91	105	75	105	216	**56.3**	**156.6**
CANADA	0	0	0	0	4	4	8	8	8	6.0	**4.8**
CANADA-JPN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0
CHINA.PR	0	0	0	0	9	11	9	11	15	6.8	30
COTE D'IVOIRE	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	0.8	7
EC-TOTAL	41	28	32	35	36	37	114	81	78	**85.5**	77
GABON	0	0	0	0	0	0	406	0	0	304.5	0
GHANA	31	17	14	22	1	2	1	0	7	0.8	0
JAPAN	126	122	248	82	92	57	112	58	56	**84.0**	**54**
KOREA	81	57	10	8	43	23	59	23	0	44.3	0
PANAMA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0
SAO TOME & PRINCIPE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	45	0	0.0	0
U.S.A	100	95	96	79	55	109	71	72	35	**4.8**	**1.6** *
UK-OT	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	**0.8**	**1**
URUGUAY	1	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	22	0.0	0
VENEZUELA	79	43	73	117	110	110	98	59	37	73.5	42

COUNTRY	*1990*	*1991*	*1992*	*1993*	*1994*	*1995*	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	*1996 75%*	*1999*
BLUE MARLIN											
BRAZIL	52	61	125	147	81	180	331	193	486	**248.3**	**507.5**
CANADA-JPN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0
CHINA.PR	0	0	0	0	62	73	62	78	120	46.5	201
COTE D'IVOIRE	69	77	58	108	153	139	125	161	133	93.8	198
EC-TOTAL	202	148	148	186	171	174	213	161	215	**309.8**	**206**
GABON	0	0	0	1	0	0	8	0	0	6.0	0
GHANA	324	126	123	236	441	472	422	0	447	316.5	0
JAPAN	1217	900	1017	926	1523	1409	1679	1349	1185	1259.3	**867**
KOREA	324	537	24	13	56	56	144	56	2	108.0	0
PANAMA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0
SAO TOME & PRINCIPE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	35	0	0.0	0
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	4	6	4	226	150	150	150	13	0	112.5	0
U.S.A	188	175	197	207	199	196	240	185	102	**26.0**	**37** *
UK-OT	17	18	19	11	15	15	15	3	5	11.3	**1**
URUGUAY	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	0.0	0
VENEZUELA	70	56	65	66	133	97	130	124	202	97.5	218

Figures in **bold** are as reported in the compliance tables, otherwise Task I data.

South Africa reported 3 MT of marlin without specifying whether it was white marlin or blue marlin.

Trinidad and Tobago indicated that its catches have been under-reported and will be updated in the near future.

* Data from 1990 to 1998 include discards. The 75% limit and 1999 data refer to landings (retained catch).

ALB N & S Albacore catch table

North (Ref. 98-8) <200 MT in 1993-95 limit 200 MT. Others limit fishing capacity at 1993-95 average.
South (Ref. 98-9), (Ref. 99-7) <1000 MT in 1992-96 mean, 110% of 1992-96 mean. >1000 MT in 1992-96 mean, TAC 27200 MT

COUNTRY	*1990*	*1991*	*1992*	*1993*	*1994*	*1995*	*MEAN 93-95*	*1996*	*MEAN 92-96*	*+10%*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999 Limit*	1999
NORTH ATLANTIC														
CANADA	6	5	1	9	32	12	18	24			31	23	200	38
CANADA-JPN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			0	0	200	0
CAP-VERT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			0	0	200	0
CHINA.PR	0	0	0	0	14	8	7	20			0	0	200	**21**
EC-TOTAL	**32317**	**22125**	**27248**	**30503**	**27053**	**33085**	**30214**	**23574**			**24253**	**20870**	*	**28081**
JAPAN	737	691	466	485	505	386	459	466			414	446	*	**524**
KOREA	34	1	0	8	0	0	3	2			1	0	200	0
PANAMA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			0	0	200	0
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO****	4	0	247	639	0	0	213	0			1	1	*	0
U.S.A	357	479	438	508	741	545	598	472			577	829	*	314
UK-OT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			1	2	200	**2**
VENEZUELA	95	314	199	246	278	278	267	312			49	105	*	91
SOUTH ATLANTIC														
>1000 MT in mean of 1992-1996**														
BRAZIL	514	1113	2710	3613	1227	923		819	1858.4	2044.2	652	3418	**	**1873.4**
CHINESE TAIPEI***	21369	19883	23063	19400	22573	18351		18956	20468.6	22515.5	18165	16106	**	17377
NAMIBIA	0	0	0	0	915	950		982	569.4	626.3	1199	1429	**	**1162**
SOUTH AFRICA	5280	3410	6360	6881	6931	5214		5634	6204	6824.4	6708	8412	**	**5101**
													27200	**25513.4**
< 1000 MT in mean of 1992-1996														
CHINA.PR	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	**39**
EC-TOTAL	**732**	**800**	**4267**	**2678**	**2870**	**1411**		**882**	**2422**	**2664**	**613**	**357**	**2664.0**	**1040**
JAPAN	587	654	583	467	651	389		435	505	555.5	424	418	555.5	**567**
KOREA	19	31	5	20	0	0		18	8.6	9.5	4	7	9.5	0
MAROC	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0
PANAMA	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0
U.S.A	0	0	0	0	0	0		1	0.2	0.2	5	1	0.2	**1.4**
UK-OT	1	5	28	38	5	82		47	40	44.0	18	1	44.0	0.58
URUGUAY	55	34	31	28	16	49		75	39.8	43.8	56	110	43.8	0

* Effort limitation.

** Actively fishing fisheries (Average 1992-96 > 1000 MT). Combined catch limit = 27200 MT.

*** Although Chinese Taipei is not a Contracting Party, it is included here as one of the major fishing nations/entities/fishing entities (Ref. 97-5).

**** Trinidad and Tobago indicated that its catches have been under-reported and will be updated in the near future.

Figures in bold are as reported in the national compliance tables. Others are from Task I data.

Appendix 4 to ANNEX 8

Statement by the European Community to the Compliance Committee

The European Community reaffirms its commitment to the policy of rational and responsible management of bluefin tuna in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean, and stresses the fundamental importance of this fishery to the coastal communities which depend principally on the fishing of this stock.

Following the discussions which took place at the meeting of Commission in Rio de Janeiro in November, 1999, the underage of the European Community in 1998 is recognized as being 2,581 MT.

In accordance with the conclusions of the arbitration presided by the Commission Chairman at the above-mentioned meeting, the European Community has carried over this underage to its quota in 2000, which therefore becomes 21,171 MT.

Tables on Compliance with Size Limits for Variolus Species

Figures in plain type are from 1999 meeting and/or Task I data; figures in bold are from the national compliance reports)
The Recommendations are given in a very summarized form. Please refer to to the original texts for more information.

BIGEYE TUNA

Rec. 79-1 3.2 kg minimum size with 15% tolerance in number

Country	*Catches 1998 (MT)*	*Catches 1999 (MT)*	*Reported estimates of catch over 15% tolerance limit (3.2 kg)*			*Size data provided to Secretariat - 1999 Data*
BRAZIL	644	**2024.9**	**0 MT**			YES
CANADA	120	**262.8**	**0 MT**			YES
CAP-VERT	1	1	0 MT			NO
CHINA.PR	1330	**7347**	**0 MT**			NO
EC	**19198**	**22350**	**NOT DETERMINED**			YES
GHANA	13252	11460	NOT REPORTED			YES
GUINEA ECUATORIA		4561	NOT REPORTED			No catch or size reported
JAPAN	22290	**23690**	**0 MT**			YES (1998)
KOREA	163	124	NOT REPORTED			NO
NAMIBIA	16	**422**	**NOT REPORTED**			NO
PANAMA	8307	26	NOT REPORTED			NO
RUSSIA	4	8	NOT REPORTED			NO
SOUTH AFRICA	41	**32**	**0 MT**			NO
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	4	8	NOT REPORTED			NO
U.S.A	928	**1262**	**0 MT**			YES
UK-OT	28	**9**	**0 MT**			NO
URUGUAY	59		NOT REPORTED			NO
VENEZUELA	222	140	NOT REPORTED			YES

YELLOWFIN TUNA

Rec. 74-1 3.2 kg minimum size with 15% tolerance in number

	Catches 1998 (MT)	*Catches 1999 (MT)*	*Reported estimates of catch over 15% tolerance limit (3.2 kg)*			*Size data provided to Secretariat - 1999 Data*
ANGOLA	115	170	NOT REPORTED			NO
BRAZIL	2514	**4127**	**0 MT**			YES
CANADA	57	**21.8**	**0MT**			YES
CAP-VERT	1417	1654	NOT REPORTED			PARTIAL
CHINA.PR	618	**2190**	**0 MT**			NO
EC	62764	**51486**	**NOT DETERMNIED**			YES
GABON	295	225	NOT REPORTED			NO
GHANA	17807	28328	NOT REPORTED			YES
GUINEA ECUATORIA		1396	NOT REPORTED			No catch or size reported
JAPAN	5352	**3033**	**0 MT**			YES(1997)
KOREA	65	94	NOT REPORTED			NO
NAMIBIA	3	**147**	**NOT REPORTED**			NO
PANAMA		650	NOT REPORTED			NO
RUSSIA	4931	4359	NOT REPORTED			NO
SAO TOME & PRINCIP	0	0	NOT REPORTED			No catch or size reported
SOUTH AFRICA	229	**140**	**0 MT**			NO
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	23	39	NOT REPORTED			NO
U.S.A.	5619	**7569**	**0 MT**			YES
UK-OT	**257**	**162**	**0 MT**			NO
URUGUAY	88	88	NOT REPORTED			No catch or size reported
VENEZUELA	13970	11380	NOT REPORTED			YES

SWORDFISH

Rec. 90-2 Miminum size of 25 kg (125 cm LJFL) with 15% tolerance in number, for the entire Atlantic Ocean

Rec. 95-10 Minimum size of 119 cm without allowance as option, for North Atlantic.

	Catches 1998 (MT)	*Catches 1999 (MT)*	*Reported estimates of catch over 15% tolerance limit (119 or 125 cm)*			*Size data provided to Secretariat - 1999 Data*
NORTH						
CANADA	1115	**1118.5**	**0.3% (<119 CM)**			YES
CANADA-DISCARDS		**34.6**	**All estimated <119cm**			
CHINA PR	253	**304**	**0 MT**			NO
EC-TOTAL		**4966**	**NOT DETERMNIED**			PARTIAL
JAPAN	695	**690**	**3.1%**			YES (1998)
KOREA	0	0	NO CATCH			
MAROC	267	119	NOT REPORTED*			NO
PANAMA		17	NOT REPORTED			NO
SAO TOME & PRINCIP	14	0	NOT REPORTED			NO
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	15	39	NOT REPORTED			NO
UK-OT	43	**12**	0 MT			NO
U.S.A.	3005	**2896**	**10.5MT (<119cm)**			YES
VENEZUELA	35	9	NOT REPORTED			PARTIAL
SOUTH						
BRAZIL	3846.8	**4721.1**	**0 MT**			YES
CHINA PR	24	**534**	**0 MT**			NO
COTE D'IVOIRE	13	30	NOT REPORTED			NO
EC-TOTAL		**6139**	**NOT DETERMNIED**			YES
GHANA	106		NOT REPORTED			No catch or size reported
JAPAN	463	**353**	**0.5%**			YES (1998)
KOREA	0	0	NO CATCH			
NAMIBIA		**730**	**NOT REPORTED**			NO
SOUTH AFRICA	169	**76**	NOT DETERMNIED			YES
URUGUAY	886		NOT REPORTED			No catch or size reported
U.S.A.	295	**51**	**0 MT**			YES

* Landing and selling of undersized fish is prohibited.

BLUEFIN

Rec. 74-1 6.4 kg minimum size with 15% tolerance in number, for East and West.

Rec. 91-1 30 kg or 115cm with 8% tolerance in weight, for West only.

Recs. 97-2 & 98-4 No landing, possession, or sale of fish <3.2 kg.

	Catches 1998 (MT)	*Catches 1998 (MT)*	*Resported estimates of catch over 15% tolerance limit (6.4 kg or 115 cm)*	*Catch of Age 0*	*Over 8% <30kg/115cm*	*Size data provided to Secretariat*
EAST						
CHINA PR	74	**103**	**0 MT**			YES
CROATIA	950	**970**	**0 MT**	**0MT**		NO
EC-TOTAL		**16164**	**NOT DETERMNIED**			PARTIAL
GUINEE CONAKRY	0	0	NO CATCH			NO
GUINEA ECUATORIA	267	76	NOT REPORTED			No catch or size reported
JAPAN	2143	**2793**	**0 MT**			YES (1998)
KOREA	0	0	NO CATCH			
LIBYA	1331	760	NOT REPORTED			NO
MAROC	2430	2227	NOT REPORTED			NO
PANAMA	0	0	NO CATCH			
TUNISIE	1745	2352	NOT REPORTED			NO
WEST						
BRAZIL		13	NOT REPORTED			NO
CANADA	596	**576.1**	**0**			YES
CANADA-DISCARDS		**10.7**				
FRANCE -OT	0	**1**	0 MT			NO
JAPAN	479	**433**	NOT REPORTED			YES (1998)
U.S.A.	1226	**1226**	**0 MT**		**0 MT**	YES
UK-OT	1	**1**	**0 MT**		**0 MT**	NO

Appendix 6 to ANNEX 8

Statement by the Observer from the Ocean Wildlife Campaign Regarding Compliance with ICCAT Management Recommendations

The Ocean Wildlife Campaign is extremely disappointed that the Commission, after years of hard work by certain Contracting Parties, is having almost no success with bringing all Contracting Parties into compliance with basic ICCAT conservation measures, such as quota limits. In particular, the complete disregard of minimum size regulations by so many Contracting Parties undermines every aspect of this Commission.

The Ocean Wildlife Campaign believes that the Commission stands at a critical juncture. It must decide whether is intends to establish regulations to manage species according to its mandate and comply with them, or whether the Commission will close its eyes to reality and allow its credibility to vanish.

List of Vessels Fishing for Bigeye Tuna and Northern Albacore
(Reported to the ICCAT Secretariat as of November, 2000)

BIGEYE TUNA

Country / Entity / IFishing Entity	*# of BET vessels 1998*	*# of BET vessels 1999*	*# of BET vessels*	*Average report catch over last 5 years >2000 MT*	*Vessels fishing for BET in 1991-1992*	*Remakrs*
ANGOLA				No		No bigeye catch
BRAZIL				No		
CANADA	20	6		No		
CAP VERT				No		
CHINA PR	6	14	27	Yes	Not rep.	
COTE DIVOIRE				No		
CROATIA	0	0	0	No		
EC	48 *	89 *	525	Yes	Not rep.	
FRANCE (OT)	No info	No info	No info	Unknown		
GABON	0	0		No		
GHANA	33	35	36	Yes	Not rep.	
GUINEA ECUATORIAL	No info	No info	No info	Unknown		
GUINEE CONAKRY	No info	No info	No info	Unknown		
JAPAN	710	581	490	Yes	1991: 242; 1992: 248	Preliminary catch data 99
KOREA	19	1		No		Total tuna vessels in Atlantic
LIBYA				No		
MAROC	0	0		No		Reported foreign vessels (Spain+ Japan) 99
PANAMA	No info	19	2	Yes	11	1999 data preliminary
RUSSIA	0	0	0	No		BET taken as by-catch
SAO TOME & PRINCIPE		No info	No info	Unknown		
SOUTH AFRICA				No		
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO				No		
TUNISIE				No		
UK (OT)	0	0	0	No		1998 incl. St Helena
U.S.A.	34	14	12	No		Some may only occasionally target BET
URUGUAY				No		
VENEZUELA				No		
CHINESE TAIPEI	125	125	109	Yes	Not rep.	
PHILIPPINES			11	No		

* Incomplete - only Portuguese vessels reported; No information for France or Spain

NORTHERN ALBACORE

Country / Entity/ Fishing Entity	*Average reported ALB catch >2000 MT*	*# of N ALB Vessels 1999*	*# of N ALB Vessels 2000*	*# of N ALB Vessels 1993-1995*
ANGOLA	No			n/a
BRAZIL	No			n/a
CANADA	No			70
CAP VERT	No			
CHINA PR	No			
COTE DIVOIRE	No			
CROATIA	No			
EC	Yes	1000	943	1000
FRANCE (OT)	No			
GABON	No			
GHANA	No			
GUINEA ECUATORIAL	No			
GUINEE CONAKRY	No			
JAPAN	Yes			See BET
KOREA	No			56
LIBYA	No			
MAROC	No			
PANAMA	Yes	19	2	31 (tot. tuna vess)
RUSSIA	No			
SAO TOME & PRINCIPE	No			
SOUTH AFRICA	No			
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	No			
TUNISIE				
UK (OT)	No			
U.S.A.	Yes	424	455	943
URUGUAY	No			
VENEZUELA	No			
CHINESE TAIPEI	Yes	25	27	
PHILIPPINES	No			

Appendix 8 to ANNEX 8

Commission Chairman's Letter to Equatorial Guinea Regarding Non-compliance with ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures

At its 1999 annual meeting, the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) reviewed the fishing activities of various 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. 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.

Based on the information available to ICCAT at its 1999 meeting, ICCAT identified Equatorial Guinea pursuant to its *Resolution Concerning the Unreported and Unregulated Catches of Tunas by Large Scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area*. ICCAT duly notified the Government of Equatorial Guinea of this identification and its potential consequences in a letter from the Commission. In that letter, the Government of Equatorial Guinea was requested to take all necessary measures to ensure that large-scale longline vessels registered in Equatorial Guinea comply with ICCAT conservation and management measures, including, if appropriate, the revocation of vessel registration or fishing licenses of the large-scale longline vessels concerned.

During its 2000 annual meeting, the Commission examined available information that indicated that large-scale longline vessels of your country continue to operate in the Convention Area in a manner that diminishes the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures. Available information also indicated that bigeye tuna is the primary species targeted by these vessels. In light of this information, ICCAT adopted a binding recommendation that requires all Contracting Parties to prohibit the import of bigeye tuna and its products in any form from Equatorial Guinea upon entry into force of the recommendation on [date[.

In addition, the Commission decided at its 2000 annual meeting to maintain previous recommendation that required its Contracting Parties to prohibit the import of Atlantic bluefin tuna and its products in any form from Equatorial Guinea.

Information received by ICCAT from **Equatorial Guinea** will be communicated to all Contracting Parties for a decision, on the basis of documentary evidence, as quickly as possible that the activities of vessels of Equatorial Guinea are complying with ICCAT conservation and management measures. 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 bigeye tuna and/or bluefin tuna be lifted immediately.

For your information, I am enclosing herewith copies of the *Resolution Concerning the Unreported and Unregulated Catches of Tunas by Large Scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area*, as well as the 2000 Recommendation that called for the import prohibition on bigeye tuna harvested by vessels of Equatorial Guinea.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

ANNEX 9

REPORTS OF THE MEETINGS OF PANELS 1 - 4

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF PANEL 1

1 Opening of the meeting

In the absence of a delegate from Cape Verde (Panel Chairman), Mr. John Barnes (United Kingdom-Overseas Territories) agreed to Chair Panel 1, and opened the meeting.

2 Adoption of Agenda

The Agenda was adopted without modification, and is attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 9**.

3 Nomination of Rapporteur

Mr. Julien Marc Turenne (EC-France) was nominated Rapporteur of Panel 1.

4 Review of Panel membership

4.1 There are currently 21 members of Panel 1 as follows: Angola, Brasil, Canada, Cape Verde, China, Côte d'Ivoire, European Community, Gabon, Ghana, Japan, Korea, Libya, Morocco, Namibia, Panama, Russia, Sao Tome and Principe, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom (Overseas Territories), United States of America and Venezuela. All were present except Cape Verde, Panama and Sao Tome and Principe.

4.2 France (St. Pierre and Miquelon) and South Africa participated in the meeting as observers.

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

5.a Yellowfin tuna

5.a.1 The Chairman of the SCRS presented the major results of the new stock assessment carried out in 2000. The production model indicates that the maximum sustainable yield (MSY) is between 144,600 MT and 152,200 MT, while the estimated catches of yellowfin tuna represent an average of 145,500 MT for the last three years. The current yield (140,000 MT in 1999) is slightly less than the level of MSY, and the replacement yield is close to the level of current yield.

5.a.2 In this context, the SCRS expressed support for the 1993 Commission recommendation according to which the level of effective fishing effort on yellowfin tuna should not surpass the level observed in 1992 (Ref. 93-4). As concerns the minimum size recommendation, the SCRS had pointed out the practical difficulties of implementing this measure.

5.b Bigeye tuna

5.b.1 No new assessment on the state of the bigeye tuna stock has been carried out in 2000, and the Chairman of the SCRS spoke on the main elements of the 1999 assessment.

5.b.2 The production model analyses indicated that the maximum sustainable yield (MSY) is between 79,000 MT and 94,000 MT. The current yield (1999) is estimated at 121,000 MT, clearly higher than MSY values. Of the 121,000 MT in 1999, 25,000 MT are attributed to illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing (IUU). The SCRS

Chairman pointed out that the level of IUU catches may be over-estimated, since the catches may have been double counted. This factor will be taken into account in the new assessment.

5.b.3 The SCRS proposed management advice that takes into account that the current fishing mortality significantly higher than the level of MSY, as well as the decline of the stock. The Committee estimated that an important reduction in the catch level to 80,000 MT could halt the decline of the stock, if catches are reduced even more in order to assure the recovery of the stock.

5.c Skipjack tuna

5.c.1 No skipjack tuna stock assessment was carried out in 2000. The Chairman of SCRS pointed out that information presented in 1999 was still valid.

5.c.2 Dr. Powers pointed out, however, that several indices and indicators prompted the SCRS to closely monitor the development of the stock although, due to the lack of data, neither the state of the stock nor the MSY could be estimated for the western and eastern stock

5.d Evaluation of the impact of the time-area closure of the surface fishery under floating objects

5.d.1 Following the recommendations of the SCRS on the need to reduce bigeye tuna fishing mortality, particularly on juveniles, the European purse seiners implemented a voluntary time-area closure to fishing on floating objects. This closure was applied for the months of November and December 1998, and January, 1999. In 1998, the Commission adopted a recommendation (Ref. 98-1) that extended this moratorium to the period from November, 1, 1999, to January 31, 2000, for the purse seiners of the Contracting, Cooperating non-contracting Parties, entities and fishing entities. In 1999, the Commission extended this moratorium to all the surface fleets and for an indefinite period (Ref. 99-1), and requested the SCRS to analyze its effects.

5.d.2 The evaluation of the effects of the moratorium was carried out by comparing the three years of the moratorium to the 1993-1996 period, by gear, fleet and species.

5.d.3 The SCRS Chairman reported that his Committee had carried out a study on the purse seine, baitboat, longline and other fleets. As regards the purse seiners, the SCRS identified three categories of fleets: the European fleet, the NEI fleet (nowhere else included) associated with Community interests, and the Ghanaian fleet. For the European fleet, detailed information on the fishery and from observers is available. For the NEI fleet associated with Community interests, in the majority of the cases information similar to that for the European fleet is available. Lastly, for the Ghanaian fleet, there is little overall information available on the fishery as are very partial observer data.

5.d.4 For the baitboats, three categories were defined, based on the fishing zone. These are the Ghanaian fleet, the Dakar-based fleet and the fleets of the Azores, Madeira and Canary Islands. Lastly, in the case of the longliners, all the fleets were studied together, taking into account that the effect of the moratorium on these fleets would also be global.

5.d.5 The SCRS evaluated the effects of the moratorium for the various fleets involved, but paid particular attention to the purse seiners and the baitboats. It pointed out that the development of the catches and fishing effort varies according to the fleets. The catches of the European and NEI purse seine fleets decreased considerably during the period of the moratorium (1997-1999) as compared to the previous period (1993-1996). This marked decrease is a result of the decline in fishing floating objects in the area of the moratorium during the period of the moratorium and to the continuous reduction in effort of the European fleet during the period (with an added decline during the moratorium). The reduction in catches under floating objects has not resulted in a similar increase in the catches on free schools within and outside the area of the moratorium, nor an expansion of the fishing zone. On the other hand, and as concerns the Ghanaian surface fleet, a continuous increase in catch and effort has been observed.

5.d.6 Finally, with regard to bigeye tuna, the effect of the overall increase in effort has been higher than the effect produced by the moratorium. For yellowfin tuna, a species for which the moratorium was not designed, there was an increase in the fishing mortality on juveniles, but it is highly possible that this increase could be a result

of an increase in yellowfin recruitment. As concerns skipjack, it is noted that a part of the skipjack catches associated with floating objects declined considerably during this period.

5.e Questions raised by the delegations to the SCRS Chairman

5.e.1 Dr. Powers responded to several queries on the effects observed in the difference changes in fleet strategy. He indicated that an increase in catches and effort has been observed for the Ghanaian fleet, and that if all the surface fleets had observed the moratorium it is likely that the fishery indicators would improve, particularly the yield per recruit.

5.e.2 Dr. Powers then responded to a question on the difference observed between the state of the yellowfin and bigeye tuna stocks, since the component of small fish catches is equally important for both stocks. Recalling that there are biological differences between these two stocks, the SCRS Chairman pointed out that the bigeye stock is experiencing a higher fishing mortality than yellowfin, for all age-classes, and that the overall stock of bigeye tuna was affected.

5.e.3 Dr. Powers, in response to a question on the possible impact of the application of the minimum size limit for yellowfin and bigeye, indicated that the strict application of this limit could result in an important increase in the yield per recruit.

5.e.4 In response to a query from Japan on longline fishing effort and catches, Dr. Powers indicated that the longline catches are estimated at 82,000 MT for 1999, compared to 62,000 MT in 1992 and 69,000 MT in 1998.

6 Measures for the conservation of stocks

6.a Yellowfin tuna

6.a.1 There has been no further observations concerning current regulations, in particular, the minimum size and the moratorium on the surface fishery under floating objects.

6.b Bigeye tuna

6.b.1 Japan expressed serious concern about the increase in catches and effort of China. It has been estimated that China's reported catches in 1999 are considerably over-estimated. In addition, Japan considers that the increase in the Chinese fleet, which went from six vessels in 1998 to 14 in 1999 and 27 in 2000 (according to the "Register of Fishing Vessels" presented by the Secretariat), and which are now shown to have increased to 60 vessels operating in the Atlantic is quite significant and requested that the Commission send a clear message to China not to increase their catches and effort on bigeye tuna. The statement by Japan on bigeye tuna to Panel 1, with its accompanying working paper, is attached as **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 9.**

6.b.2 China responded that it did not intend to develop a large-scale tuna fishery, and that, in their opinion, catches of 10,000 MT would correspond to a small-scale fishery for China, as compared to other fisheries in the Atlantic. China had authorized 60 vessels to fish in the ICCAT Convention area in 2000 and pointed out that the figures put forward by Japan are shifted by one year. The statement by China on bigeye tuna management is attached as **Appendix 3 to ANNEX 9**. After a brief discussion, China explained that the list reported to ICCAT in 2000 showed the vessels authorized to fish in the ICCAT area in the previous year.

6.b.3 The United States stated that the bigeye stock is over-exploited and supported a reduction in catches to a level of 80,000 MT, a level that the SCRS recommends could halt the decline in spawning biomass. The United States also expressed its concern that 55% of the bigeye catches are of small fish. He indicated that the United States has implemented a minimum size limit for bigeye and yellowfin tunas which is double the limit imposed by ICCAT. That statement by the United States on Atlantic bigeye tuna conservation measures is included as **Appendix 4 to ANNEX 9.**

6.b.4 Canada expressed concern about the current level of bigeye tuna catches, and the increase in the number of vessels involved in IUU fishing. Canada supports a reduction in catches to a level of 80,000 MT.

6.b.5 The European Community recalled there are two essential recommendations for the conservation and management of bigeye tuna, one concerning a limit on fishing effort and one calling for a moratorium on the surface fishery under floating objects. It does not seem that these two recommendations are being respected. The Community asserted that respecting the current ICCAT management measures is a priority item, since that alone would suffice to rebuild the state of the stock.

6.b.6 Japan and the United States presented a proposed *Recommendation by ICCAT on Bigeye Tuna Conservation Measures* (**ANNEX 7-1**). Japan pointed out that this proposal establishes a catch limitation for bigeye tuna. This proposal tries to foresee the specific case of China, taking into account the considerable increase in the catches by their vessels. The recommendation contemplates a limit on the number of vessels registered with the Commission by China to 60 and a limit on the number of vessels authorized to fish by China in the Atlantic to 27 , with a catch limit for China of 3,500 MT. Furthermore, it proposes maintaining the status quo for Chinese Taipei and limiting to five the number of Philippine vessels fishing bigeye tuna. Lastly, Japan proposed a catch limit of 2000 MT for those Contracting Parties or Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities whose 1999 bigeye catches reported to the SCRS were less than 2000 MT.

6.b.7 The United States supported this proposal and considered it a good start. The United States was pleased that this recommendation contemplates a ten-year recovery program for the bigeye tuna stock, which would be established in accordance with the SCRS.

6.b.8 China refused the proposal to limit the number of vessels to 27 and limiting its catches to 3,500 MT. The delegate of China indicated that her country respected the provisions of the FAO agreements concerning the conservation measures for high seas fishing vessels, and that the vessels licensed in China no longer have any economic ties to their former owners. Their licensing has resulted in improved monitoring of their activities and contributed to more transparency. China requested a quota of at least 6,000 MT. She pointed that China would establish a limit on the number of its vessels, based on this quota, and that, *a priori*, it was difficult to select the vessels authorized to fish. The statement by China on the bigeye tuna conservation measures is attached as **Appendix 5 to ANNEX 9**.

6.b.9 The EC pointed out that establishing a TAC only on bigeye tuna posed a problem for the multi-species fisheries for tropical tunas. She had some doubts about paragraph 3 relative to the number of vessels. She believed it was not necessary to mention in paragraph 6 the duration of the recovery program proposed (10 years) in order to obtain various proposals from the SCRS, and she asked if the next bigeye tuna assessment would take place in 2001.

6.b.10 The Chairman of the Panel stated that the proposal did not establish the date for the next assessment of bigeye tuna, and that the question posed to the SCRS is relatively open.

6.b.11 The Delegate of Japan, in responding to the intervention by China, pointed out that 40% of Japanese second hand IUU vessels had already shifted their register to China, although the Commission unanimously supported and urged Japan and Chinese Taipei to eliminate IUU vessels of their origin. He also pointed out that the Commission was seeking not to maintain IUU fishing effort by incorporating these vessels into Contracting Party registers, but was seeking to eliminate them all. He strongly requested all parties concerned not to use IUU vessels to develop their national fisheries. He noted that document COM/00/11 reported that Chinese longline vessels are practically controlled by Chinese Taipei. There still remain very strong connections between Chinese and Chinese Taipei business entities He further pointed out the unfairness of China's rapid increase in catch and fishing effort while all the other Contracting Parties tried to reduce their fishing effort. He insisted on the need to halt this expansion.

6.b.12 Canada supported the proposal of the United States and Japan. He considered it was necessary to have a more effective catch limit, while he supported maintaining the possibility of fishing up to 2,000 MT for the members that fish minor quantities. He indicated that this limit had been established in anticipation of possible new measures in the case that certain Parties increased their catches. He pointed out that some Contracting Parties have reduced their catches significantly, while other have increased their catches. It was therefore necessary to divide the reduction in a equitable manner. Lastly, he declared in favor of the reference to the recovery program and asked that the moratorium on purse seiners be maintained.

6.b.13 In response to Canada, the EC delegate indicated that the moratorium for the surface fishery under floating objects is in place permanently, following the adoption in 1999 of the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Establishment of a Closed Area/Season for the Use of Fish-Aggregation Devices (FADs)* (Ref. 99-1).

6.b.14 The Delegate of China indicated she was in favor of combating IUU fishing, but that it was necessary to take the role of the markets into account and she asked for information on Japan's import data. China is in the process of implementing an internal regulation on vessel registration.

6.b.15 Japan proposed a recommendation on registration and exchange of information of vessels fishing for tuna and tuna-like species in the Convention area and other areas. Several Parties indicated that this proposal posed some problem on the species it refers to, the reference period, and the interpretation of the expression "vessels believed to be fishing for tuna and tuna-like species".

6.b.16 The Chair asked Japan to review its proposal and to submit it to the Compliance Committee, taking into account its general nature.

6.b.17 Japan presented two new proposals, for a *Recommendation by ICCAT on Bigeye Tuna Conservation Measures* (attached as **ANNEX 7-1**) and a *Supplemental Resolution by ICCAT Concerning the Recommendation on Bigeye Tuna Conservation Measures* (attached as **ANNEX 7-2**).

6.b.18 The Delegate of the EC asked that the catch limit be applicable to all fleets and not only to longliners. She noted that the proposal did not impose any limit on the catches of Contracting Parties or Cooperating non-contracting parties, entities or fishing entities whose catches in 1999, as reported to the SCRS, were less than 2,100 MT. The Community considered that it was necessary to limit these catches, for example, to a level of 110% of 1999 catches. The Community also asked that the question put to the SCRS about the bigeye stock assessment be left open, and provide for several different recovery scenarios of different duration. She ended by requesting that inter-annual flexibility (reporting of overages/underages) be addressed.

6.b.19 Brazil indicated that it could not accept any modification of the proposal which imposed a limit on the catches of Contracting Parties or Cooperating non-contracting parties, entities or fishing entities whose 1999 catches as reported to the SCRS were less than 2,100 MT.

6.b.20 China asked that the clauses relative to the registration of vessels and the limitation on the number of vessels be deleted.

6.b.21 The United States and Canada expressed their agreement with the Community suggestions relative to the catch limit. The United States stated that the clarification of the questions to be posed to the SCRS were acceptable. The United States asked when the information contained in the Resolution on supplementary management measures in relation to actions taken by Japan, China and Chinese Taipei would be submitted. Japan confirmed that this information would be submitted to the 2001 Commission.

6.b.22 The SCRS Chairman informed the Panel that the SCRS intended to carry out a new assessment of bigeye tuna in 2002, and asked if there were any differing instructions from the Panel.

6.b.23 China stated that the responsibility for the development of illegal, unregulated and unreported fisheries is linked to the market. China could undertake to bring their catch level back to that of 1999, but the limit proposed by the proposed recommendation was not sufficient here. China would not block the adoption of the Recommendation, but expressed their disagreement with it, and reserved the right to refer the ultimate decision to the Chinese authorities. The second statement by China concerning bigeye tuna conservation measures is attached as **Appendix 6 to ANNEX 9**.

6.b.24 Japan asked whether China intended to issue licences to ex-IUU fishing vessels operating in the Convention Area, to which China responded that beyond the current 60 vessels she would not issue licences to ex-IUU vessels.

6.b.25 The EC indicated that they could accept this recommendation if the limits applied to all fleets. They stated that the absence of the limit on catches for Contracting Parties, cooperating non-contracting parties, entities or fishing entities whose catch in 1999 was less than 2,100 MT was not sufficient, that there should be no

provisions for such exceptions, which in practice could lead to countries not having to limit, or even being able to increase, their catches. However, the EC, in a spirit of compromise and as an intermediary measure, could accept the proposal, on the condition that a clause including the inter-annual flexibility was included, as well as on the open question posed to the SCRS, making provision for various scenarios. In relation to the date of the next assessment of the stock, the EC considered that the task of determining when it would be appropriate to carry out this task should be left to the SCRS.

6.b.26 Canada agreed to accept the proposal, while agreeing with the EC that the limit on catches of Contracting Parties which are not involved this year be adopted as soon as possible, preferably in 2001.

6.b.27 The Chairman concluded that the recommendation on catch limits should apply to all fleets, and that provision should be made for inter-annual flexibility. The *Recommendation by ICCAT on Bigeye Tuna Conservation Measures* (see **ANNEX 7-1**) and the *Supplemental Resolution by ICCAT Concerning the Recommendation on Bigeye Tuna Conservation Measures* (see **ANNEX 7-2**) were adopted by Panel 1 and forwarded to the Commission for final approval.

6.c Skipjack tuna

6.c.1 There was no discussion about current regulations or the moratorium on floating objects.

7 Research needed to be carried out

7.1 The SCRS Chairman indicated that the SCRS had decided to give special attention to the improvement of the data base and the sampling scheme. In the first case, the data base will be revised, the Gulf of Guinea sampling scheme and data collection will be reviewed. The objective of the improvement of the sampling scheme is to develop an integrated assessment method, taking into account the information from various sources in order to obtain better age estimates, from changes in catches based on age and to compares these with CPUE.

7.2 The SCRS Chairman indicated that the BETYP Program Plan, together with its budget, were presented to Panel 1 for approval, in order to allow the continuation of the activities for this year's program. He referred delegates to the "Report on the BETYP (Bigeye Year Program) Activities from October 1999 up to September 2000 (presented as COM-SCRS/00/16-Rev). There were no comments on this document and the Panel approved the continuance of this Program.

8 Date and place of the next Panel meeting

The Panel decided to meet at the same time and place as the next Commission meeting.

9 Other matters

No other matters were discussed.

10. Adoption of report

10.1 The Report of Panel was adopted. However, China wished to record that they did not agree to the adoption of the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Bigeye Tuna Conservation Measures* (see **ANNEX 7-1**).

11. Adjournment

11.1 The 2000 meeting of Panel 1 was adjourned.

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF PANEL 2

1 Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by the Panel Chairman, Mr. Christian Ligeard (EC-France).

2 Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda was reviewed and adopted without modification, and is attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 9.**

3 Nomination of Rapporteur

Mr. Ernesto Ríos (EC-Spain) was nominated as Rapporteur for Panel 2.

4 Review of Panel membership

Panel 2 is currently comprised of 12 Contracting Parties; Canada, China, Croatia, European Community, France (St Pierre & Miquelon), Japan, Libya, Morocco, Panama, Tunisia, United Kingdom (Overseas Territories) and United States of America. All members were present except Panama.

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

5. a Bluefin (North)

5.a.1 Dr. Powers, the SCRS Chairman, referred to the sections of the 2000 SCRS Report relevant to Panel 2. Following his presentation, several delegations raised questions and issues in relation to the bluefin stocks.

5.a.2 The Delegate of the United States made a statement relative to eastern and western bluefin tuna stock conditions and fisheries, which attached as **Appendix 7 to ANNEX 9.**

5.a.3 In response to a query on the two recruitment level scenarios for West Atlantic bluefin tuna, and the 20-year period needed to calculate potential productivity of the stock for the long-term. Dr. Powers stated that due to the long time period needed for the first reproduction of the species (eight years), a rebuilding scenario of 20 years was necessary. A delegate also raised the issue of bluefin tuna farming and the need to improve statistical data collected from such farming operations, which have increased considerably over the last few years.

5.a.4 The Delegate of Canada made a statement (attached as **Appendix 8 to ANNEX 9**, and proposed maintaining the TAC in the West Atlantic at current levels (2,500 MT). He also pointed out that due to past catches in excess of SCRS recommended levels and the high catches of juveniles, the SCRS proposed a TAC of 25,000 MT or less for the eastern stocks for the next two years.

5.a.5 The Delegate of Croatia referred to the problem of unreported catches, and asked how such catches are evaluated and ways in which they could be better controlled. Dr. Powers replied that the SCRS was doing as much as it could on this issue with the available means, but that there was a need for even greater efforts as concerns the unreported catches.

5.a.6 Some clarification was made on the uncertainty of the possible mixing of eastern and western bluefin stocks and the effects which the success or failure of management on one side of the Atlantic has on the other. Dr. Powers commented that this issue is currently being studied within the auspices of the Bluefin Year Program (BYP), although there are still many uncertainties to be resolved, particularly because the stock sizes on both sides of the Atlantic are very unbalanced.

5.b Albacore (North)

5.b.1 Dr. Powers presented the sections of the SCRS reports relevant to the northern albacore stocks. He also clarified some concerns about albacore research being conducted.

6 Measures for the conservation of stocks

6. a Bluefin (North)

6.a.1 The Panel noted that while there are TACs and quotas in effect for 2001 for West Atlantic bluefin tuna, there are no such measures currently in effect for East Atlantic bluefin.

6.a.2 The Delegate of Japan noted an increase in recruitment and called for an increase in western Atlantic quotas as soon as possible. He proposed a quota sharing arrangement for 2001 with a TAC of 31,000 MT for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna. The Delegate also made a statement relative to bluefin TACs, which is attached as **Appendix 9 to ANNEX 9**.

6.a.3 The Delegate of the European Community presented draft proposal for eastern Atlantic bluefin tuna management for 2001 and 2002. In this proposal, a TAC is set at 29,500 MT, of which 27,209 MT is allocated to Contracting Parties and 2,291MT to non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities. The proposal also contains some sharing arrangements for Contracting Parties.

6.a.4 Considerable discussion ensued on three major issues: (1) the level of TAC, (2) agreement on country shares, and (3) procedures for presenting an objection to quota arrangements.

6.a.5 With regard to the TAC issue, several delegations (e.g. Canada, the United States, and the observer delegations from Mexico and the Ocean Wildlife Campaign) favored establishing the TAC level at 25,000 MT, as recommended by the SCRS in 1998. The aforementioned delegations noted that the stock has been fished in the last few years in excess of the level recommended by the SCRS, that the conservation measures had not been well respected, and that a rebuilding program should be developed for this stock. Others considered that a TAC of 34,500 MT or 31,000 MT was the only practical solution, while still other delegations felt that a TAC of 29,500 MT is within the range of the options recommended by the SCRS for rebuilding and is also practical. Following lengthy discussions, a TAC of 29,500 MT was accepted. The Delegate of the United States noted his extreme disappointment with the management measures being adopted for the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean stock of bluefin tuna. He noted that a TAC of 29,500 MT was not consistent with SCRS management advice and that, even if adhered to, would further deplete the eastern stock. He further stressed that the TAC of 29,500 MT did not include the additional fishing mortality associated with unreported catches and catches by objecting countries and that actual harvest levels in 2001 might actually exceed 40,000 MT. The statement presented by the Observer from OWC regarding the TAC for eastern bluefin tuna is attached as **Appendix 10 to ANNEX 9**.

6.a.6 Another major item of discussion by the Panel centered on quota sharing. It was generally agreed that sharing arrangement could not be discussed until the Working Group on Allocation Criteria concludes its work. On the other hand, unless some arrangement is reached, no management can be carried out. With this understanding, the Panel concluded that the TAC as well as any sharing arrangement agreed upon at this meeting would be tentative and for 2001 only, subject to review at the 2001 meeting, after the Working Group concluded its work. With regard to quota shares, the Observer from Iceland expressed dissatisfaction that ICCAT is not giving special consideration to developing coastal states which have resources within their exclusive economic zones, but which have no historical fishing.

6.a.7 As concerns the objections made by Morocco and Libya to the eastern bluefin quota allocation scheme (Ref. 98-5) these two Contracting Parties considered that they had exercised their right to object and insisted that they would object to any quotas established by the Commission before the Working Group on Allocation Criteria reaches its conclusions. Morocco's statement in relation to this issue is attached as **Appendix 11 to ANNEX 9**. Other countries, while recognizing the Contracting Parties' right to present objections, expressed considerable doubt about establishing unilateral quota arrangements for these countries. Following a lengthy debate, it was

accepted that Morocco will set its 2001 quota at 3,028 MT while Libya's quota will be set at 1,570 MT. It was further agreed that neither of these two Parties will be included in the table showing the country quotas in the recommendation, but that these arrangements will be included in different paragraphs.

6.a.8 During the course of these debates, the original proposed draft by EC for eastern bluefin tuna management was revised several times and, at the last session of Panel 2, the final draft of the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Bluefin Tuna Catch Limits in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean* was presented. Canada noted that adopting this recommendation was a major step away from conservation and also agreed with the statement from the United States at the time that this was a "stock depletion plan" for the eastern stock. Canada did not support this nor did they wish to be considered as part of any consensus for adoption. The afore-mentioned Recommendation was accepted by the Panel and forwarded to the Commission for its final adoption (see **ANNEX 7-9**).

6.b Albacore (North)

6.b.1 The Delegate of the European Community presented a draft recommendation for northern albacore management measures, which proposed a TAC of 34,500 MT for a three-year period (i.e. 2001-2003). It also included quota sharing arrangements for the major northern albacore fishing countries and others.

6.b.2 Considerable discussion on the proposal ensued on whether it was appropriate to establish a TAC for the first time for this stock, even though the Working Group on Allocation Criteria had not yet completed its work. Canada and Morocco considered that establishing a TAC was not justified since the Working Group had not yet reached any conclusions, whereas the EC and Croatia considered it necessary to establish some temporary regulations to prevent over-fishing, and/or with the understanding that the quota share would be subject to revision once the Working Group completes its work.

6.b.3 Other discussions centered on the catches allocated to non-major albacore fishing countries (in general, 41MT was proposed by the EC). Many countries (including Canada, Morocco, UK-Overseas Territories, and Venezuela) pointed out that past regulatory measures (Ref. 98-8) defined the catch limit of 200 MT for such countries and indicated that this level must be respected. Japan requested that their limit should be similar to that set for the albacore by-catch for the South Atlantic (i.e. 4% of the bigeye catch weight).

6.b.4 At a later session of Panel 2, the EC presented a revised draft including the aforementioned proposed changes. The Panel accepted the revised *Recommendation by ICCAT on Northern Albacore Catch Limits* and agreed to forward it to the Commission Plenary for adoption (see **ANNEX 7-6**). At the time of the Panel's adoption of the Recommendation, the U.S. Delegate made a statement in which he expressed the hopes that the Commission would takes further steps of conservation in the future (attached as **Appendix 12 to ANNEX 9**.

7 Research recommendations

7. a Bluefin (North)

7.a.1 The SCRS Chairman presented the research recommendations and plans for bluefin tuna by the scientific Committee. The Panel recommended the Commission's endorsement of all the research plans and recommendations by the SCRS.

7.a.2 The Delegates of the United Kingdom (Overseas Territories), Canada, Japan and the United States presented a proposed joint draft recommendation for bluefin research in the central North Atlantic Ocean. The draft was reviewed by Panel 2 and generally supported. The Panel recommended the Commission's adoption of the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Bluefin Tuna Research in the Central North Atlantic Ocean* (see **ANNEX 7-8**).

7.a.3 The European Community proposed a draft resolution on bluefin tuna farming, which requests the SCRS to investigate the effects of bluefin tuna farming operations on the collection of catch statistics. Several delegates expressed their support, particularly to clarify the various biological and statistical issues relating to bluefin tuna farming. The Panel forwarded the *Resolution by ICCAT on Bluefin Tuna Farming* (see **ANNEX 7-10**) to the Commission for final adoption.

7.a.4 It was further suggested that the results of such studies be reported to the PWG as well as to this Panel, prior the 2001 Commission meeting.

7.a.5 United States presented a draft resolution requesting SCRS to study the effects of mixing for stock assessments and management and the appropriateness of the current boundary for the western and eastern bluefin management units. This proposal was supported by the members and the Panel recommended the Commission adopt the *Resolution by ICCAT for SCRS To Examine the Effects of Mixing for Stock Assessments and Management and Consider the Appropriateness of the Current Boundary Between the Western and Eastern Management Units for Atlantic Bluefin Tuna* (see **ANNEX 7-11**).

7.a.6 The EC also presented a draft resolution asking the SCRS to update conversion factors for bluefin tuna from product weight to live weight. This proposal was also supported by the Panel members and the *Resolution by ICCAT on Conversion Factors for Bluefin Tuna from Product Weight to Live Weight* (see **ANNEX 7-12**) was forwarded to the Commission for final adoption.

7.b Albacore (North)

7.b.1 The SCRS Chairman presented the research recommendations and plans for northern albacore proposed by his Committee. The Panel recommended that the Commission endorse all the research plans and recommendations by the SCRS.

8 Other matters

No other matters were discussed.

9 Date and place of next Panel meeting

It was agreed that Panel 2 will meet at the same time and place as the next Commission meeting.

10 Adoption of the report

Since the draft report was not available at the last session of the Panel, it was decided to adopt the report through correspondence at a later date.

11 Adjournment

The 2000 meeting of Panel 2 was adjourned.

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF PANEL 3

1 Opening of the Meeting

The meeting of Panel 3 was opened by the Chairman, Dr. Johan van Zyl (South Africa), who welcomed all the delegates and observers.

2 Adoption of Agenda

The Agenda was adopted without modification, and is attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 9**.

3 Appointment of Rapporteur

Mr. Pasquale Scida (United States) was asked to serve as Rapporteur.

4 Review of Panel membership

The Chair welcomed the United Kingdom (Overseas Territories) as a new member to the Panel. There are currently seven members of Panel 3: European Community (EC), Japan, Korea, Namibia, South Africa, United Kingdom (Overseas Territories), and the United States, all of whom were present at the meeting.

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

5.1 Dr. Joseph Powers, Chairman of the SCRS, summarized the findings of the SCRS relevant to the Panel for southern bluefin tuna and southern albacore, noting that more detailed information on the current status of these stocks could be found in the 2000 SCRS Report. There were no questions from the Panel regarding the SCRS Report.

6 Measures for the conservation of stocks

6.1 Following his summary of the current management measures for southern albacore, the Chair asked for comments on management measures and recommendations.

6.2 The United States made a statement that while it is a minor participant in the South Atlantic in terms of southern albacore catches, it was willing to work with others on the Panel to establish appropriate conservation and management measures for the stock. The statement by the United States on South Atlantic albacore management measures is attached as **Appendix 13 to ANNEX 9**.

6.3 Panel 3 members then discussed the need for a new sharing arrangement for southern albacore, as the sharing arrangement adopted in the 1999 recommendation was due to expire at the end of 2000. Panel members noted that the stock was not over-fished, and that the estimate of the replacement yield of the stock by the SCRS had gone up to 29,200 metric tons (MT). There was also discussion of the monitoring program and difficulties of implementation of the program, not so much with each Party's monitoring of its catch, but more with communication between the four actively fishing Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities.

6.4 The United Kingdom (Overseas Territories) stated that in the current sharing arrangement, it was allowed only 110 percent of its landings between 1992 and 1996. Its landings during that time were very small, and it would like more flexibility, such as if Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities and

Fishing Entities other than the four "actively fishing", would be exempt from the 110 percent of 1992-1996 annual limit if they landed less than 100 MT annually.

6.5 The other Panel members agreed with the proposal by the United Kingdom (Overseas Territories). There was also agreement by the members that the sharing arrangement should be continued for another year, that the four actively fishing Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities needed to improve monitoring and communication, and that they were unwilling to revise the sharing arrangement without further progress from the ICCAT Working Group on Allocation Criteria. Japan stated that its southern albacore catch was a by-catch of its bigeye tuna fishery and that it would like to maintain the current arrangement.

6.6 South Africa agreed to be once again responsible for the bi-monthly collection and dissemination of catch data by the four actively fishing Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities. South Africa reminded the Panel that it can only do this if the other Parties report their catches as required.

6.7 South Africa then proposed a TAC of 29,200 MT for 2001, which is an increase of 1,000 MT from the previous year, equivalent to the replacement yield estimated by the SCRS. South Africa proposed that 27,500 MT be the total catch limit for the four actively fishing Contracting Parties, Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities. South Africa also proposed that the remaining 1,700 MT be allocated among the remaining Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties Entities and Fishing Entities.

6.8 South Africa agreed to draft a recommendation incorporating proposals made by the Panel members.

6.9 At the second session of the Panel, the draft recommendation prepared by South Africa was discussed. South Africa explained that this recommendation would completely replace the 1998 and 1999 recommendations on southern albacore, and that it removed the provision regarding the United States' catch limit of four percent of its southern swordfish catch, as now the United States would fall under the less than 100 MT category.

6.10 After some discussion, the text was modified to be consistent with ICCAT terminology and to retain the original wording from the 1998 recommendation regarding Japan's allocation. After some additional discussion, it was agreed to include the proposal by the United States that the southern albacore catch of those defined as "not actively fishing" could be taken as by-catch or in a directed fishery. The EC also expressed concern at the vague nature of the term "significant" in paragraph 3 of the preamble regarding the progress of the ICCAT Working Group on Allocation Criteria. The Chair proposed that the original wording of this clause from the 1999 recommendation be retained. South Africa agreed to re-write the recommendation to reflect the proposed changes.

6.11 At its third session, the Panel discussed the revised recommendation. Several minor changes were agreed to and the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Revision and Sharing of the Southern Albacore Catch Limit* (see **ANNEX 7-7**) was adopted and forwarded to the Commission.

7 Research

The SCRS Chairman presented the research recommendations of the SCRS regarding southern albacore, which included that more genetic samples be collected, that catch-at-age information be submitted to the SCRS, and which indicated that CPUE indices would be critically examined by the SCRS. South Africa requested that the SCRS specifically examine the causes of increased uncertainty in the revised albacore assessments, and evaluate options for reducing this uncertainty to produce better estimates of relevant management reference points.

8 Date and place of next meeting

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 Other matters

9.1 No other matters were discussed.

10. Adoption of the Report

10.1 The report of Panel 3 was adopted.

11. Adjournment

11.1 The 2000 meeting of Panel 3 was adjourned.

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF PANEL 4

1 Opening of the Meeting

The 2000 meeting of Panel 4 was opened by the Chair, Ms. Mariam McCall (United States). In opening this Panel, the species categories to be addressed were identified as Atlantic bonito, swordfish (North, South and Mediterranean), billfishes, and other species not covered by Panels 1-3.

2 Adoption of Agenda

The Agenda was adopted without modification and is attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 9**.

3 Appointment of Rapporteur

Mr. Greg Peacock (Canada) was designated rapporteur.

4 Review of Panel Membership

The Chair identified and welcomed the addition of the People's Republic of China to the Panel. The Panel is currently comprised of 14 members, namely Angola, Brazil, Canada, China, European Community, Japan, Morocco, Namibia, South Africa, Trinidad & Tobago, United Kingdom (Overseas Territories), United States of America, Uruguay, and Venezuela. All members were present, except Uruguay.

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

5.1 The Chairman of the SCRS presented the Report of the 2000 SCRS meeting concerning stocks managed by Panel 4. Details can be found in the "Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS)" (Madrid, Spain, October 16-20, 2000), published in the *Report for Biennial Period, 2000-2001, Part I, Vol. 2.*

5.a Atlantic bonito

5.a.1 It was noted that no stock assessment had been conducted for Atlantic bonito.

5.b Swordfish

5.b.1 No stock assessments had been conducted in 2000 for Mediterranean or Atlantic swordfish. However, the SCRS Chair noted that for northern swordfish the effort reductions in the 1990's brought on largely by the adoption of a strict ICCAT management scheme has possibly allowed the status of this stock to improve and recommended a continuation of the stock recovery plan adopted in 1999, required to enhance stock rebuilding. A cautionary note on the 11% overage in 1999 was raised suggesting such an excessive catch erodes to some extent the present recovery plan. For southern swordfish, while the biomass was somewhat above that required to produce MSY, excess catch in 1999 (14%) indicates the need to reduce effort if the long-term biomass MSY target is to be maintained.

5.c Billfish

5.c.1 Assessments were conducted in 2000 of the blue marlin and white marlin stocks. There are major levels of uncertainty about many aspects of these stocks but the long-term trend is a clear continuing decline in stock abundance, although the stock assessments contain many uncertainties. Blue marlin is estimated to be fished at over four times MSY and white marlin at over seven times. At such levels, recovery to MSY cannot occur.

Recommended action for both stocks consists of: the release of live captures, effort reduction, introduction of time/area closures, increased observer coverage and research investment, particularly in areas of habitat, and to address current stock uncertainties.

5.c.2 Several questions were raised attempting to clarify the stock status advice for swordfish stocks and billfish stocks. Japan presented a position paper on an alternate billfish scenario (attached as **Appendix 14 to ANNEX 9**) emphasizing the high level of uncertainty and lack of some analyses in the previous assessment which was addressed by the SCRS Chair.

5.c.3 The United States disagreed with Japan's view of the SCRS assessments for marlins, noting that the assessments represented consensus information and advice. In response to Japan's position paper on billfish stock status, the United States tabled a document supporting the SCRS assessments, which is attached as **Appendix 15 to ANNEX 9**. Japan then replied to the United States, which is attached as **Appendix 16 to ANNEX 9**.

5.c.4 The Observer from the Ocean Wildlife Campaign presented a statement concerning the rebuilding of Atlantic white marlin and Atlantic blue marlin stocks (attached as **Appendix 17 to ANNEX 9**).

6 Measures for the conservation of stocks

6.a Atlantic bonito

6.a.1 No comments were presented regarding conservation measures for Atlantic bonito stocks.

6.b Swordfish

6.b.1 South Africa and Namibia presented statements to Panel 4 regarding southern swordfish sharing arrangements, which are attached as **Appendices 18 and 19, respectively, to ANNEX 9**.

6.b.2 The Delegate from Trinidad & Tobago made a statement outlining the problems of their data collection. The lack of accurate statistics has disadvantaged Trinidad & Tobago and a correction would resolve issues for this country. The statement by Trinidad & Tobago is attached as **Appendix 20 to ANNEX 9**.

6.b.3 The U.S. Delegate presented a statement regarding North and South Atlantic swordfish stressing the importance of the rebuilding program and accurate catch documentation. The U.S. statement is attached as **Appendix 21 to ANNEX 9**.

6.b.4 Japan has five-years (1997-2001) in which to balance its annual North Atlantic swordfish quotas for the period 1997 through 1999 and may be provided an option for an additional five-year quota compliance period, pending satisfactory review in 2000 of the performance of the Japanese fleet. Japan presented a detailed report of the performance of the Japanese fleet against its quotas, including the current action of releasing all swordfish captured in the North Atlantic fishery, which is attached as **Appendix 23 to ANNEX 9**. Japan also presented a statement on Atlantic swordfish, which is attached as **Appendix 22 to ANNEX 9**.

6.b.5 Several comments were made by the United States and the European Community encouraging Japan to continue efforts to resolve overages of catch. Canada, citing a lack of statistical clarity, asked for a clear accounting of catches to be provided to ensure that Commission members understand the total catches taken for the first three years of the five-year quota compliance period. Japan agreed to work on details with Canada outside of the Panel 4 discussion.

6.b.6 Discussion on South Atlantic swordfish moved toward the question of fishery access in numerous interventions. Both South Africa and the European Community proposed draft recommendations for South Atlantic swordfish sharing arrangements. There continues to be a debate on sharing of the resources between developing coastal states and other states with more developed fisheries. Some support was given by certain member states to provide quota access to those members that have endorsed and adopted the ICCAT measures for conservation and management in effect for south Atlantic swordfish.

6.b.7 The European Community and Canada presented proposals with respect to the conservation plan for south Atlantic swordfish. The European Community proposed a TAC of 14,620 MT using the sharing formula adopted in 1997, with a commitment to work towards a more acceptable sharing solution for the longer term in the Working Group on Allocation Criteria.

6.b.8 Given the uncertainty of stock definition between the northern and southern Swordfish stocks, Canada encouraged participants in the southern Atlantic swordfish fishery to set a TAC of 13,650 MT, which was cited in the SCRS Report as the maximum catch level if MSY is to be maintained over the long- term. The 1999 catch which was 14% above the 1999 TAC, and the adoption of a continued fishing level of this magnitude (14,600 MT) for 2001, will result in stock decline below MSY and must be avoided.

6.b.9 Several countries also noted the growing problem of illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing activities on south Atlantic swordfish and other stocks and recommended that strong action be taken to reduce and eliminate this situation.

6.b.10 The European Community presented another draft resolution which requests a study be conducted on Mediterranean swordfish by the SCRS for the purpose of providing recommendations to the Commission at the 2001 session, on possible measures to protect juvenile swordfish. Mr. J. Powers, SCRS Chairman indicated that reporting of size data from all participating countries and cooperating organizations, such as the GFCM, would be required if this request is to be completed. The *Resolution by ICCAT on Juvenile Mediterranean Swordfish* (attached as **ANNEX 7-5**) was adopted by the Panel and forwarded to the Commission.

6.b.11 The SCRS Chair noted that for Mediterranean swordfish a series of data preparatory meetings would be required prior to any new assessment due to the inherent differences between the quality of data in the Atlantic and Mediterranean.

6.b.12 Japan reintroduced the draft recommendation on North Atlantic swordfish catches by the tuna longline fishery by indicating that following the amendments provided by Canada to the earlier proposal, a consensus had been reached by all Panel members.

6.b.13 In clarifying the situation with respect to the second five-year quota compliance period, the Panel deferred a decision until 2002 and requested the SCRS to review Japan's catch, including discards, in both 2001 and 2002. In the meantime, Japan will harvest North Atlantic swordfish consistent with the terms of the 1999 North Atlantic swordfish rebuilding program and, if adopted, the proposed Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Swordfish Catches by the Tuna Longline Fishery.

6.b.14 During the discussion on the adoption of this proposed draft recommendation, Japan --in response to questions-- explained that this recommendation was designed to allow Japan to "maintain a minimum level of Japanese fishing operations in the North Atlantic" while at the same time not increasing effort in the South Atlantic "for the sake of the South Atlantic stock". Japan also indicated that it was the intention of Japan to count dead discards of swordfish taken in the North Atlantic against the national quota of Japan.

6.b.15 After these clarifications, the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Swordfish Catches by the Tuna Longline Fishery* was adopted (attached as **ANNEX 7-3**).

6.b.16 The Chair introduced a recommendation on South Atlantic swordfish. She indicated that, while there was flexibility on the part of many members, this was not sufficient in the long run to result in a consensus position on the sharing arrangement. There was a consensus position on the TAC, which was established at 14,620 MT for 2001.

6.b.17 In reference to the sharing arrangement, the proposed recommendation outlines what is considered as the minimum acceptable approach for a one-year interim period. Pursuant to this interim agreement each Contracting Party, Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity and Fishing Entity fishing for South Atlantic swordfish will establish a precautionary catch limit for 2001 by the end of 2000. The countries were further encouraged to set catch limits such that the target TAC not be exceeded. Canada indicated that it had no words of support for such a recommendation.

6.b.18 The *Recommendation by ICCAT on South Atlantic Swordfish* was adopted by the Panel and forwarded to the Commission for final adoption (attached as **ANNEX 7-4**).

6.b.19 Several delegations (Brazil, Namibia, South Africa, the United Kingdom (Overseas Territories) South Africa, the United States, and the Observer from the Ocean Wildlife Campaign) highlighted their disappointment with the management measure, indicating that the agreement was for only one year and was better than no agreement. The closing statements presented in writing by Namibia and South Africa on the South Atlantic swordfish recommendation adopted by the Panel are attached as **Appendices 24, and 25**, respectively **to ANNEX 9**.

6.b.20 Japan highlighted its efforts to be flexible by offering to transfer some of Japan's South Atlantic swordfish quota to other parties to resolve the sharing impasse. Japan further indicated a willingness to work towards a longer-term solution. The closing statement made by Japan on South Atlantic swordfish is attached as **Appendix 26 to ANNEX 9**.

6.b.21 The European Community indicated a willingness to work towards a more permanent solution and that for the interim period, including the balance of 2000, the European Community will control its harvest so that there will be no increases from the year 2000 level. That will mean that if other countries respect current allocations, the TAC for the interim year 2001 (14,620 MT) should be respected

6.c Billfish

6.c.1 The Delegate of the United States made a statement strongly urging the Commission to take action to reverse the trend in billfish (blue marlin and white marlin) stock decline. Citing over-fishing of four times MSY for blue marlin and seven times MSY for white marlin, the United States requested the Commission to take immediate action. It was noted that some countries had reduced catches of marlins in compliance with Commission recommendations but that, given the current state of the resource, a specific recovery plan was required immediately. The statement by the United States on Atlantic marlins is attached as **Appendix 27 to ANNEX 9**. Canada supported the need to act to rebuild these resources, using the best scientific advice available even if uncertainties exist. They urged the Commission to take action to reduce the uncertainties through properly focused research. Therefore, the Commission should adopt the five-point plan outlined in the SCRS Report for rebuilding the marlin resources.

6.c.2 The United States introduced a draft recommendation for rebuilding blue marlin and white marlin populations. The recommendation introduces a 2-phase program, beginning in 2001,to reduce mortality, rebuild populations and reduce uncertainty in scientific assessment.

6.c.3 The *Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Plan to Rebuild Blue Marlin and White Marlin Populations* (see **ANNEX 7-13**) represents the culmination of discussions by several member states in which all members supported the need to enhance the conservation of the marlin resources.

6.c.4 There were lengthy discussions, particularly concerning the release of all marlins or just live marlins and the level (amount or percentage) at which fish can be retained. The final draft also attempts to address concerns expressed by parties including the requirement for participating members to establish appropriate size limits. However, during the discussions concern was expressed by several member states over reporting procedures, dead discards, recreational fishing controls, size limit variations and potential impacts on emerging fisheries. The original draft recommendation was modified and adopted by the Panel and forwarded to the Commission for final approval (see **ANNEX 7-13**).

6.c.5 The Observer from the Ocean Wildlife Campaign presented a closing statement on the rebuilding plan for marlins, which is attached as **Appendix 28 to ANNEX 9**.

7 Research

The SCRS Chairman outlined the SCRS recommendations relative to swordfish and billfish research included under Agenda item 19 of the 2000 SCRS Report.

8 Date and place of next meeting

The next meeting of Panel 4 will take place at the same time and place as the 2001 Commission Meeting.

9 Adoption of Report

It was agreed to adopt the Panel 4 report by correspondence.

10 Adjournment

The 2000 meeting of Panel 4 was adjourned.

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 Other matters
10 Adoption of Report
11 Adjournment

Appendix 2 to ANNEX 9

Statement by Japan on Bigeye Tuna
(attached to Report of Panel 1)

First of all, Japan is concerned about the validity of the Chinese catch data. Our neighboring country and friend has reports its catch as 7,347 MT in 1999. According to Document COM/00/24, China registered 14 large-scale tuna longline vessels to the Commission while they stated there were 27 vessels registered in 1999. Almost all of their vessels are old ex-IUU vessels originally built in Japan. As shown in the attached working paper, even if a total of 27 vessels fully operated, their total catch would be around 3,600 MT. When we take their vessel ages into account, a reasonable estimate wold be around 2,500 MT with 27 vessels and 1,300 MT with 14 vessels. Our import record of bigeye tuna from China in 1999 was 1,276 MT, as compared to their reported catch of 7,347 MT. The longline fishery is a new fishery to China and improvement in the quality of their catch data is necessary. Japan is willing to cooperate in this aspect. Actually, I myself visited Beijing and we agreed to hold meetings to improve their catch data.

The second point is the enormous expansion of the Chinese longline fishery in the Convention area. China increased its longline vessels rapidly. According to Document COM/00/24, the number of their vessels increased from 6 in 1998, to 14 in 1999 and to 27 in 2000. When I visited Beijing in October, I was informed that they were operating 52 vessels in the Atlantic. And now in Marrakech I was just informed that the number has further increased to 60. Every time I see my friend in China, the number of their large-scale tuna longline vessels increases. We respect China's legitimate right to develop its fishery. But here, they are developing their fishery by accepting IUU vessels limitlessly. Such a manner of increasing the fishery is totally unacceptable. Everyone in ICCAT is limiting their number of fishing vessels based on the recommendation adopted two years ago to reduce

the number of longline fishing vessels to the average of 1991 and 1992. However, the effectiveness of this management measure was significantly undermined by the uncontrolled increase of the fishery. As a matter of fact, the bigeye catches have increased substantially since 1998. One of the main factors of this increase is China. I do not want to use strong words, but they have abused the exemption clause of the 1998 recommendation by accepting IUU vessels. Japan accepted a 20% fleet reduction. The Japanese bigeye catch in 1999 was reduced by one-third that of 1995. However, the situation of Atlantic bigeye tuna is getting worse. In Chinese Taipei, new large-scale tuna longline vessels are still being built, which are believed to be destined for China. In China, new vessels are also being built. I am not blaming these two. Japanese business entities are also involved. Japanese buyers invite their catches, and trading companies are believed to support their fishing operations financially. Because of this, Japan also feels some responsibility for their IUU-related activities.

Japan would like to request the Commission to send a clear and strong message to China not to increase their bigeye tuna catch. At a later stage, Japan will introduce a resolution relative to this subject.

Working Paper by Japan: An Assessment of the Chinese Bigeye Tuna Catch in 1999 in the Atlantic Ocean

China reported its 1999 bigeye catch to the SCRS as 7,347 MT. However, this figure is questionable and is considered to be substantial over-reporting. This paper assesses the reported Chinese 1999 Atlantic bigeye catches.

1 Most of the Chinese large-scale tuna longline vessels are second hand vessels built in and exported from Japan. Their ages are relatively high at around 20 years. The catch ability of these old vessels is normally lower than Japanese and Chinese Taipei's tuna longline vessels which consist of younger vessels.

2 In 1998, the Commission established the following limits for Chinese Taipei's bigeye catch and the number of vessels:

- Catch limit: 16,500 MT
- Number of vessels: 125

The bigeye catch limit per vessel is calculated from these figures to be 132 MT.

3 The Japanese Atlantic bigeye CPUE in 1999 is 0.61. When a vessel operates at sea 240 days a year, its bigeye catch is calculated to be 146.4 MT and this figure almost corresponds to the above Chinese Taipei catch limit per vessel. Chinese tuna longline vessels would have less (because of their high vessel age) catch ability per year.

4 China registered 14 tuna longline vessels to ICCAT in 1999. The calculated 1999 Atlantic bigeye catch by China is 1,848 MT (14 vessels x 132 MT/vessel = 1,848 MT). China registered 27 vessels to ICCAT in 2000. Even if the 27 Chinese tuna longline vessels are assumed to have operated in 1999, they could only catch 3,546 MT (27 vessels x 132 MT/vessel = 3,564 MT). These calculated figures can be achieved when all the Chinese vessels including many vessels of over 20 years old fully operate throughout the year. Then it is more reasonable to conclude that the actual Chinese Atlantic bigeye catch in 1999 is far less than those calculated figures, and it is estimated to be at most 1,300 MT (14 vessels) or 2,500 MT (27 vessels), respectively.

5 The Japanese import of frozen bigeye tuna from China in 1999 supports the above conclusion. Chinese tuna longline vessels target bigeye tuna and Japan is the only market in the world which provides a high price the bigeye products. Thus, it is reasonable and realistic to conclude that all the Chinese bigeye catch comes to Japan as other nations' bigeye catches by longliners are all being absorbed in the Japanese market.

6 Japan imported a total of 1,896 MT (converted live weight) of frozen bigeye tuna from China in 1999. Out of this total, Atlantic bigeye tuna is estimated to be 1,276 MT (converted live weight) based on the information on break downs by ocean area (Atlantic, Indian or Pacific) collected at the time of import application to the Japanese authority. Even when a time lag (usually three months) from the fishing grounds to the Japanese landing ports is taken into consideration, the import figure remains at the same level (i.e. the bigeye import from China from April, 1999, to March, 2000, is almost the same as that for the calendar year of 1999).

7 Summary of the assessment
- Chinese reported bigeye catch: 7,347 MT

- Calculated figures:
  full operation with 14 vessels: 1,848 MT
  full operation with 27 vessels: 3,564 MT
  reasonable estimate of operation with 14 vessels: 1,300 MT
  reasonable estimate of operation with 27 vessels: 2,500 MT

- Japanese import data: 1,276 MT

8 Recently China informed Japan that it has 52 tuna longline vessels in the Atlantic in 2000. China's reported bigeye catch in 1999 is close to the figures to be obtained by calculation on the assumption that a total of 52 vessels fully operate in the Atlantic.

Appendix 3 to ANNEX 9

Statement by China on Bigeye Tuna Management
(attached to Report of Panel 1)

Before I came here, I believed that the delegation of China would be a target of the 12th Special Meeting, like other countries in other fora. In fisheries affairs, I would say it is my honor to be a target. I remember that when the delegation of China attended the ICCAT meeting for the first time as a member in 1996, almost no one was aware of the existence of the delegation of China, because that China had a very small quantity of catch in ICCAT Convention waters. In order to draw your attention, we had to increase our catch in the area. This is the psychological reason for the increment of catch in the area by China. However, I hope you understand this reason is my joke.

Now, let's discuss the serious reasons. I would like to explain the position of the delegation on bigeye tuna conservation and management.

First of all, China repeatedly expressed that it has no intention to develop large-scale fisheries in the ICCAT Convention area in some bilateral and multilateral occasions. We understand we came to this area at a later stage. There is not much room for development, but there is still some opportunity for small-scale fisheries. Therefore, our strategy in this area is to maintain small-scale fisheries with a certain scale that requires the fisheries authority of China to input finance and manpower to manage the fisheries the same as other fisheries. However, before 1999, since the fisheries did not reach a certain level, almost no one took serious care of the fisheries. As a consequence, the work of data collection and submission to the ICCAT Secretariat was very poor. The situation is being improved along with the catch increment. Last year, the fisheries authority input funds of US$ 20,000 on an annual basis to ensure our scientists have better data collection and ensure them to follow the ICCAT scientific meetings. Some companies engaged in tuna fishing in the area have the capacity and the intention to input financial support for our scientists to conduct research in the area. A scientific observer program is under consideration in China. These are beneficial to our catch increment. Considering that China's total annual catch in its jurisdictional waters and other areas and the fisheries of other players in the Atlantic, the 10,000 MT of tuna catches in ICCAT waters is indeed a small-scale fishery. We did not break our promise. Up to now, the fisheries authority of China has approved 60 longline vessels to operate in the ICCAT Convention area.

Secondly, some people may like to use the FAO International Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity to argue that the activities of China in the ICCAT area are not consistent with the International Plan of Action (IPOA), since it was endorsed by ICCAT last year, and China had no difficulty to endorse this IPOA. We had no difficulty for the endorsement by ICCAT, this is true. It is also true that China decreased 3,000 fishing vessels and decided to cap the marine capture fisheries at the 1998 level in our coastal area, and we introduced two or three months of moratorium in all sea waters under Chinese national jurisdiction each year since 1995, three years before FAO adopted the IPOA. But we did not ask other countries to follow China to reduce the same number of fishing vessels nor ask them to cap their marine capture fisheries. It is very hard for us to understand why certain countries strongly asked others to follow them to reduce longline vessels based on a footnote as information

reference in the IPOA. The additional element is also true that China is a developing country. Regarding the developing countries, the IPOA has provision in paragraph 10, where it says that the implementation of the IPOA should be based on the Code of Conduct, particularly Article 5, in relation to enhancing the ability of developing countries, to develop their fisheries as well as to participate in high seas fisheries, including access to such fisheries, in accordance with their legitimate rights and their obligations under international law. Therefore, the activities of China in the ICCAT area has nothing against the IPOA, but in line with the provisions of the IPOA.

Thirdly, regarding the ICCAT recommendation on bigeye tuna conservation and management measures adopted in 1998, it is mentioned in the third paragraph, when the annual catch of any of those parties exceeds 2000 MT before 2001, the Commission should consider and recommend, if appropriate, new conservation measures for bigeye tuna, applicable to them. According to this provision, I do not believe that China violated the recommendation. Actually, we are just in line with the provision and my delegation would like to discuss new conservation measures, if the Commission thinks it appropriate. However, it is the view of my delegation that it is very reasonable that any new conservation measure should take into account the juvenile bigeye tuna harvested by purse seiners. Otherwise, it will be useless for stock conservation if only the longline vessels that fish adult bigeye tuna are controlled. But the most significant matter is how we address the IUU fishing for bigeye in the area. If we look at the table of bigeye catches in the SCRS Report, we find the catch of NEI increased from 7,710 MT in 1992 to 32,400 MT in 1999. This is a very large increase in the NEI catches, which I believe are harvested by IUU fishing. The ICCAT started to address the IUU issue some time ago, but why is the catch of bigeye tuna by IUU still increasing. That means the measure adopted by ICCAT was not effective in eliminating IUU fishing, at least for bigeye tuna. As I have mentioned in another forum, if there were no market then there would be no fisheries and if there are no markets, there must be no tuna, that is we urgently need a catch reporting document system signed by authorized governmental officials. If we have such a catch reporting document system, we will have an effective measure against IUU fishing. Otherwise, it will be meaningless to have so many meetings just to restrict the members of ICCAT. If we can not control the IUU fishing, we will not be able to explain to the honest companies and businessmen who pay taxes to their governments and input money for data collection and observer any ICCAT adopted measures, and the equitable environment of competition cannot be created by us. I hope delegations consider the urgent need for a bigeye catch document reporting.

Now, I'd like to reply to the comment on the assessment on Chinese bigeye tuna catch in 1999 in the Atlantic Ocean put forward by the Japanese delegation.

First of all, there is the question of the second hand vessels having low fishing capacity. It is true that many vessels used by Chinese fishing companies are old. However, as soon as the companies of China bought the vessels, all the major parts of the vessel in relation to fishing have been changed. So, the fishing capacity is the same as the new fishing vessels or even higher.

Secondly, the Japanese fishing vessels' operating time at sea is 240 days per year, whereas Chinese vessels' operating time is normally more than 340 days. Those vessels need to be repaired every three years. The estimation of the Chinese vessels' time at sea of 240 days is the case of Japan, but not the case of China.

Thirdly, we reported to ICCAT prior to August 31, 2000, that there were 27 vessels Chinese registered vessels in 1999. Because we understand that the catch should be in relation to the number of fishing vessels. The list we reported to ICCAT in the current year should be the vessels authorized to fish in the ICCAT area a year before. That is the result we interpret from the recommendation on the list of vessel reporting. Therefore, there were 27 vessels operating in the Atlantic Ocean in 1999.

Fourth, Japan is not the only market for bigeye tuna. Some bigeye tuna were exported to southeast Asian countries, and some below 15 kg in size were exported back to China or some other countries.

Finally, we would like to work with Japan on improvement of data collection of the Chinese fleet in the Atlantic tuna fisheries. However, my delegation is not in a position to make revisions to the Chinese bigeye tuna catch in 1999.

Appendix 4 to ANNEX 9

Statement by the United States on Atlantic Bigeye Tuna Conservation Measures
(attached to Report of Panel 1)

Catches of Atlantic bigeye tuna are currently in excess of replacement levels and higher than MSY. In fact, the SCRS Report states that: "...the total catch (of bigeye tuna) has been larger than the upper boundary of the likely range of MSY since 1991, causing the stock to decline considerably...".

To make matters worse, catches have increased to almost 125,000 MT in 1999. These are the second highest on record. Simply put, bigeye tuna are over-fished, over-fishing continues, and action must be taken by ICCAT this year to stop over-fishing and rebuild this stock.

The SCRS has recommended, and the United States supports, a catch reduction towards 80,000 MT, which is necessary just to prevent further stock decline; a further catch reduction is necessary to rebuild the stock to levels that would support MSY.

ICCAT has attempted to manage the bigeye fishery primarily through a minimum size regulation of 3.2 kg, adopted in 1980. In recent years, ICCAT has added limitations on fishing effort and capacity, and adopted a time/area closure in the Gulf of Guinea.

However, these measures have not been effective in halting the declining stock trend. Further, the United States is extremely concerned that 55% of the bigeye tuna harvested are below the ICCAT minimum size limit. We cannot wait any longer to take the necessary action to halt the decline of the stock and rebuild.

While the United States accounts for a relatively small portion of total bigeye landings, bigeye is very important to the United States economically, supporting both commercial and recreational fisheries. Reflecting this importance, the United States has implemented several domestic management measures above and beyond current ICCAT recommendations for bigeye tuna. These include a minimum size that is twice that recommended by ICCAT without any tolerance for landing undersized fish, and limiting access in our longline fishery. It is therefore in all of our interest, to act now to address our failure to prevent over-fishing.

The United States urges that this Panel adopt a recommendation that will, first and foremost, limit total catches to an amount that will stop over-fishing and allow rebuilding to begin. We want to join Japan in its expressions of concern about the recent rapid growth of bigeye fisheries by new entrants such as China. In addition, the time/area closure in the Gulf of Guinea must be continued, and its expansion should be considered. Significant savings of juvenile fish could result from this closure, which would allow, in the future, greater opportunities for Contracting Parties to harvest adult bigeye tuna, as well as yellowfin and skipjack tuna.

Regarding yellowfin and skipjack tuna, the United States supports further research by the SCRS to identify spawning grounds and investigate and propose possible measures to protect these areas in order to reduce the catch of undersized fish. The United States is extremely concerned that nearly 70 percent of yellowfin tuna caught in 1999 were below the ICCAT minimum size, up from 54 percent in 1998. As in the case of bigeye tuna, the United States has established a minimum size for yellowfin tuna that is twice the size recommended by ICCAT, without any tolerance for landing undersized fish. The fact that many members of ICCAT have not implemented the Commission's very first management recommendation, adopted nearly 30 years ago, reflects poorly on the Commission's ability to manage species in the Convention Area. We must make progress in protecting juvenile fish, which would result in benefits for all Contracting Parties fishing these tropical tuna stocks. Thank You.

Appendix 5 to ANNEX 9

Statement by China on Bigeye Tuna Conservation Measures
(attached to Report of Panel 1)

First of all, the fact of China allows the formal FOC fishing vessels to register in China does not increase the fishing capacity in this area. Those vessels used to fish in the ICCAT water for a long time. What we did is to make such fisheries more transparent, making illegal fishing legal fishing, unreported become reported, and unregulated become regulated. But unlike others, many of those formal FOC vessels were bought by Chinese fishing companies. Therefore, the vessels have no financial and legal links with their formal owners. We believe since the formal FOC vessels can be re-registered in their original authority, they have every reason to come to their motherland for registration because they are Chinese. What we did was not to encourage them to carry out IUU fishing activities. Chinese companies from the mainland selected a limited number of vessels and to buy the vessels, in most of the cases. Such activities conducted by the government of China should be encouraged since the consequence of such activity is in fact a reduction of the number of IUU fishing vessels in the area.

Regarding the IUU issue, I would like to highlight the two elements, under vessel registration of flag State Responsibilities in the FAO draft International Plan of Action, in its paragraph 29, it says that Flag States should avoid flagging vessels with a history of non-compliance except where the ownership of the vessel has subsequently changed and the new owner has provided sufficient evidence demonstrating that the previous owner or operator has no further legal, beneficial or financial interest in, or control of the vessel; having taken into account all relevant facts, the flag States determines that flagging the vessel would not result in IUU fishing.

Secondly, many of the Chinese companies just paid the money to the formal FOC owners and all the crew members of the fishing vessels are from Mainland China. Thus, the Government of China has to consider the social and economic factors, and ensure the interest of the honest new owners and the working rights of the crew on board such vessels. It is impossible for the Government of China to consider the reduction of the fishing vessels just approved by China, and which acutely operated in ICCAT waters.

Thirdly, regarding the action to be taken by the Commission to against IUU fishing for bigeye, we believe that the measure will be effective, so the catch of IUU vessels could be decreased in the next few years. The increment in catches by China will not impair the population of bigeye.

My delegation will try very hard in its domestic consultations for establishing domestic regulations to limit the number of tuna longline vessels in the Atlantic to 60, which means no additional expansion of our tuna longline vessels in the Atlantic.

Appendix 6 to ANNEX 9

Second Statement by China on the Bigeye Tuna Conservation Measures
(attached to Report of Panel 1)

When we discussed the conservation and management measures of bigeye tuna in the Panel in the last week, I heard too much criticism and received too much pressure from one of my neighboring countries. The arguments from the particular country are two: China uses former IUU vessels and China destroys the resources of bigeye tuna because the last year's catch was 30,000 MT over MSY.

The issue of using former IUU vessels was discussed in the PWG, all of us had information on the results, nothing wrong with China to use former IUU vessels. Regarding the resources, if we look at the SCRS table on bigeye tuna, we find that one certain country (and please forgive me for using the number of its catch record only as an example), increased its catch in 1999 by 7,300 MT over its 1991 catch level. If we then look the its number of fishing vessels larger than 24 meters in the register of tuna fishing vessels of ICCAT, that country had no reported vessel in 1991, but had 36 large-scale vessels fishing for bigeye in 1999. The 5,800 MT of uncreased catch of China, if counted in terms of number of fish are roughly 150,000 of fish. The increased catch of that country, if counted in number of fish, is roughly 1.8 million fish, ten times more than we fished. I have no intention to make any suggestion to limit the fishery of that country. That is not our way to treat a friendly country. I just want to ask

if this equitable treatment? Is this a fair result? The answer must be No! Why does this Panel treat the two developing countries in two different ways? The answer must be that this recommendation is not based purely on scientific information available and that the purpose of this recommendation is not only for the conservation of bigeye tuna in ICCAT waters. The catch by IUU vessels in 1999 was 250,00 MT in ICCAT waters according to the SCRS Report, five times more than our increased catch. Since everyone knows the destination of IUU fished bigeye tuna, the answer to who encouraged IUU fishing is very clear. Therefore, we can not accept the arguments put forward by our neighboring country.

The Government of China attaches great importance to the conservation and sustainable use of living marine resources, including tuna resources. That is why the delegation of China made a commitment in the meeting that we will halt the expansion of our tuna fleet in the ICCAT area and we will try to reduce our catch of bigeye tuna in 2001 to less than the catch in 1999. However, the catch limit for China in the recommendation is not enough for the survival of our fleet. We have to consider the social and economic factors, therefore, we can not accept the catch limit set forth in the recommendation.

Having said that, my delegation realizes that we tried very hard to conduct informal discussions, and at this very late stage we will not block the adoption of the recommendation. However, please take note that my delegation will not join the consensus for the adoption of the recommendation. Further decision on the recommendation will be made by the Government of China. Thank you.

Appendix 7 to ANNEX 9

Statement by the United States on Bluefin Tuna
(attached to Report of Panel 2)

I want to begin my comments on a very positive note. According to SCRS, the outlook for West Atlantic bluefin tuna is better than it has been since conservation efforts began in 1982. Two years ago, ICCAT formally established an enhanced Rebuilding Plan for West Atlantic bluefin tuna. This year, SCRS reports that we can expect bluefin tuna in the West Atlantic to increase in abundance many times over, within the 20 year rebuilding period set by the Plan. Ultimately, both the bluefin tuna resources, and our fishing industries, will benefit. If the optimistic outlook continues, the United States expects that our fishing industries will be rewarded for their sacrifices, sooner, rather than later.

However, there are two serious threats that jeopardize rebuilding of bluefin tuna in the West Atlantic:

The first threat is catches of bluefin tuna in the West Atlantic by countries that do not have a catch quota. The SCRS estimated that more than 400 MT were caught in 1999 by countries without an allocation. This made the catch far exceed the level set by the Rebuilding Plan. ICCAT has already taken action to address unauthorized catches by some countries, but we fear that this is an escalating problem, which must be stopped!

The second threat is over fishing of bluefin tuna in the East Atlantic, including the Mediterranean Sea. I want to state clearly that this over fishing is a threat to western Atlantic rebuilding. Every report of SCRS since the early 1990s has noted the potential importance of mixing. Recent evidence of mixing is overwhelming; it even raises questions about the location of spawning grounds. This year, SCRS specifically stated: "The condition of the eastern Atlantic stock and fishery could adversely affect recovery in the western Atlantic, ..." It went on to "... stress the importance of continuing efforts to manage the fisheries in both the East and West Atlantic in a sustainable manner."

The Unites States supports continuing research on mixing and stock distribution, including investigation of the possibility of spawning in the central Atlantic, as recommended by SCRS. However, the United States feels strongly that research has already shown it is time to re-evaluate the appropriateness of the current management unit boundary, and to further consider how to take account of mixing in management and stock assessments of bluefin tuna.

The United States is not only concerned about over fishing of bluefin tuna in the East Atlantic because it threatens the western Atlantic bluefin tuna Rebuilding Plan, but also because, as a Contracting Party, the United States shares a responsibility for all fishery resources that are subject to ICCAT.

The problem in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea has three critical dimensions: Excessive catch, the catch of undersize fish, and poor reporting of catch.

Excessive catch. Both the reported catch, and the TAC established by the Commission in 1998, exceed the 25,000 MT amount that SCRS estimated as sustainable. It is likely that the actual catch exceeded the sustainable amount by even more, since SCRS noted that recent catch reporting is incomplete. The United States strongly believes that the catch of bluefin tuna in the East should immediately be reduced to no more than 25,000 MT. However, this reduction will not be adequate for rebuilding. A rebuilding plan should also be established.

Catch of undersize fish. In 1975, ICCAT set a minimum size limit of 6.4 kg with a 15% tolerance, but the reported catches far exceed the tolerance. Our Canadian colleague highlighted this problem by noting that about half of the reported number of bluefin tuna caught in the East Atlantic are undersize, in violation of the ICCAT recommendation. To make matters worse, the SCRS raised concern that the catch of small fish is under reported. I must point out that virtually no fish less than 6.4 kg are landed from the West Atlantic.

Poor reporting of catch. This year's SCRS Report refers extensively to problems of mis-reporting and non-reporting of fisheries data for the East Atlantic. The United States is dismayed that the problem is so severe that SCRS no long feels it can assess the fishery resource. This situation should be unacceptable to all members of ICCAT. It is imperative that countries fulfill their obligations for accurate, complete and timely reporting, to allow for assessments and compliance accountability.

I'd like to conclude by summarizing my main points. The United States recommends appropriate action:

- To "stay the course" with the rebuilding plan for the West Atlantic bluefin tuna;
- To determine how best to take account of mixing in assessments and management of Atlantic bluefin tuna;
- To immediately reduce the eastern Atlantic bluefin tuna catch to no more than the sustainable level of 25,000 MT, and to establish a rebuilding plan;
- To stop violating the Commission's recommendation on catching small fish; and
- To fulfill reporting requirements to allow assessments and compliance accountability.

Finally, I would like to express my concern about the northern albacore fishery. The most recent assessment by the SCRS indicated that the stock size is probably below the level that will produce MSY, and that the catch should be reduced by about 10% to begin rebuilding to the MSY level. The United States is in favor of beginning the rebuilding now. I hope we have learned from past experience, that the price of beginning rebuilding now is small compared to the future cost if we delay. Thank you.

Appendix 8 to ANNEX 9

Statement by Canada on Atlantic Bluefin Tuna
(attached to Report of Panel 2)

Members will recall that the Commission adopted a Rebuilding Plan for west Atlantic bluefin tuna at our meeting in 1998. We are now fishing in the second year of this Plan.

This Plan was adopted to provide us with a management framework that would give us reasonable confidence that stock rebuilding to MSY would occur within 20 years. The Plan was necessary as previous reductions in catch beginning in 1982 had halted stock decline, but had failed to increase abundance.

As part of this Plan, we adopted a procedure that would eliminate haggling over the repeated, relatively minor increases and decreases in TAC in response to SCRS stock assessments. We agreed that there would be no increase in the current TAC of 2,500 MT unless the SCRS indicates that a TAC greater than 2,700 MT will allow the MSY target to be achieved within 20 years with a 50% or greater probability.

We have a new stock assessment from the SCRS, based on an additional two years of data – 1998 and 1999. The SCRS Report is thorough and complex. It provides projections based on two scenarios about future recruitment. The Committee acknowledges that both scenarios are plausible, given the uncertainty inherent in the data that are available. In these circumstances, when different options are presented, advice from the report can be selected to support different conclusions about stock status, and achievement of rebuilding targets at various levels of catch.

However, we should refrain from treating the SCRS Report as a buffet – where you have a great variety of choice and you select what appears most appetizing. What the SCRS has provided reflects the uncertainties in the data. Despite these uncertainties, their advice is very clear. They have recommended that the TAC should not be changed significantly from the current level of 2,500 MT per year. They have also advised that maintaining the catch at the current level gives at least a 50% probability of rebuilding to the 1975 biomass level by 2018, for both recruitment scenarios.

We believe this is sensible, prudent advice. Given our past lack of success in rebuilding at catches around current levels, we would be putting at risk the investments made in conservation if we take a catch dividend now. While there is some optimism based on recent data, there is too much uncertainty about recruitment, stock mixing and the basic biology of tunas to be confident that our stock rebuilding target can be sustained if we have an increase in TAC.

Therefore, Canada does not support any modification of the current level of harvest. We believe the scientific advice is clear, and we need to resist the temptation to second guess our scientists in order to get a small increase in quota. We need to stay the course to let the stock rebuild. If the stock is indeed showing signs of improvement, we should celebrate it as an investment for our future, not by rewarding ourselves with a premature harvest increase.

Accordingly, Canada proposes that we maintain the current western Atlantic bluefin TAC at 2,500 MT for the next two years, and maintain the other existing measures of the rebuilding recommendation we adopted in 1998.

Canada does not fish the eastern Atlantic bluefin stock, but we have a very direct and compelling interest in its management. Because there are big differences between the size of the western and eastern Atlantic bluefin tuna stocks, mixing is likely to influence these two management units differently. Fisheries in the East Atlantic could thus adversely affect the recovery in the West Atlantic if a significant proportion of the western spawners migrate from West to East, and are then harvested before returning to the West.

The SCRS notes that basic catch statistics for this eastern stock are still undergoing revisions by the reporting agencies and, also, the SCRS suspects that there has been increased under-reporting in the last few years, especially in 1999. Additionally, the CPUE and size data are not available for important fisheries. Thus, the SCRS does not have confidence in updating assessments based upon these data and the scientist's best determination of the state of the stock is that which was developed in the 1998 report.

We have known for many years that there is mixing of the western and eastern Atlantic stocks, but it is only in very recent years that we have realized how significant this mixing may be. Since 1997, new fishery-independent pop-up satellite tagging efforts targeting adult and spawning size fish in New England, Atlantic Canada and North Carolina showed at least 30% of bluefin each year were located in the eastern management zone when their tags reported.

This confirms that the eastern and western stocks are far more intermixed than has been assumed in the past. The SCRS advises that the condition of the eastern Atlantic stock and fishery could adversely affect recovery of the western Atlantic stock. They have stressed the importance of managing fisheries in both the East and West in a sustainable manner.

In their last stock assessment on eastern bluefin, SCRS analyses indicated that future catch levels of 33,000 MT, or more, are not sustainable. Catches of 25,000 MT or less are required to halt the decline of biomass. It should be noted that even these results may be optimistic since they assume that future recruitment continues at

the average level observed since 1981. The SCRS maintains that a 35% reduction in catches from the 1993 to 1994 levels (i.e. to about 25,000 MT) would be necessary to prevent further decline of the eastern stock.

Canada is concerned that the magnitude of catches, and the excessive level of small fish harvested from the eastern Atlantic stock are not sustainable. It is unfortunate that information was not available to conduct a new assessment of this stock. In the absence of new analyses we need to rely on the 1998 assessment.

Based on the 1998 assessment, the Commission adopted TACs for 1999 and 2000 of 32,000 MT and 29,500 MT respectively. These decreasing TACs were our first steps in getting the total catches down close to the level of 25,000 MT which the SCRS says is needed to prevent further decline.

Canada therefore strongly proposes that the eastern Atlantic TACs for the next two years must be less than the current TAC of 29,500 MT and should not exceed 25,000 MT. To continue to fish in an unsustainable manner jeopardizes the eastern Atlantic stock and compromises all of the conservation investments being made to rebuild western bluefin. This is not acceptable to Canada, and should not be acceptable in this Commission.

Appendix 9 to ANNEX 9

Statement by Japan on Bluefin Tuna
(attached to Report of Panel 2)

With respect to West Atlantic bluefin tuna, in 1981, the Commission reduced its catch by 65%. Since then, the fishermen have been under very severe restrictions for about 20 years. Japanese fishermen made the largest sacrifice. In 1994, as a temporary measure, Japan accepted a further substantial reduction of its quota share to help Canadian and U.S. fishermen. We have been waiting for good news for 20 years. What is happening to the stock? We have a desperate feeling about the management measures. Can we expect the recovery of the stock?

This year, finally we had good news from the SCRS that strong recruitment was observed. However, the reason for this strong recruitment is uncertain and it could be attributable to the environment as the Chairman of SCRS noted. What we can expect from this? We believe that a trial and error process is unavoidable when using fisheries science, which is an adaptive science, to stock management.

Fishermen have been going through a difficult time for over 20 years. Now is the time to reward the fishermen. Two out of the four stock assessments tell that it is acceptable to increase the TAC to 3,000 MT. Japan believes that some increase in the TAC on West Atlantic bluefin should be done as soon as possible. If it is impossible to reach a consensus this year, the increase in TAC must be reconsidered at next year's meeting. Otherwise we will face serious skepticism from our fishermen.

With respect to East Atlantic bluefin tuna, according to the calculations, the current total quota is approximately 31,000 MT, excluding NEI catch figures. If we have a successful solution for NEI by implementation of better enforcement and the Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program, NEI could disappear. The NEI in 1998 was zero. As SCRS indicates that catches of 25,000 MT or less would halt this decline in biomass, the issue is how far can we go from the current total quota. We will distribute a paper later to the concerned parties. This paper describes the current catch quota of each country as a starting point for discussion.

Lastly, I would like to touch upon the data issue. As I raised several times during this Commission meeting, catch data are the most important. However, unfortunately the quality of the data is getting worse and worse. We also have data issues associated with catch. One of these is charter arrangements. We must sort out the question of catch, that is, which catch should belong to which country. The quality of the data is low. We need to find a sensible way to improve the quality of the catch data. For this purpose, I would like to propose holding two-day workshop before the next Commission meeting. Just letting SCRS scientists work on the improvement of data quality is not enough. Fisheries managers have to work together to work out the problem of the data issue. We firmly believe that it is necessary for the Commission to hold a joint workshop of scientists and managers immediately to improve the quality of the catch data. Japan will work with Brazil, China and the Philippines on ways to improve the data collection systems and will report the outcome to the workshop. We will make a proposal later on this matter.

Appendix 10 to ANNEX 9

Statement by the Observer of the Ocean Wildlife Campaign Regarding the TAC for East Atlantic Bluefin Tuna
(attached to Report of Panel 2)

The Ocean Wildlife Campaign strongly recommends against any quota for East Atlantic bluefin tuna above 25,000 MT in light of the clear and unequivocal SCRS advice that catches of 25,000 MT, or less, are necessary to halt the decline of the population.

Since 1996, the catch of eastern bluefin tuna has been consistently and significantly above the scientific advice provided by the SCRS regarding a TAC.

As we heard from the U.S. delegation, since 1996 the aggregate eastern catch is approximately 67,000 MT over the scientific recommendation, and this amount does not include the overage from this year. The problems associated with this substantial overage –with respect to the scientific advice-- are further aggravated by the "high catch of small fish" in the East.

Over the next two years, the EC proposal which recommends *status quo* in the East, will result in landing 9,000 MT of bluefin above the level the SCRS indicates is necessary to merely halt decline of the biomass, and this number assumes perfect compliance.

The effort to maintain a quota that is 15 percent above the level the SCRS indicates is necessary to halt further declines of this population –a population with a relative spawning stock biomass of just 19 percent-- damages the credibility of this institution and is grossly inconsistent with the Commission's mandate of maintaining populations at levels that permit achievement of the MSY.

The Ocean Wildlife Campaign urges the Commission to acknowledge how damaging this quota level may be and to establish a TAC of no more than 25,000 MT, which is at least minimally consistent with the repeated advice of the SCRS.

Appendix 11 to ANNEX 9

Statement by Morocco Concerning the Catch Limits on Bluefin Tuna in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean
(attached to Report of Panel 2)

First of all, I would like to point out that Morocco, as an active member of this Commission has, since joining, has worked towards reinforcement of cooperation with ICCAT, transmitting regularly all the information required, participating in all scientific and technical work of this Commission , and applying the various Recommendations and Resolutions that have been adopted.

Within this framework, Morocco has taken active part in the discussions of this Commission. Morocco's strong reactions are justified by the low bluefin tuna quota that has been allocated to Morocco and which was the reason for the objection presented to ICCAT's Recommendation 98-5 on bluefin tuna catch limits in the East Atlantic and the Mediterranean.

It should be noted that the catch statistics that served as a base for the calculation of Morocco's quota were those transmitted to the ICCAT scientific committee, corresponding to the years 1993 and 1994.

These were two years of low catches for Morocco due to the application of a policy of conservation of the resources (freeze on investments started in 1992). For this reason, the data transmitted have been corrected due to the failure of the statistical system during that period.

In the course of the last regular meeting of ICCAT, held in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), Morocco's bluefin tuna catches for 1999 and 2000 were limited to 2,430 MT. This limit, representing the catch of this species during 1998, the last year of the 94-5 management measure.

On the other hand, and within the framework of increasing interest in tuna fishing activities as well as in ICCAT's activities, Morocco undertook an ambitious program aimed at identifying the artisanal fleet that operates all along the Moroccan coasts. At the same time, an in-depth study was carried out on the catch statistics and the sales of bluefin tuna that are caught by the artisanal fishery that operates off northern Morocco.

This campaign identified of about 90 landing points dispersed all along the Mediterranean coast and determined bluefin tuna catch statistics compiled from the sales records of the exporters of this species.

The results of this study revealed that the average catch taken by the artisanal fishery was 879 MT; that is, an average of 379 MT escaped the monitoring of the maritime authorities.

These figures, which were included in the statistical documents transmitted to ICCAT, would explain the 400 MT that the Commission identified at its meeting in Rio de Janeiro and which were assigned to NEI (Morocco) and which are referred to in the figures transmitted by the Japanese customs authorities to ICCAT.

This revision is a result of the Recommendation adopted in Madrid in 1994 on the catch limits on bluefin tuna in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean, and is a consequence of the results obtained at the last regular meeting of the Commission held in Brazil in November, 1999.

Furthermore, various monitoring activities carried out at Moroccan ports or at the fish auctions indicated certain gaps in the accounting of some amounts of tunas, particularly bluefin tuna, that were landed by coastal fishing vessels (sardine vessels) which mainly targeted small pelagic species and which caught large tunas incidentally and as by-catch.

These catches were included under the "Other Species" classification. The cooperation of all the active administrative services that are part of the network of commercialization and exportation of fishing products has made it possible to identify the amounts of bluefin tuna accounted under this classification, which are estimated to be an average of 219 MT.

In light of these new elements, the bluefin tuna catches unaccounted for in the Moroccan reports in 1998 and 1999 were approximately 379 MT for the artisanal fishery and 219 MT for the coastal fishery.

The socio-economic impact of a decrease in the authorized catches of bluefin tuna is not the same from one country to another. In the case of Morocco, a developing country, the consequences of such a decrease could cause serious socio-economic problems, given that the major part of the bluefin tuna catches are taken by artisanal and selective fisheries concentrated in the North Atlantic and in the Mediterranean, and therefore, by a very vulnerable sector.

At the present time, these disadvantaged regions have a very low rate of development as compared to other areas of the country, as well as a high rate of unemployment.

It should be pointed out, furthermore, that due to the unequal growth of the different areas of Morocco, the authorities have established a specialized organism in charge of the promotion and development of the northern region, that lacks natural resources because of its rocky and rough relief.

The natural marine resources constitute the only source of subsistence for these coastal populations of the North Atlantic and Mediterranean.

Within the program of this organism, the maritime fishing sector is one of the most essential for the development of the region.

In addition, Morocco has been one of the few countries that since 1992, has put a freeze on investments in fisheries. This drastic measures taken voluntarily and unilaterally by Morocco and which, since 1992, has halted the development of fishing and has represented an obstacle for the national operators interested in this fishery.

It should also be recalled here that the exploitation of tunas by the Moroccan boat owners is carried out by four types of fishing:

- longliners that average 8 GRT, which carry out seasonal fishing of swordfish, and obtain by-catches of bluefin tuna;
- the "palangrotte" fishery (an intermediate gear between hand line and longline) that has developed off northern Morocco since July 1994 and which is directed at large bluefin tuna during the months of April and December;
- the trap fishery, a fishing gear set perpendicular to the coast during the period of tuna migration; and
- purse seine which is used mainly in the Atlantic by vessels that carry out sporadic and seasonal fishing.

Regarding the economic plan, the allocation of a quota that is lower than the current level of catch will cause important financial losses for the professional sector (initial investment, debts, etc.) since this activity is a fragile branch due to its artisanal nature (the use of gear and equipment of limited performance).

On the other hand and as regards conservation of the resource and scientific research, Morocco has always carried out responsible fishing using selective fishing techniques that avoid the catch of juveniles and by-catch species.

The Moroccan legislation has incorporated severe regulatory measures (freeze on investments, closed seasons, etc.) whose main objective is to assure the conservation of the resources and the practice of responsible fishing.

Conscious of importance decrease in the bluefin tuna stocks, and following the freeze on investments, Morocco initiated, in December 1992, an ambitious research program on the farming of this species, in close collaboration with the Government of Japan. This project responds to the major concerns of various international organizations concerned with the conservation of the fishery resources, the recover and the rebuilding of the over-exploited and/or endangered species.

It is also important to point out the creation of the Regional Center of the National Institute of Fisheries Research in Nador (northern Morocco) whose tasks, among others, are to monitor the tuna stocks in the Mediterranean and to collect reliable biological and statistical data.

From all that has been said it is clear that the catch limit currently allocated to Morocco does not reflect its real fishing capacity of this species or the efforts Morocco is making to utilize the marine resources in a rational, responsible and durable manner.

Morocco, which strives to work in the context of transparency and respect, applying the regulatory measures in effect, has the responsibility to respond to the concerns of the professional sector and the populations that are strongly dependent on the fisheries, particularly the tuna fisheries.

For all these reasons, our country has not other alternative but to adopt the same position as last year, that is, limiting its catches of bluefin tuna for the years 2001 and 2002 to 3,028 MT, which correspond in fact to the real level of bluefin tuna catches in 1998.

Appendix 12 to ANNEX 9

Statement by the United States Regarding the Recommendation on the Northern Albacore Catch Limit
(attached to Report of Panel 2)

Regarding northern albacore, the United States would like the record to show that while setting a Total Allowable Catch (TAC) is a good first step towards limiting fishing mortality on this stock, the TAC in the *Recommendation for the Catch Limit on Northern Albacore* is set too high to end over fishing and rebuild. The United States accepts this recommendation in its spirit as an interim measure to limit fishing mortality. However,

the United States fully expects the Commission to take further action to rebuild northern albacore to levels that will support MSY as soon as possible. Based on the conclusions of the Working Group on Allocation Criteria, we expect the Commission to make further progress at its next meeting on developing a recovery plan for this stock with appropriate allocations for all parties, consistent with the rebuilding plans already adopted by the Commission. Thank you.

Appendix 13 to ANNEX 9

Statement by the United States on South Atlantic Albacore Management Measures
(attached to Report of Panel 3)

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today. As you know, the United States does not have a large harvest in the southern albacore fishery. However, we are very interested in the deliberations of this Panel. The actions taken here will be important to the sustainability of these stocks and could have important ramifications for ICCAT.

We recognize past efforts of this Panel toward establishing innovative management measures for southern albacore, although we are concerned that the monitoring aspects of these approaches have proved difficult to implement. Having said that, we recognize the difficulties of managing a fishery during this time of transition, and we express our shared frustration on the lack of consensus to date within the Working Group on Allocation Criteria.

However, this lack of agreement on allocation criteria should not be used to delay attempts to conserve and manage this stock. We are fortunate that southern albacore are not over-fished or declining, and we must ensure that over-fishing does not occur. Although a minor participant, the United States is committed to working with the other members of this Panel to establish appropriate conservation and management measures at this meeting.

I look forward to working with you and my fellow delegates as we address the important management issues of this Panel. Thank you.

Appendix 14 to ANNEX 9

Position Paper by Japan on the Stock Status of Billfish
(attached to Report of Panel 4)

Japan has serious doubt about the SCRS stock assessment on blue and white marlins in the Atlantic, although the stock assessment report form the Miami Billfish Workshop was improved to some extent in the SCRS meeting in October. The assessment of both blue and white marlins is incomplete and highly uncertain as is described in the Executive Summary. It should be noted that while the base cases assessment result is the most pessimistic one which contains scientifically unacceptable bias, as later briefly described in this paper, there are several better candidates in the sensitivity cases which could become much more realistic base cases. Therefore, Japan has yet to be convinced of the need to take drastic management measures. Instead, Japan proposes to re-assess the status of the stocks or to ask for a peer review of the current assessment results by external independent scientists.

The following are the reasons for our doubts about the current assessment for blue marlin. Note that although the blue marlin assessment case is taken as an example, the situation of the flaw in the assessment for white marlin is much more acute than the blue marlin case. As is clearly indicated in the Miami stock assessment workshop, and more explicitly shown in **Figure 1**, no adjustment of retrospective pattern observer in the biomass estimates was made in the current base case assessment. This is a fatal mistake because when the appropriate adjustment is made, it is likely that the present stock biomass is close to the MSY. According to the catch trend of the total Atlantic blue marlin shown in **Figure 2**, most of the catches are well above the currently estimated MSY of 2000 MT. This is unbelievable and only possible for the model used by forcing the estimated stock biomass to decline rapidly and continuously as shown in **Figure 3**. However, this causes clear inconsistency between the estimated biomass and the observed CPUE trends, especially for the past 30 years, namely, the observed CPUE for this period remains more or less stable whereas the estimated biomass continues to decline substantially. The inconsistency can be resolved by reasonable alternatives such as taking the retrospective pattern into account, selecting other

appropriate CPUE series, and using only the recent period for assessment when the statistics become more improved compared to the previous older period.

According to the SCRS Report, the biomass of white marlin at the beginning of 2000 was estimated to be 2,000-3,000 MT. However, a relatively stable catch of 900-1,000 MT has continued in recent years. The catch is taken mainly by longline, which is a passive fishing gear which cannot catch a fish school as whole, unlike positive gears such as purse seine. Nevertheless, the estimate of the biomass and the actual catch amounts are telling us that over one-third of the total biomass of white marlin is caught in one year mainly by longliners. One can safely conclude that this did not happen in the real world.

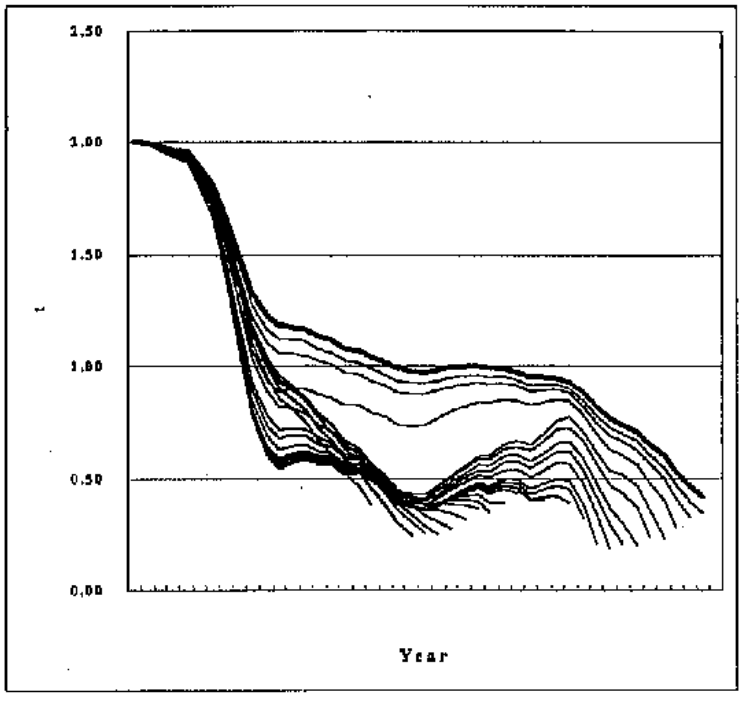


Fig. 1 Retrospective pattern of B-ratio for blue marlin.

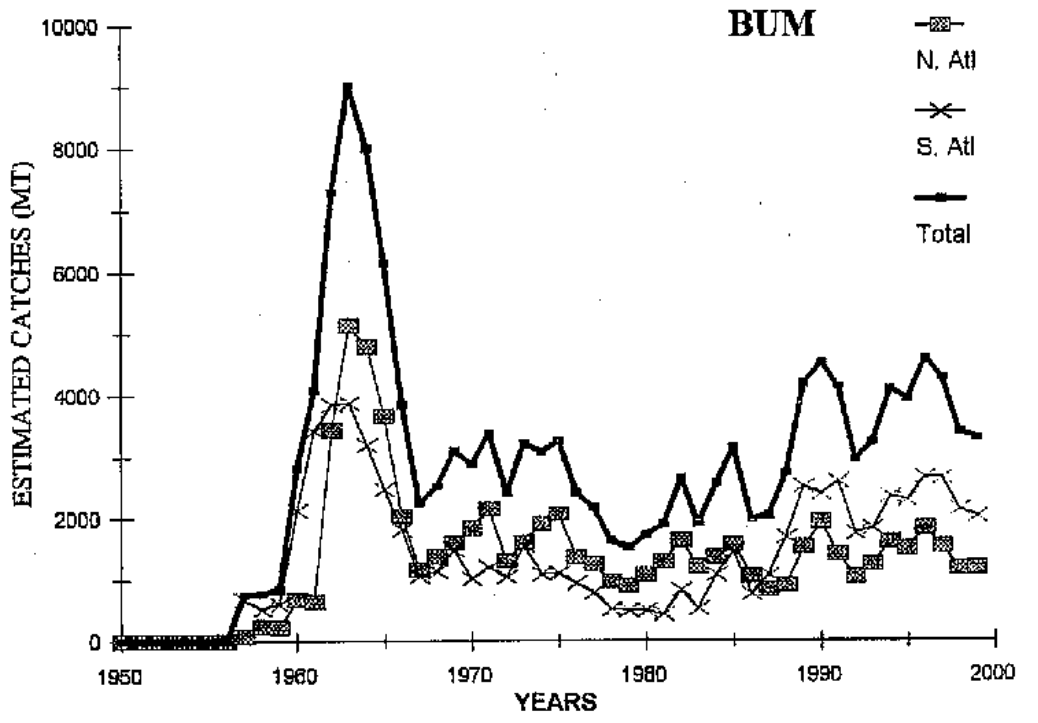


Fig. 2 Historical catches of blue marlin.

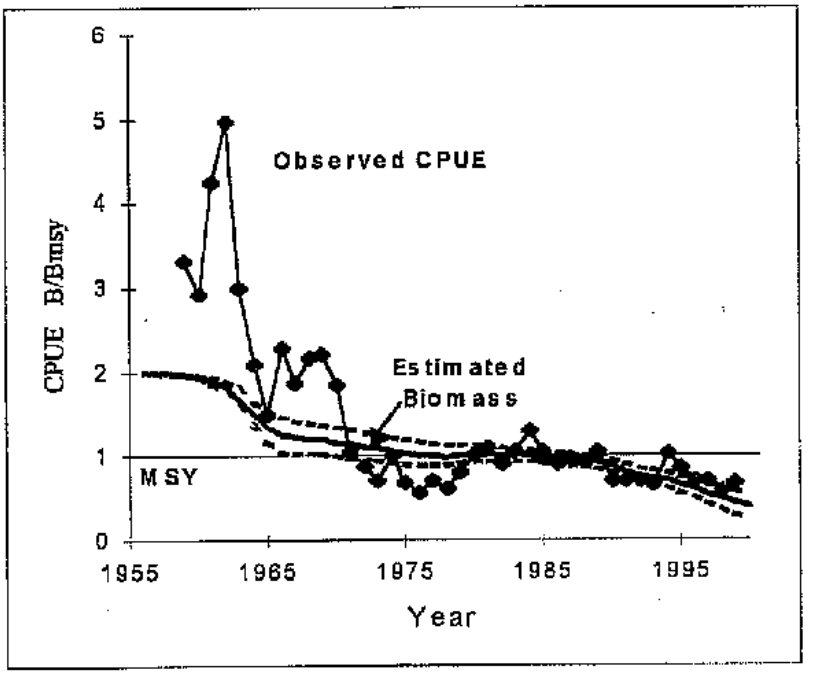


Fig. 3 Estimated trends of biomass and observed CPUE for blue marlin.

Appendix 15 to ANNEX 9

Statement by the United States
in response to Japan's Position Paper on Billfish Stock Status
(attached to Report of Panel 4)

The United States has a serious concern with Japan's challenge of the scientific credibility of the SCRS. The SCRS conducts its assessments in a transparent manner, is open to scientists from Contracting Parties, Cooperating Parties, and Cooperating Entities as well as scientists from other international fishery organizations. The process followed by the SCRS in generating its scientific advice involves peer-review procedures. In the case of the recent billfish assessment, these procedures included a peer review conducted by the meeting participants at the Billfish Workshop, followed by a peer review of the Executive Summary Report during the SCRS Plenary sessions.

We view the Japanese position as especially egregious since Japan fully participated in all forms of this process. Three scientists representing Japan participated in the billfish stock assessment workshop and supported the unanimous adoption of the workshop report. Japanese scientists, including the lead Japanese scientific delegate, also fully participated in the SCRS Plenary review of the Executive Summary of management advice provided to the Commission. Scientific consensus developed through the processes, in full view of the uncertainties documented in the assessment and further elaborated during the SCRS peer review, indicated that the white and blue marlin stocks are over fished, that over-fishing is still occurring and that productivity (MSY and stock's capacity to replenish) is lower than previously estimated. The SCRS further advises that it is expected that landings of the magnitude contemplated by the 1997 Commission Recommendation will continue to result in over-fishing of the stock beyond the MSY level.

The SCRS indicated that while there is additional uncertainty in stock status and replacement yield estimates not fully quantified in the assessment, these uncertainties can only be addressed through substantial investment in research into habitat requirements of marlins and further verification of historical data. In full view of these uncertainties, the SCRS recommended that the Commission take steps to reduce the catch of blue and white marlins as much as possible. Steps such as release of live fish from fishing gear, reduction in fleet-wide effort, and establishment of time/area closures, along with scientific observer sampling for verification were identified as steps which could be considered.

We believe our only prudent action is to act on the advice provided by our scientific body.

For Japan to repudiate its own scientists as well as the scientists from other ICCAT nations is disingenuous. Technical points raised in the Japanese position paper are misleading and inaccurate, as pointed out in the technical responses attached.

Questions for the SCRS Chairman Concerning Billfish Assessments

Q.1 What is the process used by SCRS to prepare its current billfish assessments? I am not asking you about the scientific models used by SCRS (which I do not think are appropriate for the Commission to debate). I am referring to the manner by which SCRS assembles data, conducts its analyses, and prepares its advice.

Q.2 Does the SCRS process of preparing assessment advice include peer review?

Q.3 Approximately how many scientists, from how many countries, participated in the assessment working group for billfish? How many of these scientists were from Japan?

Q.4 How many countries participated in SCRS's review of the report of the assessment working group? Did Japan participate in the review?

Q.5 Is it true that both the working group report and the SCRS report were adopted by consensus, without objection from any participants? Specifically, did the Japanese scientists object?

Q.6 We have heard a lot about the uncertainty in the assessment. We understand that there is always uncertainty; however, the Commission asked SCRS for advice in spite of the uncertainty. Did the Japanese

paper, which elaborated in detail about uncertainties, bring to your attention any new concerns that had not already been considered by the working group of the SCRS.

Q.7 So, is it correct to say, that SCRS considered all of the issues and uncertainties raised by Japan, before formulating its advice?

Q.8 That being the case, please re-state the SCRS's advice on blue marlin as accurately and concisely as possible. [Isn't it correct that SCRS recommends that the catch should be reduced as much as possible?]

Q.9 Please do the same for white marlin. [Isn't it correct that SCRS recommends that the catch should be reduced as much as possible?]

Technical rebuttals to Japan's position paper on stock status of billfishes

Paragraph 1

"The assessment of both blue and white marlin is incomplete and highly uncertain as is described in the Executive Summary."

- To the degree possible, the uncertainties in the assessment have been described. There are uncertainties that could not be quantified during the assessment. The report clearly identified that feature. The SCRS advises that these uncertainties can only be addressed through substantial investment into research on habitat preferences for marlins and through additional verification of the available historical catch and effort data. It is likely that this effort would require considerable time and financial commitments. It is notable that the Executive Summaries for blue and white marlins do not describe the assessments as incomplete. The SCRS considered the overall assessment results, which include information beyond just the model fits, and concluded for each species that "the stock is unlikely to recover if the landings contemplated by the 1996 Commission recommendation continue into the future." Further, the SCRS recommended that the Commission take steps to reduce the catch of both blue and white marlins "as much as possible".

"It should be noted that while the base case assessment result is the most pessimistic one which contains scientifically unacceptable bias, as later briefly discussed in this paper, there are several better candidates in the sensitivity cases which could become much more realistic base cases."

- The base case assessment result was not the most pessimistic analysis performed for either species. **Figure 5** shows the range of biomass ratios estimated from the various sensitivities applied to blue marlin, contrasted against the base case and the bootstrap confidence intervals for that assessment. Also, the base case was not judged to contain scientifically unacceptable bias by either the Billfish Workshop participants or the SCRS for either process. Many of the sensitivity analyses that resulted in more optimistic estimates of the stock condition were performed to evaluate the impact of biasing the analysis toward selected subsets of the data. Examples include evaluations that restricted the analyses to the most recent years, and others that eliminated CPUE and/or catch data for the most recent years. The latter analyses proposed more pessimistic results. The assessment considered a range of models and data sets in this context. Most of these sensitivity results were within the range of uncertainty reported for the assessment base case. There is additional uncertainty in the assessment related to the historical data that is not well quantified. To address these uncertainties would require a substantial research investment in historical data validation efforts and in biological investigations of the habitat requirements of marlins. Such studies will require many years to implement, and may not resolve the uncertainty in the historical data.

"Instead, Japan proposes to re-assess the status of the stocks or to ask for a peer review of the current assessment results by external scientists."

- Additional research and review is always an admirable proposal. The SCRS itself functions as a peer review body and it was through this peer review process that the SCRS developed a scientific consensus document regarding blue and white marlins. In addition, the SCRS has recommended a number of peer review and quality-assurance mechanisms which could further serve the Commission, providing the Commission endorses these recommendations.

- Three scientists representing Japan participated in the billfish stock assessment workshop and supported the unanimous adoption of the workshop report. Japanese scientists, including the lead Japanese scientific delegate, also fully participated in the SCRS Plenary review of the Executive Summary of management advice provided to the Commission. Scientific consensus developed through these processes, in which Japanese scientists actively participated, in full view of the uncertainties documented in the assessment and further elaborated during the SCRS peer review, indicated that the stocks are over fished, that over-fishing is still occurring, and that productivity (MSY and stock's capacity to replenish) is lower than previously estimated. The SCRS further advises that it is expected that landings of the magnitude contemplated by the 1996 Commission Recommendation will continue to result in over-fishing of the stock beyond the MSY level. The SCRS also indicated that while there is additional uncertainty in the stock status and replacement yield estimates that are not reflected in bootstrap results, these uncertainties can only be addressed through substantial investment into habitat requirements of marlins and further verification of historical data. In view of these uncertainties, the SCRS recommended that the Commission take steps to reduce the catch of blue marlin as much as possible. Steps such as release of live fish from fishing gear, reductions in fleet-wide effort, and establishment of time/area closures, along with scientific observer sampling for verification were identified as steps which could be considered.

Paragraph 2

"Note that although the blue marlin assessment case is taken as an example, the situation of the flaw in the assessment for white marlin is much more acute than the blue marlin case."

- The assessments for the two species use independent data series, therefore extrapolation of any perceived "flaws" from one species to the other is unfounded.

"As is clearly indicated in the Miami stock assessment workshop and more explicitly shown in **Figure 1**, no adjustment of retrospective pattern observed in biomass estimates was made in the current base case assessment."

- The SCRS reviewed the retrospective analyses for blue marlin and provided its management advice after considering the implications of this information. The assessment was carried out this year using similar methods to the previous assessment, but with data sets that had been revised extensively in response to concerns raised since the 1996 assessment. It is clearly noted that the assessment might reflect a retrospective pattern wherein improvements in estimated biomass ratios result in estimated lower productivity. The new assessment is slightly more optimistic; it suggests that the total Atlantic stock is approximately 40% of B_{MSY} and that over-fishing has taken place in the last 10-15 years. But this assessment also suggests a less productive stock than previously estimated, with an MSY of about 2,000 MT, and a current fishing mortality that is about four times higher than F_{MSY}. This result indicated a stock with less capacity to rebuild than previously estimated, even though the stock is estimated to be closer to B_{MSY}.

"This is a fatal mistake because when the appropriate adjustment is made, it is likely that the present stock biomass is close to the MSY."

- The base case analysis for blue marlin estimated MSY to be 2,000 MT, the biomass MSY (B_{MSY}) to be 43,000 MT, and the biomass in the year 2000 to be about 16,000 MT. If, as suggested, the present biomass is close to MSY (2,000 MT) then the stock is in much worse shape than was estimated by the assessment. As indicated above, the estimate of B_{cur}/B_{MSY} (biomass ratio) is not independent of the estimate of intrinsic rate of increase. The retrospective analysis reviewed by SCRS indicated that assessment might reflect a retrospective pattern wherein improvement in estimated biomass ratios result in estimated lower productivity, indicating a stock with less capacity to rebuild than previously estimated, even though the stock is estimated to be closer to B_{MSY} (i.e., it would take a longer time to recover to B_{MSY} even though the starting point was closer). It is unclear whether or not the retrospective patterns in the blue marlin surplus-production model fits provide meaningful information about the estimate of the current status of the stock. Many of the production model parameters estimated in the fitting process are correlated such that a change in one fitted parameter is associated with a compensating change in the value of another. In the particular case of the blue marlin surplus production model retrospectives, changes in the estimates of the ratio of terminal year biomass to B_{MSY} (B-ratio) is compensated by a change in the estimate of other parameters, and there is no particular retrospective pattern in the estimates of surplus production each year.

"According to catch trend of the total Atlantic blue marlin shown in **Figure 2**, most of the catches are well above the currently estimated MSY of 2,000 MT."

- Yes, historical catches are often in excess of MSY. These catches are responsible for over fishing the stock and reducing current stock biomass to a level below what is required to support MSY on a continuing basis. This situation is true for both blue and white marlin. The results of the assessment are fully consistent with this observation.

"This is unbelievable and only possible for the model used by forcing the estimated stock biomass to decline rapidly and continuously as shown in **Figure 3**. However, this causes clear inconsistency between the estimated biomass and the observed CPUE trends, especially for the past 30 years, namely, observed CPUE for this period remains more or less stable whereas the estimated stock biomass continues to decline substantially."

- In contrast to the statement, the observed CPUE trend depicted in Japan's **Figure 3** for blue marlin actually declines more rapidly than does the fitted stock abundance in the initial years. The fitted biomass is more or less stable form the late 1970s through the 1980s and then declines in a pattern consistent with the observed CPUE trend in the most recent years. Inspection of CPUE data since 1979 reveals a statistically significant declining trend with year (**Figure 1**). This recent decline in CPUE also corresponds to recent increases in catch (**Figures 2**).

- Overall, the main signals in the assessment is the trend in CPUE. For blue marlin, the tendency has been about a six-fold decline in overall CPUE, while in white marlin the tendency has been more severe. For blue marlin, in the recent 20 years (since 1980), the Japanese longline CPUE shows a tendency of about 2% per annum decrease in CPUE (**Figures 2**). For white marlin in the most recent 20 years (since 1980), the Japanese longline CPUE shows a stronger tendency than for blue marlin of about 3.5% per annum decrease in CPUE (**Figures 3**). In figures which show the entire time/series of CPUE, these patterns are masked by the scale of the initial decline in CPUE (i.e. that shown in the 1960s).

- The CPUE series for white marlin shows a classical exponential decay beginning in the early 1960s (**Figure 4**). This CPUE trend appears to be asymptotically approaching zero. Consequently, it does not appear in danger of immediate extinction unless some depensatory process comes into play; however, unless survival in the stock is increased by reducing fishing mortality, the stock can be expected to continue to decline.

- The CPUE time series for white marlin depicted in **Figure 3** is a composite of CPUE time series from several different sources each of which shows the same basic trend. Any stock assessment analysis that would substantially improve the estimates of the current status of the white marlin stock would require the development of an alternate CPUE time series that differs substantially from the existing data. There is not basis for assuming such information exists.

"This inconsistency can be resolved by reasonable alternatives such as taking a retrospective pattern into account, selecting other appropriate CPUE series and using only the recent period for assessment when the statistics became much improved compared with the previous older period."

- There is no inconsistency between the fitted biomass and the observed CPUE other than normal statistical error associated with fitting data to models. The CPUE series employed in the base case analyses for both species were agreed upon by the stock assessment workshop participants as the best data for the purpose of assessing the status of the stocks. Limiting the analysis to the most recent years would bias the outcome by restricting the dynamic range of the data and omitting the observed dynamics of the stock during the early development of the fishery.

Paragraph 3

"According to the SCRS report, the biomass of white marlin at the beginning of 2000 was estimated to be 2,000-3,000 MT. However, the relatively stable catch of 900-1,000 MT has continued in recent years. The catch is taken mainly by longline, which is a passive fishing gear which cannot catch a fish school as a whole unlike a positive gear such as purse seine."

- The implication of this section seems to be that longlines, being passive gear, cannot over fish a stock. This point of view ignores the experience with North Atlantic swordfish that were over fished with this gear.

"Nevertheless, the estimate of the biomass and the actual catch amounts are telling us that over one-third of the total biomass of white marlin is caught in one year mainly by longlines. Once can safely conclude that this did not happy in the real world."

- Fishing mortality removals of one-third of the total biomass of a species in a given year correspond to a fishing mortality rate slightly in excess of 0.33. Such rates are typical for many fisheries within the real world.

Paragraph 4

"Finally it is informative to note here that the stock assessment of Pacific blue marlin has had a switch recently from severely over fished to optimal stock conditions after a review of the CPUE computation by introducing the concept of habitat for this species."

- It is also useful to note that a Japanese paper presented to the billfish workshop group demonstrated that the underlying assumptions used for revising the CPUE computation for Pacific marlin are violated. Although the Pacific assumptions were provisionally applied to the Atlantic blue marlin and white marlin cases, the fact that these calculations showed that a high proportion of the catch was made with zero effective fishing effort, indicating that the assumptions of the method were severely violated.

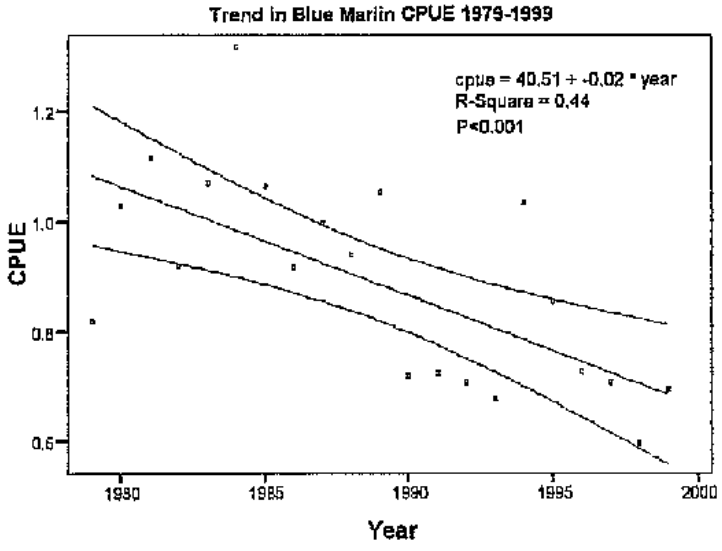


Fig. 1 Trend in the blue marlin composite CPUE, 1979-1999.

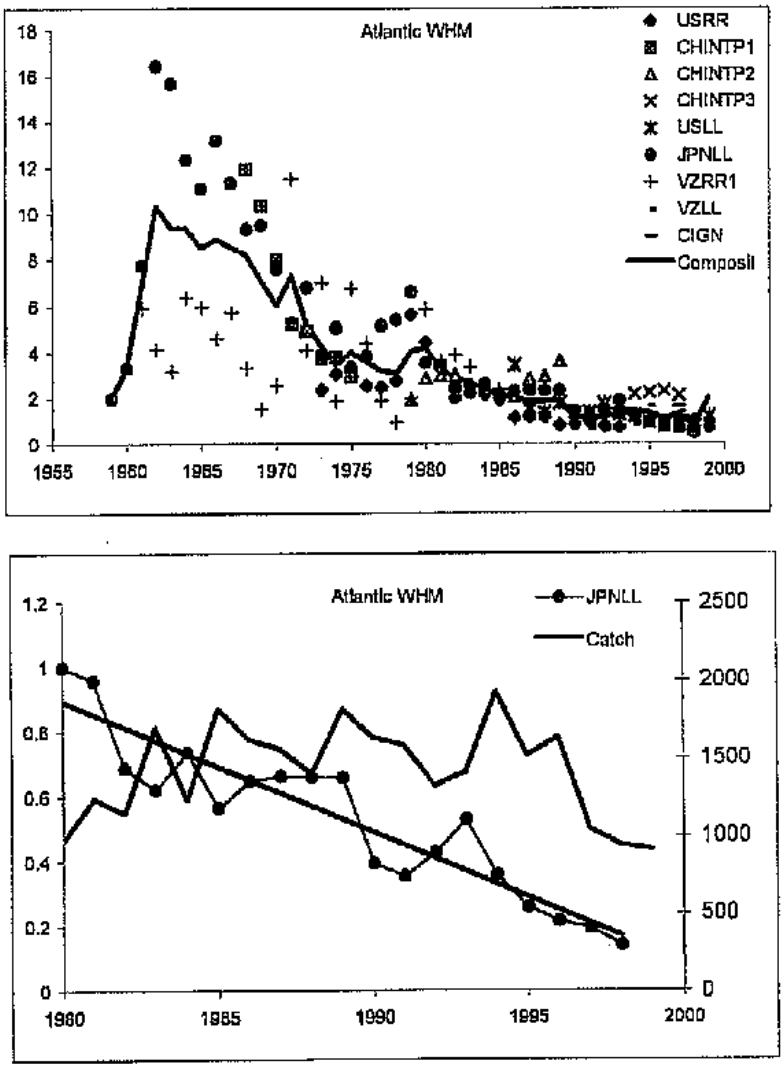


Fig. 2 *Upper* - Available CPUE information and resulting composite abundance index information for Atlantic white marlin. *Lower* - Trend in Japanese catch rates (line with solid circles) for the period 1980-1998 (note these data are scaled relative to the value observed in 1980), the linear trend in the data (solid, straight line) and the annual catches (crooked, solid line) for the same period.

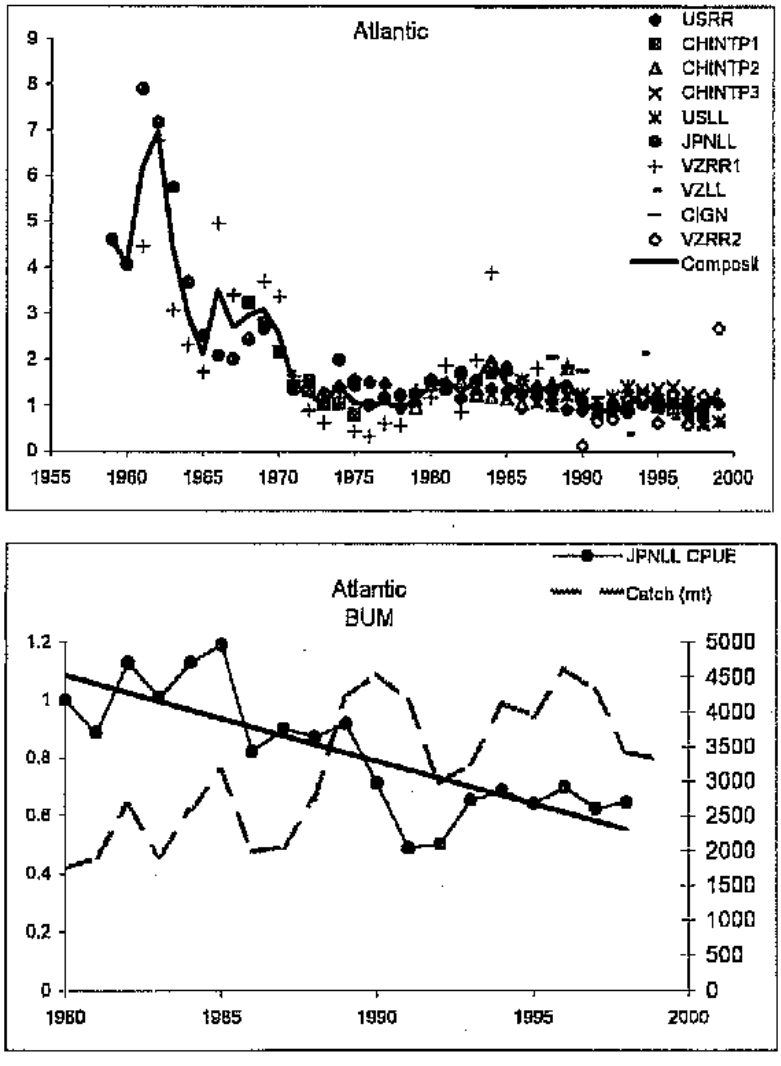


Fig. 3 *Upper* - Available in CPUE information and resulting composite abundance index information for Atlantic blue marlin. *Lower* - Trend in Japanese longline catch rates (line with solid circles) for the period 1980-1998 (note these data are scaled relative to the value observed in 1980), the linear trend in the data (solid, straight line) and the annual catches (crooked, solid line) for the same period.

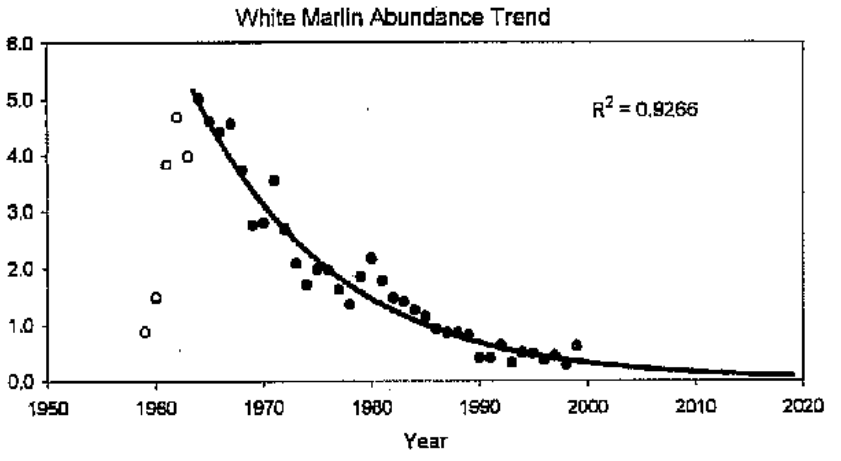


Fig. 4 Exponential decay model fit to white marlin abundance trend information.

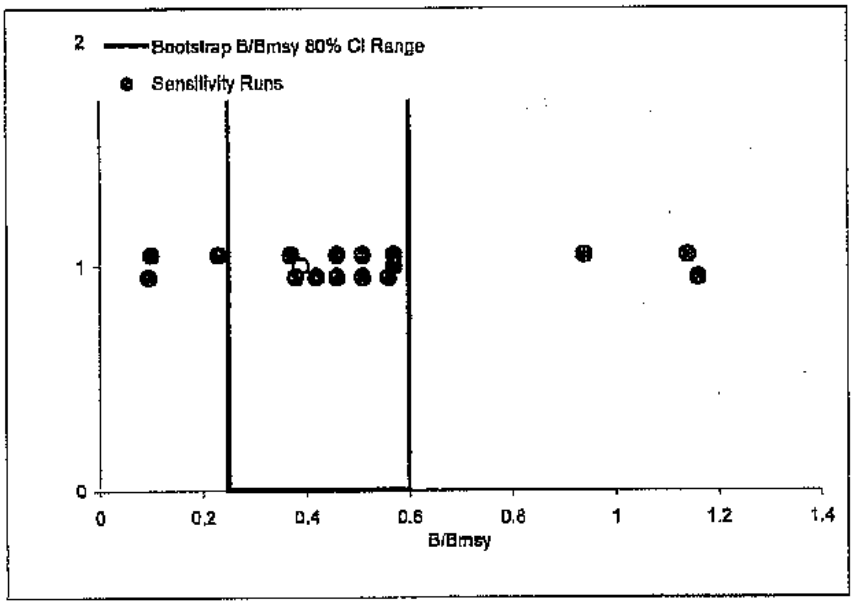


Fig. 5 Blue marlin B/Bmsy estimates from the base case (open circle) and from the various sensitivity runs conducted. Also indicated is the 80% confidence range based on 701 bootstrap runs of the base case evaluation.

Appendix 16 to ANNEX 9

Comments by Japan on the U.S. Reply to Japan's Position Paper on Billfish Stock Status
(attached to Report of Panel 4)

Japan feels strongly that the "Statement by the United States in Response to Japan's Position Paper on Billfish Stock Status" totally mis-interprets, with ill-intention, Japan's genuine comment to have sound scientific bases to manage the blue and white marlin in a sustainable manner.

Japan was simply requesting the SCRS to re-assess the stock status of these species, as is obvious in the SCRS Report, that the results are highly uncertain and biased, especially since no clear retrospective pattern is taken into account in the assessment, which was noted in the SCRS Plenary there was no time to do anything about it.

Therefore, claims of the United States to denounce scientists involved in the assessment of billfish have no bases at all. Rather, Japan would like to remind the United States that, in the past, the SCRS stock assessment results for West Atlantic bluefin tuna in 1981 changed markedly in the following year. We must not repeat such bad procedure for the blue and white marlins.

The only reasonable way before taking management measure for the billfish is to re-assess the stock status so that the Commission is able to avoid that which occurred for West Atlantic bluefin tuna management in the past.

Appendix 17 to ANNEX 9

Statement by the Observer of the Ocean Wildlife Campaign Regarding Rebuilding of Atlantic White Marlin and Atlantic Blue Marlin
(attached to Report of Panel 4)

The Ocean Wildlife Campaign urges the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) to reach consensus upon and establish the framework of an effective rebuilding plan for severely over-fished Atlantic white and blue marlin during the 12th Special Meeting of the Commission. The most recent report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) unequivocally identifies these species, and white marlin in particular, as severely over-fished.

White marlin. According to the SCRS, the Atlantic white marlin now stands at "less than 15 percent of B_{MSY}", while the "current fishing mortality level is estimated to be seven times higher than F_{MSY} or higher (SCRS, Madrid, October 16-20, 2000, WHM: Page 1 of 3)". The report indicates "that the stock is unlikely to recover if the landings contemplated by the 1996 Commission Recommendation continue into the future (Ibid, WHM: Page 1 of 3)". The Committee recommends that the Commission take steps to reduce the catch of white marlin as much as possible, and asserts that: (1) live release of fish from fishing gear; (2) reductions in fleet wide effort; (3) establishment of time-area closures; and (4) scientific observer programs for verification may be appropriate actions. The Ocean Wildlife Campaign endorses these actions and believes that additional actions, as detailed below, are necessary to rebuild the population.

The biomass trajectory of Atlantic white marlin suggests that without drastic changes this species may become non-viable in a short period of time. Failure to achieve an effective rebuilding plan to reverse the current decline of the Atlantic-wide white marlin population may indicate that a listing under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) is necessary to prevent further declines of this species.

Blue marlin. The SCRS reports that the total Atlantic stock of blue marlin stands at "approximately 40 percent of B_{MSY} and that over-fishing has taken place in the last 10-15 years" (Ibid, BUM: Pages 2,3). Further, the SCRS indicates that "current fishing mortality is about four times higher than F_{MSY}" and that the stock may be less productive than previously thought. As with white marlin, the SCRS reported that the stock is unlikely to recover if the landings contemplated by the 1996 Commission Recommendation continue into the future and identified the following steps as actions that may be appropriate to reduce mortality levels of blue marlin: (1) live release of fish from fishing gear; (2) reductions in fleet-wide effort; (3) establishment of time-area closures; and (4) scientific

observer programs for verification may be appropriate actions. The Ocean Wildlife Campaign, again, endorses these actions and believes that the additional actions detailed below are necessary to rebuild blue marlin populations.

According to data reported to the SCRS, 96 percent of total Atlantic white and blue marlin landings in 1998 were taken incidentally or as by-catch in the tuna and swordfish fisheries. For this reason, we believe that a comprehensive rebuilding program featuring innovative measures –beyond standard quotas and size limits that control only what is kept, not what is caught-- are necessary to avoid mortality associated with incidental catch and by-catch of marlin and to achieve sufficient decreases in overall fishing mortality to allow rebuilding.

We urge the Commission to adopt an effective marlin recovery plan that features the following elements:

- Establish a goal of rebuilding white and blue marlin populations to a level capable of producing the Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) in as short a period as possible, with at least a 50 percent probability of achieving MSY in the agreed upon time frame.

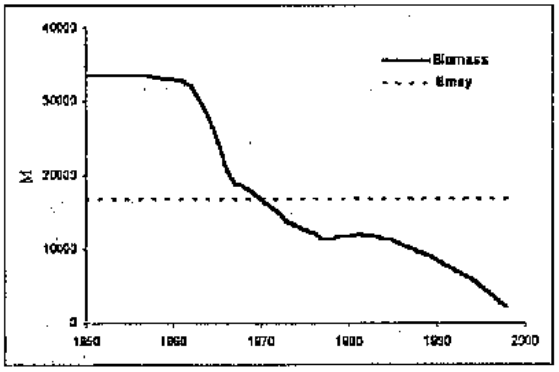
- Charge the SCRS to identify time-area closures and gear modifications by 2002 with the express purpose of minimizing fishing mortality levels for Atlantic white and blue marlin. In 1999, ICCAT adopted a resolution calling on the SCRS to develop time and area closures and gear modifications to reduce the catch and mortality of under-sized swordfish by 2002. The resolution came as recognition that without such closures or changes in fishing practices, juvenile swordfish will continue to be killed. We urge that the Commission make a similar recognition with regard to white and blue marlin. We further recommend that the Commission encourage contracting and cooperating parties to implement time-area closures or gear modifications in national waters.

- Require the release of live marlin caught incidentally or as by-catch. A 1995 ICCAT resolution promoted the live release of marlins caught on longlines, and a 1997 resolution promoted the use of monofilament leaders on longlines to facilitate live release. Given the poor status of white and blue marlin populations, we believe that voluntary measures to reduce marlin mortality should become mandatory.

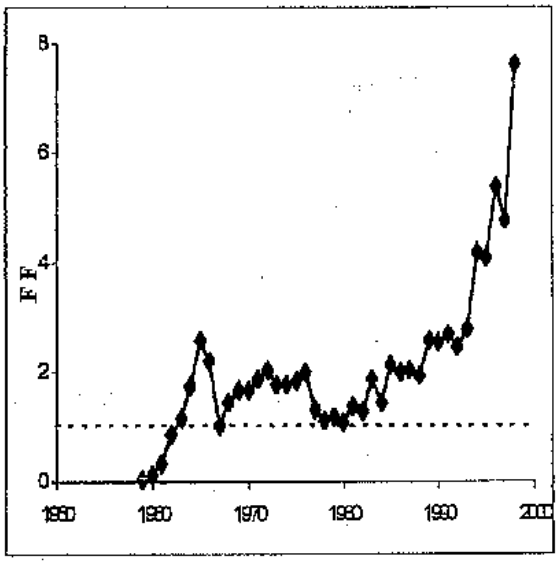
- Reduce total Atlantic-wide catches (landings and discards) of marlin by the level of mortality reduction that the SCRS determines is necessary to achieve MSY in the agreed upon rebuilding time frame. For example, If the SCRS determined that a 25 percent reduction in white marlin mortality was required to achieve rebuilding in the agreed upon time frame, then contracting and cooperating parties should be required to reduce total catches (landings and discards) from recent years by 25 percent.

- Additional research/data recommendations: We urge the Commission to direct the SCRS to assemble the scientific information necessary to support the aforementioned recommendations, including, but not limited to:

  - Data on post-release mortality of Atlantic white and blue marlin
  - Identification of spawning and nursery grounds
  - Full reporting of landings and discards by all nations.



Biomass trajectory estimated for white marlin with single combined index. Source: Fig. WHM-4, 2000 SCRS Report (Madrid, October 2000).



Relative fishing mortality trajectory by FISHLAB logistic production model application to white marlin catch and composite CPUE series. Source: Fig. WHM-5, 2000 SCRS Report (Madrid, October 2000).

Appendix 18 to ANNEX 9

Statement by South Africa on South Atlantic Swordfish
(attached to Report of Panel 4)

South Africa would like to recall that we have a long record of participation in the development of responsible and effect management measures for tuna species within ICCAT. We believe our initiatives and contributions adequately demonstrate our commitment to effective management of Atlantic tuna stocks, within scientifically determined sustainable levels, and we wish to re-affirm our commitment to these principles.

However, at this meeting we find ourselves in an impossible and intolerable position. Allow me to clarify our problem. We ask the Panel to recall our concluding comments when the TACs and sharing arrangements for North Atlantic swordfish were accepted by ICCAT at the 1994 Commission meeting. At that meeting we strongly urged that the introduction of these measures must not result in a substantial shift in effort to the South Atlantic Ocean. In particular, we expressed our serious concern that any such shift in effort would be likely to lead to a repetition of the experience in the North Atlantic, with rapid over-exploitation of the southern swordfish resource. We specifically noted the under-exploited nature of the South Atlantic swordfish resource at that time, pointed out the opportunity that this provided for controlled development of coastal states fisheries around the southern Atlantic, and emphasized the need to provide for these development opportunities within a responsible fisheries management framework.

Unfortunately, our requests were ignored, and our warning proved to be justified. As predicted, the high seas fleets operating in the North Atlantic Ocean shifted their effort to the South, exploitation rates of southern swordfish escalated dramatically, and the stock was soon assessed as being over-exploited, or at least maximally exploited. Given the basis used for sharing arrangements at that time, the subsequent developments were predictable. When a TAC was recommended for the southern stock, and sharing arrangements were negotiated in our absence at the inter-sessional meeting of Panel 4 in Brazil in July, 1997, South Africa, and many other developing countries bordering the South Atlantic, received no country quota allocation. A number of the subsequent proposals made at the Working Group on Allocation Criteria have since suggested that this existing sharing arrangement must remain in place, that past performance must remain the key, if not the only, factor to

be used in allocating southern swordfish quota shares, and that countries without quota shares must remain forever excluded from this fishery. This is, quite simply, unacceptable to South Africa, and we would like to suggest that the situation appears absurd in the light of recent international legal developments.

It is for these reasons that South Africa joined Panel 4. Since then, South Africa has continued to document our concerns to the Panel 4 meetings, and attempted to make proposals for revision of the sharing arrangements, with a marked lack of success. During this time, we have implemented all the ICCAT recommended management measures for swordfish, and tightly restricted the activities of our own fleet. We abided by these ICCAT management measures in the hope that we would make progress with obtaining an equitable share of the southern swordfish quota. To date, we have been disappointed.

Notwithstanding the limitations we have imposed on our own fleet, South Africa has demonstrated a clear capacity to participate effectively in this fishery, using our own South African flagged vessels. Import data into the United States confirm that South African vessels have managed to catch some 1,000 MT of high quality southern swordfish over the past year, with no catch of under-sized fish. Unfortunately, as a result of South African domestic restrictions based on the ICCAT measures, our fleet has been forced to conduct this fishery under permit in the waters of other countries. At the same time, we continue to receive requests from high seas fleets that hold substantial swordfish quotas to fish part of those quotas within our own waters.

We are understandably not satisfied with this arrangement, and look forward to making progress at this meeting with improving the situation. If we again forced to return to South Africa without an equitable southern swordfish allocation agreement, South Africa will find it increasingly difficult to justify the level of participation and compliance that we have demonstrated within ICCAT to date. We are sure that we are not the only country here that feels this way, and we therefore urge that equity and fairness should prevail at this meeting, and that South Africa coastal states receive a share of those Atlantic highly migratory resources that migrate through our waters.

Appendix 19 to ANNEX 9

Statement by Namibia on South Atlantic Swordfish
(attached to Report of Panel 4)

Namibia is participat6inig in this meeting with a hope that the Commission will consider granting us access to the valuable swordfish resources of the Atlantic.

Namibia is a nation that by any standards is overwhelmingly dependent on its fishery resources. We are committed to the conservation and management measures adopted by this Commission supplemented by our national fisheries legislation. In only 10 years since our independence, we managed to rebuild almost all of the fish stocks within our EEZ that distance water fishing nations had brought to the brink of extinction. This cost us considerable sacrifices and hardship while stocks were allowed to recover.

We strongly believe that it is our sovereign and fundamental right as a coastal state to harvest the resources which occur in our waters.

In the interim sharing arrangement of South Atlantic swordfish, we expect that the sovereign rights of coastal developing states shall be fully recognized and thus we expect to be accommodated and treated fairly.

We recognized the rights of other fishing nations and trust that they too recognize our rights as developing coastal states to a fair share of the limited resources.

It is my sincere hope that our discussions in this Panel will contribute to reaching a common understanding. We therefore look forward with high expectation to an equitable sharing arrangement of swordfish in the South Atlantic.

Regarding the comment made by the delegate from the European Community regarding a *status quo*, this is not acceptable to Namibia. Also Japan's proposal regarding shifting of fishing effort form the North Atlantic to the South is not acceptable to Namibia. Thank you.

Appendix 20 to ANNEX 9

Statement by Trinidad and Tobago on North Atlantic Swordfish
(attached to Report of Panel 4)

Trinidad and Tobago is aware that its data collection system requires considerable improvements and it is our intentions to prioritize this activity over the course of the next six to eight months in order to achieve a more reliable and adequate monitoring system for our pelagic longline fleets.

Whilst we accept our responsibilities and obligations as active participants in the swordfish fishery, Trinidad and Tobago with its modest fleet is not responsible for the current status of swordfish stocks.

As previously stated, our data collection system is still developing and it's clear that our statistics reported in previous years to ICCAT do not accurately reflect the true level of swordfish catches and other pelagic species taken by the Trinidad and Tobago longline fleet. In view of this, we wish to reiterate the need to review our statistics reported to ICCAT.

Furthermore, we ask the Commission to recognize that the present catch limit of 42 MT assigned to Trinidad and Tobago is very much below past levels of operation, the result being a situation in which our fleet operates in an economically inefficient manner.

It should be noted that we are not proposing further development of our swordfish fishery at this time. What we are attempting to do is to rectify a situation that has arisen as a result of incomplete and under-reporting of our statistical data to ICCAT in previous years.

Trinidad and Tobago is interested in the further development of its swordfish fishery, but fully respects the current rebuilding program and will defer this development until stocks are considered to be sufficiently recovered.

We hope that this issue of the swordfish catch limit assigned to Trinidad and Tobago can be revisited during the course of the meeting and request that our position be reflected in the report of the meeting. Thank you.

Appendix 21 to ANNEX 9

Statement by the United States on North and South Atlantic Swordfish
(attached to Report of Panel 4)

Decisions of the 2000 meeting of ICCAT are critical for the future of Atlantic swordfish.

North Atlantic swordfish. In recent years, the United States has been encouraged by ICCAT's ability to take responsible actions to stem the decline, and make the commitment to fully rebuild North Atlantic swordfish within a 10-year time frame. The United States wishes to stress the importance of the rebuilding program negotiated at the 1999 Commission meeting. The effective implementation of this recovery plan is essential. In that regard, we applaud the initiative of Japan in seeking to address the over-harvest of swordfish by its vessels' participating in the bigeye tuna fishery and are supportive of practicable efforts taken to resolve this problem.

However, we are concerned that Japan's proposal needs further scientific scrutiny. This concern stems not only from the imprecision of information currently available with respect to stock mixing and separation, but also because of potentially negative effects that increased fishing effort in the equatorial boundary area will have on northern swordfish and several other highly migratory species that spawn primarily in this area. For the longer term, this Panel must consider alternative solutions to over-harvest problems attributable to unanticipated fluctuations in catch and by-catch rates.

South Atlantic swordfish. With respect to South Atlantic swordfish, the United States is concerned that recent catches are greater than the level that would maintain the stock at a biomass that could sustainably produce MSY. Recognizing that the 1999 catch was more than 15,000 MT, countries fishing for swordfish in the South Atlantic must take steps to reduce catch to the 13,500 MT MSY level identified by the SCRS. Our priority must be conservation and fishing within a scientifically justified TAC. We should not allow the fact that the allocation

criteria negotiations have not yet been concluded to prevent us from meeting our primary responsibility to conserve this resource.

Catch documentation. Generally, the United States considers it important for ICCAT to undertake additional measures to ensure the documentation of swordfish landings, as well as to assess compliance with rebuilding programs and catch sharing agreements. Additionally, accurate catch documentation can diminish the impact of IUU fishing on ICCAT's conservation programs. We will raise these issues in the Permanent Working Group and Compliance Committees.

I look forward to working with you and my fellow delegates as we address the important management issues of this Panel. Thank you.

Appendix 22 to ANNEX 9

Statement by Japan on Atlantic Swordfish
(attached to Report of Panel 4)

At the 1996 meeting, the Commission introduced quota management on North Atlantic swordfish and Japan was ranted a five-year block quota, taking into account the passive nature of her longline fishery targeting bigeye tuna. The Commission decided to review Japan's landings at this meeting.

The "Review by Japan of its Swordfish Catch Under a Block Quota System" (see **Appendix 23**) provides a comprehensive review of Japanese landings under the block quota system. We would like to request that this document be attached to the report of the Panel together with our statement.

As shown in the Japanese compliance table, Japan's North Atlantic swordfish by-catch amount has exceeded its block quota already. This is the result of the Commission's quantitative management to a by-catch fishery.

Japanese longline vessels target bigeye tuna and swordfish are caught as by-catch. This character of a non-target fishery was respected and the Commission adopted a percentage regulation in 1994, namely swordfish by-catches were limited to less than 8% of the total North Atlantic catch. When this regulation was applied to the Japanese tuna longline fishery in 1995 and 1996, Japan fully complied with the regulation.

In 1995, the Commission decided on a percentage share for the major countries. In this decision, Japan's share was set below the historical level and, as a result of the application of this share to the TAC in 1996, Japan's annual quota is almost half of the previous years' by-catch amount. In addition to this reduction, the formation of bigeye fishing grounds shifted towards North of the 5 degrees North latitude boundary after the implementation of the block quota regulation when had not taken such shifting into consideration at the time of quota setting. As a result, the severe shortage of quota occurred.

Here, I would like you to review this matter from a wider scope. The Japanese catch of swordfish is only taken in her fishery targeting bigeye, as I said. Besides, Japanese bigeye fishing operations are conducted mainly in the tropical area, where mixing of the North and South Atlantic swordfish stocks is high.

Japan reduced the catch of swordfish in the entire Atlantic by 63% in the recent seven years, which is the largest reduction for all the fishing parties. This means that we reduced the swordfish catch in this area where the North and South stocks are mixing at the highest rate and that the North stock catch was reduced drastically in the entire migrating area even though Japan over-caught its quota in the area North of the artificially set boundary of 5 degrees North latitude.

However, now the Japanese fishermen are being punished while they made strenuous efforts for the conservation of swordfish. In order to improve compliance with the block quota, Japan has taken a series of actions, including the requirement that fishermen release all swordfish caught in the area North of 5 degrees North latitude, regardless of their conditions, dead or alive.

Therefore, Japan would like to propose that the Commission adopt a minimal remedial measure. Also, this measure will serve as an incentive for the fishermen to shift fishing grounds from the North to the South Atlantic. This remedial measure allows the fishermen to count the North Atlantic swordfish catch (up to 400 MT) under the South Atlantic quota, whereas the count shall be double of the actual catch (1 MT of North Atlantic catch is counted as 2 MT of catch in the South Atlantic). This measure, together with the 100% release of swordfish catch in the North Atlantic, will be a strong incentive for the fishermen to shift their fishing grounds to the South Atlantic. This remedial measures also has the following important effect. North Atlantic swordfish evidently migrate to the South Atlantic area South of 5 degrees North latitude. The swordfish catch in the South Atlantic involves a certain level of North Atlantic swordfish stock since mixing is the highest near the boundary, although the exact mixing rate is unknown. Thus, a reduction in swordfish catches in the South Atlantic will lead to a reduction of catch of the North Atlantic swordfish stock. The reduction of the south Atlantic swordfish quota by an amount twice the actual catch in the North Atlantic, as provided in the proposal, will, in effect, work to compensate for the excessive catch of swordfish in the North Atlantic.

We firmly believe that, by continuing the 100% release requirement, coupled with the proposed remedial measure, Japan's swordfish by-catch amount will be controlled within her block quota until 2006.

Appendix 23 to ANNEX 9

Review by Japan of its Swordfish Catch Under a Block Quota System

(attached to Report of Panel 4)

1 Introduction

At the 1996 Commission meeting, the national quota allocation in North Atlantic Swordfish for 1997, 1998 and 1999 was determined. At that time, management method for swordfish by-catch by Japanese longline tuna vessels was changed from limitation of a by-catch rate to the five-year block quota commencing in 1997 with a comprehensive review at the 2000 Commission meeting.

This paper includes: (1) a comprehensive review of history of management measures for North Atlantic swordfish from 1994 when the first swordfish measure was introduced and the status of reduction of swordfish catches by Japan and other major fishing nations; and (2) an assessment of the status of Japan's compliance according to various aspects.

2 Review of the status of compliance with the 1994 Recommendation

The Commission had clear recognition that Japan did not conduct direct fishing operations for swordfish in 1994 when the swordfish measure was introduced.

1994 Recommendation: "2 Japan shall take the necessary measures to limit the incidental catch of swordfish to no more than 8% of the total weight of its entire catch in the North Atlantic during 1995 and 1996. "

The result of compliance with this management measure is as follows. Japan fully complied with this measure.

Year	*Total Catch (in MT) (A)*	*Swordfish Catch (in MT) (B)*	*By-catch rate (B/A)*
1995	24,573	1,043	4.24%
1996	27,120	1,494	5.51%

The result of compliance by other Contracting parties which had national quota is as follows. The measure of the national quota was not complied with, except for Canada in 1996.

	1995		1996	
Country	*Quota (MT)*	*Total catch (MT)*	*Quota (MT)*	*Total catch (MT)*
Canada	1,500	1,610 ▪	1,400	739 ○
Portugal	1,500	1,617 ▪	1,400	1,703 ▪
Spain	6,230	6,953 ▪	5,500	5,547 ▪
United States	3,970	4,026 ▪	3,500	3,560 ▪

▪ Overage ○ Underage

3 Assessment of the 1995 Recommendation

At the 1995 Commission meeting, percentage shares of North Atlantic swordfish catch for the major five swordfish fishing nations (Canada, Japan, Portugal, Spain and the United States) were recommended. In this Recommendation, the percentage share for Japan was reduced to 6.25%, which was significantly lower than its historical catch record.

Year	*Total catch (MT)*	*Japan*	*Share*	*USA*	*Share*	*Canada*	*Share*	*Spain*	*Share*	*Portugal*	*Share*
1992	15,011	1,064	7.1%	3,852	25.7%	1,547	10.3%	6,672	44.4%	542	3.6%
1993	16,419	1,126	6.9%	3,782	23.0%	2,234	13.6%	6,598	40.2%	1,961	11.9%
1994	14,592	933	6.4%	3,366	23.1%	1,676	11.5%	6,185	42.4%	1,599	11.0%
92-94 Ave.	15,341	1,041	6.8%	3,667	23.9%	1,819	11.9%	6,485	42.3%	1,367	8.9%
1995 Recommendation			6.25%		29.0%		10.0%		41.25%		7.5%

Swordfish is a by-catch species for the Japanese tuna longline vessels fishing for bigeye tuna and the amount of the swordfish catch fluctuates every year depending on the change of the fishing grounds and the fishing conditions of bigeye. Taking this characteristic into account, the Commission prepared a five-year block quota for Japan.

4 Review of the status of compliance with the 1996 Recommendation

Japan's North Atlantic swordfish quota, the actual amount of catch and the rest of the block quota are as follows:

(August-December, 1999) (in MT)

Fishing year	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*1997-2001 Block quota*
Quota	706.3	687.5	668.7	636	636	3,334.5
Catch	1,342	1,361	-690			
Remaining Block quota	1,992.5	631.5	(- 58.6)			

5 Japan's domestic measures to strengthen the compliance with the block quota

Japan implements the following measures:

- require Japanese longline tuna vessels operating in the North Atlantic to release all swordfish taken incidentally, whether they are dead or alive, and to report the number and estimated weight of the swordfish released;
- collect information regarding the condition of swordfish released by observers on board accordance with the 1996 Recommendation
- instruct fishermen to avoid areas in which the by-catch of swordfish is relatively high
- conduct research on the mortality rate of swordfish released by Japanese scientific research vessels
- implement the "quota swap" with EU reported at the 1999 Commission meeting
- conduct a "Swordfish Tagging Survey" by Japanese scientific research vessels as part of the contribution to SCRS activities on the Atlantic swordfish stock boundary.

6 Assessment of the 1996 Recommendation

6.1 Shift of the bigeye tuna fishing ground to the North

Japan's North Atlantic swordfish catch fluctuated considerably, which is attributed to the recent shift of the bigeye tuna fishing grounds to North of 5 degrees North latitude. Japan's swordfish catch in the South Atlantic has been decreasing since 1993. On the contrary, Japan's swordfish catch in the North Atlantic has been increasing since 1996. These figures show that the recent status of the bigeye tuna fishing ground is different from that prior to 1994, which was used as the basic data to decide the percentage share of North Atlantic swordfish catch. They also show that Japan's swordfish quotas are too restrictive to allow the current bigeye fishing operation by Japanese longline tuna vessels.

N + S SWO catch (in MT)	*1993*	*1994*	*1995*	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*99/93*
Japan	6,386	5,634	4,666	3,696	2,765	2,559	2,341	36.7%
N. SWO	1,126	933	1,043	1,494	1,405	1,566	1,525	135.4%
S. SWO	5,256	4,699	3,619	2,197	1,355	985	810	15.4%

6.2 Decrease of Japan's swordfish catch in the entire Atlantic

The following table compares swordfish catch in the entire Atlantic among the major four fishing nations in order to understand to what extent each nation reduced its swordfish catch. To compare the amount of the catch reduction, when the 1993 figures, that are showing the catch status of each nation before introducing regulatory measures to North Atlantic swordfish, are 100, Japan's swordfish catch in 1999 is 37% that of 1993. This figure clearly shows that Japan has reduced its swordfish catch in the entire Atlantic more substantially than any other major nations.

N + S SWO catch (in MT)	*1993*	*1994*	*1995*	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*99/93*
Japan	6,386	5,634	4,666	3,696	2,765	2,559	2,341	36.7%
USA	3,782	3,366	4,026	3,730	3,382	3,218	3,087	81.6%
Canada	2,234	1,676	1,610	739	1,089	1,115	1,119	50.1%
Spain	14,930	15,625	19,622	16,355	14,865	11,354	10,656	71.4%
Portugal	1,961	1,599	1,997	2,092	1,344	1,157	1,158	59.1%

6.3 Status of compliance in view of by-catch rate

The status of compliance was reviewed, assuming that the Commission continues the swordfish regulation on by-catch rate to Japanese longline tuna vessels. The table below shows that, after 1997, the by-catch rate of the Japanese vessels is well below 8% of the total weight of their entire catch in North Atlantic.

Japan	*Total North Atlantic catch (in MT)*	*North Atlantic SWO catch (in MT)*	*By-catch rate*
1997	21,508	1,405	6.5%
1998	25,356	1,566	6.2%
1999	22,710	1,525	6.7%

7 Conclusion

As regards the Atlantic swordfish stock, the stock boundary between North and South is biologically uncertain and the current boundary has been set for convenience and management purpose only. Atlantic swordfish is a by-catch species for Japanese tuna longline vessels fishing for bigeye tuna and their fishing grounds extend across the North and South boundary of 5 degrees North. However, the recent shift of the bigeye fishing grounds to the North has caused great difficulties to the Japanese bigeye longline fishing from 1995 when the quota management measure was introduced for swordfish. The current swordfish by-catch quota does not reflect the current situation in the fishing operations by the Japanese vessels. In spite of the fact that Japan has reduced the amount of swordfish catch in the entire Atlantic more substantially than any other major fishing nation and that the current by-catch rate is well below the initially set level of 8%, the current management measure for Japan is punishing the Japanese fishermen. Now, Japan is obliged to release all swordfish taken incidentally in the North Atlantic, which is a waste of a food resource.

Therefore, Japan would like to request the Commission to adopt a minimal remedial measure, which will also serve as an incentive for the fishermen to shift fishing grounds from the North to the South Atlantic. This remedial measure allows the fishermen to count North Atlantic swordfish catch (up to 400 MT) under the South Atlantic quota whereas the count shall be double the actual catch (1 MT of North Atlantic catch is counted as 2 MT of catch in the South Atlantic.) This measure, together with the 100% release of swordfish caught in the North Atlantic, will be a strong incentive for the fishermen to shift their fishery grounds to the South Atlantic. This remedial measure also has the following important effect. The northern Atlantic stock of swordfish evidently migrates into the South Atlantic area south of 5 degree North. The swordfish catch in the South Atlantic involves the North Atlantic swordfish stock, although the exact percentage is unknown. Thus, the reduction of the swordfish catch in the South Atlantic will lead to a reduction of catch of the North Atlantic swordfish stock. The reduction of the South Atlantic swordfish quota by an amount twice the actual catch in the North Atlantic, as provided in the proposed remedial measure, will in effect work to compensate for the excessive catch of swordfish in the North Atlantic.

Appendix 24 to ANNEX 9

Closing Statement by Namibia on South Atlantic Swordfish
(attached to Report of Panel 4)

Our membership in Panel 4 is primarily because of South Atlantic swordfish that occurs in our region as well as in our Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). Negotiations that lead to the recommendation before us were extremely difficult and frustrating. We, however, applaud the constructive approach of Japan during the cause of negotiations and had hoped that the main fishing party of South Atlantic swordfish will follow suite.

The current interim management recommendation before us is not consistent with Namibia's fishery policy, as it is not based on sustainable use of the resources. We only agree to it as a temporary measure for one year only and in the meantime the Working Group on Allocation Criteria must establish acceptable allocation criteria before the next Panel 4 meeting.

As a coastal developing state overwhelmingly dependent on our fish resources, we are concerned about the management of swordfish in the South Atlantic. Distant water fishing nations who enjoyed the lion's share of the swordfish TAC in the past must understand that the resources are limited. Therefore, they have to give up their traditional claims in order to phase in the coastal states in the region.

Let me state that Namibia is committed to ensuring the long-term conservation and sustainable use of swordfish in the South Atlantic and shall endeavor not to exceed its precautionary catch limit for the year 2001.

Namibia cannot afford the luxury of history repeating itself in our waters and therefore the current state of affairs is totally unacceptable to Namibia and its people. Thank you.

Appendix 25 to ANNEX 9

Closing Statement by South Africa on South Atlantic Swordfish
(attached to Report of Panel 4)

At the opening of this year's meeting, we recognized that the would, in all probability, by a pivotal meeting for ICCAT, particularly with regard to negotiation of TAC sharing arrangements. We note that this has indeed been the case, and that a number of the developments at this year's meeting are likely to have serious implications for the future work of ICCAT.

In particular, we would like to record that we are disappointed with the outcome of this year's Panel 4 meeting. While we greatly appreciate the substantial offers made by Japan towards a re-distribution of the southern swordfish TAC, we are concerned that inadequate compromise on the part of other participants has prevented the negotiation of an acceptable sharing arrangement. At the very least, we would have preferred to see a *pro rata* reduction in the desired catch limits for all other participants, so as to remain within the recommended TAC level. Failure to do so this year has only postponed the issue, with the likelihood that future recommended TAC levels will be lower, and that sharing negotiations will become increasingly difficult.

We recognize that ICCAT has a duty to manage Atlantic tuna resources responsibly, within sustainable catch levels. However, for ICCAT to function effectively, this also has to be done equitably, to the benefit of all participants, not least of all the coastal states through whose waters these species migrate.

Appendix 26 to ANNEX 9

Closing Statement by Japan on Atlantic Swordfish
(attached to Report of Panel 4)

Japan is disappointed with this outcome. The Delegate of Japan expressed his disappointment, although there was no choice but to accept the Chair's proposal. He explained that during the course of the information discussions, Japan offered more than 1,700 MT of its quota for use by coastal countries, such as South Africa and Namibia. He noted that Japan will decide its catch limit later. He expressed his willingness to work with other concerned parties to establish meaningful management measures for these stocks.

Appendix 27 to ANNEX 9

Statement by the United States on Billfishes
(attached to Report of Panel 4)

Decisions of the 2000 meeting of ICCAT are critical for the future of Atlantic marlin.

The 2000 SCRS stock assessments indicate both blue and white marlins are over-fished and that the current landing limits are inadequate to achieve recovery. White marlin have the unfortunate distinction of being at levels lower than any other species under ICCAT management. In light of their depleted status and their economic importance to the United States, Atlantic marlins are one of our highest priorities at this year's ICCAT meeting.

The current fishing mortality for white marlin is estimated at seven times the fishing mortality rate that would allow recovery to MSY and blue marlin is at four times that level. The status of Atlantic marlin today strongly supports the argument that ICCAT has yet to act responsibly for these species. To this point, we understand that several international NGOs are considering requesting that white marlin be included as a candidate species for a CITES listing, a listing that would reflect adversely upon ICCAT management. We are certain that you share our belief that ICCAT, not CITES, is the proper organization to address conservation of Atlantic marlins. There are no other options; we simply must take action now!

Our biggest challenge is that Atlantic marlins are by-catch species in numerous fisheries for many countries. Their recovery is a complex international issue. The United States recognized the decline of Atlantic marlin over 10 years ago and took action to reduce mortality in both our recreational and commercial fisheries. Since 1987, U.S. efforts, which involved sacrifices by both our recreational and commercial fishermen, have resulted in conserving approximately 300,000 marlin. This represents about a quarter of the total Atlantic catch during that period. Last year, as a country, we landed fewer than 205 marlin. We believe the United States has done its part. Unfortunately, what we have learned over the past decade is that no one country can stop the decline or bring about the recovery of Atlantic marlin. We thank ICCAT for its 1997 action, which required sacrifice by many nations and provided a necessary first step in marlin management. The 2000 assessments show, however, that this Recommendation was only the start of the international action needed to recover these species. It is a complex problem that rests upon the shoulders of all ICCAT member countries.

Many of the countries here today participated in the stock assessment workshops and other research to provide ICCAT with the information needed for responsible management of Atlantic marlin. No stock assessment is perfect and all stock assessments are subject to debate, but the 2000 Atlantic marlin assessments provide the best available science upon which decisions at this meeting can be based. Both blue and white marlin assessments indicate clear downward trends in the catch rates through their Atlantic ranges.

Separate from the biological concern, the depletion of Atlantic marlin poses a serious economic concern as well. Marlins are of tremendous economic value to the United States, just as bigeye tuna are important to Japan, and as swordfish are important to Spain. Atlantic marlin deserve the same type of responsible management as the other species under ICCAT's authority.

In light of the status of Atlantic marlin, ICCAT must take decisive action. A fully recovery plan is essential, but immediate, interim measures must be implemented. Then we must allow the SCRS to provide the Commission with a work plan for the development of the remaining portions of the stock recovery program, including specific

stock recovery scenarios. However, at this meeting, we must implement a plan, including immediate action for 2001, which will begin the recovery of these stocks. The United States will be submitting such a plan.

Failure to take responsible, decisive action for Atlantic marlin at this meeting will lead to a continued decline in these stocks and may also force us to recommend blue and white marlin as candidate species under CITES.

I look forward to working with you and my fellow delegates as we address the important management issues of this Panel. Thank you.

Appendix 28 to ANNEX 9

Closing Statement by the Observer From the Ocean Wildlife Campaign Regarding Marlin Rebuilding
(attached to Report of Panel 4)

The Commission is now well aware that Atlantic marlin, and white marlin in particular, are in extremely poor condition.

In the consensus report that represents the best available science on Atlantic marlin, the SCRS has provided clear and unequivocal guidance that significant action is needed immediately to halt the decline of these overfished species. Given the available information provided by SCRS, the Ocean Wildlife Campaign believes that there is not justification to delay action. Indeed, the substantial violations of the 1997 Recommendation on marlin by some nations simple reinforces the need to act.

The implications of the assessment are clear; without drastic reductions in fishing mortality levels these species may become non-viable in a short period of time. Failure to adopt effective measures to reverse the current decline of Atlantic white marlin may indicate that a listing under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) is necessary to prevent further declines.

To avoid continuing declines and begin the formidable task of rebuilding Atlantic white and blue marlin, the Ocean Wildlife Campaign urges the Commission to adopt the U.S. proposal to rebuild marlin. We recommend that the Commission add a clause that encourages nations to implement time and area closures or gear modification in national waters to reduce mortality levels for marlin during the development of a comprehensive rebuilding plan by the Commission.

We believe the plan effectively addresses the concerns regarding scientific uncertainty that have been voiced around the table and contains important conservation measures.

I again thank the Commission for allowing observer participation.

ANNEX 10

REPORT OF THE 9TH MEETING OF THE PERMANENT WORKING GROUP FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF ICCAT STATISTICS AND CONSERVATION MEASURES (PWG)

1 Opening of the meeting

The Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG) met at the Hotel Kenzi Farah in Marrakech, Morocco, on the occasion of the 12th Special Meeting of the Commission. Due to other chair duties assigned to the PWG Chairman, Mr. Ernesto Penas (EC), the meeting was presided over by the interim PWG Chairman, Mr. David Balton (United States).

2 Adoption of Agenda and appointment of Rapporteur

2.1 The Agenda, circulated in advance of the meeting, was adopted and is attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 10**.

2.2 Mr. David Kerstetter (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 PWG was reminded by the Assistant Executive Secretary of the provision of the ICCAT *Resolution on the Interpretation and Application of the Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document (BTSD)* (Ref. 94-4), pursuant to which Contracting Parties have the responsibility to transmit information to the Secretariat (not directly to the importing countries) on the validation of the BTSDs (including original signatures and seals of validating officials), which the Secretariat will in turn transmit 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. The summary of the information available on validation procedures was distributed as Document COM/00/21.

3.2 The PWG was further reminded that those Contracting Parties receiving BTSDs should send a report to the Secretariat two times per year. These data should also be included in the National Reports. The Assistant Executive Secretary noted that the Secretariat was still receiving 2000 National Reports.

3.3 The Delegate from Japan briefly reviewed its BTSD records from January through June, 2000. During this period, Japan received 6,832 shipments of fresh and 79 shipments of frozen bluefin tuna, with a total product weight of 8,934 MT. Of this product, the Delegate from Japan continued, 14 percent came from non-Contracting Parties. Korea, Spain, and Chinese Taipei all exported more than 500 MT. Equatorial Guinea exported 138 MT during this period, but none was exported to Japan after August. Japan imported no bluefin tuna from Belize or Honduras.

3.4 The Assistant Executive Secretary commented on several other issues, such as bluefin exports from fishing entities that do not report to ICCAT. He also referred to the recommendation by the SCRS that copies of all Statistical Documents be provided to the Commission so that the scientists can cross-check unreported catch estimates.

3.5 In a discussion of farmed bluefin tuna, the Assistant Executive Secretary noted that originals of the BTSDs, not photocopies, should accompany the exports, although he recognized that this was causing problems in some countries during re-export, when one lot of products is exported in two lots. In those unusual cases, the Assistant Executive Secretary proposed that photocopies be acceptable. He also clarified reporting requirements for

chartering arrangements. Generally, the flag state of the vessel is responsible for issuing the BTSD with respect to bluefin tuna harvested within the relative Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of another nation, although in joint venture arrangements where the coastal state reports those landings, the coastal state may submit the BTSD.

3.6 The Delegate from Korea requested further information regarding reported North Atlantic bluefin tuna exports from Korea. The Assistant Executive Secretary clarified that the catch of Korea is from the Pacific Ocean, and therefore not counted, but that there was a small amount of North Atlantic bluefin tuna re-exported through Korea from Spain.

3.7 The Delegate from the United States clarified that the data in the BTSD summary from Japan indicating U.S. landings from the eastern Atlantic were in error, and that those landings were of western Atlantic bluefin tuna. Corrections would be sent to the Secretariat.

4. Review of responses to the Commission's letters concerning compliance

4.1 The Assistant Executive Secretary presented Document COM/00/20, a compendium of the responses to all the special letters sent by the Commission pursuant to the recommendations of the PWG adopted by the Commission at its 1999 meeting. He explained that there were four categories of responses: (1) those countries that did not respond (Barbados, Cambodia, Denmark (on behalf of the Faroe Islands), Equatorial Guinea, Guinea-Conakry, Sierra Leone, and Vanuatu); (2) those countries that provided limited response (Belize, Iceland, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Turkey); (3) those countries with good communication with the Secretariat (Honduras, the Philippines, and Trinidad and Tobago); and (4) those countries that refuted their identification as IUU nations (Kenya and Singapore).

4.2 The Observer from Denmark (on behalf of the Faroe Islands) noted that it had submitted a response approximately 48 hours prior to the meeting. The Assistant Executive Secretary was not aware of such a document, but would try to find it and make it available to the Panel members. This document was later provided to the PWG members by the Secretariat.

4.3 The Observer from CARICOM expressed regret with respect to the actions of Belize, but could not provide any information regarding its fisheries. The Observer clarified several points with respect to St. Vincent and the Grenadines. She stated that the government of that nation had not received the letter from ICCAT as suggested by the report. Also, 25 vessels identified by ICCAT as IUU vessels have been reporting to St. Vincent and the Grenadines since January 2000, and the Observer therefore requested additional time to enter into compliance with the ICCAT management measures. The Chair noted that the Secretariat had received other correspondence from St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

4.4 The Delegate of France (in respect of St. Pierre & Miquelon) asked the Observer from Denmark (on behalf of the Faroe Islands) whether the bluefin tuna transshipped at St. Pierre & Miquelon was from the EEZ of the Faroe Islands. The Observer from Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands) responded that they were caught on the high seas, but that he did not have any additional information, including whether they were harvested in the eastern or western Atlantic.

5 Review of the applications for Cooperating Party/Entity/Fishing Entity status

5.1 The Observer from Chinese Taipei reviewed the history of its cooperation with ICCAT. In light of this history and its inability to become a Contracting Party, Chinese Taipei requested that its cooperating status be automatically renewed each year, unless the Commission determines that there is evidence of non-compliance with ICCAT measures or Chinese Taipei wishes to terminate that status. Upon the request of the Chair, this proposal by Chinese Taipei to amend the ICCAT *Resolution on Becoming a Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity* (Ref: 97-17) was submitted in writing as and is attached as **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 10.**

5.2 Several PWG Members stated positions on this proposal. Although there was some support for this proposal, given the unique nature of Chinese Taipei, other members requested that it be discussed at another time

to allow for full consideration of the issue. 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 only recommended maintaining "Cooperating Party/Entity/Fishing Entity" status for Chinese Taipei for another year. However, it is the intention of the PWG to reconsider this issue at its next meeting.

5.3 The Delegate from South Africa noted that there might be future complications from the similar status of "Observer" and "Cooperating Party, Entity, or Fishing Entity," and suggested that these differences be clarified at or by the next PWG meeting.

5.4 The Observer of Mexico reviewed its history of cooperation with ICCAT, including data submissions, and therefore requested renewal of its cooperating party status. The Observer noted that it was attempting to become a Contracting Party, but that this action required approval from the Mexican Senate. In the interim period, Mexico stated its intention to continue cooperating with ICCAT and its fisheries conservation and management measures. Although there was general consensus to approve this status request, one member raised concerns about Mexico reporting increased catches of western Atlantic bluefin tuna without a quota. Mexico stated that those concerns have no basis, due to the fact that bluefin tuna by-catches by its tuna fleet has natural variations that are reflected in the catch figures, as was stated by Mexico in 1998.

5.5 The Observer from Algeria announced that Algeria was in the process of joining the Commission and expected to be a Contracting Party by the next annual meeting.

5.6 Upon request from the Chair, the Observer from the Philippines reviewed its application to become a Cooperating Party. This document is attached as **Appendix 3 to ANNEX 10**. He noted many improvements in the Philippines fisheries control, including de-registering vessels, refusing bare boat charter arrangements, developing outreach programs to fishermen, and participating in an international conference on IUU issues. The Observer further noted that the Philippines intend to become a member of ICCAT, and that implementing national legislation for that purpose is now being considered. The PWG agreed to grant Cooperating Party/Entity/Fishing Entity status to the Philippines for one year.

5.7 The letters to Chinese Taipei, Mexico, and the Philippines concerning Cooperating Party / Entity / Fishing Entity Status are included in **Appendix 4 as 4-1, 4-2 and 4-3, respectively, to ANNEX 10.**

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 ICCAT Assistant Executive Secretary of ICCAT reviewed Document COM/00/15, which detailed all of the Japanese Bluefin Statistical Document data from 1999 and the first half of 2000. There were several technical notes on this analysis, included within the paper. He commented that a similar analysis was not attempted with swordfish, although some landings are detailed within the respective National Reports, and that the data are collected by port, not from flag vessel, so there may be some inadvertent double counting of the data.

6.2 The Delegate from Japan stated that Japan appreciated the efforts of the Secretariat, and that it has additional data separated by ocean. These data will be forwarded to the Secretariat.

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 Chair of the PWG referred to three specific instruments to examine: the Bluefin Tuna Action Plan (Ref: 94-3), the Swordfish Action Plan (Ref: 95-13), and the Unregulated/Unreported Catches Resolution (Ref: 98-18). The Chair suggested that the PWG examine this agenda item instrument by instrument.

7.2 Bluefin Tuna Action Plan

7.2.1 **Belize.** Although the attempts of Belize to control IUU vessels and its desire to join ICCAT were acknowledged, the consensus was that the import ban on Belize should be maintained.

7.2.2 **Honduras.** The Delegate from Japan reported that Honduras is de-flagging vessels, but no confirmation on halting its IUU activities has been received. The consensus was that the import ban should be maintained (see letter to Honduras, attached as **Appendix 5-15 to ANNEX 10.**

7.2.3 **Philippines.** The Delegate from Japan noted that a review of the Philippines recent fisheries activities was included in the information Japan had presented based on trade data, (see **Appendix 7 to ANNEX 10**). Because of the strong efforts reflected in that document, the PWG agreed not to take further actions against the Philippines at this time, but to remind the Philippines in the letter conferring Cooperating Status that it should complete its efforts to bring its vessels into compliance with ICCAT measures. The letter to the Philippines is attached as **Appendix 4-3 to ANNEX 10.**

7.2.4 **Sierra Leone.** The Delegate from the United States noted that ICCAT has still not received information from Sierra Leone on the vessel *Starlet No. 109.* However, there is also no evidence of illegal bluefin tuna fishing by Sierra Leone vessels since the 1999 meeting. The PWG agreed to take no further action against Sierra Leone at this time.

7.2.5 **Turkey.** No representative from Turkey was present at the 2000 ICCAT meeting. Turkey decreased annual catches from 1998 to 1999 and actively participates in the GFCM management process. The PWG agreed that the Commission should send another letter of warning, and an invitation to join ICCAT. This should be considered a postponement of action for one year. The letter of warning to Turkey is attached as **Appendix 5-4 to ANNEX 10.**

7.2.6 **Malta.** No representative from Malta was present at the 2000 ICCAT meeting. Several PWG members noted that Malta's situation is similar to Turkey, with decreased catches and participation in GFCM. The consensus was to send a first letter of warning to Malta similar to the letter sent to Turkey (see **Appendix 5-3 to ANNEX 10**).

7.2.7 **Iceland.** The Observer from Iceland stated that the conclusion of the Working Group on Allocation Criteria would have to include recognition of the right of coastal states to develop their fisheries. He requested that ICCAT not act against States that are fishing legally under international law. The Observer further noted that Iceland continues to cooperate with ICCAT, including providing data, attending relevant meetings, and conducting scientific research. The Delegate from the EC stated that the issue of whether the PWG should take action against Iceland should be clearly separated from the issue of allocation criteria. The United States, Canada, and France (in respect of its Overseas Territories) concurred with the EC on this point and argued that Iceland should be identified because its harvests of bluefin tuna were directly undermining ICCAT's conservation program for that species. While some supported this proposal, others argued that the PWG should defer identifying Iceland for one more year. The PWG agreed that identification was warranted, but also agreed to give Iceland one more chance to reconsider its actions. A letter of warning conveying this approach should be sent to Iceland (attached as **Appendix 5-2 to ANNEX 10**)

7.2.8 **Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands).** BTSD information showed that Faroese vessels continued to harvest bluefin tuna in 1999. It was recalled that ICCAT had not received a response or fisheries data from Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands) prior to the 2000 meeting. The Observer of Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands) deplored the late answer and any other deficiency in data submission, which should not be interpreted as lacking interest in cooperation with ICCAT. Indeed, if ICCAT would introduce rules which heeded the rights of coastal states to share in the tuna resources, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands) would be interested in joining ICCAT. The Observer from Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands) made a statement about the fishery. In 1998, Faroese vessels harvested 63 MT. In 1999, this amount grew to 96 MT, including 32 MT caught outside of the EEZ surrounding the Faroe Islands. The Observer could not on the spot produce any information, however, as to whether the bluefin tuna caught outside the EEZ were caught in the eastern or western Atlantic Ocean. The vessel was licensed, on an experimental basis, to fish in the North Atlantic. Concern was expressed that one Faroese vessel landed bluefin tuna in St. Pierre & Miquelon for transshipment to Japan. The consensus of the PWG was that a letter of warning be sent to Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands) detailing these concerns, and that the PWG would decide on identification of Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands) next year (see **Appendix 5-1 to ANNEX 10**).

7.2.9 **Norway.** Norway continued to harvest small amounts of bluefin tuna in 1999, despite not having an ICCAT quota. The Chair noted that the current situation for Norway is very similar to that of Iceland last year, and suggested that the Commission send a letter to Norway similar to the one sent to Iceland last year (attached as **Appendix 5-12 to ANNEX 10**). The PWG agreed.

7.2.10 **Guinea Bissau.** The Chair noted that the situation of Guinea Bissau was the same as last year; therefore there would be no change in the PWG recommendation. Monitoring would continue.

7.3 Swordfish Action Plan

7.3.1 **Belize.** The consensus was to maintain the status quo.

7.3.2 **Honduras.** The Chair reviewed the actions taken towards Honduras last year. The Observer from Honduras outlined recent actions regarding fisheries by his government, which included canceling 228 Honduran vessel registries, closing the registry to future vessels, and imposing a temporary moratorium on fishing by its 41 legally registered vessels. Several comparisons were made between Honduras and Panama, although noting that Panama joined the Commission. The consensus of the PWG was to appreciate the efforts of Honduras, but to keep the import restrictions in effect until these changes had been confirmed (see letter to Honduras, attached as **Appendix 5-15 to ANNEX 10**).

7.3.3 **Singapore.** Last year, the Commission sent Singapore a letter inquiring about a vessel in the Atlantic. The ICCAT Secretariat has received two responses from Singapore denying having any licensed fishing vessel in the Atlantic. The general consensus of the PWG was that in light of no evidence of fishing in the Atlantic by vessels of Singapore, no action was necessary.

7.3.4 **Kenya.** The situation for Kenya was similar to that of Singapore, and with no evidence of wrongdoing, no action was taken.

7.3.5 **Vanuatu.** Last year, in response to information regarding a vessel fishing for swordfish in the Atlantic, the Commission sent a second letter of warning to Vanuatu and received no reply. The Observer from the Forum Fisheries Agency, who also represented Vanuatu, apologized for the lack of response to ICCAT. He commented that Vanuatu, with Canadian support, is currently in the process of reviewing its pelagic fisheries programs, including the development of control mechanisms. Data indicate that a Vanuatu vessel is still catching swordfish in the Atlantic. The PWG agreed to identify Vanuatu and to send a letter to Vanuatu to rectify the situation (attached as **Appendix 5-5 ANNEX 10**)

7.3.6 **Sierra Leone.** The Chair reported that two letters had been sent to Sierra Leone, but that there had been no response to either. However, he continued, there have been no reports of any exported catches, and the PWG agreed that no action should be taken.

7.3.7 **Barbados.** The Chair gave an overview of the correspondence between the Secretariat and Barbados, although the Observer from CARICOM stated that the letters to ICCAT had been about topics other than swordfish compliance. The Delegate from the United States, noting the interest in joining and the situation with the missing letter, suggested for consistency that ICCAT send Barbados a follow-up letter discouraging them from fishing for swordfish (attached as **Appendix 5-7 to ANNEX 10**).

7.3.8 **"Others" (Iceland, Argentina, Liberia, and Mozambique).** The Delegate from the EC provided a review of the information gained from their swordfish import documents and noted that these four countries had exported some swordfish product to the EC. Quantities imported were the following: Argentina, approximately 0.5 MT; Iceland, approximately 1.5 MT; Liberia, 5 MT; and Mozambique, 50 MT. Although he noted that it was uncertain whether these fish were harvested in the Atlantic there was much concern that harvests could grow quickly. There was a consensus that each of these countries be sent a letter seeking clarification of their fishing practices (attached as **Appendices 5-2, 5-6, 5-9, and 5-10**, respectively, to **ANNEX 10**).

7.3.9 **Grenada and the Netherlands Antilles.** The Delegate from the United States reported from its swordfish import monitoring program that 1.6 MT had been exported by the Netherlands Antilles and 22 MT by

Grenada. The Observer from the Netherlands Antilles made a brief statement. Letters similar to those from the "Others" category will be sent (attached as **Appendices 5-8 and 5-11,** respectively, **to ANNEX 10**).

7.4 Activities relative to the Resolution on Unregulated and Unreported Catches of Tunas by Large-scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area

7.4.1 The PWG also discussed the activities of the following countries as warranted under the *Resolution By ICCAT Concerning the Unregulated and Unreported Catches of Tunas by Large-Scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area* (Ref: 98-18): Belize, Cambodia, Honduras, Kenya, Philippines, Sierra Leone, Singapore, and St. Vincent and The Grenadines.

7.4.2 In general, several PWG members noted the need for consistency and clarity in the identification process and in making decisions to impose trade measures. Concern was raised about the technical aspects of the process called for in this Resolution. The Chair clarified this by pointing out that the procedures in the 1998 Resolution closely paralleled those in the Bluefin Tuna and Swordfish Action Plans.

7.4.3 The Delegate of Japan proposed the imposition of import prohibitions on bigeye tuna from Belize, Cambodia, Equatorial Guinea, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, based on clear evidence that large-scale longline vessels from those previously identified countries continued to fish in the Convention Area, primarily for bigeye tuna, and that ICCAT had not received an appropriate response to previous inquiries regarding their fishing activities. Other delegations noted that the issue of Equatorial Guinea should be considered by the Compliance Committee, but that Honduras might also be covered by the bigeye import prohibition.

7.4.4 The countries indicated below were discussed at length. Because the situations of Kenya and Singapore are the same as with the Bluefin Tuna Action Plan, no summaries of discussions for these countries are included below.

7.4.5 **Belize.** In light of the clear evidence that vessels flying the flag of Belize continue to fish in the Convention Area, primarily for bigeye tuna, and that the Government of Belize has not taken adequate steps to rectify the situation following its 1999 identification by ICCAT, the PWG agreed that bigeye tuna imports from Belize should be prohibited. The letter to Belize is attached as **Appendix 5-13 to ANNEX 10.**

7.4.6 **Honduras.** The Chair briefly reviewed the status of Honduras, which had been identified last year and which had received a letter warning of possible trade measures under the 1998 resolution. Consensus among the PWG members was to authorize import restrictions on bigeye tuna, but to delay the date on which they became effective until January 1, 2002, in order to give the Government of Honduras time to complete its actions to rectify the situation (**Appendix 5-15 to ANNEX 10**). The Observer of Honduras presented a statement regarding the actions taken by Honduras to comply with ICCAT, which is attached as **Appendix 6 to ANNEX 10.**

7.4.7 **Philippines.** Because of the strong efforts of the Philippines with respect to its fishing vessels following its 1999 identification by ICCAT, the PWG agreed not to take additional action against the Philippines at this time, but to remind the Philippines in the letter conferring Cooperating Party status that it should complete its efforts into compliance with ICCAT measures (see **Appendix 4-3 to ANNEX 10**).

7.4.8 **Sierra Leone.** The Chair reviewed the situation of Sierra Leone, which was the same as with bluefin tuna and swordfish. No action was taken, although concern was noted by several PWG Members.

7.4.9 **Cambodia.** In light of the clear evidence that vessels flying the flag of Cambodia continue to fish in the Convention Area, primarily for bigeye tuna, and that the Government of Cambodia has not taken adequate steps to rectify the situation following its 1999 identification by ICCAT, the PWG agreed that bigeye tuna imports from Cambodia should be prohibited (**Appendix 5-14 to ANNEX 10**).

7.4.10 **St. Vincent and the Grenadines.** The Chair noted that St. Vincent and the Grenadines was identified by the PWG in 1999. The Observer from CARICOM stated that the letter to which St. Vincent and the Grenadines had responded to was not the letter of identification from 1999, and that St. Vincent and the Grenadines has never received the identification letter. The Observer further stated that the government now reports data from 25 vessels.

Although the PWG appreciated the efforts by the government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, the PWG determined that there was clear evidence that vessels flying the flag of St. Vincent and the Grenadines continue to fish in the Convention Area, primarily for bigeye tuna, and that the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines has not taken adequate steps to rectify the situation, the PWG agreed that bigeye tuna imports from St. Vincent and the Grenadines should be prohibited (**Appendix 5-16 to ANNEX 10**).

7.5 Summary of Actions under Resolution 98-18

7.5.1 The PWG adopted the *Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding Belize, Cambodia, Honduras, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines Pursuant to the 1998 Resolution Concerning the Unreported and Unregulated Catches of Tuna by Large-Scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area* (see **ANNEX 7-15**), prohibiting the import of bigeye tuna from these countries. In the case of Honduras, the import prohibition will not take effect until January 1, 2002. The prohibition of bigeye tuna imports from Equatorial Guinea, an ICCAT Contracting Party, was referred to the Compliance Committee (see **ANNEX 7-16**).

7.5.2 The Delegate of Japan introduced two documents regarding the Japanese-Chinese Taipei joint program to eliminate IUU vessels (attached as **Appendices 7 and 8 to ANNEX 10**) and information on recent IUU activities, and a similar document was presented by the Observer of Chinese Taipei (attached as **Appendix 9 to ANNEX 10**). The United States also provided some information in IUU vessels. The Chair suggested that information on IUU vessels contained in these three documents be combined into a single list by the authors and appended to the PWG report, as was done last year.

7.5.3 Several Members commented that there would not be enough time to completely examine these lists of vessels. The Delegate from Japan expressed his assurance that the authors would work together to develop such a combined document.

7.5.4 Other concerns were raised that the list of IUU vessels would be subject to change. The Chair suggested that all lists of this nature state in their headings that they would be subject to change over time. He further suggested that if any country published this list but changed it in light of new information, such changes should be clearly identified as not having been agreed by ICCAT. Concerns were also raised that vessels often have difficulty losing the stigma attached to being labeled an IUU vessel.

7.5.5 Taking these concerns into account, the PWG agreed to the creation of the list and that maximum care should be taken to ensure its accuracy. The "List of Large-Scale Longline Vessels Believed to be Engaged in Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported Fishing Activities in the ICCAT Convention Area and Other Areas (as approved at the Commission Meeting in November, 2000)" is attached as **Appendix 10 to ANNEX 10**.

8 Repercussions of various international fishery agreements on the work of the PWG

8.1 Under this agenda item, the Assistant Executive Secretary explained the negotiation under FAO auspices of an International Plan of Action on Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing. His prepared summary was presented as COM/00/26. The Chair briefly reviewed the relationship between this emerging instrument and the work of the PWG, and commended the Assistant Executive Secretary for his effective representation of ICCAT during the FAO deliberations.

8.2 The Observer from Greenpeace International also made a statement on IUU/FOC fishing activities, which is attached as **Appendix 11 to ANNEX 10**.

9 Measures to improve fishery statistics requested by ICCAT

9.1 The Delegate from Japan introduced a draft Resolution regarding joint programs against IUU activities, which is attached as **Appendix 12 to ANNEX 10**. He noted with concern that although there is a large budget for scrapping vessels, many are trying to escape the program, and the Delegate requested help from the Commission. Several delegates raised concern that two provisions of the draft Resolution violated sections of the draft

International Plan of Action and the FAO Compliance Agreement for IUU Fishing. The Delegate from Brazil made an intervention that these provisions interfered with legitimate vessel chartering, which is important to developing coastal states (attached as **Appendix 13 to ANNEX 10**). He also raised concern that by making existing IUU vessels permanently illegal, there are no other legitimate uses for them. However, at the same time, he expressed Brazil's intentions not to accept any IUU vessels in Brazil. The Delegate of Japan recalled the Commission's firm intention to eliminate all IUU vessels and requested that all Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties to work in line with paragraphs 2 and 3 and not work with IUU vessels. The PWG agreed to adopt the *Supplemental Resolution by ICCAT to Enhance the Effectiveness of the ICCAT Measures to Eliminate Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported Fishing Activities by Large-Scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area and Other Areas*, without paragraphs 2, 3 and 7 of the Japanese proposal and with other minor technical changes (see **ANNEX 7-19**).

9.2 The Delegate from the United States introduced a joint U.S.-Japan-EC proposal for a recommendation to establish statistical document programs for swordfish, bigeye tuna and other species. The PWG agreed to adopt the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Establishing Statistical Document Programs for Swordfish, Bigeye Tuna and Other Species Managed by ICCAT*, which is attached as **ANNEX 7-22**. The Chair clarified that, pending the full implementation of the statistical document program or programs for such species, Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities are encouraged to collect statistical data regarding imports of these species, including that for purposes of implementing the prohibition on imports of bigeye tuna from countries subject to the recommendations calling for such prohibition (see **ANNEXES 7-15** and **7-16**), such as information on flag states and area of catch.

9.3 The Delegate from Japan introduced a draft resolution for a joint PWG, Compliance Committee and SCRS workshop to consider and address issues relating to data (attached as **Appendix 14 to ANNEX 10**, but proposed that the PWG defer discussion on this matter until next year.

10 Future work and meetings of the Permanent Working Group

There was no further discussion of the future work and meetings of the PWG. It was agreed that the PWG would meet at the same time and place as the 2001 Commission meeting.

11 Other matters

There was no discussion under this agenda item.

12 Adoption of Report

The Report was adopted, including all the modifications presented at the time of adoption.

13 Adjournment

The 2000 meeting of the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG) was adjourned on Monday, November 20.

Appendix 1 to ANNEX 10

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 concerning BTSD
4 Review of responses to the Commission's letters concerning compliance
5 Review of the applications for Cooperating Status
6 Review of estimated unreported catches and vessel sighting reports concerning fishing activities of non-contracting parties, entities and fishing entities
7 Review of compliance by non-contracting parties, entities or fishing entities
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 Other matters
12 Adoption of Report
13 Adjournment

Appendix 2 to ANNEX 10

Proposal by the Observer of Chinese Taipei to Amend the *Resolution by ICCAT on Becoming a Cooperating Party, Entity, or Fishing Entity* (Ref. 97-17)
(Proposal not adopted)

Recalling the "Resolution on Coordination with Non-Contracting Parties" adopted at its Ninth Special Meeting in 1994; and

Recognizing the continuing need to encourage all non-contracting parties, entities or fishing entities with vessels fishing for ICCAT species to implement conservation measures;

The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) Resolves That:

1 Each year, the Executive Secretary of ICCAT shall contact all non-contracting parties, entities or fishing entities known to be fishing in the Convention area for species under ICCAT competence, **who have not attained status as a Cooperating Party, Entity or Fishing Entity**, to urge each of them to become a Contracting Party to ICCAT or to attain such status. In doing so, the Executive Secretary shall provide a copy of all relevant Recommendations and Resolutions adopted by the Commission.

2 Any **such** non-contracting party, entity or fishing entity which seeks to be accorded Cooperating Party, Entity, or Fishing Entity status shall apply to the Executive Secretary. At the time such a request is made, the applicant shall inform ICCAT of its commitment to respect the Commission's conservation and management measures. The applicant shall commit itself to transmit all the data to ICCAT that the Contracting Parties have to submit to ICCAT based on the recommendations adopted by the Commission. Requests must be received by the ICCAT Secretariat no later than ninety (90) days in advance of an ICCAT annual meeting, to be considered at that meeting.

3 The Commission's Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG) shall be responsible for reviewing requests for Cooperating Party, Entity or Fishing Entity status and for recommending to the Commission whether or not an applicant should be considered a

Cooperating Party, Entity or Fishing Entity and **setting a deadline of (three years) for the applicant to become a member of the Commission if it is entitled to do so.**

4 **Cooperating party, entity or fishing entity status shall be automatically renewed annually unless revoked by the Commission due to non-compliance of ICCAT conservation and management measures or a written request for withdrawal of the status has been received by the Commission.**

5 Those non-contracting parties, entities or fishing entities that do not respond to the Commission as specified in the Resolution will not be considered Cooperating Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities to ICCAT.

NOTE: **bolded** text indicates proposed amendments to Ref. 97-17.

Appendix 3 to ANNEX 10

Statement by the Observer of the Philippines on its Application for ICCAT Cooperating Non-contracting Party Status & Addressing Allegations of IUU Actions Attributed to it

The Philippines has two items of concern before the agenda of the PWG. The first refers to its application for Cooperating Non-Contracting Party status with ICCAT and the second refers to its request to remove the Philippines from the ICCAT list of IUU countries. I shall be addressing both concerns together in this intervention as I feel that one is relevant to the other, although altogether separate items.

The Philippines found itself on the ICCAT IUU list on account of two letters, both dated 25 January 2000, which the Commission, during its 1999 annual meeting authorized the Executive Secretary to be sent to the Philippines.

Let me address the first of these two letters, which I shall refer to as letter "A" for convenience. This letter, letter "A" in turn recalls two letters earlier sent to the Philippines dated 22 October 1998 and 24 February 1999, both citing violations of the ICCAT "Action Plan to Ensure Effectiveness of the Conservation Program for Atlantic Bluefin Tuna", and both also specifically referring to the sighting of a Philippines- flagged fishing vessel that was seen and reported as "cruising", not fishing, in the Mediterranean during the closed season. We have replied calling attention to the fact that the "sighting sheet" itself described the activity of the fishing vessel involved as cruising and not, I repeat, fishing. In our reply, we endeavored to further explain the circumstances of the presence of the fishing vessel involved, in the Mediterranean at the time of sighting. In a later further reply, we also indicated that, since the ICCAT letter I have referred to as letter "A" mentions the ICCAT Action Plan on Bluefin Tuna, we also gave the information that no Philippines-flagged fishing vessel is engaged, or is authorized to engage, in fishing for bluefin tuna.

ICCAT letter "A" additionally states that at the 1999 annual meeting of the Commission, evidence was received 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. The Philippines has replied, and affirms, that the Philippines has always exercised effective control over fishing vessels under its flag. It has also reported catch data to ICCAT, in due course Mr. Chairman beginning in 1998 as its fishing vessels began fishing in ICCAT area of competence only in late 1997.

The second of two letters dated 25 January 2000 from the ICCAT Executive Secretary, which I shall refer to as letter "B" for convenience, concerns a list of large-scale longline fishing vessels under Philippine registry which are "believed" to have engaged in IUU fishing in ICCAT area of competence. We are here reiterating that the Philippines has always exercised effective control over fishing vessels under its flag, and has made adequate determination that no previous owner or operator of these vessels under its flag, have any further legal, beneficial or financial interest in, or control over those fishing vessels. Nevertheless, as indicated in our recent letter to the ICCAT Executive Secretary dated 23 October 2000, the Philippines, with the full cooperation of concerned private sector companies, has caused to be de-registered from its flag, a number of fishing vessels which were considered to carry a questionable background as IUU fishing vessels. Moreover, in what is obviously an extreme cautionary

move on our part, though agreeing with Brazil that charter arrangements are commercial undertakings between two companies, the Philippines has taken a policy decision not to allow any future bare boat charter arrangements for fishing vessels intended for distant water operations.

The Philippines, although it is not happy at all, as with Korea in its opening statement with the current ICCAT modalities in its investigations into IUU fishing activities, nevertheless has done everything to meet ICCAT concerns relating to the fishing activities of vessels under its flag. It shall also strive to be in good standing with ICCAT, the reason it has accepted the invitation of ICCAT to be a Contracting Party, but in the interim while its internal processes for accession are underway, as a Cooperating Non-contracting Party.

The Philippines has also taken a cue from the Compliance Agreement, which calls upon States which are not parties to a regional fisheries organization or arrangement "to enter into understandings...with parties to such organizations or arrangements with a view to achieving compliance with international conservation and management measures". We have initiated an "understanding" with Japan this year, during which two (2) bilateral consultations thus far have been undertaken in Tokyo, with a third one agreed to take place very soon. The step I have mentioned earlier, wherein the Philippines, with the cooperation of the private sector companies concerned, unilaterally de-registered a number of fishing vessels from its flag, arose from these consultations. This is also reflected in the unnumbered document entitled 'Chinese Taipei's Report on Dealing with Unreported, Unregulated Fishing by Flags of Convenience', a title which does not altogether seem to us not too friendly to parties affected, which indicates a number of fishing vessels which were returned to its original flag States when the bare boat charter contract were pre-terminated by their Philippine charterers upon a finding of suspicious background information on the IUU fishing activities of those vessels.

Finally, still on the subject of IUU fishing and efforts being taken by the Philippines to obviate any possibility, even through inadvertence, of again finding itself in an IUU situation, I wish to inform the Commission of my country's participation in international conferences on the subject. We missed the Expert Consultations in Sydney to prepare a draft International Plan of Action on IUU fishing, through oversight, though invited. But we participated in the Technical Consultations in Rome held just over a month ago, and also sought membership in the Joint FAO-IMO Working Group. Not that we feel that we have anything significant to contribute at these conferences. Neither were we there to protect any substantial interest. We merely wanted to be at the forefront of the development of this important and key element in the management and conservation of fisheries resources worldwide. We feel we owe this to ourselves as an archipelagic State and an aspiring fishing nation.

We are also undertaking serious efforts at an internal publicity and awareness campaign against IUU fishing, to educate our fishermen, the domestic fishing industry, government officials and the academic sector. For this we have approached the University of Wollongong and the Australian Government for assistance in organizing a workshop cum seminar on the subject of IUU fishing for the benefit of these sectors.

The Philippines is a classic case of a developing country that is just in the process of establishing its own fisheries industry, and for which practically all international instruments relating to conservation and management of fisheries resources call on the more developed fishing States to extend consideration and assistance in the development of a fishing industry. We too, are most concerned about the conservation and management of fisheries resources worldwide, and we ask the Commission for its understanding, consideration and cooperation. Thank you.

Appendix 4 to ANNEX 10

Commission Chairman's Letters to ICCAT Cooperating Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities

4-1 Letter to Chinese Taipei

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 that are of particular concern in 2001, namely:

[include summary of pertinent measures in force for 2001]

In addition, the Commission requests that you continue 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 another report on your activities to address this problem at the 2001 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. At the 2000 annual meeting, the Commission postponed consideration of a proposal that would provide for automatic renewal of this status for Chinese Taipei, unless there was evidence of non-compliance with ICCAT measures or unless Chinese Taipei sought to terminate such status. The Commission expects to consider this proposal at its 2001 meeting.

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.

4-2 Letter to Mexico

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.

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.

4.3 Letter to the Philippines

The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) welcomes your 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 the Philippines and the request of your government to become a Cooperating Party, Entity or Fishing Entity. At its 2000 annual meeting, the Commission decided to grant this request for one year.

The Government of the Philippines 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 the Philippines will be expected to follow.

ICCAT will expect the Government of the Philippines 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 the Philippines, ICCAT believes that this status should be viewed as transitional in nature and hopes that the Government of the Philippines will become an ICCAT Contracting Party in the near future. In addition, the Commission urges the Government of the Philippines to continue its efforts to eliminate large-scale longline vessels registered in the Philippines that fish for tuna and tuna-like species in the Convention area in a manner that diminishes the effectiveness of ICCAT's conservation and management measures.

We are pleased with your 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.

Appendix 5 to ANNEX 10

Commission Chairman's Letters to Non-contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities Pursuant to the ICCAT Swordfish and Bluefin Tuna Action Plans and the 1998 Resolution on IUU Catches

5-1 Letter of Warning to Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands) on Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Harvests

In 1994, 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 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, and Fishing Entities with vessels fishing for Atlantic bluefin tuna. Under the terms of the action plan, ICCAT annually reviews information on fishing activities in the Convention area and identifies those Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities whose vessels are fishing in a manner which diminishes the effectiveness of the relevant conservation measures of the Commission. Consistent with the process, ICCAT requests any party 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.

Following the 1999 ICCAT meeting, the Commission sent a letter to the Government of Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands) requesting information on bluefin tuna harvests by Faroese vessels. The letter noted that available data indicated that such vessels were harvesting eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna in excess of levels established by relevant ICCAT conservation and management measures for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Bluefin tuna. The letter sought clarification of this situation.

Prior to the 2000 ICCAT meeting, the Commission had received no response from Denmark. However, at the 2000 meeting, a representative of Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands) presented data on Atlantic bluefin tuna harvests by Faroese vessels in 1998 and 1999. For 1998, these harvests amounted to 63 metric tons. For 1999, this amount grew to 96 metric tons, including 32 metric tons caught outside of the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) surrounding the Faroe Islands. The representative could not inform the Commission, however, as to whether the bluefin tuna caught on the high seas was from the eastern or western Atlantic stock of bluefin tuna. In addition, information became available indicating that at least one Faroese vessel landed bluefin tuna in St. Pierre et Miquelon for transshipment to Japan without the knowledge of the flag State.

The representative of Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands) maintained that coastal States of the Atlantic Ocean have the right to fish for bluefin tuna with their EEZs, whether or not such fishing is consistent with ICCAT rules. The representative also made clear that Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands) would neither join the Commission nor become a Cooperating Party, Entity or Fishing Entity under current circumstances.

The Commission recognizes that coastal States have sovereign rights and jurisdiction with respect to living marine resources within their EEZs. When those resources are highly migratory species, however, and when a regional fishery management organization such as ICCAT has been created to regulate those species, it is incumbent upon the coastal States to join the organization or, at a minimum, to apply the fishing rules adopted by the organization. If each coastal State of the Atlantic Ocean determined for itself how much bluefin tuna should be harvested within its respective EEZ, there could be no effective management of bluefin tuna.

The Commission notes that Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands) has made some effort to provide catch data on its bluefin tuna fishery and would like to encourage improvement in this effort by Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands). We also note and encourage the participation of Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands) in ICCAT meetings. However, it is critical for the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures that Faroese vessels abide by all ICCAT conservation and management measures.

The Commission is very concerned by the initiation of a fishery and the increases in harvests of Atlantic bluefin tuna by Faroese vessels, particularly in light of the severely over fished status of this species. For both the eastern and western Atlantic, ICCAT Contracting Parties have had to reduce harvests for conservation reasons. Moreover, for the western Atlantic stock, the Commission has recently adopted a strict 20-year rebuilding program. The Commission finds it unacceptable that, in the face of such measures, Faroese vessels are increasing their harvests and that Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands) is unwilling to cooperate fully with ICCAT by ensuring that such vessels abide by ICCAT conservation and management measures for bluefin tuna.

At its 2000 meeting, ICCAT seriously considered identifying Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands) pursuant to the Bluefin Tuna Action Plan. A number of ICCAT Contracting Parties endorsed identification, arguing that the actions of Faroese vessels are diminishing the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures for bluefin tuna. In the end, the Commission decided to postpone any identification action for one more year, in order to give Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands) the opportunity to reconsider its actions.

For your use and information, enclosed please find the relevant regulatory actions and other decisions of the Commission, including those pertaining to becoming a Cooperating Party, Entity, and Fishing Entity. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

5-2 Letter of Warning to Iceland on Atlantic Bluefin Tuna and Swordfish Harvests

In 1994, 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 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, and Fishing Entities with vessels fishing for Atlantic bluefin tuna. Under the terms of the action plan, ICCAT annually reviews information on fishing activities in the Convention area and identifies those Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities whose vessels are fishing in a manner which diminishes the effectiveness of the relevant conservation measures of the Commission. Consistent with the process, ICCAT requests any party 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. A similar action plan was established for swordfish in 1995.

Following the 1999 ICCAT meeting, the Commission sent a letter to the Government of Iceland requesting information on bluefin tuna harvests by Icelandic vessels. The letter noted that available data indicated that such vessels were harvesting eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna in excess of levels established by relevant ICCAT conservation and management measures for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Bluefin tuna. The letter sought clarification of this situation.

The Government of Iceland responded to this letter by noting the view that Iceland has a sovereign right to harvest all fish stocks that occur within Icelandic jurisdiction. A representative of Iceland attended the 2000 ICCAT meeting as an observer. Information available to the Commission, at its 2000 meeting, indicated that the Icelandic harvest of bluefin tuna in 1999 grew to 27 metric tons. The Icelandic representative stated that the harvest of bluefin tuna in 2000 would likely be similar to that of 1999, but final data for 2000 are not available.

The representative of Iceland maintained that coastal States of the Atlantic Ocean have the right to fish for bluefin tuna, whether or not such fishing is consistent with ICCAT rules. The representative also made clear that Iceland would neither join the Commission nor become a Cooperating Party, Entity or Fishing Entity under current circumstances.

The Commission recognizes that coastal States have sovereign rights and jurisdiction with respect to living marine resources within their EEZs. When those resources are highly migratory species, however, and when a regional fishery management organization such as ICCAT has been created to regulate those species, it is incumbent upon the coastal States to join the organization or, at a minimum, to apply the fishing rules adopted by the organization. If each coastal State of the Atlantic Ocean determined for itself how much bluefin tuna should be harvested within its respective EEZ, there could be no effective management of bluefin tuna.

While the Commission appreciates the efforts of Iceland to monitor the fishing activities of its vessels, to provide catch data, and to participate in ICCAT meetings, the Commission is very concerned by the initiation of a fishery and the increases in harvests of Atlantic bluefin tuna by Icelandic vessels, particularly in light of the severely over fished status of this species. For both the eastern and western Atlantic, ICCAT Contracting Parties have had to reduce harvests for conservation reasons. Moreover, for the western Atlantic stock, the Commission has recently adopted a strict 20-year rebuilding program. The Commission finds it unacceptable that, in the face of such measures, Icelandic vessels are increasing their harvests and that Iceland is unwilling to cooperate fully with ICCAT by ensuring that such vessels abide by ICCAT conservation and management measures for bluefin tuna.

At its 2000 meeting, ICCAT seriously considered identifying Iceland pursuant to the Bluefin Tuna Action Plan. A number of ICCAT Contracting Parties endorsed identification, arguing that the actions of Icelandic vessels are diminishing the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures for bluefin tuna. In the end, the Commission decided to postpone any identification action for one more year in order to give Iceland the opportunity to reconsider its actions.

Information considered by the Commission at its 2000 meeting also indicated that vessels of Iceland have been harvesting Atlantic swordfish. As these catches of Atlantic swordfish could be in excess of ICCAT conservation and management measures, the Commission is seeking clarification of the situation from your country.

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.

At its 2001 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 Plans.

For your use and information, enclosed please find the relevant regulatory actions and other decisions of the Commission, including those pertaining to becoming a Cooperating Party, Entity, and Fishing Entity. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

5-3 Letter of Warning to Malta Regarding Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Fishing

The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna (ICCAT) is the multilateral international body charged with coordinating research and management of tuna and tuna-like species in the Atlantic Ocean and adjacent seas.

At its 2000 annual meeting 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, and Fishing Entities with vessels fishing for Atlantic bluefin tuna. Under the terms of the action plan, ICCAT annually reviews information on fishing activities in the Convention area and identifies those Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities whose vessels are fishing in a manner which diminishes the effectiveness of the relevant conservation measures of the Commission. Consistent with the process, ICCAT requests any party 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 2000 meeting, the Commission reviewed all available information regarding the fishing activities of vessels of Malta and noted that information indicates that vessels of Malta are harvesting eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna. While the Commission appreciates Malta's effort to report its data and to participate in the collaboration between ICCAT and the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean, the catches of eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna reported by Malta are of concern to the Commission. We request the Government of Malta to advise what actions it will take to ensure that your vessels do not catch Atlantic bluefin tuna in contravention of ICCAT's conservation and management measures. At its 2001 annual meeting, the Commission will review such data and information and decide whether it should identify Malta under the aforementioned Action Plan.

Given your continued interest in harvesting species under the purview of ICCAT, the Commission strongly urges Malta to become a member of ICCAT or, at a minimum, to seek Cooperating Party, Entity or Fishing Entity status. Please find enclosed the Commissions regulatory and other measures, including those pertaining to bluefin tuna management and for seeking cooperating status. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

5-4 Letter of Warning to Turkey Regarding Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Fishing

The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna (ICCAT) is the multilateral international body charged with coordinating research and management of tuna and tuna-like species in the Atlantic Ocean and adjacent seas.

At its 2000 annual meeting 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, and Fishing Entities with vessels fishing for Atlantic bluefin tuna. Under the terms of the action plan, ICCAT annually reviews information on fishing activities in the Convention area and identifies those Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities whose vessels are fishing in a manner which diminishes the effectiveness of the relevant conservation measures of the Commission. Consistent with the process, ICCAT requests any party 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 2000 meeting, the Commission reviewed all available information regarding the fishing activities of vessels of Turkey and noted that information indicates that vessels of Turkey continue to harvest eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna. While the Commission appreciates Turkey's effort to revise and report its data and to participate in the Commission's work as an observer, the recent high catches of eastern Atlantic and

Mediterranean bluefin tuna reported by Turkey are of concern to the Commission. We request the Government of Turkey to advise what actions it will take to ensure that your vessels do not catch Atlantic bluefin tuna in contravention of ICCAT's conservation and management measures. At its 2001 annual meeting, the Commission will review such data and information and decide whether it should identify Turkey under the aforementioned Action Plan.

Given your continued interest in harvesting species under the purview of ICCAT, the Commission strongly urges Turkey to become a member of ICCAT or, at a minimum, to seek Cooperating Party, Entity or Fishing Entity status. Please find enclosed the Commissions regulatory and other measures, including those pertaining to bluefin tuna management and for seeking cooperating status. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

5-5 Letter Identifying Vanuatu as Having Vessels that are Diminishing the Effectiveness of ICCAT Atlantic Swordfish Conservation Measures

In 1995, International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (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 designed to seek cooperation with the conservation program of ICCAT by Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, and Fishing Entities with vessels fishing for Atlantic swordfish. Under the terms of the action plan, ICCAT annually reviews information on fishing activities in the Convention area and identifies those Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities whose vessels are fishing in a manner which diminishes the effectiveness of the relevant conservation measures of the Commission. Consistent with the process, ICCAT requests any party 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.

At its 2000 annual meeting, ICCAT reviewed catch, trade, and other information regarding the fishing activities of various Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities to identify vessels that may be engaged in fishing activities that diminish the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures. In 1998 and again in 1999, the Commission received evidence indicating that there was at least one vessel flying the flag of Vanuatu that appeared to be fishing for swordfish without regard to ICCAT conservation and management measures and no catch data was reported to ICCAT. The Commission also received evidence that other longline vessels flying the flag of Vanuatu had been fishing for swordfish in a manner inconsistent with ICCAT recommendations. Letters were sent to the Government of Vanuatu indicating the concerns of the Commission on January 25, 2000. The Commission was also concerned that Vanuatu had not taken steps to address concerns raised in 1999 regarding the fishing activities of Vanuatu vessels.

The Commission received no written response from the Government of Vanuatu to its 2000 communication. At the 2000 ICCAT annual meeting, a representative from Vanuatu did provide oral information regarding the intention of Vanuatu to address the Commission's concerns. While the Commission recognized and encouraged the steps being taken by Vanuatu, these were not considered sufficient to delay identification under the swordfish action plan. Consequently, at its 2000 meeting, the Commission identified Vanuatu, 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 that diminishes the effectiveness of the ICCAT swordfish conservation program. The Commission is hereby requesting the Government of Vanuatu 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 2001 annual meeting, ICCAT will review the situation of Vanuatu and consider any actions that 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, recommend that Contracting Parties take non-discriminatory trade restrictive measures, consistent with their international obligations, on Atlantic swordfish products in any form from Vanuatu.

The Commission would encourage Vanuatu to enact the measures presented at the 2000 ICCAT meeting, to monitor fishing activities, to provide catch data to the Commission, and to participate in ICCAT meetings if it intends to continue to fish in the ICCAT Convention area. The Commission would also encourage Vanuatu to join

ICCAT as a Contracting Party or, at a minimum, seek status as a Cooperating Party, Entity, or Fishing Entity. Enclosed are the relevant ICCAT provisions regarding seeking and maintaining such status as well as regulatory and other measures in effect at this time.

The Commission would be pleased to provide any further information or clarification on this issue, which your authorities may require.

5-6 Letter to Argentina Requesting Information on Atlantic Swordfish Catches

In 1995, International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (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 designed to seek cooperation with the conservation program of ICCAT by Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, and Fishing Entities with vessels fishing for Atlantic swordfish. Under the terms of the action plan, ICCAT annually reviews information on fishing activities in the Convention area and identifies those Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities whose vessels are fishing in a manner which diminishes the effectiveness of the relevant conservation measures of the Commission. Consistent with the process, ICCAT requests any party 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.

At its 2000 annual meeting, ICCAT reviewed catch, trade, and other information regarding the fishing activities of various Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities under its 1995 Swordfish Action Plan resolution to identify vessels that may be engaged in fishing activities that diminish the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures. Information indicated that vessels of Argentina harvested approximately 500 kilograms of Atlantic swordfish in 1999 although no catch data was reported. As these catches of Atlantic swordfish could be in excess of ICCAT conservation and management measures, the Commission is seeking clarification of the situation from your country.

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 interest of Argentina 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 2001 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.

5-7 Letter to Barbados Requesting Information on Atlantic Swordfish Catches

At its 2000 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 and January 1999 letters sent to you by the Commission, this 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 2000 meeting, the Commission once again reviewed all available information regarding the fishing activities of vessels of Barbados and noted that ICCAT has received no response from your government to its 2000 letter seeking additional information on the fishing activities of your country's vessels and that information indicated continued harvest of Atlantic swordfish by 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 urges 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 2001 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.

5-8 Letter to Grenada Requesting Information on Atlantic Swordfish Catches

In 1995, International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (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 designed to seek cooperation with the conservation program of ICCAT by Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, and Fishing Entities with vessels fishing for Atlantic swordfish. Under the terms of the action plan, ICCAT annually reviews information on fishing activities in the Convention area and identifies those Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities whose vessels are fishing in a manner which diminishes the effectiveness of the relevant conservation measures of the Commission. Consistent with the process, ICCAT requests any party 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.

At its 2000 annual meeting, ICCAT reviewed catch, trade, and other information regarding the fishing activities of various Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities under its 1995 Swordfish Action Plan resolution to identify vessels that may be engaged in fishing activities that diminish the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures. Information indicated that vessels of Grenada harvested Atlantic swordfish. As these catches of Atlantic swordfish could be in excess of ICCAT conservation and management measures, the Commission is seeking clarification of the situation from your country.

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 interest of Grenada 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 2001 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.

5-9 Letter to Liberia Requesting Information on Atlantic Swordfish Catches

In 1995, International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (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 designed to seek cooperation with the conservation program of ICCAT by Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, and Fishing Entities with vessels fishing for Atlantic swordfish. Under the terms of the action plan, ICCAT annually reviews information on fishing activities in the Convention area and identifies those Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities whose vessels are fishing in a manner which diminishes the effectiveness of the relevant conservation measures of the Commission. Consistent with the process,

ICCAT requests any party 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.

At its 2000 annual meeting, ICCAT reviewed catch, trade, and other information regarding the fishing activities of various Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities under its 1995 Swordfish Action Plan resolution to identify vessels that may be engaged in fishing activities that diminish the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures. Information indicated that vessels of Liberia harvested Atlantic swordfish in 1999 although no catch data was reported. As these catches of Atlantic swordfish could be in excess of ICCAT conservation and management measures, the Commission is seeking clarification of the situation from your country.

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 interest of Liberia 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 2001 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.

5-10 Letter to Mozambique Requesting Information on Atlantic Swordfish Catches

In 1995, International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (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 designed to seek cooperation with the conservation program of ICCAT by Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, and Fishing Entities with vessels fishing for Atlantic swordfish. Under the terms of the action plan, ICCAT annually reviews information on fishing activities in the Convention area and identifies those Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities whose vessels are fishing in a manner which diminishes the effectiveness of the relevant conservation measures of the Commission. Consistent with the process, ICCAT requests any party 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.

At its 2000 annual meeting, ICCAT reviewed catch, trade, and other information regarding the fishing activities of various Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities under its 1995 Swordfish Action Plan resolution to identify vessels that may be engaged in fishing activities that diminish the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures. Information indicated that vessels of Mozambique harvested Atlantic swordfish in 1999 although no catch data was reported. As these catches of Atlantic swordfish could be in excess of ICCAT conservation and management measures, the Commission is seeking clarification of the situation from your country.

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 interest of Mozambique 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 2001 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.

5-11 Letter to Netherlands Antilles Requesting Information on Atlantic Swordfish Catches

In 1995, International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (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 designed to seek cooperation with the conservation program of ICCAT by Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, and Fishing Entities with vessels fishing for Atlantic swordfish. Under the terms of the action plan, ICCAT annually reviews information on fishing activities in the Convention area and identifies those Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities whose vessels are fishing in a manner which diminishes the effectiveness of the relevant conservation measures of the Commission. Consistent with the process, ICCAT requests any party 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.

At its 2000 annual meeting, ICCAT reviewed catch, trade, and other information regarding the fishing activities of various Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities under its 1995 Swordfish Action Plan resolution to identify vessels that may be engaged in fishing activities that diminish the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures. Information indicated that vessels of the Netherlands Antilles harvested Atlantic swordfish in 1999 and 2000 although no catch data was reported. As these catches of Atlantic swordfish could be in excess of ICCAT conservation and management measures, the Commission is seeking clarification of the situation from your country.

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 Netherlands Antilles 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 2001 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.

5-12 Letter to Norway Requesting Information on Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Bluefin Tuna Catch Overages

At its 2000 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, and Fishing Entities with vessels fishing for Atlantic bluefin tuna. Under the terms of the action plan, ICCAT annually reviews information on fishing activities in the Convention area and identifies those Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities whose vessels are fishing in a manner which diminishes the effectiveness of the relevant conservation measures of the Commission. Consistent with the process, ICCAT requests any party 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 2000 meeting, the Commission reviewed all available information regarding the fishing activities of vessels of Norway and noted that catch and trade data indicate that vessels of Norway are harvesting eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna. The catches of bluefin tuna reported by Norway in 1999 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. It is critical for the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures that your vessels abide by all ICCAT conservation and management measures and that Norway monitor and report the catches made by its vessels of all species under the purview of ICCAT.

Enclosed are the current ICCAT Recommendations and Resolutions, including those that limit the catches of eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna. Given the apparent continued interest of Norway in the harvest of ICCAT species, the Commission requests that you become a Contracting Party, or apply for status as a Cooperating Party, Entity, or Fishing Entity. Also enclosed are the relevant ICCAT provisions relating to seeking and maintaining such status.

At its 2001 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.

5-13 Letter to Belize Regarding Non-compliance with ICCAT Conservation & Management Measures and Bigeye Tuna Trade Restrictions

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 *Resolution Concerning the Unreported and Unregulated Catches of Tunas by Large Scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area*, adopted in 1998, (the 1998 Resolution). 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.

Based on the information available to ICCAT at its 1999 meeting, ICCAT identified Belize pursuant to the 1998 Resolution. ICCAT duly notified the Government of Belize of this identification and its potential consequences in a letter from the Commission. In that letter, the Government of Belize was requested 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.

During its 2000 annual meeting, the Commission examined available information that indicated that large-scale longline vessels of your country continue to operate in the Convention Area in a manner that diminishes the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures. Available information also indicated that bigeye tuna is the primary species targeted by these vessels. In light of this information, ICCAT adopted a recommendation that will have the effect of requiring action by Contracting Parties that will result in a prohibition on the import of bigeye tuna and its products in any form from Belize upon entry into force of the recommendation on [date], unless objections are received from the Contracting Parties.

In addition, the Commission decided at its 2000 annual meeting to maintain previous recommendations requiring Contracting Parties to prohibit the import of Atlantic bluefin tuna and Atlantic swordfish and their products in any form from Belize.

The Commission continues to desire to collaborate with Belize, as with other Non-Contracting parties, to ensure:

a that binding requirements be established for fishing vessels of Belize requiring them to fish consistently with the ICCAT conservation and management measures; and

b that the Government of Belize report all catches of tuna and tuna-like species in the Atlantic Ocean and its adjacent seas by vessels under its flag to ICCAT.

Information received by ICCAT from Belize 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 fishing vessels meet the points in the about paragraph, and, thus, no longer diminish the effectiveness of the ICCAT 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 import of in bigeye tuna be lifted immediately.

For your information, I am enclosing herewith copies of ICCAT's 1998 Resolution, the 2000 Recommendation that called for the import prohibition on bigeye tuna from Belize, and other relevant recommendations and resolutions of the Commission. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

5-14 Letter to Cambodia Regarding Non-compliance with ICCAT Conservation & Management Measures and Bigeye Tuna Trade Restrictions

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 *Resolution Concerning the Unreported and Unregulated Catches of Tunas by Large Scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area*, adopted in 1998, (the 1998 Resolution). 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.

Based on the information available to ICCAT at its 1999 meeting, ICCAT identified Cambodia pursuant to the 1998 Resolution. ICCAT duly notified the Government of Cambodia of this identification and its potential consequences in a letter from the Commission. In that letter, the Government of Cambodia was requested 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.

During its 2000 annual meeting, the Commission examined available information that indicated that large-scale longline vessels of your country continue to operate in the Convention Area in a manner that diminishes the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures. Available information also indicated that bigeye tuna is the primary species targeted by these vessels. In light of this information, ICCAT adopted a recommendation that will have the effect of requiring action by Contracting Parties that will result in a prohibition on the import of bigeye tuna and its products thereof from Cambodia upon entry into force of the recommendation on [date], unless objections are received from the Contracting Parties.

The Commission continues to desire to collaborate with Cambodia, as with other Non-Contracting parties, to ensure:

a that binding requirements be established for fishing vessels of Cambodia requiring them to fish consistently with the ICCAT conservation and management measures; and

b that the Government of Cambodia report all catches of tuna and tuna-like species in the Atlantic Ocean and its adjacent seas by vessels under its flag to ICCAT.

Information received by ICCAT from Cambodia will be communicated to all Contracting Parties for a decision,

on the basis of documentary evidence, as quickly as possible that the activities of Cambodian fishing vessels meet the points in the paragraph above and thus no longer diminish the effectiveness of the ICCAT 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 bigeye tuna be lifted immediately.

For your information, I am enclosing herewith copies of the 1998 Resolution, the 2000 Recommendation that calls for the import prohibition on bigeye tuna from Cambodia, and other relevant recommendations and resolutions of the Commission Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

5-15 Letter to Honduras Regarding Non-compliance with ICCAT Conservation & Management Measures and Bigeye Tuna Trade Restrictions

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 *Resolution Concerning the Unreported and Unregulated Catches of Tunas by Large Scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area*, adopted in 1998 (the 1998 Resolution). 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.

Based on the information available to ICCAT at its 1999 meeting, ICCAT identified Honduras pursuant to the 1998 Resolution. ICCAT duly notified the Government of Honduras of this identification and its potential consequences in a letter from the Commission. In that letter, the Government of Honduras was requested 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.

During its 2000 annual meeting, the Commission examined available information that indicated that large-scale longline vessels of your country continue to operate in the Convention Area in a manner that diminishes the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures. Available information also indicated that bigeye tuna is the primary species targeted by these vessels. In light of this information, ICCAT adopted a recommendation that will have the effect of requiring action by Contracting Parties that will result in a prohibition on the import of bigeye tuna and its products in any form from Honduras.

In recognition that Honduras is taking some positive steps to address the concerns of ICCAT, the Commission decided to delay the effect of this import prohibition until January 1, 2002. The Commission will review the situation of Honduras at its November 2001 meeting to determine if the recommended trade restrictions on bigeye tuna should enter into force.

In addition, the Commission decided at its 2000 annual meeting to maintain its previous recommendations requiring Contracting Parties to prohibit the import of Atlantic bluefin tuna and Atlantic swordfish, and their products in any form from Honduras.

The Commission continues to desire to collaborate with Honduras, as with other Non-Contracting parties, to ensure:

a that binding requirements be established for fishing vessels of Honduras requiring them to fish consistently with the ICCAT conservation and management measures; and

b that the Government of Honduras report all catches of tuna and tuna-like species in the Atlantic Ocean and its adjacent seas by vessels under its flag to ICCAT.

For your information, I am enclosing herewith copies of the 1998 Resolution, the 2000 Recommendation that called for the import prohibition on bigeye tuna from Honduras, and other relevant recommendations and resolutions of the Commission. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

5-16 Letter to St. Vincent and the Grenadines Regarding Non-compliance with ICCAT Conservation & Management Measures and Bigeye Tuna Trade Restrictions

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 *Resolution Concerning the Unreported and Unregulated Catches of Tunas by Large Scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area*, adopted in 1998, (the 1998 Resolution). 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.

Based on the information available to ICCAT at its 1999 meeting, ICCAT identified St. Vincent and the Grenadines pursuant to the 1998 Resolution. ICCAT duly notified the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines of this identification and its potential consequences in a letter from the Commission. In that letter, the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines was requested 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.

During its 2000 annual meeting, the Commission examined available information that indicated that large-scale longline vessels of your country continue to operate in the Convention Area in a manner that diminishes the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures. Available information also indicated that bigeye tuna is the primary species targeted by these vessels. In light of this information, ICCAT adopted a recommendation that will have the effect of requiring action by Contracting Parties that will result in a prohibition on the import of bigeye tuna and its products in any form from St. Vincent and the Grenadines upon entry into force of the recommendation on [date], unless objections are received from the Contracting Parties.

The Commission continues to desire to collaborate with St. Vincent and the Grenadines, as with other Non-Contracting parties, to ensure:

a that binding requirements be established for fishing vessels of St. Vincent and the Grenadines requiring them to fish consistently with the ICCAT conservation and management measures; and

b that the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines report all catches of tuna and tuna-like species in the Atlantic Ocean and its adjacent seas by vessels under its flag to ICCAT.

Information received by ICCAT from St. Vincent and the Grenadines will be communicated to all Contracting Parties for a decision, on the basis of documentary evidence, as quickly as possible that the activities of fishing vessels of St. Vincent and the Grenadines meet the points in the paragraph above and thus no longer diminish the effectiveness of the ICCAT 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 bigeye tuna be lifted immediately.

For your information, I am enclosing herewith copies of the 1998 Resolution, the 2000 Recommendation that called for the import prohibition on bigeye tuna from St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and other relevant recommendations and resolutions of the Commission. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Appendix 6 to ANNEX 10

Statement by the Observer of Honduras Regarding Measures Taken to Comply with ICCAT Measures

I, the Director General of the Merchant Marine of Honduras, in my condition as an observer delegate to the 12th Special Meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), would like to transmit, to this important international forum, the following declaration:

1 The Maritime Administration which I direct received, for the first time, in June 2000, a complaint from the Commission concerning fishing vessels flying Honduran flags that were fishing tuna in contravention to the Convention.

2 Since that time, the Merchant Marine has proceeded to the immediate cancellation of all the international fishing vessels denounced by the Commission and this was notified to the Commission. I would like to point out that of the 101 vessels denounced only 61 were included in the Honduran Vessel Registry.

3 In order to strictly comply with the ICCAT Convention, even though Honduras is not yet a Party to it, the General Directorate of the Merchant Marine has taken the irrevocable decision of canceling or suspending all the international fishing vessels included in our registry.

Thus, up to the date of this statement, of a total of 269 vessels included in the Honduran fleet in the month of October this year, 228 vessels have been canceled and 41 have been suspended. Therefore, these 41 vessels have not violated the provisions of the ICCAT Convention.

4 The General Directorate of the Merchant Marine will maintain its registry closed to international fishing vessels while the pertinent authorities of Honduras take the measures towards compliance with the ICCAT Convention.

At any rate, the Merchant Marine makes a formal commitment at this meeting not to proceed to the registration of any international fishing vessels without first informing the competent body of the Commission and assuring that those vessels that are registered, if such were the case, comply with the ICCAT Convention.

5 For the reasons expressed herein, I respectfully request the Commission to reconsider the sanctions imposed against my country.

Copies of the resolutions referred to above that were adopted by the General Directorate of the Merchant Marine and the full list of all the vessels concerned have been provided to the Commission.

Appendix 7 to ANNEX 10

Information Presented by Japan on the Recent Activities of Large-scale Tuna Longline IUU Vessels Based on Japanese Trade Data

1 Background and fundamental facts

a Having analyzed the import data, Japan submitted to the 1999 ICCAT meeting the information and the "List of Vessels Believed to be Unregulated and Unreported Tuna Longline Vessels in 1999". Since the data were, however, collected from the importers on a voluntary basis, the list was not complete was missing a substantial number of IUU vessels, while probably covering a majority of those operating at sea. The list involves many double or even trip entries that derived from the very characteristics of IUU operations of quick vessel flag and name changes to evade international fishery conservation measures. In November, 1999, a mandatory reporting requirement was imposed on the Japanese importers on the names, fishing areas and other relevant data on the fishing vessels that caught tunas to be imported to Japan. Since then, the data have been compiled and were preliminarily analyzed for submission to the 2000 ICCAT meeting.

b The origins of the large-scale tuna longline IUU vessels are in essence two kinds: second hand vessels built in Japan, and the relatively new vessels built in Chinese Taipei to be IUU vessels from the beginning (as an exception several Korean-built vessels exist). In the early 1990s, Chinese Taipei reinforced the fishing licensing system for large-scale tuna longline vessels so that an increase of Chinese Taipei's licensed vessels became extremely difficult. Then Chinese Taipei's fishing business entities still desiring expansion increased the foreign flag vessels and brought about massive IUU fishing operations over a few years. This move is considered to have involved and been facilitated by the Japanese importers and other interests.

c From the end of the 1980s to the early 1990s, many second hand large-scale tuna longline vessels were exported from Japan. In 1994, Japan strengthened restriction over export of second hand fishing vessels and in 1998 banned the export of large-scale longline vessels. Based on Japanese records and tuna import data, the number of exported vessels that became IUU vessels is estimated to be about 130 in total.

d During the course of Japan-Chinese Taipei consultations, the number of Chinese Taipei-build IUU vessels turned out to be 106.

e Therefore, the numbers of licensed large-scale tuna longline vessels operating on the high seas of the world is estimated with certainty to have been as follows in the late 1990s:

Japan	532 (after 20% fleet reduction)
Korea	198 (approximately)
Chinese Taipei	600
IUU vessels	236 (approximately)

f On the other hand, the stock conditions of bigeye tuna, the main target species of large-scale tuna longline vessels, are fully or over-exploited in all the oceans of the world. That is why the relevant international organizations called for not only fleet reduction of licensed large-scale longline vessels but also the elimination of large-scale tuna longline IUU vessels. The concerned parties of Japan and Chinese Taipei repeatedly held consultations and reach an agreement on the programs of scrapping of the Japanese-built IUU vessels as well as re-registration of the Chinese Taipei-built IUU vessels to Chinese Taipei's registry without an increase in the current license number (600). The programs are in a stage of implementation. This effort was reported to and welcomed by the 1999 ICCAT meeting, and the Commission unanimously resolved to urge Japan and Chinese Taipei to implement these programs.

g However, in the recent two years, many of the owners of IUU vessels, most of whom are Chinese Taipei residents even though they have paper companies in the flag countries, have been trying to escape from the programs for elimination of IUU vessels by changing flags and name of vessels and owner companies or concluding charter contracts. The Japanese importing and other related companies are also reported to be involved in this move. Then the Japanese government domestically instructed those involved parties not to help IUU vessel owners. The following is believed to be the recent cases of this kind of move.

2 *Vessels registered to China (Country A) (Figure 1)*

a In the recent three years, the import of frozen tunas from China to Japan increased rapidly (**Figure 2**). According to the Japanese import data and the information collected by Chinese Taipei, a total of 52 vessels are registered to China. The 52 vessels consist of:

Second hand vessels built in Japan:	46 vessels (36 over 20 yrs. old, 7 between 15 and 20 yrs. old, and 3 others)
Chinese Taipei-built vessels:	2 vessels (3 yrs. old and 11 yrs. old)
Korean-built vessels:	2 vessels (10 yrs. old and 22 yrs. old)
Unknown:	2 vessels

b From January to August, 2000, 40 vessels of those 52 vessels exported frozen tunas to Japan. The years of registration to China of those 40 vessels are as follows: 3 vessels before 1997, 8 vessels in 1998, 23 vessels in 1999, and 6 vessels in 2000.

This registration rush occurred particularly in the recent two years when the Japanese and Chinese Taipei's program to eliminate IUU vessels were being materialized.

c According to Japanese export records, all the Japanese-built second hand vessels registered to China (46 vessels) turned out to have been exported in the early 1990s or before. There is no record of those vessels with either Korean or Chinese Taipei licenses after their export from Japan. Moreover, Chinese Taipei does not issue licenses to foreign-built vessels according to its laws. Thus, it is unquestionable that those exported Japanese-built vessels were engaged in IUU fishing operations until their registration to China. As a matter of fact, 19 vessels were confirmed to be vessels included in the IUU vessel list submitted to the Commission in 1999. The number of vessels confirmed in the list would increase as the current analysis advances.

d As for the vessels built in Korea and Chinese Taipei (4 vessels), Japan asked the relevant authorities to check whether they had operated with Korean or Chinese Taipei licenses and is currently waiting for the responses. It is, however, inconceivable that the Korean or Chinese Taipei's licenses vessels shifted their flags to China. Thus, it is almost certain that those four vessels were also engaged in IUU operations before their registration to China.

3 Vessels registered to the Philippines (Country B)

a In recent years, the import of frozen tunas from the Philippines to Japan also increased rapidly (1998: 3,115 MT; 1999: 8,797 MT; and 2000 (up to June): 4,927 MT.

In 2000, a total of 41 large-scale tuna longline vessels were registered to the Philippines. Japan held bi-lateral consultations with the Philippines. As a result, the Philippines removed 20 longline vessels from their registry by October, 2000. Currently, 21 large-scale tuna longline vessels are registered to the Philippines. Fifteen (15) of those 21 vessels are listed to participate in the Japanese and Chinese Taipei programs for the elimination of IUU vessels. The Philippines decided not to renew the bare boat charter or lease arrangements with those 15 vessels. Thus, the arrangements will be terminated by 2002. The 21 vessels currently registered in the Philippines consist of:

Second-hand vessels built in Japan:	3 vessels (two 20 yrs. old and one 21 yrs. old)
Chinese Taipei-built vessels:	15 vessels (three 2 yrs. old, nine 3 yrs. old, and three 14 yrs. old)
China-built vessels:	2 vessels (one 1-yr. old and one 2 yrs. old)
Unknown:	1 vessel

4 Vessels chartered by Brazil (Country C)

a In the recent three years, the import of frozen tunas from Brazil to Japan increased rapidly (1998: 18 MT; 1999: 12 MT; and 2000 (up to June): 1,269 MT.

A total of 23 vessels are chartered to Brazil. The flag countries of the 23 vessels are:

St. Vincent & the Grenadines	11 vessels
Equatorial Guinea	1 vessel
Chinese Taipei	8 vessels
Unknown	3 vessels

Sixteen (16) of these 23 vessels exported frozen tunas to Japan in 2000. These vessels were comprised as follows:

Second hand vessels built in Japan:	3 vessels (two 21 yrs. old and one 22 yrs. old)
Chinese Taipei-built vessels:	4 vessels (15, 12, 5 and 2 yrs. old)
Korean-built vessels	5 vessels (two 22 yrs. old, one 20 yrs. old, and two 17 yrs. old)
China-built vessels:	3 vessels (6 and 3 yrs. old, and one unknown)
Unknown:	1 vessel

The years when the charter by Brazil of those 16 vessels are (1998: 12 vessels; 1999: 3 vessels; unknown: 1 vessel).

This charter rush again occurred particularly in the recent two years when the Japanese and Chinese Taipei's programs for elimination of IUU vessels were materializing.

b In the Brazilian charter arrangement, vessels are not registered in the Brazilian registry but maintain their original registration. Thus, it becomes controversial which country, namely Brazil or the flag state, can claim the catch of the vessel as her catch. If the principle of flag state control is strictly applied, the catch of those chartered vessels should belong to the flag state, except for bare boat charter arrangements, where original registration is suspended while the chartering country issues a temporary registration. The nine vessels of St. Vincent are included in the "List of Longline Vessels Believed to be Engaged in Unregulated and Unreported Activities". Eight vessels registered in Chinese Taipei are dual licenses vessels of Chinese Taipei. But it is also controversial which authority has primary responsibility for the management of these vessels.

5 *Conclusion*

During the two years of 1998 and 1999, when the Japanese and Chinese Taipei's joint efforts to eliminate IUU longline vessels were being materialized, many IUU vessels are estimated to have shifted their registration to China and the Philippines so as to escape from those programs. For the same purpose, many IUU vessels concluded charter arrangements with Brazil. If the Commission really seeks elimination of the IUU longline vessels, it is essential to prevent member countries from allowing the registration of or charter arrangements with IUU vessels. Otherwise, IUU vessels will survive and the reduction of overall fishing effort of the large-scale longline vessels will not be achieved.

Although the desire of developing nations for fishery development should be respected, using IUU vessels is the worst alternative for this purpose. In view of the undesirable stock condition of tunas, the Commission should adopt the policy to reduce overall tuna longline fishing effort. If this policy prevails, the development of large-scale tuna longline fisheries of developing nations has to be sought through utilization of already licensed vessels, not IUU vessels. Both developed and developing countries should consider cooperative projects along this line within the framework of the Commission. An uncontrollable race of increasing numbers of longline vessels by accepting IUU vessels must be avoided at any cost.

At the same time, the Commission should promptly consider and review the issue of catch data associated with the charter arrangement. Management capability of flag states of large-scale longline fishing vessels is another important issue, but this is being dealt with in another paper.

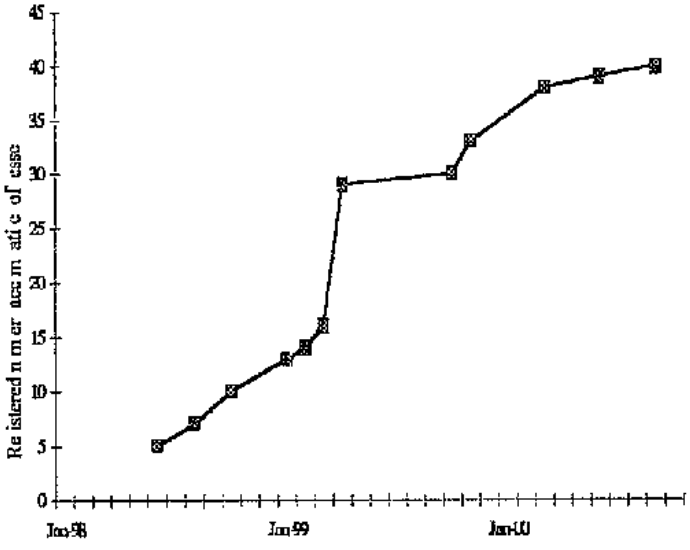


Fig. 1 Registered number of large-scale tuna longline vessels in China

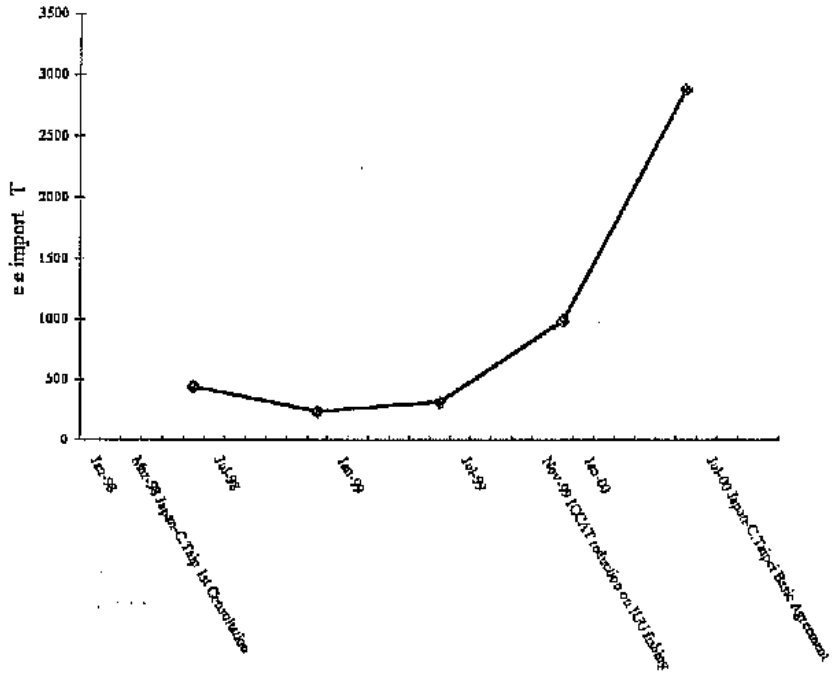


Fig. 2 Bigeye tuna imports to Japan from China

Appendix 8 to ANNEX 10

Progress Report Presented by Japan on the Japan-Chinese Taipei Joint Programs to Eliminate IUU Large-scale Tuna Longline Vessels in the World

1 Background

ICCAT adopted at its 1999 meeting a *"Resolution Calling for Further Actions against Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported Fishing Activities by Large-Scale Tuna Longline Vessels in the Convention Area and Other Areas"* (hereinafter referred to as "the 1999 Resolution". In paragraph 4 of the 1999 Resolution, ICCAT urges Japan and Chinese Taipei to continue and strengthen their effort to eliminate IUU large-scale tuna longline vessels.

2 Programs

2.1 Scrapping Program

a. A total of 62 Japan-built large-scale tuna longline vessels which have engaged in IUU fishing activities in the Convention Area and other areas will be scrapped by the end of 2002 according to the following schedule:

Year	*End of the date for scrapping*	*Number of vessels scrapped*
1	March 31, 2001	26
2	December 31, 2001	7
3	December 31, 2002	29

NOTE: 1 Since the remaining Japan-built IUU vessels may participate in this program at a later stage, the total number of vessels to be scrapped will increase during the three years.
2 The vessels to be scrapped during the first year shall terminate their fishing operations by December 31, 2000 and start cruising to scrap yards.

b Japanese and Chinese Taipei's relevant tuna fishermen have agreed to establish the "Organization for the Promotion of Responsible Tuna Fisheries (OPRTF)" (Tentative name) (hereinafter referred to as "the Organization") and to make long-term reimbursement by Japanese and Chinese Taipei's fishermen of the necessary costs for the implementation of the works of the Organization including scrapping program.

c The Japanese Government is in the process of providing financial support to the work of the Organization.

2.2 Re-registration Program to Chinese Taipei's registry

A total of 67 Chinese Taipei-built large-scale tuna longline vessels which have engaged in IUU fishing activities in the Convention Area and other areas will be re-registered to Chinese Taipei's registry in five years starting from 2000 without increasing the number of its licensed large-scale tuna longline vessels currently operating at sea (600 vessels).

2.3 The vessels participating in the above programs (1) and (2) will be controlled and managed as follows:

a Catch report
- The vessels to be scrapped shall report their catches to the Organization.
- The vessels to be re-registered to Chinese Taipei's registry shall report their catches to Chinese Taipei Government and the Organization.

b Monitoring
- Landing of all of their catches is monitored in Japan by the Organization through landing inspection data, since almost all of their catches come to the Japanese market.

c Control
- The vessels to be scrapped are required to abide by the conservation and management measures of regional tuna management organizations. In case the violation is identified, the Organization will cancel its scrapping contract and the catches of such vessel is subject to the sanction measures mentioned in paragraph 2 of the 1999 Resolution.
- The vessels to be re-registered to Chinese Taipei's registry will be under the guidance of the Chinese Taipei Government. In case the violation is identified, the catches of such vessel is subject to the sanction measures mentioned in paragraph 2 of the 1999 Resolution.

2.4 Non-participating longliners

The IUU tuna longline vessels which do not participate in the above programs (1) and (2) are subject to the sanction measures mentioned in paragraph 2 of the 1999 Resolution.

Establishment of the Organization for the Promotion of Responsible Tuna Fisheries (OPRTF)

Japanese and Chinese Taipei's fishermen have agreed to establish an organization to promote responsible tuna fishery by monitoring catches through trade data by eliminating IUU tuna longline vessels, and by disseminating information on tunas to markets and consumers.

- World tuna stocks are in a condition of full or over exploitation and the number of tuna longline vessels in the world is in the situation of over capacity.

- Japan has the largest and sole market for frozen tunas of sashimi quality caught by tuna longline vessels in the world and monitoring at Japanese landing ports is the most effective way to verify information on catches by tuna longline vessels. Feedback of the data to flag countries and regional tuna management organizations will contribute greatly to promotion of responsible tuna fishery.

- Japan has a responsibility as the market country to collect information on trade and respond to the requests by ICCAT and other regional tuna management organizations.

- There still exists a large number of Japanese and Chinese Taipei-built tuna longline vessels which have engaged in IUU fishing activities in the Convention Area and other areas under various flags including those

of ICCAT Contracting Parties. Their catches can be monitored effectively at Japanese market through trade.

- In order to achieve the goal of conservation and sustainable use of stocks of tuna and tuna-like species in the world, elimination of IUU tuna longline vessels is, as the initial step, essential with urgent necessity.

- In order to eliminate IUU tuna longline vessels, scrapping of the existing IUU vessels is the most direct and effective way.

1 Name of the Organization
ORGANIZATION FOR THE PROMOTION OF RESPONSIBLE TUNA FISHERIES (OPRTF) (tentative name)

2 Location
Tokyo, Japan

3 Members
Fishermen and market related organizations will be the major members.

4 Major Business
- To monitor tuna trade and tuna markets in Japan
- To obtain and maintain a list of licensed tuna fishing vessels which conduct fishing operations according to the conservation and management measures of regional tuna management organizations.
- To provide information on tuna products of the listed vessels to Japanese consumers.
- Exchange information with the relevant flag countries and regional tuna management organizations.
- To reduce tuna longline fishing effort by e.g. scraping of IUU tuna longline vessels built in Japan and owned by the Chinese Taipei's business entities.

5 Date of Establishment
To be decided later.

Appendix 9 to ANNEX 10

Report Presented by Chinese Taipei on Dealing with Unreported and Unregulated Fishing by Flag of Convenience Vessels

1 Background

It was noted in the *Resolution Calling for Further Actions Against Illegal, Unregulated, and Unreported Fishing Activities by Large Scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area and Other Areas* (Rec. 99-11), adopted by ICCAT at its 16th Regular Meeting, apart from praising Chinese Taipei's effort to establish a proper scheme to allow the registration of ChineseTaipei-built vessels which have engaged in illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing activities, the Commission also urged 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. In ICCAT's letter of January 25, 2000 to the Council of Agriculture confirming renewal of the Cooperating Status, Chinese Taipei was requested to strengthen its 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, and produce a report on such activities at the 2000 annual meeting of ICCAT. As such, we hereby provide a list of vessels which, to our best knowledge, are believed to have been involved in such fishing activities. In addition, we are describing below some of the actions taken.

2 List of FOC Vessels

This list of FOC vessels is prepared from information sources that to our best knowledge are believed to be reliable at time of inquiry. The list shows that there are about 275 FOC tuna longline vessels operating in the major oceans of the world, of which 106 vessels are believed to be fishing in the Atlantic Ocean, 56 in the Pacific Ocean, 98 in the Indian Ocean, and others remain unidentified (**Attachment 1**). For those operated in the Atlantic Ocean, 83 of them were targeting for bigeye, 3 for albacore, and the remaining were unclear, perhaps a mixture of the two

(**Attachment 2**). Frequent changes of flag among these 275 FOC vessels were observed over the past years, with 74 vessels changed flags, notably 30 vessels reflagged to PRC, 22 to Belize, 15 to Equatorial Guinea, 1 to the Philippines, and 1 to Seychelles (**Attachment 3**).

3 Establishment of mechanism for incorporation of Taiwan-built FOC vessels under Taiwan registration

As a responsible member of the international fishery community, we're willing to cooperate with all other members to ensure fair commercial activities and sustainable utilization of tuna resources. As such, with an effort of deterring unreported and unregulated fishing activities, appropriate actions have been taken to allow those Taiwan-built FOC vessels to acquire Taiwan registration. The ongoing actions taken to-date are as follows.

3.1 Announcement for filing of application for vessel registration

The government officially announced on January 28, 2000 the "Procedure for the Importation of non-Taiwan registered longline fishing vessels over 100 gross tonnage which was built in Taiwan and operated by Taiwanese citizens" allowing those FOC vessels exported (launched) before January 28, 2000 to apply for registration within one month. As of the deadline of February 29, 2000, 68 FOC vessels filed applications for registration, of which 67 were qualified for such registration. The names of these 67 vessels pending registration are shown in the Name List of Taiwan-built FOC Vessels Applying for Taiwan Registration as attached (**Attachment 4**). Reportedly fifteen out of the sixty-seven vessels have conducted fishing activities in the Atlantic Ocean. More Taiwan-built FOC vessels may apply for Taiwan registry in the future.

3.2 Completion of legislative requirements

In line with the fisheries policy, the fisheries laws and regulations were designed to prohibit importation of fishing vessels of any type. They were amended and publicly announced for implementation on October 18, 2000, making rooms for the Taiwan-built FOC vessels to acquire Taiwan registration. However, the process for the amendment was not easy, taking account of social justice and fairness in different fisheries. Through lengthy consultations and compromises with industrial leaders, scholars, various levels of government agencies, and legislators, amendments of the fisheries laws and regulations were finally achieved, creating a mechanism for registration of FOC vessels. The amendments have significant impacts on the implementation of our fisheries policy, notably (1) demolishment of the well-designed policy of vessel replacement after decommission and building restriction of vessels, which was implemented since the 1970's; and (2) Provision of more favorable terms for FOC vessels to acquire registration than domestically licensed vessels which in the view of some industrial leaders considered as unfair.

3.3 Compilation of FOC catch statistics

In April 2000, the said 67 vessels applying for registration in Taiwan, were requested to submit catch-effort reports and other necessary fisheries data from the day of their launching, with the same format as our domestic fishing vessels do.

4 Efforts to facilitate Japan's FOC vessel scrapping program

Japan and Chinese Taipei have been working together to facilitate the actions called by the international community to deal with the problem of unreported and unregulated fishing by FOC vessels. Through bilateral consultations, Japan has committed itself to buy back and scrap Japan-built second-hand FOC vessels which were estimated to be around 130 vessels.

4.1 Assisting Japan in consulting with FOC vessel owners

Through our arrangements at Japan's request, Japanese delegates have consulted with the Japan-built second-hand FOC vessel owners for nine rounds in Chinese Taipei. There was common understanding that reducing FOC vessels built in Japan would be the most effective way to deter illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities, and special attention should given to this respect. Japan proposed to establish a domestic NGO tentatively named as "Organization for the Promotion of Responsible Tuna Fishing" for the purpose of conserving tuna stocks and facilitating the scrapping program. To-date, 65 vessels have enrolled for scrapping under Japan's scrapping program (**Attachment 5**).

4.2 Financial support to Japan's scrapping program

To assist Japan in achieving the goal of its scrapping program, at the request of Japan, a contribution of 1 Yen per kilo on sales of tuna at the Japanese market, was committed by owners of legitimate tuna longliners under Chinese Taipei registration. Those vessels acquiring Chinese-Taipei registration and those seeking scrapping were expected to contribute more, presently in the course of negotiation (reportedly ranging from 2 Yen to 3 Yen per kilo). Priority will be placed on the implementation of the Japanese scrapping program for FOC vessels built in Japan. The program will take three years to complete.

5 Impacts from Chinese Taipei's reflagging program and Japan's scrapping program

ICCAT's recommendation on bigeye tuna conservation measures for fishing vessels larger than 24 meters length overall (LOA), provides room for those Contracting Parties or Cooperating non-contracting parties, entities or fishing entities that catch annually less than 2,000 MT of bigeye on an average of the past five years, to expand their fishing on bigeye tuna, without limitation of fishing vessels. Consequently, there were attempts from some coastal States or new developing fishing States to attract FOC vessels which have carried out unregulated and unreported fishing, to fly their flags, making use of the uncontrolled catch of 2000 MT of bigeye. This will inevitably undermine the effectiveness of our reflagging program and Japan's scrapping program since some of these FOC vessels would prefer to seek reflagging at such States rather than joining Chinese Taipei's or Japan's programs. As mentioned in our statement last year, combating IUU fishing activities required concerted efforts from every member of the international community. Our joint efforts will not be successful unless there will be complementary measures from RFMO such as ICCAT. These could include:

5.1 Effective implementation of fleet registration requirement

Effective control of the fishing capacity by application of fleet registration even to those catching less than 2,000 MT of bigeye, will leave little chance for the unreported and unregulated fishing activities of FOC vessels to be legalized through reflagging to Contracting Parties.

5.2 Effective implementation of trade measures

As indicated in the "Draft IPOA for eliminating IUU fishing", one of the effective ways to deter IUU fishing activities is through implementation of trade measures. The ICCAT Resolution Calling for Further Actions against IUU Fishing Activities urges importers to refrain from engaging in transactions and transshipment of tunas and tuna-like species caught by vessels carrying out IUU fishing activities in the Convention Area and other areas. How to intensify the implementation of this resolution is something that needs to be considered.

List of FOC vessels that operated in the major oceans

No	*Flag State*	*Previous Flag State*	*Name of Vessel (English)*	*Name of Vessel (Chinese)*	*Place of Built*	*Fishing Area*	*Target Species*
1	Belize	Belize	Lung Soon No 22	隆順22	Japan	Indian	Bigeye
2	Belize	Belize	Jain Yung No 202	譖永202	Taiwan	Indian	Bigeye
3	Belize	Belize	Yu Hsiang No 7	裕祥7	Japan	Atlantic	Bigeye
4	Belize	Belize	Fu Yuan No 66	富元66	Taiwan	Pacific	Bigeye
5	Belize	Belize, E. Guinea	Shinn Mann No21	信滿21	Taiwan	Pacific	Albacore
6	Belize	Belize, E. Guinea	Shinn Mann No 11	信滿11	Taiwan	Pacific	Albacore
7	Belize	Belize, Philippines	Fong Kuo No 6	豐國6	Taiwan	Pacific	Albacore
8	Belize	Belize,E. Guinea, Honduras	Jeffery No 816	傑佛利816	Japan	Indian	Bigeye
9	Belize	Belize,E. Guinea	Jeffery No 618	傑佛利618	Japan	Indian	Bigeye
10	Belize	E. Guinea	Jeffery No 328	傑佛利328	Japan	Indian	Bigeye
11	Belize	E. Guinea	Sung Hui	松暉	Taiwan	Indian	Bigeye
12	Belize	E. Guinea	Ping Yuan No 201	屏源201	Taiwan	Indian	Bigeye
13	Belize	E. Guinea	Ping Shin No 201	屏新201	Taiwan	Indian	Bigeye
14	Belize	E. Guinea	Kao Feng No 1	高豐1	Taiwan	Indian	Bigeye
15	Belize	E. Guinea	Shye Sin No 1	協信1	Taiwan	Indian	Bigeye
16	Belize	E. Guinea	Fu Yuan No 3	富元3	Japan	Indian	Bigeye
17	Belize	E. Guinea	Fu Yuan No 11	富元11	Japan	Indian	Bigeye
18	Belize	E. Guinea, Belize	Jeffery No 168	傑佛利168	Taiwan	Atlantic	Bigeye
19	Belize	E. Guinea, Honduras	Jeffery No 131	傑佛利131	Japan	Atlantic	Bigeye
20	Belize	Ghana	Hsiang Chang No 101	翔強101		Atlantic	Bigeye
21	Belize	Honduras	Johnny No 137		Japan	Atlantic	
22	Belize	Honduras	Nine Lucky No 1	九福一	Taiwan	Pacific	Albacore
23	Belize	Honduras	Jiyh Horng No 201	錦弘201	Taiwan	Pacific	Albacore
24	Belize	Honduras	Jui Ying No 666	瑞盈666	Taiwan	Pacific	Albacore
25	Belize	Honduras	Chun Ying No 777	春盈777	Taiwan	Pacific	Albacore
26	Belize	Honduras	Chun Ying No 212	春盈212	Taiwan	Pacific	Albacore
27	Belize	Honduras	Hsien Hua NO.107	憲樺107	Taiwan	Pacific	Bigeye
28	Belize	Honduras	Hsien Hua NO.106	憲樺106	Taiwan	Pacific	Bigeye
29	Belize	Honduras	Chang Jaan No 1	長展一	Taiwan	Pacific	Albacore
30	Belize	Honduras	Fong Ya No 11	豐亞11	Taiwan	Pacific	Bigeye
31	Belize	Honduras	Chun I No 316	春億316	Taiwan	Pacific	Albacore
32	Belize	Honduras	Hsien Yung No 636	協永636	Taiwan	Pacific	Bigeye
33	Belize	Honduras	Zhong Xin No 16	中信16	Japan	Pacific	Albacore
34	Belize	Honduras	Shin Kai No 6	新凱6	Taiwan	Pacific	Bigeye
35	Belize	Honduras	Chun I No 307	春億307	Taiwan	Pacific	Albacore
36	Belize	Honduras,Philippines	Lien Horng No 777	連鴻777	Taiwan	Pacific	Albacore
37	Belize	Honduras,Philippines, Singpore	Shuenn Man No 666	順滿666	Taiwan	Pacific	Albacore
38	Belize	Indonesia	Fu Yuan No 36	富元36	Taiwan	Pacific	Bigeye
39	Belize	Kenya	Fu Yuan No 31	富元31	Taiwan	Pacific	Bigeye
40	Belize	Philippines	Fong Kuo No 36	豐國36	Taiwan	Pacific	Albacore
41	Belize	Philippines	Fong Kuo No 33	豐國33	Taiwan	Pacific	Albacore
42	Belize	Philippines	Fong Kuo No 3	豐國3	Taiwan	Pacific	Albacore
43	Belize	Philippines	Fong Kuo No 16	豐國16	Taiwan	Pacific	Albacore
44	Belize	Philippines	Nine Lucky No 6	九福六	Taiwan	Pacific	Albacore
45	Belize	Philippines	Shinn Man No 666	信滿666		Pacific	
46	Belize	Philippines	Jeffrey No 168	傑佛利168	Taiwan	Indian	Bigeye

No	Flag State	Previous Flag State	Name of Vessel (English)	Name of Vessel (Chinese)	Place of Built	Fishing Area	Target Species
47	Belize	Philippines	Hsiang Fa No 26	翔發26	Taiwan	Indian	Bigeye
48	Belize	Philippines	Hsiang Fa No 18	翔發18	Taiwan	Indian	Bigeye
49	Belize	Philippines	Chun Ying No 636	春盈636	Taiwan	Indian	Bigeye
50	Belize	Philippines	Chien Chang No 136	建昶136	Japan	Indian	Bigeye
51	Belize	Philippines	Victory No 8			Indian	Bigeye
52	Belize	Philippines	Hung Chia No 202	鴻嘉202	Taiwan	Indian	Bigeye
53	Belize	Philippines	Chen Fa No1	鎮發1	Taiwan	Indian	Bigeye
54	Belize	Philippines	Heng Fa No 18			Indian	
55	Belize	Philippines	101	盈智祥101	Taiwan	Indian	Bigeye
56	Belize	Philippines	YI CHUN No.232	億群232		Indian	Bigeye
57	Belize	Singpore	Meng Fu No.368	盟發368	Taiwan	Indian	Bigeye
58	Belize	Singpore	Dong Yih No1	東億1	Taiwan	Indian	Bigeye
59	Belize	ST.Vincent	Ming Shun No 3	明順3	Taiwan	Indian	Bigeye
60	Belize	ST.Vincent	Si Horng No 128	西鴻128	Taiwan	Indian	Bigeye
61	Belize	ST.Vincent	Si Tai No 326	西泰326	Taiwan	Indian	Bigeye
62	Belize	ST.Vincent	Win Far No828	穩發828	Taiwan	Indian	Bigeye
63	Belize	ST.Vincent	Win Far No878	穩發878	Taiwan	Indian	Bigeye
64	Belize	ST.Vincent	Win Far No868	穩發868	Taiwan	Indian	Bigeye
65	Belize	ST.Vincent	Shang Yun	上源	Japan	Indian	
66	Belize	Trinidad -Tobago	Chien Chang No 126	建昶126	Japan	Atlantic & Indian	Bigeye
67	Belize		Victory No 88			Atlantic & Indian	Bigeye
68	Belize		Wen Sheng No 16	穩盛16		Atlantic & Indian	Bigeye
69	Belize		Jacky No 11	傑克11	Japan	Atlantic	Bigeye
70	Belize		Bob No 227	波補227	Japan	Atlantic	Bigeye
71	Belize		Peter No 617	彼德617	Japan	Atlantic	Bigeye
72	Belize		Lien Tai	聯太	Japan	Atlantic	Bigeye
73	Belize		Hung Ching No 212	鴻慶212	Taiwan	Atlantic	Bigeye
74	Belize		Hwa Chin No 202	華釁212	Taiwan	Atlantic	Albacore
75	Belize		Hua Ching No202	華璟202	Taiwan	Atlantic	Albacore
76	Belize		Shun Yu	順裕	Taiwan	Atlantic	Bigeye
77	Belize		Chien Chun No 8	建群8	Taiwan	Atlantic	Bigeye
78	Belize		Fwu Ji	福積	Japan	Atlantic	Bigeye
79	Belize		Chien Chin No 602	建中602	Taiwan	Atlantic	Bigeye
80	Belize		Dai Ho	大和	Taiwan	Atlantic	Bigeye
81	Belize		Long Chang No 3	隆昌3	Taiwan	Atlantic	Bigeye
82	Belize		Shine Year	上裕	Japan	Atlantic	Bigeye
83	Belize		Chi Yang	吉洋	Japan	Atlantic	Bigeye
84	Belize		Chen Fa No 888	振發888	Taiwan	Atlantic	Bigeye
85	Belize		Chen Fa No 88	振發88	Taiwan	Atlantic	Bigeye
86	Belize		Chen Fa No 736	振發736	Japan	Atlantic	Bigeye
87	Belize		Shun Mei	順美		Atlantic	
88	Belize		Chin I Wen	金億穩		Atlantic	
89	Belize		Hau Shen No 202	豪勝202	Japan	Atlantic	Bigeye
90	Belize		Chen Fa No 726	振發726	Japan		Bigeye
91	Belize		Hsiang Sheng				
92	Cambodia		Benny No 78			Atlantic	Bigeye
93	Cambodia		Benny No 87			Atlantic	Bigeye
94	Cambodia		Fwu Ji No 1	福積1	Japan	Atlantic	Bigeye
95	China			順友	Japan	Atlantic	Bigeye

No	Flag State	Previous Flag State	Name of Vessel (English)	Name of Vessel (Chinese)	Place of Built	Fishing Area	Target Species
96	China			順凱	Japan	Atlantic	Bigeye
97	China		Shun Kuo	順國	Japan	Atlantic	Bigeye
98	China		Shun Lien	順聯	Japan	Atlantic	
99	China		Tian Xiang 7(Jeffery No 28)	天祥7	Japan	Atlantic	Bigeye
100	China		Chin Cheng Ming	金誠鳴	Japan	Atlantic	Bigeye
101	China		Shun Ying	順盈	Japan	Atlantic	
102	China			金集鴻	Japan	Atlantic	Bigeye
103	China			遠金輪103	Japan	Atlantic	
104	China			昇洋	Japan		
105	China		Lung Theng	龍勝	Japan		Bigeye
106	China		Shing Yang	幸洋	Japan	Atlantic	Bigeye
107	China		Fu Yuan Yu2(Yi Shun No 3)	福遠漁2(翊順3)	Japan	Atlantic	
108	China		Fu Yuan Yu 003(Shun Horng)	福遠漁3	Japan	Atlantic	
109	China		Fu Yuan Yu004(Chin Chin Ming)	福遠漁4	Japan	Atlantic	Bigeye
110	China		Tai)	福遠漁5	Japan	Atlantic	
111	China		Fu Yuan Yu009(Chin Yuan Horng)	福遠漁9	Japan	Atlantic	Bigeye
112	China		Tian Xiang 137	天祥137	Japan		Bigeye
113	China		Tian Xiang 16	天祥16	Japan		Bigeye
114	China		Tian Xiang 18	天祥18	Taiwan		Bigeye
115	China		Tian Xiang 328	天祥328	Japan		Bigeye
116	China		Tian Xiang8	天祥8	Taiwan		Bigeye
117	China			新世紀10	Japan	Atlantic	Bigeye
118	China		Yi Shun No 1	翊順1	Japan	Atlantic	Bigeye
119	China		Fu Yuan Yu 1	福遠漁1	Japan		
120	China		Fu Yuan Yu10	福遠漁10	Japan		
121	China		Fu Yuan Yu6	福遠漁6	Japan		
122	China		Fu Yuan Yu7	福遠漁7	Japan		
123	China		Fu Yuan Yu8	福遠漁8	Japan		
124	China		Rinjani		Japan		
125	E. Guinea		Chin You Ming	金友鳴	Japan	Atlantic	Bigeye
126	E. Guinea		Dong Yih No 688	東億688	Taiwan	Indian	Bigeye
127	E. Guinea		Hsin Hua No 103	信華103	Taiwan	Indian	Bigeye
128	E. Guinea		Wei Ching	威慶	Taiwan	Atlantic	Albacore
129	E. Guinea		Chen Chieh No 736	振傑736	Japan	Atlantic	Bigeye
130	E. Guinea		Yih Shuen No 212	億順212	Taiwan	Indian	Bigeye
131	E. Guinea		Jin Chen Horng	金成鴻	Japan	Indian	Bigeye
132	E. Guinea		Yi Hsin No 101	益新101	Japan	Atlantic	Bigeye
133	E. Guinea		Hsiang Pao No.601	翔寶601		Atlantic	Bigeye
134	E. Guinea		Hsiang Jang No 66	翔貴66	Japan	Atlantic	
135	E. Guinea		Hsiang Jang No 22	翔貴22	Japan	Atlantic	Bigeye
136	E. Guinea		Hsiang Jang No 112	翔貴112	Korea	Atlantic	Bigeye
137	E. Guinea		Hsiang Jang No 111	翔貴111	Korea	Atlantic	Bigeye
138	E. Guinea		Hsiang Jang No 11	翔貴11	Japan	Atlantic	Bigeye
139	E. Guinea		Viking No 1		Japan		Bigeye
140	E. Guinea		Shang Shun No 622	興順622	Taiwan	Pacific	Bigeye
141	E. Guinea		Lung Soon No 282	隆順282	Taiwan	Pacific	Bigeye

No	Flag State	Previous Flag State	Name of Vessel (English)	Name of Vessel (Chinese)	Place of Built	Fishing Area	Target Species
142	E. Guinea		Lung Soon No 212	隆順212	Taiwan	Pacific	Bigeye
143	E. Guinea		Hai Ming No 1	海銘1	Japan	Pacific	Bigeye
144	E. Guinea		Ever Rich	豪強	Japan	Pacific	Bigeye
145	E. Guinea		Zhong I No 85	中義85	Japan	Pacific	Albacore
146	E. Guinea		Zhong I No 83	中義83	Japan	Pacific	Albacore
147	E. Guinea		Zhong I No 63	中義63	Japan	Pacific	Albacore
148	E. Guinea		Zhong I No 1	中義1	Japan	Pacific	Albacore
149	E. Guinea		Zhong I No 73	中義73	Japan	Pacific	Albacore
150	E. Guinea		Lung Soon No 662	隆順662	Japan	Indian	Bigeye
151	E. Guinea		Hwa Mao No 202	華懋202	Taiwan	Indian	Bigeye
152	E. Guinea		Hung Yu No 212	鴻祐212	Taiwan	Indian	Bigeye
153	E. Guinea		Hung Yu No 606	鴻有606	Korea	Indian	Bigeye
154	E. Guinea		Chen Chiang No1	鎮強1	Taiwan	Indian	Bigeye
155	E. Guinea		Chi Man	啟滿	Japan	Indian	Bigeye
156	E. Guinea		Chen Chieh No 8	振傑8		Indian	Bigeye
157	E. Guinea		Jiyn Horng No 116	錦鴻116	Korea	Indian	Bigeye
158	E. Guinea		Chen Chieh No 726	振傑726	Japan	Atlantic & Indian	Bigeye
159	E. Guinea		Cho Yu No 68	長友68	Japan	Atlantic	
160	E. Guinea		Chia Ying No 6	嘉盈6	Taiwan	Atlantic	Bigeye
161	E. Guinea		Jiyn Horng	錦鴻		Atlantic	Bigeye
162	E. Guinea		Chang Yow No 212	昌祐212	Japan	Atlantic	Bigeye
163	E. Guinea		Kuang Horng	光鴻	Japan	Atlantic	Bigeye
164	E. Guinea		I Man Hung No. 166	億滿鴻166	Taiwan	Atlantic	Bigeye
165	E. Guinea		Hai Zean No 3	海仁3	Japan	Atlantic	Bigeye
166	E. Guinea		Hai Zean No 11	海仁11	Taiwan	Atlantic	Bigeye
167	E. Guinea		Hai Zean No 31	海仁31	Taiwan	Atlantic	Bigeye
168	E. Guinea		Wen Cheng No 202	穩盛202		Atlantic	
169	E. Guinea		Chin No 18	金泉興18	Japan		Bigeye
170	E. Guinea		Chen Chieh No 725	振傑725			Bigeye
171	Honduras		Pesquera No 68		Japan	Atlantic	Bigeye
172	Honduras		Fortuna No 1	和春1	Taiwan	Pacific	Albacore
173	Honduras		Hsiang Chang No 606	翔強606	Japan	Atlantic	Bigeye
174	Honduras		Hsing Shun No 66	興順66	Japan	Indian	Bigeye
175	Honduras		Tung Zhan No 6	東展6	Japan	Pacific	Bigeye
176	Honduras		Sheng Pao No 7	聖寶7	Japan	Pacific	Albacore
177	Honduras		Sheng Pao No 21	聖寶21	Japan	Pacific	Albacore
178	Honduras		Dae Sung No 16	大聖16	Korea	Pacific	Bigeye
179	Honduras		Ta Yu No 11	大祐11	Korea	Pacific	Albacore
180	Honduras		Fortuna No 22	和春22	Taiwan	Pacific	Albacore
181	Honduras		Fortuna No 21	和春21	Taiwan	Pacific	Albacore
182	Honduras		Fortuna No 2	和春2	Taiwan	Pacific	Albacore
183	Honduras		Fortuna No 12	和春12	Taiwan	Pacific	Albacore
184	Honduras		Fortuna No 11	和春11	Taiwan	Pacific	Albacore
185	Honduras		Shang Shun No 166	興順166	Japan	Indian	Bigeye
186	Honduras		Lung Soon No 126	隆順126		Indian	Bigeye
187	Honduras		Lung Soon No 122	隆順122	Japan	Indian	Bigeye
188	Honduras		Fu An No 6	富安6	Japan	Indian	Bigeye
189	Honduras		Hsin I Chang No 326	信宜昌326	Japan	Indian	Bigeye
190	Honduras		Zhong Xin No 1	中信1	Japan	Indian	Bigeye

No	Flag State	Previous Flag State	Name of Vessel (English)	Name of Vessel (Chinese)	Place of Built	Fishing Area	Target Species
191	Honduras		Shue Yung No 366		Japan	Indian	
192	Honduras		Eden No 18		Japan	Indian	
193	Honduras		Jain Lih No 202	讚立202	Japan	Indian	Bigeye
194	Honduras		Ryh Chun No 21	日春21	Japan	Indian	Bigeye
195	Honduras		Ryh Chun No 1	日春1	Japan	Indian	Bigeye
196	Honduras		Fwu Huan	福環	Japan	Indian	Bigeye
197	Honduras		Fu Huan	富環	Japan	Indian	Bigeye
198	Honduras		Ho Man	合滿	Japan	Indian	Bigeye
199	Honduras		Her Hsiang	合祥	Japan	Indian	Bigeye
200	Honduras		Her Man	合滿		Indian	Bigeye
201	Honduras		Chi Fuw No 6	啟福6	Japan	Indian	Bigeye
202	Honduras		Chi Hung No 121	啟宏121	Japan	Indian	Bigeye
203	Honduras		Hsien Yung No 366	協永366	Japan	Indian	Bigeye
204	Honduras		Zhong Xin No 26	中信26	Japan	Indian	Bigeye
205	Honduras		Ying Chin Hsiang No 66	盈智祥66	Japan	Indian	Bigeye
206	Honduras		Meng Li No 301	盟立301	Japan	Indian	Bigeye
207	Honduras		Meng Li No 101	盟立101	Japan	Indian	Bigeye
208	Honduras		Meng Li No 201	盟立201	Japan	Indian	Bigeye
209	Honduras		Hua Chung No 808	華成808	Japan	Indian	Bigeye
210	Honduras		Hua Chung No 707	華成707	Japan	Indian	Bigeye
211	Honduras		Chi Fuw No 16	啟福16	Japan	Indian	Bigeye
212	Honduras		Yi Feng	壹豐	Japan	Indian	Bigeye
213	Honduras		Woen Chang No.66	穩昶66	Japan	Indian	Bigeye
214	Honduras		Wen Chang No 66	穩強66		Indian	Bigeye
215	Honduras		Haw Hua	豪華	Japan	Indian	Bigeye
216	Honduras		Win Far No 266	穩發266	Japan	Indian	Bigeye
217	Honduras		Win Far No 236	穩發236	Japan	Indian	Bigeye
218	Honduras		Chang Sheng No 1	昌陞1	Japan	Indian	Bigeye
219	Honduras		Chun Fa	春發	Taiwan	Indian	Bigeye
220	Honduras		Cho Yu No 3	長友3		Atlantic & Indian	
221	Honduras		Hung Shun No 67	鴻順67		Atlantic & Indian	Bigeye
222	Honduras		Hong Shun No 66	鴻順66	Japan	Atlantic	Bigeye
223	Honduras		Flair No 3	福萊爾3	Japan	Atlantic	Bigeye
224	Honduras		Chien Chang No 66	建昶66	Japan	Atlantic	Bigeye
225	Honduras		Ji Chin No 2	吉晉二	Japan	Atlantic	Bigeye
226	Honduras		Jiyh Horng No 106	錦鴻106		Atlantic	Bigeye
227	Honduras		Ho Man No 3	合滿3		Atlantic	Bigeye
228	Honduras		Horng Shin	合祥		Atlantic	Bigeye
229	Honduras		Hung Yu No 112	鴻祐112	Japan	Atlantic	Bigeye
230	Honduras		Chi Hung No 21	啟宏21		Atlantic	Bigeye
231	Honduras		Shun Chuan No 6	順泉6	Japan	Atlantic	Bigeye
232	Honduras		Peng Shin	澎興	Japan	Atlantic	
233	Honduras		Shun Theng	順勝	Japan	Atlantic	Bigeye
234	Honduras		Chin horng No 106	金鴻106		Atlantic	
235	Honduras		Hsiang Chang No 132	翔強132	Japan	Atlantic	Bigeye
236	Honduras		Chin I Ming	金億鵬	Japan	Atlantic	Bigeye
237	Honduras		Chin Hsiang Ming	金翔鵬	Japan	Atlantic	Bigeye
238	Honduras		Chin Chang Ming	金長鵬	Japan	Atlantic	Bigeye
239	Honduras		Sun Rise No 607	昇興607	Japan	Atlantic	Bigeye

No	Flag State	Previous Flag State	Name of Vessel (English)	Name of Vessel (Chinese)	Place of Built	Fishing Area	Target Species
240	Honduras		Sheng Hsing No 606	昇興606		Atlantic	
241	Malyasia		Meng Fa No.366	盟發366	Taiwan		
242	Mauritius		Hsin Hua No 101	信華101	Japan	Indian	Bigeye
243	Panama		Hsiang Chang No 102	翔強102		Atlantic	Bigeye
244	Panama		Ko Yu No 6	光佑6		Indian	
245	Panama		Jin Feng No 3	金豐3		Atlantic	
246	Panamn		Jin Feng No 2	金豐2			
247	Philippines		Chen Chieh No 88	振傑88	Taiwan	Atlantic	Bigeye
248	Philippines		Jeffery No 137	傑佛利137		Atlantic	Bigeye
249	Philippines		Chen Chieh No 888	振傑888	Taiwan	Atlantic	Bigeye
250	Philippines		Jeffrey No 166	傑佛利166	Taiwan		Bigeye
251	Philippines		Kao Feng No 3	高豐3			
252	Seychelles		Lu Soon	裕順	Japan	Indian	Bigeye
253	Seychelles		Hsin Shun No 166	興順166	Japan	Indian	Bigeye
254	Seychelles		Great No 1			Indian	
255	Seychelles		Hwa Shan No 301	華珊301	Taiwan	Indian	Bigeye
256	Seychelles		Hau Shen No.212	豪勝212		Atlantic	
257	Seychelles		Shin You		Taiwan		
258	Seychelles			豪益202	Taiwan		
259	Singpore		Sheng Fan No 6	勝帆6		Atlantic	
260	Srilanka		Sheng Pao No 5	聖寶5		Pacific	
261	ST.Vincent		Ming Tai No 1	明泰1	Japan	Indian	Bigeye
262	ST.Vincent		Hsiang Jang No 626	翔贊626		Atlantic	Bigeye
263	ST.Vincent		Hsiang Jang No 616	翔贊616		Atlantic	Bigeye
264	ST.Vincent		Hsiang Jang No 612	翔贊612		Atlantic	Bigeye
265	ST.Vincent		Dhalla No. 8(Hsiang Chang No. 136)	翔強136		Atlantic	
266	ST.Vincent		Hsiang Jang No 611	翔贊611			
267	Trinidad-Tobago		Meng Win Far No 168	盟稚發168	Japan	Indian	Bigeye
268	Trinidad-Tobago		Hsiang Chang No 136	翔強136		Atlantic	Bigeye
269	Trinidad-Tobago		Nam Sun No 27	南宋27		Atlantic	Bigeye
270	Vanuatu		Sheng Pao No.37	聖寶37	Taiwan	Pacific	albacore
271	Vanuatu		Sheng Pao No. 31	聖寶31	Taiwan	Pacific	albacore
272	Vanuatu		Tunago No. 31		Taiwan	Pacific	albacore
273	Vanuatu		Tunago No. 32		Taiwan	Pacific	albacore
274	Vanuatu		Tunago No. 51		Taiwan	Pacific	albacore
275	Vanuatu		Tunago No. 52		Taiwan	Pacific	albacore

List of FOC vessels that operation in the Atlantic Ocean

No	*Flag State*	*Previous Flag State*	*Name of Vessel (English)*	*Name of Vessel (Chinese)*	*Year of Built*	*Place of Built*	*GRT*	*Fishing Area*	*Target Species*
1	Belize		Hwa Chin No 202	華駸212	1997	Taiwan	470	Atlantic	Albacore
2	Belize		Hua Ching No202	華璟202	1997	Taiwan	470	Atlantic	Albacore
3	E. Guinea	E. Guinea	Wei Ching	威慶	1997	Taiwan	498	Atlantic	Albacore
4	Belize	Honduras,Philippines, Singpore	Yu Hsiang No 7	裕祥7	1979	Japan	618	Atlantic	Bigeye
5	Belize		Jacky No 11	傑克11	1982	Japan	456	Atlantic	Bigeye
6	Belize	Philippines	Jeffery No 168	傑佛利168	1997	Taiwan	573	Atlantic	Bigeye
7	Belize	Philippines	Jeffery No 131	傑佛利131	1980	Japan	597	Atlantic	Bigeye
8	Belize		Bob No 227	波補227	1981	Japan	546	Atlantic	Bigeye
9	Belize		Peter No 617	彼德617	1969	Japan	537	Atlantic	Bigeye
10	Belize		Lien Tai	聯太	1979	Japan	491	Atlantic	Bigeye
11	Belize		Hung Ching No 212	鴻慶212	1998	Taiwan	706	Atlantic	Bigeye
12	Belize		Shun Yu	順裕	1998	Taiwan	573	Atlantic	Bigeye
13	Belize		Chien Chun No 8	建群8	1997	Taiwan	610	Atlantic	Bigeye
14	Belize		Fwu Ji	福積	1982	Japan	600	Atlantic	Bigeye
15	Belize		Chien Chin No 602	建中602	1997	Taiwan	706	Atlantic	Bigeye
16	Belize		Dai Ho	大和	1997	Taiwan	573	Atlantic	Bigeye
17	Belize		Long Chang No 3	隆昌3	1997	Taiwan	589	Atlantic	Bigeye
18	Belize		Shine Year	上裕	1980	Japan	592	Atlantic	Bigeye
19	Belize		Chi Yang	吉洋	1979	Japan		Atlantic	Bigeye
20	Belize		Chen Fa No 888	振發888	1998	Taiwan	867	Atlantic	Bigeye
21	Belize		Chen Fa No 88	振發88	1997	Taiwan	706	Atlantic	Bigeye
22	Belize		Chien Fa No 736	振發736	1986	Japan	636	Atlantic	Bigeye
23	Belize	Philippines	Haiang Chang No 101	翔強101				Atlantic	Bigeye
24	Belize		Hau Shen No 202	豪勝202	1981	Japan	728	Atlantic	Bigeye
25	Cambodia		Benny No 78		1989		621	Atlantic	Bigeye
26	Cambodia		Benny No 87		1989		621	Atlantic	Bigeye
27	Cambodia		Fwu Ji No 1	福積1	1978	Japan	566	Atlantic	Bigeye
28	China	Belize, Philippines	Tian Xiang 7(Jeffery No 28)	天祥7	1984	Japan	577	Atlantic	Bigeye
29	China		新世紀10	新世紀10	1990	Japan	576	Atlantic	Bigeye
30	China	Belize, E. Guinea	Shun Kuo	順國	1980	Japan	655	Atlantic	Bigeye
31	China	E. Guinea, Belize	Shing Yang	幸洋	1980	Japan		Atlantic	Bigeye
32	China	E. Guinea	金集鴻	金集鴻	1979	Japan		Atlantic	Bigeye
33	China	Belize,E. Guinea, Honduras	Chin Cheng Ming	金誠鵬	1979	Japan		Atlantic	Bigeye
34	China	Belize	順友	順友	1979	Japan		Atlantic	Bigeye
35	China	Belize	順凱	順凱	1979	Japan		Atlantic	Bigeye
36	China	Honduras	Fu Yuan Yu004(Chin Chin Ming)	福遠漁4	1980	Japan	490	Atlantic	Bigeye
37	China	Honduras	Fu Yuan Yu009(Chin Yuan Horng)	福遠漁9	1978	Japan	495	Atlantic	Bigeye
38	China		Yi Shun No 1	翊順1	1978	Japan	495	Atlantic	Bigeye
39	E. Guinea		Chia Ying No 6	嘉盈6	1997	Taiwan	500	Atlantic	Bigeye
40	E. Guinea		Jiyn Horng	錦鴻				Atlantic	Bigeye
41	E. Guinea		Chang Yow No 212	昌祐212	1980	Japan	374J	Atlantic	Bigeye
42	E. Guinea		Kuang Horng	光鴻	1979	Japan		Atlantic	Bigeye
43	E. Guinea		I Man Hung No. 166	億滿鴻166	1998	Taiwan	496	Atlantic	Bigeye
44	E. Guinea	Ghana	Chen Chieh No 736	振傑736	1979	Japan		Atlantic	Bigeye
45	E. Guinea	ST.Vincent	Hsiang Pao No.601	翔寶601				Atlantic	Bigeye
46	E. Guinea	ST.Vincent	Hsiang Jang No 22	翔寶22	1978	Japan		Atlantic	Bigeye
47	E. Guinea	ST.Vincent	Hsiang Jang No 112	翔寶112	1978	Koren		Atlantic	Bigeye

48	E. Guinea	ST.Vincent	Hsiang Jang No 111	翔贊111	1978	Korea		Atlantic	Bigeye
49	E. Guinea	ST.Vincent	Hsiang Jang No 11	翔贊11	1979	Japan		Atlantic	Bigeye
50	E. Guinea		Hai Zean No 3	海仁3	1978	Japan	432	Atlantic	Bigeye
51	E. Guinea		Hai Zean No 11	海仁11	1997	Taiwan	573	Atlantic	Bigeye
52	E. Guinea		Hai Zean No 31	海仁31	1997	Taiwan	573	Atlantic	Bigeye
53	E. Guinea	Honduras	Yi Hsin No 101	益新101	1980	Japan	349j	Atlantic	Bigeye
54	E. Guinea	Belize	Chin You Ming	金友鵬	1981	Japan	576	Atlantic	Bigeye
55	Honduras		Hong Shun No 66	鴻順66	1980	Japan		Atlantic	Bigeye
56	Honduras		Flair No 3	福萊爾3	1979	Japan	493	Atlantic	Bigeye
57	Honduras	E. Guinea	Pesquera No 68		1979	Japan	344j	Atlantic	Bigeye
58	Honduras		Chien Chang No 66	建昶66	1979	Japan		Atlantic	Bigeye
59	Honduras		Ji Chin No 2	吉昏二	1983	Japan	284j	Atlantic	Bigeye
60	Honduras		Jiyh Horng No 106	錦鴻106	1989		450	Atlantic	Bigeye
61	Honduras		Ho Man No 3	合滿3				Atlantic	Bigeye
62	Honduras		Horng Shin	合祥				Atlantic	Bigeye
63	Honduras		Hung Yu No 112	鴻祐112	1981	Japan	690	Atlantic	Bigeye
64	Honduras		Chi Hung No 21	啟宏21				Atlantic	Bigeye
65	Honduras		Shun Chuan No 6	順泉6	1979	Japan		Atlantic	Bigeye
66	Honduras		Shun Theng	順勝	1980	Japan		Atlantic	Bigeye
67	Honduras	Kenya	Hsiang Chang No 606	翔強606	1986	Japan		Atlantic	Bigeye
68	Honduras		Hsiang Chang No 132	翔強132	1978	Japan		Atlantic	Bigeye
69	Honduras		Chin I Ming	金億鵬	1979	Japan	663	Atlantic	Bigeye
70	Honduras		Chin Hsiang Ming	金翔鵬	1980	Japan	688	Atlantic	Bigeye
71	Honduras		Chin Chang Ming	金長鵬	1980	Japan	578	Atlantic	Bigeye
72	Honduras		Sun Rise No 607	昇興607	1978	Japan	346j	Atlantic	Bigeye
73	Panama	Trinidad -Tobago	Hsiang Chang No 102	翔強102				Atlantic	Bigeye
74	Philippines		Jeffery No 137	傑佛利137				Atlantic	Bigeye
75	Philippines		Chen Chieh No 888	振傑888	1998	Taiwan	867	Atlantic	Bigeye
76	Philippines	Belize	Chen Chieh No 88	振傑88	1997	Taiwan	706	Atlantic	Bigeye
77	ST.Vincent		Hsiang Jang No 626	翔贊626				Atlantic	Bigeye
78	ST.Vincent		Hsiang Jang No 616	翔贊616				Atlantic	Bigeye
79	ST.Vincent		Hsiang Jang No 612	翔贊612				Atlantic	Bigeye
80	Trinidad-Tobago		Hsiang Chang No 136	翔強136				Atlantic	Bigeye
81	Trinidad-Tobago		Nam Sun No 27	南宋27				Atlantic	Bigeye
82	Belize		Chien Chang No 126	建昶126	1981	Japan		Atlantic & Indian	Bigeye
83	Belize		Victory No 88					Atlantic & Indian	Bigeye
84	Belize		Wen Sheng No 16	穩盛16				Atlantic & Indian	Bigeye
85	E. Guinea		Chen Chieh No 726	振傑726	1980	Japan		Atlantic & Indian	Bigeye
86	Honduras		Hung Shun No 67	鴻順67				Atlantic & Indian	Bigeye
87	Belize		Shun Mei	順美				Atlantic	
88	Belize		Chin I Wen	金億穩				Atlantic	
89	Belize	Philippines	Johnny No 137		1980	Japan		Atlantic	
90	China	Belize,E. Guinea	Shun Ying	順盈	1979	Japan		Atlantic	
91	China	Honduras	Fu Yuan Yu2(Yi Shun No 3)	福遠漁2(翊順3)	1979	Japan	491	Atlantic	
92	China	Honduras	Fu Yuan Yu 003(Shun Horng)	福遠漁3	1979	Japan	495	Atlantic	
93	China	Honduras	Tai)	福遠漁5	1978	Japan	592	Atlantic	
94	China	E. Guinea	遠金輪103	遠金輪103	1979	Japan		Atlantic	
95	China	Belize, E. Guinea	Shun Lien	順聯	1978	Japan		Atlantic	
96	E. Guinea		Cho Yu No 68	長友68	1979	Japan		Atlantic	
97	E. Guinea	ST.Vincent	Hsiang Jang No 66	翔贊66	1979	Japan		Atlantic	
98	E. Guinea		Wen Cheng No 202	穩盛202	1994			Atlantic	
99	Honduras		Peng Shin	彭興	1978	Japan		Atlantic	

100	Honduras		Chin horng No 106	金鴻106				Atlantic	
101	Honduras		Sheng Hsing No 606	昇興606				Atlantic	
102	Panama		Jin Feng No 3	金豐3				Atlantic	
103	Seychelles		Hau Shen No.212	豪勝212				Atlantic	
104	Singpore		Sheng Fan No 6	勝帆6				Atlantic	
105	ST.Vincent		Dhalia No. 8(Hsiang Chang No. 136)	翔強136				Atlantic	
106	Honduras		Cho Yu No 3	長友3	1989		700	Atlantic & Indian	

List of FOC vessels that changed flag states

No	*Flag State*	*Previous Flag State*	*Name of Vessel (English)*	*Name of Vessel (Chinese)*	*Year of Built*	*Place of Built*
1	Belize	Honduras	Lung Soon No 22	隆順22	1984	Japan
2	Belize	Honduras,Philippines	Jain Yung No 202	證永202	1997	Taiwan
3	Belize	Honduras,Philippines, Singpore	Yu Hsiang No 7	裕祥7	1979	Japan
4	Belize	Indonesia	Fu Yuan No 66	富元66	1998	Taiwan
5	Belize	Philippines	Jeffery No 816	傑佛利816	1990	Japan
6	Belize	Philippines	Jeffery No 618	傑佛利618	1991	Japan
7	Belize	Philippines	Jeffery No 328	傑佛利328	1986	Japan
8	Belize	Philippines	Jeffery No 131	傑佛利131	1980	Japan
9	Belize	Philippines	Fu Yuan No 3	富元3	1987	Japan
10	Belize	Philippines	Fu Yuan No 11	富元11	1985	Japan
11	Belize	Philippines	Johnny No 137		1980	Japan
12	Belize	Philippines	Jeffery No 168	傑佛利168	1997	Taiwan
13	Belize	Philippines	Sung Hui	松暉	1997	Taiwan
14	Belize	Philippines	Ping Yuan No 201	屏源201	1997	Taiwan
15	Belize	Philippines	Ping Shin No 201	屏新201	1996	Taiwan
16	Belize	Philippines	Kao Feng No 1	高豐1	1997	Taiwan
17	Belize	Philippines	Shye Sin No 1	協信1	1997	Taiwan
18	Belize	Philippines	Shinn Mann No21	信滿21	1998	Taiwan
19	Belize	Philippines	Shinn Mann No 11	信滿11	1997	Taiwan
20	Belize	Philippines	Fong Kuo No 6	豐國6	1997	Taiwan
21	Belize	Philippines	Hsiang Chang No 101	翔強101		
22	Belize	Singpore	Nine Lucky No 1	九福一	1998	Taiwan
23	China	Belize	順友	順友	1979	Japan
24	China	Belize	順凱	順凱	1979	Japan
25	China	Belize, E. Guinea	Shun Kuo	順國	1980	Japan
26	China	Belize, E. Guinea	Shun Lien	順聯	1978	Japan
27	China	Belize, Philippines	Tian Xiang 7(Jeffery No 28)	天祥7	1984	Japan
28	China	Belize,E. Guinea, Honduras	Chin Cheng Ming	金誠鳴	1979	Japan
29	China	Belize,E. Guinea	Shun Ying	順盈	1979	Japan
30	China	E. Guinea	昇洋	昇洋		Japan
31	China	E. Guinea	金集鴻	金集鴻	1979	Japan
32	China	E. Guinea	遠金輪103	遠金輪103	1979	Japan
33	China	E. Guinea	Lung Theng	龍勝	1980	Japan
34	China	E. Guinea, Belize	Shing Yang	幸洋	1980	Japan
35	China	Honduras	Tian Xiang 137	天祥137	1980	Japan
36	China	Honduras	Tian Xiang 16	天祥16	1987	Taiwan
37	China	Honduras	Tinn Xiang 18	天祥18	1986	Japan
38	China	Honduras	Tian Xiang 328	天祥328	1988	Japan
39	China	Honduras	Fu Yuan Yu2(Yi Shun No 3)	福遠漁2(翊順3)	1979	Japan
40	China	Honduras	Fu Yuan Yu 003(Shun Horng)	福遠漁3	1979	Japan
41	China	Honduras	Fu Yuan Yu004(Chin Chin Ming)	福遠漁4	1980	Japan

42	China	Honduras	Tai)	福遠漁5	1978	Japan
43	China	Honduras	Fu Yuan Yu009(Chin Yuan Horng)	福遠漁9	1978	Japan
44	China	Honduras	Tian Xiang8	天祥8	1989	Taiwan
45	China		新世紀10	新世紀10	1990	Japan
46	China		Fu Yuan Yu 1	福遠漁1	1978	Japan
47	China		Fu Yuan Yu10	福遠漁10	1980	Japan
48	China		Fu Yuan Yu6	福遠漁6	1979	Japan
49	China		Fu Yuan Yu7	福遠漁7	1979	Japan
50	China		Fu Yuan Yu8	福遠漁8	1984	Japan
51	China		Rinjani			Japan
52	China		Yi Shun No 1	翊順1	1978	Japan
53	E. Guinea	Belize	Chin You Ming	金友鵬	1981	Japan
54	E. Guinea	E. Guinea	Wei Ching	威慶	1997	Taiwan
55	E. Guinea	E. Guinea	Dong Yih No 688	東億688	1997	Taiwan
56	E. Guinea	E. Guinea	Hsin Hua No 103	信華103	1998	Taiwan
57	E. Guinea	Ghana	Chen Chieh No 736	振傑736	1979	Japan
58	E. Guinea	Honduras	Jin Chen Horng	金成鴻	1978	Japan
59	E. Guinea	Honduras	Yi Hsin No 101	鎰新101	1980	Japan
60	E. Guinea	Honduras	Yih Shuen No 212	億順212	1997	Taiwan
61	E. Guinea	ST.Vincent	Viking No 1		1983	Japan
62	E. Guinea	ST.Vincent	Hsiang Jang No 66	翔贊66	1979	Japan
63	E. Guinea	ST.Vincent	Hsiang Jang No 22	翔贊22	1978	Japan
64	E. Guinea	ST.Vincent	Hsiang Jang No 11	翔贊11	1979	Japan
65	E. Guinea	ST.Vincent	Hsiang Jang No 112	翔贊112	1978	Korea
66	E. Guinea	ST.Vincent	Hsiang Jang No 111	翔贊111	1978	Korea
67	E. Guinea	ST.Vincent	Hsiang Pao No.601	翔寶601		
68	Honduras	E. Guinea	Pesquera No 68		1979	Japan
69	Honduras	E. Guinea, Honduras	Fortuna No 1	和春1	1995	Taiwan
70	Honduras	Kenya	Hsiang Chang No 606	翔強606	1986	Japan
71	Honduras	Singpore	Hsing Shun No 66	興順66	1983	Japan
72	Panama	Trinidad -Tobago	Hsiang Chang No 102	翔強102		
73	Philippines	Belize	Chen Chieh No 88	振傑88	1997	Taiwan
74	Seychelles	Honduras	Lu Soon	裕順	1985	Japan

List of FOC vessels built by Chinese Taipei that are applying for Chinese Taipei Registration

No	*Flag State*	*Name of Vessel (English)*	*Name of Vessel (Chinese)*	*Owner*	*Year of Built*	*GRT*	*Fishing Area*	*Target Species*
1	E. Guinea	Chia Ying No 6	嘉盈6	洪博維	1997	500	Atlantic	Bigeye
2	Belize	Long Chang No 3	隆昌3	郭玉蘭	1997	589	Atlantic	Bigeye
3	E. Guinea	Hui Zean No 31	海仁31	劉清鴻	1997	573	Atlantic	Bigeye
4	E. Guinea	Hai Zean No 11	海仁11	劉清海	1997	573	Atlantic	Bigeye
5	Philippines	Chen Chieh No 888	振傑888	陳進城	1998	867	Atlantic	Bigeye
6	Philippines	Chen Chieh No 88	振傑88	陳進城	1997	706	Atlantic	Bigeye
7	Belize	Chien Chun No 8	建群8	洪志成	1997	610	Atlantic	Bigeye
8	Belize	Chien Chin No 602	建中602	張榮達	1997	706	Atlantic	Bigeye
9	Belize	Hung Ching No 212	鴻慶212	林立人	1998	706	Atlantic	Bigeye
10	E. Guinea	I Man Hung No. 166	億滿鴻166	陳惠美	1998	496	Atlantic	Bigeye
11	Belize	Shun Yu	順裕	俞順洲	1998	573	Atlantic	Bigeye
12	Belize	Hwa Chin No 202	華駸212	林學良	1997	470	Atlantic	Albacore
13	Belize	Hua Ching No202	華環202	林學良	1997	470	Atlantic	Albacore
14	E. Guinea	Wei Ching	威慶	莊莉娜	1997	498	Atlantic	Albacore
15	Belize	Dai Ho	大和	許德慶	1997	573	Atlantic	Bigeye
16	Belize	Win Far No868	穩發868	謝龍賢	1999	497	Indian	Bigeye
17	E. Guinea	Yih Shuen No 212	億順212	陳文王	1997	470	Indian	Bigeye
18	Belize	Jain Yung No 202	讚永202	林福讚	1997	599	Indian	Bigeye
19	Belize	Chen Fa No1	鎮發1	莊玉明	1997	537	Indian	Bigeye
20	Belize	Hung Chia No 202	鴻嘉202	張榮凱	1997	706	Indian	Bigeye
21	E. Guinea	Hwa Mao No 203	華懋203	李品樺	1997	450	Indian	Bigeye
22	Belize	Hsiang Fa No 26	翔發26	江映磊	1997	598	Indian	Bigeye
23	Belize	Hsiang Fa No 18	翔發18	江映磊	1997	598	Indian	Bigeye
24	Belize	Kao Feng No 1	高豐1	林奇邦	1997	598	Indian	Bigeye
25	Belize	Chun Ying No 636	春盈636	李珠潸	1998	598	Indian	Bigeye
26	Belize	Ping Yuan No 201	屏源201	李元中	1997	706	Indian	Bigeye
27	E. Guinea	Hsin Hua No 103	信華103	陳威同	1998	598	Indian	Bigeye
28	Belize	Sung Hui	松暉	余松齡	1997	598	Indian	Bigeye
29	Belize	Si Horng No 128	西鴻128	謝文周	1998	598	Indian	Bigeye
30	Belize	Si Tai No 326	西泰326	謝文周	1998	598	Indian	Bigeye
31	E. Guinea	Hung Yu No 212	鴻祐212	張國書	1997	550	Indian	Bigeye
32	Seychelles	Hwa Shan No 301	華珊301	林丁財	1999	498	Indian	Bigeye
33	Belize	Jeffrey No 168	傑佛利168	江平進	1997	573	Indian	Bigeye
34	Honduras	Chun Fa	春發	顏美香	1997	470	Indian	Bigeye
35	Belize	Ping Shin No 201	屏新201	李兆屏	1996	706	Indian	Bigeye
36	E. Guinea	Dong Yih No 688	東億688	陳水松	1997	493	Indian	Bigeye
37	Belize	Dong Yih No1	東億1	陳洪淑櫻	1999	493	Indian	Bigeye
38	Belize	Shye Sin No 1	協信1	莊安家	1997	598	Indian	Bigeye
39	Belize	Fong Kuo No 6	豐國6	蔡定邦	1997	521	Pacific	Albacore
40	Belize	Fong Kuo No 36	豐國36	蔡定邦	1998	521	Pacific	Albacore
41	Belize	Fong Kuo No 33	豐國33	蔡定邦	1998	521	Pacific	Albacore
42	Belize	Fong Kuo No 3	豐國3	蔡定邦	1997	521	Pacific	Albacore
43	Belize	Fong Kuo No 16	豐國16	蔡定邦	1997	521	Pacific	Albacore

44	Belize	Lien Horng No 777	遠鴻777	陳娟娟	1998	499	Pacific	Albacore
45	Belize	Chang Jaan No 1	長展一	林正芳	1998	470	Pacific	Albacore
46	Honduras	Fortuna No 22	和春22	羅世傑	1996	498	Pacific	Albacore
47	Honduras	Fortuna No 21	和春21	羅世傑	1996	498	Pacific	Albacore
48	Honduras	Fortuna No 2	和春2	羅世傑	1995	498	Pacific	Albacore
49	Honduras	Fortuna No 12	和春12	羅世傑	1996	498	Pacific	Albacore
50	Honduras	Fortuna No 11	和春11	羅世傑	1996	498	Pacific	Albacore
51	Belize	Hsien Yung No 636	協永636	莊啟褒	1997	550	Pacific	Bigeye
52	Belize	Nine Lucky No 1	九福一	謝建福	1998	508	Pacific	Albacore
53	Belize	Fong Ya No 11	豐亞11	林奇邦	1998	499	Pacific	Bigeye
54	E. Guinea	Shang Shun No 622	興順622	王順隆	1998	680	Pacific	Bigeye
55	Belize	Jui Ying No 666	瑞盈666	李珠清	1997	498	Pacific	Albacore
56	Belize	Shuenn Man No 666	順滿666	陳聰明	1998	498	Pacific	Albacore
57	E. Guinea	Lung Soon No 282	隆順282	王順隆	1998	573	Pacific	Bigeye
58	E. Guinea	Lung Soon No 212	隆順212	王順隆	1997	573	Pacific	Bigeye
59	Belize	Fu Yuan No 66	富元66	潘三光	1998	683	Pacific	Bigeye
60	Belize	Chun I No 316	春億316	林毓志	1998	683	Pacific	Albacore
61	Belize	Chun I No 307	春億307	陳美淑	1998	683	Pacific	Albacore
62	Belize	Chun Ying No 777	春盈777	李珠清	1997	498	Pacific	Albacore
63	Belize	Chun Ying No 212	春盈212	李珠清	1998	598	Pacific	Albacore
64	Belize	Shinn Mann No21	信滿21	黃敏哲	1998	683	Pacific	Albacore
65	Belize	Shinn Mann No 11	信滿11	黃敏哲	1997	470	Pacific	Albacore
66	Honduras	Fortuna No 1	和春1	羅世傑	1995	498	Pacific	Albacore
67	Belize	Nine Lucky No 6	九福六	謝建福	1998	508	Pacific	Albacore

Attachment 5

List of Japan-built FOC vessels enrolled for scrapping under Japan's scrapping program

No	Flag State	Name of Vessel (English)	Name of Vessel (Chinese)	Owner	Year of Built	GRT	Fishing Area	Target Species	Intended Year for Scrappin
1	Honduras	Yi Feng	壹豐	劉陳進	1978	407	Indian	Bigeye	2001
2	E. Guinea	Yi Hsin No 101	鎰新101	劉造銘	1980	349j	Atlantic	Bigeye	2001
3	Tobago	Meng Win Far No 168	盟穩發168	陳昭文	1978	300j	Indian	Bigeye	2001
4	Honduras	Meng Li No 101	盟立101	陳建達	1979	585	Indian	Bigeye	2001
5	Honduras	Ji Chin No 2	吉晉二	洪陳貴春	1983	284j	Atlantic	Bigeye	2001
6	Belize	Peter No 617	彼德617	江平進	1969	537	Atlantic	Bigeye	2001
7	Belize	Jacky No 11	傑克11	江平進	1982	456	Atlantic	Bigeye	2001
8	Belize	Bob No 227	波補227	江平進	1981	546	Atlantic	Bigeye	2001
9	Honduras	Woen Chang No.66	穩昶66	劉銀河	1979	492	Indian	Bigeye	2001
10	Cambodia	Fwu Ji No 1	福積1	陳淑嫚	1978	566	Atlantic	Bigeye	2001
11	ST. Vincent	Ming Tai No 1	明泰1	洪莊玉琴	1979	307j	Indian	Bigeye	2001
12	Honduras	Win Far No 266	穩發266	謝龍隰	1979	535	Indian	Bigeye	2001
13	Honduras	Win Far No 236	穩發236	謝龍隰	1978	672	Indian	Bigeye	2001
14	Belize	Fu Yuan No 3	富元3	潘三光	1987	595	Indian	Bigeye	2001
15	Honduras	Fu An No 6	富安6	王新棚	1977	478	Indian	Bigeye	2001
16	Honduras	Ta Yu No 11	大祐11	蔡竹世	1978	653	Pacific	Albacore	2001
17	Honduras	Sheng Pao No 7	聖寶7	蔡竹世	1976	575	Pacific	Albacore	2001
18	E. Guinea	Hai Zean No 3	海仁3	劉清海	1978	432	Atlantic	Bigeye	2001
19	Honduras	Haw Hua	豪華	歐豪勇	1981	637	Indian	Bigeye	2001
20	Seychelles	Hsin Shun No 166	興順166	王順隆	1979	477	Indian	Bigeye	2001
21	Honduras	Hsing Shun No 66	興順66	王順隆	1983	549	Indian	Bigeye	2001
22	Seychelles	Lu Soon	裕順	王順隆	1985	405	Indian	Bigeye	2001
23	E. Guinea	Lung Soon No 662	隆順662	王順福	1979	559	Indian	Bigeye	2001
24	E. Guinea	Zhong I No 83	中義83	莊俊宏	1975	456	Pacific	Albacore	2001
25	E. Guinea	Zhong I No 63	中義63	莊俊宏	1979	526	Pacific	Albacore	2001
26	E. Guinea	Zhong I No 1	中義1	莊俊宏	1983	383j	Pacific	Albacore	2001
27	Honduras	Hsien Yung No 366	協永366	莊啟義	1983	486	Indian	Bigeye	2001
28	Belize	Shine Year	上裕	陳丁丑	1980	592	Atlantic	Bigeye	2002
29	Belize	Yu Hsiang No 7	裕祥7	江平進	1979	618	Atlantic	Bigeye	2002
30	Belize	Jeffery No 131	傑佛利131	江平進	1980	597	Atlantic	Bigeye	2002
31	Belize	Lien Tai	聯太	李正德	1979	491	Atlantic	Bigeye	2002
32	Belize	Fwu Ji	福積	馬聰源	1982	600	Atlantic	Bigeye	2002
33	E. Guinea	Hai Ming No 1	海銘1	吳政聰	1981	509	Pacific	Bigeye	2002
34	E. Guinea	Zhong I No 85	中義85	莊俊宏	1976	437	Pacific	Albacore	2002
35	Honduras	Chin I Ming	金億鵬	劉萬天	1979	663	Atlantic	Bigeye	2003
36	E. Guinea	Ever Rich	豪強	林錦蒼	1977	447	Pacific	Bigeye	2003
37	Honduras	Meng Li No 301	盟立301	陳建達	1979	585	Indian	Bigeye	2003
38	Honduras	Chi Fuw No 16	啟福16	黃炎山	1980	346J	Indian	Bigeye	2003
39	China	Shun Kuo	順國	陳文力	1980	655	Atlantic	Bigeye	2003
40	China	Lung Theng	龍勝	陳文力	1980	663		Bigeye	2003
41	Honduras	Hua Chung No 808	華成808	黃一成	1980	300j	Indian	Bigeye	2003
42	Honduras	Hua Chung No 707	華成707	黃一成	1980	300j	Indian	Bigeye	2003
43	Honduras	Chang Sheng No 1	昌陞1	顏文山	1980	497	Indian	Bigeye	2003

44	Honduras	Hung Yu No 112	鴻祐112	張國書	1981	690	Atlantic	Bigeye	2003
45	Honduras	Chin Chang Ming	金長鵬	劉萬天	1980	578	Atlantic	Bigeye	2003
46	E. Guinea	Chin You Ming	金友鵬	劉萬天	1981	576	Atlantic	Bigeye	2003
47	Honduras	Sun Rise No 607	昇興607	薛再福	1978	346j	Atlantic	Bigeye	2003
48	Honduras	Pesquera No 68		柯景揮	1979	344j	Atlantic	Bigeye	2003
49	Honduras	Chin Hsiang Ming	金翔鵬	劉萬天	1980	688	Atlantic	Bigeye	2003
50	Honduras	Fwu Huan	福環	洪景石	1980	589	Indian	Bigeye	2003
51	E. Guinea	Hung Yu No 606	鴻有606	張榮凱	1979	449	Indian	Bigeye	2003
52	Honduras	66	盈智祥66	許範祥	1979	379j	Indian	Bigeye	2003
53	Belize	Chen Fa No 736	振發736	陳進城	1986	636	Atlantic	Bigeye	2003
54	Honduras	Flair No 3	福萊爾3	李益成	1979	493	Atlantic	Bigeye	2003
55	E. Guinea	Jiyn Horng No 116	錦鴻116	鍾華	1983	509	Indian	Bigeye	2003
56	E. Guinea	Jin Chen Horng	金成鴻	曾泰源	1978	300	Indian	Bigeye	2003
57	Belize	Chien Chang No 136	建昶136	洪振能	1979	711	Indian	Bigeye	2003
58	Belize	Hau Shen No 202	豪勝202	歐豪勇	1981	728	Atlantic	Bigeye	2003
59	Honduras	Tung Zhan No 6	東展6	陳柱龍	1978	319	Pacific	Bigeye	2003
60	Honduras	Zhong Xin No 26	中信26	莊啟義	1974	520	Indian	Bigeye	2003
61	Honduras	Jain Lih No 202	鑽立202	林福鏑	1980	625	Indian	Bigeye	2003
62	E. Guinea	Chang Yow No 212	昌祐212	許士昌	1980	374J	Atlantic	Bigeye	2003
63	E. Guinea	Chen Chiang No1	鎮強1	莊玉明	1988	578	Indian	Bigeye	2003
64	E. Guinea	Chi Man	啟滿	莊啟忠	1982	556	Indian	Bigeye	2003
65	Honduras	Chi Hung No 121	啟宏121	莊啟忠	1978	640	Indian	Bigeye	2003

List of Large-Scale Longline Vessels Believed to be Engaged in Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported Fishing Activities in the ICCAT Convention Area and Other Areas (as approved at the Commission Meeting, November, 2000)[4]

	Current Flag State	Previous Flag State	Name of Vessel		Owners Name	Owners Address	Assumed Area of Catch	Sources of info	
1	BELIZE		ANDREW NO. 708		SEVEN SEAS MARINE S. A.	SINGAPORE	Atlantic&Indian	J	
2	BELIZE		BENNY NO. 168		SEVEN SEAS MARINE S. A.	SINGAPORE	Atlantic	J	
3	BELIZE		BENNY NO. 636		TUNA KING MARINE S. A.	BELIZE	Atlantic	J	
4	BELIZE		BOB NO. 227	波德227	SEVEN SEAS MARINE S. A.	SINGAPORE	Atlantic&Indian	J	CT
5	BELIZE	Honduras	Chang Jean NO. 1	長盛一			Pacific	CT	
6	BELIZE		CHEN CHIEH NO. 88	振傑88	FESQUERA CHEN CHIN CHKRN S. A.	BELIZE	Atlantic&Indian	J	
7	BELIZE	Philippines	CHEN FA NO. 1	鎮発1	CHEN FA S. A.	BELIZE	Indian	J	CT
8	BELIZE		Chen Fa NO. 726	振發726				CT	
9	BELIZE		Chen Fa NO. 736	振發736			Atlantic	CT	
10	BELIZE		Chen Fa NO. 88	振發88			Atlantic	CT	
11	BELIZE		Chen Fa NO. 888	振發888			Atlantic	CT	
12	BELIZE		CHIEN CHANG NO. 126	建和126	CHIEN CHANG FISHERY CORP.	PANAMA	Atlantic&Indian	J	CT
13	BELIZE	Philippines	CHIEN CHANG NO. 136	建和136	CHIEN CHANG FISHERY CORP.	PANAMA	Atlantic&Indian	J	CT
14	BELIZE		CHIEN CHUN NO. 8	建群8	GHEAT OCEAN ENTERPRISE S. A.	BELIZE	Atlantic&Indian	J	CT
15	BELIZE		CHIEN CHUNG NO. 602	建中602			Atlantic	J	CT
16	BELIZE		CHIN I WEN	金億穩	CHIN HSIANG MING FISHERY S. DE R. L.	BELIZE	Atlantic	J	CT
17	BELIZE		CHIN YOU MING	金友鳴	CHIN FU FISHERY CO. LTD. S. A.	SINGAPORE	Atlantic	J	
18	BELIZE	Honduras	Chun I NO. 307	春億307			Pacific	CT	
19	BELIZE	Honduras	CHUN I NO. 316	春億316	CHUN JINN FISHERY S. A.	BELIZE	Pacific	J	CT
20	BELIZE	Honduras	CHUN YING NO. 212	春盈212		CHI. TAIPEI	Pacific	J	CT
21	BELIZE	Philippines	CHUN YING NO. 636	春盈636	HER JYE OCEANIC S. A.	BELIZE	Indian	J	CT
22	BELIZE	Honduras	CHUN YING NO. 777	春盈777	CHUN YING FISHERY S. A.	BELIZE	Pacific	J	CT
23	BELIZE		DAI HO	大和	DAI HO FISHERY S. A.	BELIZE	Atlantic&Indian	J	CT
24	BELIZE	Singpore	DONG YIH NO. 1	東億1		CHI. TAIPEI	Indian	J	CT
25	BELIZE	Philippines	Fong Kuo NO. 16	豐國16			Pacific	CT	
26	BELIZE	Philippines	Fong Kuo NO. 3	豐國3			Pacific	CT	
27	BELIZE	Philippines	FONG KUO NO. 33	豊国33	F. K. OVERSEAS FISHERY S. A.	BELIZE	Pacific	J	CT
28	BELIZE	Philippines	FONG KUO NO. 36	豊国36	F. K. OVERSEAS FISHERY S. A.	BELIZE	Pacific	J	CT
29	BELIZE	Philippines	Fong Kuo NO. 6	豐國6			Pacific	CT	
30	BELIZE	Honduras	Fong Ya NO. 11	豐亞11			Pacific	CT	
31	BELIZE	Kenya	Fu Yuan NO. 31	富元31			Pacific	CT	
32	BELIZE	Indonesia	Fu Yuan NO. 36	富元36			Pacific	CT	
33	BELIZE	Belize	Fu Yuan NO. 66	富元66			Pacific	CT	
34	BELIZE		FWU JI	福積	FWU JI FISHERY CO. LTD	CHI. TAIPEI	Atlantic&Indian	J	CT
35	BELIZE		HAU SHEN NO. 202	豪勝202	HAU YOW FISHERY CO. LTD.	CHI. TAIPEI	Atlantic&Indian	J	CT
36	BELIZE	Philippines	Heng Fa NO. 18				Indian	CT	
37	BELIZE	Ghana	HSIANG CHANG NO. 101	翔強101	KWO-JENG MARINE SERVICES LIMITED	CHI. TAIPEI	Atlantic	BS	CT
38	BELIZE	Philippines	Hsiang Fa NO. 18	翔發18			Indian	CT	
39	BELIZE	Honduras	Hsien Hua NO. 106	憲樺106			Pacific	CT	
40	BELIZE	Honduras	Hsien Hua NO. 107	憲樺107			Pacific	CT	
41	BELIZE	Honduras	Hsien Yung NO. 636	協永636			Pacific	CT	
42	BELIZE		Hua Ching NO. 202	華環202			Atlantic	CT	
43	BELIZE	Philippines	HUNG CHIA NO. 202	鴻嘉202	HUNG CHIA FISHERY CORP.		Indian	J	CT
44	BELIZE		HUNG CHING NO. 212	鴻慶212	HUNG CHING FISHERY S. A.	BELIZE	ALTANTIC&Indian	J	CT
45	BELIZE		HWA CHIH NO. 212	華馭212	HWA CHIN FISHERY CO. LTD.	CHI. TAIPEI	Atlantic	J	CT
46	BELIZE		HWA CHING NO. 202				Atlantic	J	
47	BELIZE		Jacky NO. 11	傑克11			Atlantic	CT	
48	BELIZE		JAIN YUNG NO. 202	識永202	JAIN YUNG FISHERY S. A.	BELIZE	Atlantic&Indian	J	CT
49	BELIZE	E. Guinea, Honduras	Jeffery NO. 131	傑佛利131			Atlantic	CT	
50	BELIZE	E. Guinea	Jeffery NO. 168	傑佛利168			Atlantic	CT	
51	BELIZE	E. Guinea	Jeffery NO. 328	傑佛利328			Indian	CT	
52	BELIZE	E. Guinea	Jeffery NO. 618	傑佛利618			Indian	CT	
53	BELIZE	E. Genia, Honduras	Jeffery NO. 816	傑佛利816			Indian	CT	
54	BELIZE	Philippines	Jeffrey NO. 168	傑佛利168			Indian	CT	
55	BELIZE	Honduras	Jiyh Horng NO. 201	錦鴻201			Pacific	CT	
56	BELIZE	Honduras	Johnny NO. 137				Atlantic	CT	
57	BELIZE		JUI JHI NO. 101		YUNG YING FISHERY CO. LTD.	CHI. TAIPEI	Atlantic	J	

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	Current Flag State	Previous Flag State	Name of Vessel		Owners Name	Owners Address	Assumed Area of Catch	Sources of info	
58	BELIZE	Honduras	JUI YING NO. 666	瑞盈666	RUBY SHING OCEANIC S. A.	BELIZE	Pacific	J	CT
59	BELIZE	E. Guinea	KAO FONG NO. 1	高豐1		CHI. TAIPEI	Indian	J	CT
60	BELIZE	Honduras, Philippines	Lien Horng NO. 777	連鴻777			Pacific	CT	
61	BELIZE		LIEN TAI	連太	LIEN TAI CORP.	CHI. TAIPEI	Atlantic	J	CT
62	BELIZE		LUNG CHANG NO. 3	隆昌3	UNION OCEAN FISHERY CO. LTD.	BELIZE	Atlantic&Indian	J	CT
63	BELIZE	Belize	Lung Soon NO. 22	隆順22			Indian	CT	
64	BELIZE	Singpore	Meng Fa NO. 368	盟發368			Indian	CT	
65	BELIZE	St. Vincent	MING SHUN NO. 3	明順3	MING SHUN FISHERY CO. LTD.	CHI-TAIPEI	Indian	J	CT
66	BELIZE		NATIONAL NO. 202		CONTINENTAL HANDLERS	BELIZE	Pacific	US	
67	BELIZE		NATIONAL NO. 206		CONTINENTAL HANDLERS	BELIZE	Pacific	US	
68	BELIZE		NATIONAL NO. 21		CONTINENTAL HANDLERS	BELIZE	Pacific	US	
69	BELIZE	Hodures	NINE LUCKY NO. 1	九福1	NINE LUCKY FISHERY CO. LTD	CHI. TAIPEI	Pacific	J	CT
70	BELIZE	Philippines	NINE LUCKY NO. 6	九福6	NINE LUCKY FISHERY CO. LTD.	CHI. TAIPEI	Pacific	J	CT
71	BELIZE	E. Guinea	PETER NO. 617	彼德617	SEVEN SEAS MARINE S. A.	SINGAPORE	Atlantic	J	CT
72	BELIZE	E. Guinea	Ping Shin NO. 201	屏新201			Indian	CT	
73	BELIZE	E. Guinea	Ping Yuan NO. 201	屏源201			Indian	CT	
74	BELIZE	St. Vincent	SHANG YUN	上源	OVERSEAS FISHERY CO.	BELIZE	Atlantic&Indian	J	CT
75	BELIZE	Honduras	Shin Kai NO. 6	新凱6			Pacific	CT	
76	BELIZE		SHINE YEAR	上裕	CHEN TING CHOU	SINGAPORE	Atlantic&Indian	J	CT
77	BELIZE	Philippines	Shinn Men NO. 666	信滿666			Pacific	CT	
78	BELIZE	E. Guinea	Shinn Mann NO. 11	信滿11			Pacific	CT	
79	BELIZE	E. Guinea	Shinn Mann NO. 21	信滿21			Pacific	CT	
80	BELIZE	Honduras, Philippines, Singpore	SHUENN MAN NO. 666	順滿666	SHUENN MAN FISHERY S. A.	BELIZE	Pacific	J	CT
81	BELIZE		SHUN MEI	順美	CHIN FU FISHERY CO. LTD. S. A.	SINGAPORE	Atlantic	J	CT
82	BELIZE		SHUN YU	順裕	SHUN YU FISHERY S. A.	BELIZE	Atlantic	J	CT
83	BELIZE	E. Guinea	Shye Shin NO. 1	協信1			Indian	CT	
84	BELIZE	St. Vincent	SI HONG NO. 128	西鴻128	SI TAI FISHERY CO., LTD.	BELIZE	Atlantic&Indian	J	CT
85	BELIZE	St. Vincent	SI TAI NO. 326	西泰326	SI UNION FISHERY S. A.	BELIZE	Indian	J	CT
86	BELIZE		SOUTH STAR		GRAND FOREST MARITIME S. A.	BELIZE	Pacific	J	
87	BELIZE	E. Guinea	SUNG HUI	松輝	SUNG HUI FISHERY CO. LTD.	CHI. TAIPEI	Indian	J	CT
88	BELIZE	Philippines	Victory NO. 8				Indian	CT	
89	BELIZE		Victory NO. 88				Atlantic&Indian	CT	
90	BELIZE		Wen Sheng NO. 16	穩盛16			Atlantic&Indian	CT	
91	BELIZE	St. Vincent	Win Far NO. 828	穩發828			Indian	CT	
92	BELIZE	St. Vincent	WIN FAR NO. 868	穩發868		CHI. TAIPEI	Indian	J	CT
93	BELIZE	St. Vincent	Win Far NO. 878	穩發878			Indian	CT	
94	BELIZE	Philippines	YI CHUN NO. 232	億群232			Indian	CT	
95	BELIZE	Philippines	Ying Chin Hsiang NO. 101	盈智祥101			Indian	CT	
96	BELIZE	Honduras	Zhong Xin NO. 16	中信16			Pacific	CT	
97	CAMBODIA		BENNY NO. 87		TUNA KING MARINE S. A.	BELIZE	Atlantic	J	CT
98	CAMBODIA		FWU JI NO. 1	福積1	FWU JI FISHERY CO. LTD	CHI. TAIPEI	Atlantic	J	CT
99	CAMBODIA		BENNY NO. 78		TUNA KING MARINE S. A.	BELIZE	Atlantic	J	CT
100	E. GUINEA		BITACORA		HO YUAN FISHERY S. A.	E. GUINEA	Atlantic	J	
101	E. GUINEA		Chang Yow NO. 212	昌祐212			Atlantic	CT	
102	E. GUINEA		Chen Chiang NO. 1	鎮強1			Indian	CT	
103	E. GUINEA		Chen Chieh NO. 725	振傑725				CT	
104	E. GUINEA		Chen Chieh NO. 726	振傑726			Atlantic&Indian	CT	
105	E. GUINEA		CHEN CHIEH NO. 736	振傑736	CHEN CHIN CHENG FISHERY CO. LTD. S. A.	E. GUINEA	Atlantic	J	CT
106	E. GUINEA		Chen Chieh NO. 8	振傑8			Indian	CT	
107	E. GUINEA		CHI MAN	啓滿	CHI MAN FISHERY S. A.		Atlantic&Indian	J	CT
108	E. GUINEA		CHIA YING NO. 6	嘉盈6	PESQUERA HAPPY SUN S. A.	E. GUINEA	Atlantic&Indian	J	CT
109	E. GUINEA		Chin You Ming	金友鳴			Atlantic	CT	
110	E. GUINEA		Cho Yu NO. 68	長友68			Atlantic	CT	

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	Current Flag State	Previous Flag State	Name of Vessel		Owners Name	Owners Address	Assumed Area of Catch	Sources of info	
111	E. GUINEA		Dong Yih NO. 688	東億688			Indian	CT	
112	E. GUINEA		Ever Rich	泰強			Pacific	CT	
113	E. GUINEA		HAI MING NO. 1	海銘1	HAI MING FISHERY S. A.	E. GUINEA	Pacific&Indian	J	CT
114	E. GUINEA		HAI ZEAN NO. 11	海仁11	HAI ZEAN FISHERY S. DE R. L.	E. GUINEA	Atlantic	J	CT
115	E. GUINEA		HAI ZEAN NO. 3	海仁3	HAI ZEAN FISHERY S. DE R. L.	E. GUINEA	Atlantic	J	CT
116	E. GUINEA		HAI ZEAN NO. 31	海仁31	PESQUERA HUNG LIN S. A.	E. GUINEA	Atlantic	J	CT
117	E. GUINEA		Hsiang Jang NO. 66	翔實66			Atlantic	CT	
118	E. GUINEA		Hsiang Pao NO. 601	翔寶601			Atlantic	CT	
119	E. GUINEA		HSIN HUA NO. 103	信華103	PESQUERA HSIN HUA FISHERY CO. LTD.	E. GUINEA	Indian	J	CT
120	E. GUINEA		Hung Yu NO. 212	鴻祐212			Indian	CT	
121	E. GUINEA		HUNG YU NO. 606	鴻祐806	HUNG YU FISHERY CO. LTD.		Indian	J	CT
122	E. GUINEA		Hwa Mao NO. 202	華懋202			Indian	CT	
123	E. GUINEA		I MAN HUNG NO. 166	億瑞鴻166	CHUN FAR FISHERY S. A.	E. GUINEA	Atlantic	J	CT
124	E. GUINEA		Jin Chen Horng	金成鴻			Indian	CT	
125	E. GUINEA		Jiyh Horng	錦鴻			Atlantic	CT	
126	E. GUINEA		JIYN HORNG NO. 116	錦鴻116	JIYN HORNG OCEAN ENTERPRISE CO. LTD.	HONDURAS	Indian	J	CT
127	E. GUINEA		JIYN HORNG NO. 116	錦鴻116	JIYN YEONG FISHERY S. A.	E. GUINEA	Indian	J	
128	E. GUINEA		KAE SHYUAN		CHIN MAN FISHERY CO. LTD.	E. GUINEA	Atlantic	J	
129	E. GUINEA		KUANG HORNG	光鴻	CHUEN SONG FISHERY S. DE R. L.	E. GUINEA	Atlantic&Indian	J	CT
130	E. GUINEA		LUNG SOON NO. 212	隆順212	EXITO FISHERY S. A.	E. GUINEA	Pacific&Indian	J	CT
131	E. GUINEA		LUNG SOON NO. 282	隆順282	EXITO FISHERY S. A.	E. GUINEA	Pacific	J	CT
132	E. GUINEA		Lung Soon NO. 662	隆順662			Indian	CT	
133	E. GUINEA		SHANG SHUN NO. 622	興順622	EXITO FISHERY S. A.	E. GUINEA	Pacific	J	CT
134	E. GUINEA		SHENG YANG		CHIN FU FISHERY CO. LTD. S. A.	SINGAPORE	Atlantic	J	
135	E. GUINEA		SHIN KAI NO. 6	新凱6	SHIN KAI FISHERY S. A.	E. GUINEA	Pacific	J	
136	E. GUINEA		SUN RISE NO. 313	昇興313	SINGPORE CORP.	E. GUINEA	Atlantic&Indian	J	
137	E. GUINEA		TARIFA NO. 5		OFFSHORE RESOURCES S. A.	E. GUINEA	Atlantic	J	
138	E. GUINEA		VIKING NO. 1		VIKING FISHERY S. A.	E. GUINEA	Atlantic&Pacif	J	CT
139	E. GUINEA		WEI CHING	威慶	WEI CHING OCEAN ENTERPRISE S. A.	E. GUINEA	Atlantic&Indian	J	CT
140	E. GUINEA		Wen Cheng NO. 202	穩盛202			Atlantic	CT	
141	E. GUINEA		YI HSIN NO. 101	鎰新101	YI FA FISHERY S. DE R. L.	E. GUINEA	Atlantic	J	CT
142	E. GUINEA		YIH SHUEN NO. 212	億順212			Indian	J	CT
143	E. GUINEA		YU CHAN HSIANG NO. 3		YU CHAN HSIANG S. A.	PANAMA	Indian	J	
144	E. GUINEA		Zhong I NO. 1	中義1			Pacific	CT	
145	E. GUINEA		Zhong I NO. 63	中義63			Pacific	CT	
146	E. GUINEA		Zhong I NO. 73	中義73			Pacific	CT	
147	E. GUINEA		Zhong I NO. 83	中義83	ZHONG I FISHERY S. A.	E. GUINEA	Pacific	J	CT
148	E. GUINEA		Zhong I NO. 85	中義85	PESQUERA ZHONG I S. A.	E. GUINEA	Pacific	J	CT
149	E. GUINEA			金泉興18				CT	
150	HONDURAS		CHANG SHENG NO. 1	昌陞1	CHANG SHENG FISHERY CO. LTD.	CHI. TAIPEI	Indian	J	CT
151	HONDURAS		Chi Fuw NO. 16	啟福16			Indian	CT	
152	HONDURAS		CHI FUW NO. 6	啓福6	SONG MAW FISHERY S. DE R. L.	HONDURAS	Indian	J	CT
153	HONDURAS		CHI HUNG NO. 121	啓宏121	CHI HUNG S. DE R. L.	HONDURAS	Atlantic&Indian	J	CT
154	HONDURAS		Chi Hung NO. 21	啟宏21			Atlantic	CT	
155	HONDURAS		Chien Chang NO. 66	建昌66			Atlantic	CT	
156	HONDURAS		CHIN CHANG MING	金長鳴	CHIN HSIANG MING FISHERY S. DE R. L.	HONDURAS	Atlantic	J	CT
157	HONDURAS		Chin hO. rng NO. 106	金鴻106			Atlantic	CT	
158	HONDURAS		CHIN HSIANG MING	金翔鳴	CHIN HSIANG MING FISHERY S. DE R. L.	HONDURAS	Atlantic	J	CT
159	HONDURAS		CHIN I MING	金億鳴	CHIN YUAN HORNG S. DE R. L.	HONDURAS	Atlantic	J	CT
160	HONDURAS		CHO YU NO. 3	長友3	ARMADORA PESQUERA CHOYU S. DE R. L.	AMERICA	Atlantic&Indian	J	CT
161	HONDURAS		CHUN FA	春發	CHUN FA FISHERY S. A.	HONDURAS	Indian	J	CT
162	HONDURAS		CORONA		MARINE STAR SHIPPING S. DE R. L.	HONDURAS	Indian	J	
163	HONDURAS		EDEN NO. 18		KINGFISH FISHERY S. DE R. L.	HONDURAS	Indian	J	CT
164	HONDURAS		FLAIR NO. 3	福萊爾3	KINGFISH FISHERY S. DE R. L.	HONDURAS	Atlantic&Indian	J	CT
165	HONDURAS		Fortuna NO. 1	和春1			Pacific	CT	

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166	HONDURAS		Fortuna NO. 11	和泰11			Pacific	CT
167	HONDURAS		Fortuna NO. 12	和泰12			Pacific	CT
168	HONDURAS		Fortuna NO. 2	和泰2			Pacific	CT
169	HONDURAS		Fortuna NO. 21	和泰21			Pacific	CT
170	HONDURAS		Fortuna NO. 22	和泰22			Pacific	CT
171	HONDURAS		FU AN NO. 6	富安6	FU AN OCEAIC ENTERPRISE S. DE R. L.	HONDURAS	Pacific&Indian	J CT
172	HONDURAS		Fu Huan	富環			Indian	CT
173	HONDURAS		Fwu Huan	福環			Indian	CT
174	HONDURAS		HAW HUA	豪華	HAW HUA FISHERY S. DE R. L.	HONDURAS	Atlantic&Indian	J CT
175	HONDURAS		Her Hsiang	合祥			Indian	CT
176	HONDURAS		HO MAN	合滿	HER MAN FISHERY CO. LTD.	CHI. TAIPEI	Indian	J CT
177	HONDURAS		HO Man NO. 3	合滿3			Atlantic	CT
178	HONDURAS		Hong Shun NO. 66	鴻順66			Atlantic	CT
179	HONDURAS		Horng Shin				Atlantic	CT
180	HONDURAS		HSIANG CHANG NO. 102	翔強102	KWO-JENG MARINE SERVICES LIMITED	CHI. TAIPEI	Atlantic	US
181	HONDURAS		Hsiang Chang NO. 132	翔強132			Atlantic	CT
182	HONDURAS		HSIANG CHANG NO. 606	翔強606	DAIWA MARINE WORLD S. DE R. L.	JAPAN	Atlantic&Pacific	J CT
183	HONDURAS		Hsien Yung NO. 366	賢永366			Indian	CT
184	HONDURAS		Hsin I Chang NO. 326	信宜昌326			Indian	CT
185	HONDURAS		Hsing Shun NO. 66	興順66			Indian	CT
186	HONDURAS		HUA CHENG NO. 707	華成707	HUA I FISHERY CO. LTD.	CHI. TAIPEI	Atlantic&Indian	J CT
187	HONDURAS		HUA CHUNG NO. 808	華忠808	HUA CHUNG PESCA S. A.	CHI. TAIPEI	Atlantic&Indian	J CT
188	HONDURAS		Hung Shun NO. 67	鴻順67			Atlantic&Indian	CT
189	HONDURAS		HUNG YU NO. 112	鴻裕112	HUNG WOEI FISHERY S. A.	CHI. TAIPEI	Atlantic&Indian	J CT
190	HONDURAS		JAIN LIH NO. 202	益立202	JAIN LIH FISHERY S. A.	HONDURAS	Indian	J CT
191	HONDURAS		Ji Chin NO. 2	吉晉2			Atlantic	CT
192	HONDURAS		JIYN HORNG NO. 106	錦鴻106	JIYN HORNG OCEAN ENTERPRISE CO. LTD.	HONDURAS	Atlantic&Indian	J CT
193	HONDURAS		Lung Soon NO. 122	隆順122			Indian	CT
194	HONDURAS		Lung Soon NO. 126	隆順126			Indian	CT
195	HONDURAS		MENG LI NO. 101	盟立101	MENG LI FISHERY S. DE R. L.	HONDURAS	Indian	J CT
196	HONDURAS		MENG LI NO. 201	盟立201	MENG LI FISHERY S. DE R. L.	HONDURAS	Indian	J CT
197	HONDURAS		MENG LI NO. 301	盟立301	MENG LI FISHERY S. DE. R. L.	HONDURAS	Atlantic&Indian	J CT
198	HONDURAS		OCEAN MASTER NO. 1		OCEAN MASTER FISHERIES S. DE R. L.	HONDURAS	Indian	J
199	HONDURAS		PENG SHIN	澎興	PENG SHIN FISHERY S. DE R. L.	HONDURAS	Atlantic	J CT
200	HONDURAS		PESQUERA NO. 68		ARMADORA PESQUERA CHOYU S. DE R. L.	HONDURAS	Atlantic	J CT
201	HONDURAS		RYH CHUN NO. 1	日春1	FA CHUEN OCEAN FISHING S. DE R. L.	HONDURAS	Indian	J CT
202	HONDURAS		RYH CHUN NO. 21	日春21	RYH CHUN OCEAN FISHERY INC.	CHI. TAIPEI	Indian	J CT
203	HONDURAS		Shang Shun NO. 166	興順166			Indian	CT
204	HONDURAS		SHANG SHUN NO. 66	興順66	LUNG SOON SHIPPING CORP.	CHI. TAIPEI	Indian	J
205	HONDURAS		Sheng Hsing NO. 606	昇興606			Atlantic	CT
206	HONDURAS		Sheng Pao NO. 21	聖寶21			Pacific	CT
207	HONDURAS		Sheng Pao NO. 7	聖寶7			Pacific	CT
208	HONDURAS		SHUE YUNG NO. 366		DALIAN OVERSEAS FISHERY S. DE R. L.	HONDURAS	Atlantic&Indian	J CT
209	HONDURAS		Shun Theng	順勝			Atlantic	CT
210	HONDURAS		SUN RISE NO. 607	昇興607	YELLOW FIN FISHERY S. DE R. L.	HONDURAS	Atlantic	J CT
211	HONDURAS		Ta Yu NO. 11	大祐11			Pacific	CT
212	HONDURAS		TAI HONG NO. 1 (AMBER NO. 9)	泰宏1	SHANDONG OCEAN FISHERIES CORP. (VENUS MARINES LTD.)	CHINA	Indian	J
213	HONDURAS		TAMARA NO. 8		MARINEX S. DE R. L.	HONDURAS	Indian	J
214	HONDURAS		TIM NO. 1	提姆1	HOUNG KOU CHING	HONDURAS	Indian	J
215	HONDURAS		TUNG ZHAN NO. 6	東展6	TUNG ZHAN FISHERY CORP.	CHI. TAIPEI	Pacific&Indian	J CT
216	HONDURAS		WEN CHANG NO. 66	穩昌66	CHIEN CHANG PESCA S. A.	HONDURAS	Indian	J CT
217	HONDURAS		WIN FAR NO. 236	穩發236	WIN FAR MARINE INC.	CHI. TAIPEI	Indian	J CT
218	HONDURAS		WIN FAR NO. 266	穩發266	WIN FAR MARINE INC.	CHI. TAIPEI	Indian	J CT
219	HONDURAS		Yi Feng	宜豐			Indian	CT

*List of Large-Scale Longline Vessels Believed to be Engaged in Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported Fishing Activities in the ICCAT Convention Area and Other Areas (as approved at the Commission Meeting, November, 2000)**

	Current Flag State	Previous Flag State	Name of Vessel		Owners Name	Owners Address	Assumed Area of Catch	Sources of info
220	HONDURAS		YI HSIN NO. 101	鎰新101	YI FA FISHERY S. DE R. L.	CHI. TAIPEI	Atlantic&Indian	J
221	HONDURAS		YIH SHUEN NO. 212	億順212	YIH SHUEN FISHERY S. A.	HONDURAS	Indian	J
222	HONDURAS		YING CHIN HSIANG NO. 66	盈晉祥66	YING TSI SHYANG FISHERY S. DE. R. L.	HONDURAS	Indian	J CT
223	HONDURAS		YU CHA NO. 201	裕展201	DAIWA MARINE INTERNATIONAL S. DE R. L.	HONDURAS	Pacific	J
224	HONDURAS		YU CHA NO. 606	裕展606	DAIWA MARINE INTERNATIONAL S. DE R. L.	HONDURAS	Pacific	J
225	HONDURAS		YU SUAN NO. 102	裕弦102	YUNG HONG MARINE S. DE R. L.	JAPAN	Pacific	J
226	HONDURAS		YUNG HUANG NO. 606		KWO-JENG MARINE SERVICES LIMITED	CHI. TAIPEI	Atlantic	US
227	HONDURAS		YUNG SHU NO. 606		KWO-JENG MARINE SERVICES LIMITED	CHI. TAIPEI	Atlantic	US
228	HONDURAS		YUNG YING NO. 606		KWO-JENG MARINE SERVICES LIMITED	CHI. TAIPEI	Atlantic	J A
229	HONDURAS		YUNG YU NO. 102		DAIWA MARINE INTERNATIONAL S. DE R. L.	JAPAN	Pacific	J
230	HONDURAS		Zhong Xin NO. 1	中信1			Indian	CT
231	HONDURAS		Zhong Xin NO. 26	中信26			Indian	CT
232	MAURITIUS		Hsin Hua NO. 101	信華101			Indian	CT
233	MAURITIUS	Mauritius	Meng Fa NO. 366	盟發366				CT
234	PANAMA		Hsiang Chang NO. 102	翔強102			Atlantic	CT
235	PANAMA		HSIANG FA	翔發	KWO-JENG MARINE SERVICES LIMITED	CHI. TAIPEI	Atlantic	US
236	PANAMA		HSIANG PAO NO. 602	翔寶602	KWO-JENG MARINE SERVICES LIMITED	CHI. TAIPEI	Pacific	US
237	PANAMA		HSIANG PAO NO. 613	翔寶613	KWO-JENG MARINE SERVICES LIMITED	CHI. TAIPEI	Pacific	US
238	PANAMA		HSIANG PAO NO. 632	翔寶632	KWO-JENG MARINE SERVICES LIMITED	CHI. TAIPEI	Pacific	US
239	PANAMA		Ko Yu NO. 6	光佑6			Indian	CT
240	SEYCHELLES		DEVELOP NO. 1				Indian	J
241	SEYCHELLES		GREAT NO. 1			E. GUINEA	Pacific&Indian	J
242	SEYCHELLES		Hau Shen NO. 212	豪勝212			Atlantic	CT
243	SEYCHELLES		Hsing Shun NO. 166	興順166			Indian	CT
244	SEYCHELLES		HWA SHAN NO. 301	華珊301		CHI. TAIPEI	Indian	J
245	SEYCHELLES		Lu Soon	裕順			Indian	CT
246	SEYCHELLES	E. Guinea	SEYGEM (LUNG SOON NO. 212)	隆順212	GRANDEUR OCEANIC CO. LTD.	SEYCHELLES	Pacific	J
247	SEYCHELLES	E. Guinea	SEYPEARL (SHANG SHUN NO. 622)	興順622	PROSPERITY OCEANIC CO. LTD.	SEYCHELLES	Pacific	J
248	SEYCHELLES	E. Guinea	SEYSTAR (LUNG SOON NO. 282)	隆順282	LOUIS OCEANIC CO. LTD.	SEYCHELLES	Pacific	J
249	SEYCHELLES		Shin You					CT
250	SEYCHELLES		VICTORY NO. 1				Indian	J
251	SEYCHELLES			榮益202				CT
252	SINGPORE		Sheng Fan NO. 6	勝帆6			Atlantic	CT
253	SRI LANKA		LANKA STAR NO. 21		KWO-JENG MARINE SERVICES LIMITED	CHI. TAIPEI	Atlantic	US
254	SRI LANKA		Sheng Pao NO. 5	聖寶5			Pacific	CT
255	SRI LANKA		YU SUAN NO. 101	裕弦101	LANKA INTERCON TRADERS LTD.	SRILANKA	Pacific	J
256	ST. VINCENT		CHANG YOW NO. 212		CONTINENTAL HANDLERS		Atlantic	US
257	ST. VINCENT		Dhalia NO. 8 (Hsiang Chang 136)	翔強136	KWO-JENG MARINE SERVICES LIMITED	CHI. TAIPEI	Atlantic	CT
258	ST. VINCENT		HSIANG PAO NO. 101	翔寶101	KWO-JENG MARINE SERVICES LIMITED	CHI. TAIPEI	Atlantic	US
259	ST. VINCENT		HSIANG PAO NO. 102	翔寶102	KWO-JENG MARINE SERVICES LIMITED	CHI. TAIPEI	Atlantic	US
260	ST. VINCENT		HSIANG PAO NO. 601	翔寶601	KWO-JENG MARINE SERVICES LIMITED	CHI. TAIPEI	Atlantic	US
261	ST. VINCENT		MING TAY NO. 1	明泰1	HO HSIN FISHING CO. LTD.	CHI. TAIPEI	Indian	J
262	ST. VINCENT		NATIONAL NO. 202		CONTINENTAL HANDLERS		Atlantic	US
263	ST. VINCENT		WEN SHUN NO. 621		CONTINENTAL HANDLERS		Atlantic	US
264	ST. VINCENT		WEN SHUN NO. 622		CONTINENTAL HANDLERS		Atlantic	US
265	ST. VINCENT		WEN SHUN NO. 626		CONTINENTAL HANDLERS		Atlantic	US
266	VANUATU		Sheng Pao NO. 31	聖寶31			Pacific	CT
267	VANUATU		Sheng Pao NO. 37	聖寶37			Pacific	CT
268	VANUATU		Tunago NO. 31				Pacific	CT
269	VANUATU		Tunago NO. 32				Pacific	CT
270	VANUATU		Tunago NO. 51				Pacific	CT
271	VANUATU		Tunago NO. 52				Pacific	CT
272	UNKNOWN		BOBBY NO. 3				Indian	J

List of Large-Scale Longline Vessels Believed to be Engaged in Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported Fishing Activities in the ICCAT Convention Area and Other Areas (as approved at the Commission Meeting, November, 2000)*

	Current Flag State	*Previous Flag State*	*Name of Vessel*		*Owners Name*	*Owners Address*	*Assumed Area of Catch*	*Sources of info*
273	UNKNOWN	Belize	CITI NO. 8				Pacific	J
274	UNKNOWN		FONG KUO NO. 6	豊国6			Pacific	J
275	UNKNOWN		HSANG JANG NO. 102		CONTINENTAL HANDLERS		Atlantic	US
276	UNKNOWN		HSANG JANG NO. 202		CONTINENTAL HANDLERS		Atlantic	US
277	UNKNOWN		Jeffrey NO. 137	傑佛利137			Atlantic	CT
278	UNKNOWN		Jeffrey NO. 166	傑佛利166				CT
279	UNKNOWN		JEFFREY NO. 168	傑佛利168			Atlantic	J
280	UNKNOWN		JEFFREY NO. 28	傑佛利28			Atlantic&Indian	J
281	UNKNOWN		JEFFREY NO. 328	傑佛利328			Atlantic	J
282	UNKNOWN		JEFFREY NO. 816	傑佛利816			Atlantic&Indian	J
283	UNKNOWN		KAO FENG NO. 1	高豊1			Indian	J
284	UNKNOWN		Kao Feng NO. 3	高豊3				CT
285	UNKNOWN		Meng Win Far NO. 168	盟穆發168			Indian	CT
286	UNKNOWN		Nam Sun NO. 27	南宋27			Atlantic	CT
287	UNKNOWN		PING SHIN NO. 201	屏新201			Indian	J
288	(		PING YUAN NO. 201	屏源201	SUN WARM FISHING SERVICE INC.		Atlantic	J)
289	(		HSIANG FA NO. 18	翔発18	SUN WARM FISHING SERVICE INC.		Atlantic	J)
290	(		CHEN FA NO. 1	鎮発1	SUN WARM FISHING SERVICE INC.		Atlantic	J)
291	(		SHINN MANN NO. 11	信満11	SUN WARM FISHING SERVICE INC.		Atlantic	J)
292	(		FU YUAN NO. 66	富元66	JETMARK INTERNATIONAL FISHING INC.		Atlantic	J)
293	(		CHEN CHIEH NO. 88	振傑88	SUN WARM FISHING SERVICE INC.		Atlantic	J)
294	(		CHEN CHIEH NO. 888	振傑888	SUN WARM FISHING SERVICE INC.		Atlantic&Indian	J)
295	(		CHEN FA NO. 726	振発726	JETMARK INTERNATIONAL FISHING INC.		Atlantic	J)
296	(		CHIEN CHUNG NO. 602	建中602	SUN WARM FISHING SERVICE INC.		Atlantic	J)
297	(	Belize	HSIANG FA NO. 26	翔発26	SUN WARM FISHING SERVICE INC.		Indian	J)
298	(		JAIN YUNG NO. 202	鏡永202	SUN WARM FISHING SERVICE INC.		Indian	J)
299	(		JEFFREY NO. 131	傑佛利131	SUN WARM FISHING SERVICE INC.		Atlantic&Indian &Pacific	J)
300	(		SHINN MANN NO. 21	信満21	JETMARK INTERNATIONAL FISHING INC.		Pacific	J)
301	(		SHYE SHIN NO. 1	協信1	SUN WARM FISHING SERVICE INC.		Indian	J)
302	(	Belize	YU HSIANG NO. 7	裕祥7	SUN WARM FISHING SERVICE INC.		Atlantic&Indian	J)

* 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.

1: Vessels operating under charter or other arrangements are not included in this list, except the Philippines, but, given the temporary nature of such arrangements, these vessels should be closely monitored, and evaluated frequently by the Parties concerned.

2: Vessels in brackets ( ) are operating under charter arrangements with Philippines companies. However the Philippines commits itself not to renew their charter contracts after the end of 2002. Those vessels should not be subject to the sanction measures until the end of their contracts or the end of 2002 whichever earlier.

Appendix 11 to ANNEX 10

STATEMENT BY THE OBSERVER OF GREENPEACE INTERNATIONAL ON IUU/FOC FISHING ACTIVITIES

Greenpeace has been actively campaigning against fishing activities by vessels flying flags of convenience in the Mediterranean Sea, the Southern ocean and more recently, in the Atlantic Ocean.

Several delegations have stressed the gravity of the problem posed by illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing activities, and in particular by vessels operating under flags of convenience. In recent years, ICCAT has been at the forefront of the fight against IUU/FOC fishing. Nonetheless, fishing by FOC vessels is still a widespread problem.

Greenpeace is calling on governments to:

- close harbors to FOC fishing vessels and vessels servicing FOC fishing fleets;
- close markets to FOC caught fish and fish products; and
- prevent companies from owning or operating FOC fishing vessels or otherwise doing business with FOC vessels.

In this regard, Greenpeace strongly supports the proposal by Japan to impose import bans on bigeye tuna caught by fishing vessels from certain countries as an additional step in that direction. Greenpeace urges the Commission to adopt the proposed measure.

The FAO process which should result in the adoption of an International Plan of Action (IPOA) to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing has been disappointing so far in Greenpeace's view. The global nature of the problem and the mobility and flexibility of FOC fleets require a concerted effort by the international community in order to avoid merely shifting the problem from one area or fishery to another. An international framework is very much needed and Greenpeace hopes that the FAO IPOA provides adequate tools to eliminate FOC fishing.

The implementation of the FAO IPOA will be voluntary and its effectiveness will depend on the commitment of individual states and regional fisheries management organization. ICCAT and some states have already demonstrated their willingness to adopt measures to combat IUU/FOC fishing.

Greenpeace commends efforts made by Japan and Chinese Taipei to repatriate and eliminate part of the FOC tuna longliners as well as the increased pressure put by Japan on Japanese companies transporting and purchasing tuna or otherwise involved in the tuna fishing industry. A lot still remains to be done but, by those actions, Japan is facing its responsibilities as a port state, market state and state of beneficial ownership.

Greenpeace also commends South Africa for prohibiting landings in its harbors by FOC fishing vessels on the ICCAT list as well as other vessels from non-contracting parties.

Greenpeace urges all ICCAT Contracting and Cooperating Parties to adopt strong measures to eliminate FOC fishing.

Appendix 12 to ANNEX 10

Draft Proposal by Japan for a Supplemental Resolution by ICCAT to Enhance the Effectiveness of the ICCAT Measures to Eliminate Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported Fishing Activities by Large-scale Tuna Longline Vessels in the Convention Area and Other Areas

(Proposal not adopted)

Recalling that ICCAT adopted at its 1999 meeting a Resolution Calling for Further Actions against Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported Fishing Activities by Large Scale Tuna Longline Vessels in the Convention Area and Other Areas,

Praising and strongly supporting the joint program implemented by Japan and Chinese-Taipei to eliminate large scale tuna longline vessels engaged in illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing by scrapping of Japanese origin vessels and re-registration of Chinese-Taipei built vessels to Chinese Taipei registry while ensuring no increase in the total number of her tuna longline fishing vessels,

Being aware that a grace period is necessary to implement these scrapping and re-registration programs so as to avoid undue burdens on those vessels that participate in these programs,

Being concerned that a substantial number of owners of IUU large scale tuna longline vessels, most of whom are Chinese Taipei's business entities, are still trying to continue IUU fishing by changing flag and vessel name of vessels and/or ownership, and

Being aware that the IUU tuna longline vessels de-registered by existing flag countries are trying to find new hosts,

Recognizing the necessity and importance of cooperation by all the Contracting Parties, Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities to achieve the effective implementation of these programs to eliminate all the IUU large-scale tuna longline vessels,

The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) Resolves That:

1 The Commission urges Japan and Chinese-Taipei to take necessary measures to complete the scrapping of IUU vessels built in Japan (the current list of participating vessels is shown in Appendix I), and the re-registration of IUU vessels built in Chinese Taipei and owned by its residents to Chinese Taipei registry (the current list of participating vessels is shown in Appendix II), respectively. Japan will complete the program by the end of 2003, whereas Chinese Taipei will complete re-registration by the end of 2005 without increasing the number of its licensed large scale tuna longline vessels operating at sea (600 vessels). The Commission also urges Japan and Chinese Taipei to annually report the progress of the scrapping and re-registration programs to the Commission for its review.

2 The Contracting Parties, Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities shall not issue a license for fishing for tuna and tuna-like species to those large scale tuna longline vessels which have a record of IUU fishing operations,

3 The Contracting Parties, Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities shall take necessary measures to prohibit its nationals or residents from concluding charter (including bear boat charter) and/or lease contracts with the large scale tuna longline vessels which have a record of IUU fishing operations.

4 Paragraph 2 of the *"Resolution Calling for Further Actions Against Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported Fishing Activities by Large-Scale Tuna Longline Vessels in the Convention Area and Other Areas"*, adopted at the 1999 Commission Meeting, (hereinafter referred to as "the 1999 Resolution") may not be applied to the vessels which participate in the scrapping program by Japan as listed in Appendix I according to their scrapping schedule but not later than the end of 2003, on condition that these vessels shall operate in compliance with the Commission's conservation and management measures. This paragraph may not be applied to the vessels which participate in the re-registration program by Chinese Taipei as listed in Appendix II, but not later than the end of 2005, on condition that these vessels shall operate in compliance with the Commission's conservation and management measures.

5 The Contracting Parties, Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities shall intensify their actions mentioned in the Paragraph 2 of the 1999 Resolution.

6 The Commission requests Japan and Chinese Taipei to report any changes to Appendix I and Appendix II to the Commission without delay.

7 The Commission urges all Non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities not referred to above to act in compliance with operative paragraphs 2 and 3 of this Resolution.

Appendix 13 to ANNEX 10

Statement by Brazil Regarding IUU Fishing

We have recently examined the Japanese proposal. Although we believe that its thrust is valid, paragarphs 2 and 3 present some difficulties to my delegation. If you allow, Mr. Chairman, I would like to elaborate on the reasons for Brazil's reservations in light of the principle that orient my delegation's position with regard to IUU fishing.

First of all, as far as the fishiing activities of chartered vessels are carried out in a fully legal, reported, and regulated way, it is a legitimate commercial operation and, above all, a sovereign right of any State which must not be characterized as IUU fishing.

A chartered fishing vessel in Brazil has exactly the same rights and obligations as national vessels. They are inspected by Brazilian Authorities for health, work, and safety standards. They are legally registered, are owned by a legally established foreign company and are chartered by a legal Brazilian company, constituted under Brazilian law. These fishing activities are closely monitored, with all catch informatin beding adequately collected and properly informed to ICCAT. Furthermore, very recently, the Brazilian Government has also made mandatory for all chartered vessels the use of a Satellite Monitoring System. The fishing activities of Brazilian chartered vessels are, therefore, fully legal, regulated and reported. Let's make that very clear.

For developing coastal States, in general, and particularly for Brazil, the chartering of fishing vessels is now and has been in the past, in many instances, a very important tool to promote the production of seafood, the assimilation of new fishing technologies and fishermen training. Just to give a couple of examples, through chartering arrangements, Brazil has been able to develop its shrimp trawling fishery, using U.S. boats, and the skipjack baitboat fishery, with Portuguese and Japanese fishing vessels. Both fisheries today are employing exclusively Brazilian vessels. More recently, chartering arrangements have allowed Brazil to develop its swordfish longline fishery and already most of the vessels used in this fishery are national.

Another very important point, as we have said many times before, we believe that the actions to combat IUU fishing should focus on the practice and not on the vessel itself. By simply banning a fishing vessel that has in the past been engaged in IUU fishing, we would be condeming that vessel to operate in an IUU manner forever, since the only alternative it would have would be to become an artifical reef. We believe that any action that helps to force IUU fishing vessels to change their behavior, in order to comply with international conservation and mangement measures, is a positive action and should, therefore, be encouraged and facilitated, not hindered.

In this respect, incidentally, the Compliance Agreement itself says in its Article 3, Paragraph 5, sub-paragraph *a*, that "No Party shall authorize any fishing vessel previously registerd in the territory of another Party that has undermined the effectivene3ss of international conservation and management measures to be used for fishing on the high seas", and in sub-paragraph *d* that "notwithstanding the provisions of sub-paragraph *a*, which I have just read, a Party may authorize a fishing vessel to be used for fishing on the high seas if, after having taken into account all relevant facts, it has determined that to grant authorization to use the vessel for fishing on the high seas would not undermine the object and purpose of this agreement". So, even the Compliance Agreement itself contemplates an alternative for an IUU fishing vessel to change its behavior and begin to operate in a fully legal, regulated and reported manner.

Furthermore, as already mentioned by other delegations, the FAO IPOA to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, although still being negotiated, in paragraph 29, it already sets the conditions for flagging vessels previously engaged in IUU fishing. Further, in Article 30, specifically related to chartering arrgangements, it reads that "all States involved in a chartering arrangement, including flag States and other States that accept such an arrangement, should, within the limits of their respective jurisdiction, take measures to ensure that chartered vesels do not engage in IUU fishing. So, Brazil, having taken an active role in the making of these international instruments, cannot, for the sake of coherence, agree with paragraphs 2 and 3 of the draft resolution, unless they are substantially changed to be made consistent with the mentioned instruments.

Nevertheless, notwithstanding that said before, appreciating and highly commending the efforts of Japan and Chinese Taipei to scrap IUU vessels, considering the sacrifices involved in such a measure, as well as its relevance to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing, the Brazilian Government takes the opportunity to inform this

Commission that it is unilaterally changing its procedures on chartering arrangements, by making it mandatory for any new chartering, that the owner of the boat proves that it has not, in the recent past, been engaged in IUU fishing.

Now, I believe that a word of caution is necessary. ICCAT has urgently to find a more proper way of identifying vessels fishing in an IUU manner. Black lists prepared and presented unilaterally are very dangerous and commonly incur in mistakes that might cause great and unfair economic loss for honest fishing companies that are working in a legal way. We have to be very cautious with such "witch hunting" practices. We have seen here in ICCAT, more than once, that such black lists had to be corrected in light of new information provided. Having said that, I would like to reaffirm that Brazil is looking forward to working more closely with other member countries concerned with the IUU problem, particularly with Japan, in order to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing activities, which have a great negative impact on the work of this Commission. In that respect, we would like to acknowledge a recent visit of Japanese representatives to Brazil, specifically to deal with the IUU problem, an initiative that we believe is highly constructive and positive.

Finally, another very important point that I would like to raise is that if IUU fishing is already a very serious problem in the present, it has a great potential of becoming even much more serious in the future, since some countries that heavily criticize IUU fishing in international fora, at the same time, are heavily subsidizing the construction of new and larger vessels in their backyards.

I apologize for such a lengthy speech and I thank you very much for your indulgence.

Appendix 14 to ANNEX 10

Proposal by Japan for a Resolution on a Joint SCRS, Compliance Committee and PWG Workshop Concerning Data Issues
(Proposal not adopted)

Recognizing that collection and submission of accurate fishery data such as CPUE data to ICCAT for the species covered by the Convention is indispensable for better scientific work including, stock assessments which provide the basis for proper conservation and management measures adopted by ICCAT;

Expressing concern that quality of such fishery data is deteriorating in recent years and even for some fisheries, relevant fishery data have never been available to the Commission;

Noting the recommendation by the SCRS that the Commission not use Task I and II data for the purpose of evaluating compliance, as this will adversely affect the accuracy of such scientific data;

Noting emerging concern that provision of fishery data regarding fishing vessels operated under charter or joint venture arrangements is inadequate, partly due to lack of understanding whether a flag state or a chartering state has the responsibility for collection, compilation and transmission of the data;

Recognizing the urgent need for the Commission to collect adequate fishery data in timely manner for better stock assessment;

The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) Resolves That:

1 An *ad hoc* joint Workshop of Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS), Compliance Committee (Compliance) and Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG) be convened, in conjunction with the 2001 ICCAT Commission meeting, with the view to improving collection and provision of data related to fishing on the species covered by the Commission by Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties/entities/fishing entities.

2 The Workshop will,

a review discrepancy between trade data including Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document (BTSD) data and catch data,

b consider the credibility of catch data,

c review collection, compilation and transmission of fisheries data under charter or joint venture arrangements, and

d work out recommendation for improvement of collection of catch data and BTSD Program.

3 The Workshop invite all Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties/entities/fishing entities to attend, and non-Contracting parties who fish for tuna and tuna-like species in the Convention Area and the FAO and other regional fishery organizations to participate as observers.

ANNEX 11

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION (STACFAD)

1 Opening of the meeting

The 2000 meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD) was opened on Saturday, November 18, 2000, by the Committee Chairman, Mr. Jim Jones (Canada).

2 Adoption of Agenda

The Agenda, circulated in advance of the meeting, was adopted without change and is attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 11.**

3 Nomination of Rapporteur

The meeting nominated Mr. Robert Steinbock (Canada) to serve as rapporteur for the meeting.

4 Administrative Report 2000

4.1 The Chairman introduced the 2000 Administrative Report (COM/00/6), which includes information on Commission membership, status of ratification of the Madrid Protocol, dates of the implementation of the Recommendations and Resolutions adopted in 1999, update on acceptance of the ICCAT Port Inspection Scheme, listing of ICCAT inter-sessional meetings and Working Groups as well as meetings at which the Commission was represented, the activities of the ICCAT Bigeye Year Program (BETYP), the results of the tagging lottery, relations with other countries, organizations, and entities, the list of publications issued in 2000, and the current composition of the Secretariat staff.

4.2 The Delegate of Canada noted that reports appeared to be unavailable for several meetings at which ICCAT was represented and requested that reports of all meetings attended by a ICCAT representative be distributed to Contracting Parties and referenced by document number in the Administrative Report. She also suggested that it may be possible to obviate the need for ICCAT attendance at some meetings by requesting a representative of a Contracting Party attending these meetings to provide ICCAT with a report. The Executive Secretary advised that reports of most of these meetings are available on request from the Secretariat. The SCRS Chairman noted that the information from several reports is referenced in the SCRS Report.

5 Financial Report 2000

5.1 The Executive Secretary noted that the 1999 Auditor's Report had been transmitted to the Contracting Parties in early 2000.

5.2 The Committee reviewed the 2000 Financial Report (COM/00/7) prepared by the Secretariat, which provides information on the Commission's financial status for the first half of the 2000-2001 biennial period (up to October 31, 2000). The Executive Secretary informed the Committee that subsequent to October 31, the 2000 contribution of Morocco had been received, forthcoming payment of their 2000 contributions had been announced from Trinidad and Tobago, Brazil, and Ghana, as had a voluntary contribution from Chinese Taipei. It was noted that the receipt of these contributions would improve the financial status and result in a rebuilding of the Working Capital Fund.

5.3 The Delegate of the United States, supported by the EC and Ghana, appealed to all Contracting Parties to provide their contributions in full and on time to enable the Commission to effectively undertake all its work during the year.

5.4 The Delegate of Ghana suggested that other means, pending the final adoption and implementation of the Madrid Protocol, be explored to increase contributions and relieve the financial pressure of the Commission. He referred to Document COM/00/8 and noted that only a handful of Parties submit their production tonnage figures with regards to canning to ICCAT and these should be explored and rectified. He implored all Contracting Parties to provide these statistics to enable a proper calculation of their contributions. He also proposed a revision in the Commission's formula for calculating contributions to include processing methods in addition to canning. The draft resolution proposed by Ghana concerning the collection of contributions is attached **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 11.**

5.5 The Committee indicated support for the proposal but suggested that further consideration thereof be deferred until the 2001 STACFAD meeting. The Chairman concluded that the provision of accurate catch and canning data was necessary to enable the proper calculation of member contributions. He appealed to Contracting Parties to redouble their efforts to provide their full contributions early in the next fiscal year to allow the Commission to function effectively.

5.6 The 2000 Financial Report was adopted by the Committee.

6 Status and financial implications of ICCAT programs

- ***Bluefin Year Program (BYP)***
- ***Program of Enhanced Research for Billfish***
- ***Bigeye Year Program (BETYP)***

6.1 Dr. J. Powers, SCRS Chairman, summarized the budgetary implications of ICCAT's ongoing research programs: Bluefin Year Program (BYP), Program for Enhanced Research for Billfish, and Bigeye Year Program (BETYP). It was noted that the BETYP is currently fully funded by financial support independent from the ICCAT budget , whereas the Billfish Program and the BYP are partially funded by outside sources. The Representative of the United States advised that the U.S. private sector currently partially funds the ICCAT Program for Enhanced Research for Billfish, and indicated it was desirable to reduce this dependency. He appealed to the Governments of Contracting Parties to support this program. The Executive Secretary advised that Chinese Taipei has continued to contribute to this program in recent years.

6.2 Following a request from the Representative of Canada, it was confirmed that the funds allocated from the previous budget in the Bigeye Year Program will be rolled over into the next financial year.

6.3 The Committee expressed its appreciation to Japan, the EC, Chinese Taipei, as well as the Azores, Canary Islands and the Basque Governments, for the voluntary funding provided in support of the Bigeye Year Program, and to Japan for the dispatch of a Japanese fishery research vessel for this program. The Delegate of Japan advised that he would undertake best efforts to maintain the same level of funding next year.

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

The Chairman advised that only two non-developed market economies need to adopt the Protocol to enable its entry into force (Two of: Angola, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Ghana, and Sao Tome & Principe). The Delegate of Ghana advised that he expected his Government to ratify the Protocol shortly after this annual meeting. The Delegate of Angola assured that the ratification process by this Government was expected to be completed by the end of the year. The Delegate of Canada urged Contracting Parties to ratify the Protocol as its entry into force would place the Commission on a stable and secure foundation and ensure that the Commission could undertake all of its work. The Delegate of the United Kingdom (on behalf of its Overseas

Territories) clarified that, upon entry into force of the Protocol, the contribution formula should be assessed on the basis of the economies of its five Overseas Territories and not the UK mainland. The Delegate of France (on behalf of St. Pierre et Miquelon) similarly requested that the same formulation be applied to the economy of St. Pierre et Miquelon and not France. The Chairman requested the UK (on behalf of its Overseas Territories) and France (on behalf of St. Pierre et Miquelon) to send formal proposals for review by the Committee members.

8 Budgetary implications of the Commission's general activities in 2001

8.1 *Research and statistics.* The Subcommittee on Statistics agreed last year to set aside funds for the Secretariat to develop a relational database over a two-year period (2000 and 2001).

8.2 *Inter-sessional meetings.* There are five science inter-sessional meetings and two Commission Working Group meetings planned for 2001. The Executive Secretary stressed the importance of obtaining full and early contributions from Contracting Parties to ensure that all these meetings can be held. He advised that if this is not the case, he will need to apply restraint and some intersessional meetings may not be funded.

8.3 *Publications.* There were no budget implications discussed.

9 Revised Budget and Contracting Party Contributions for 2001

9.1 The Commission Budget and Contributions for 2001 were adopted. The Executive Secretary explained that the total budget figure was the same as that adopted provisionally by the Commission in 1999 (i.e. **252,943,060 Pesetas**). He further explained that there had been minor changes in the Contracting Party contributions as a result of the change in exchange rate in pesetas applied and to the changes in Panel membership at this meeting.

9.2 The 2001 Regular Commission Budget and Contracting Party contributions adopted by STACFAD are attached as **Tables 1 and 2**, respectively.

10 Date and place of the next meeting of STACFAD

The next meeting of the STACFAD will take place at the same time and place as the next meeting of the Commission.

11 Other matters

The Chairman advised that, as agreed at the 1999 meeting, the Secretariat staff benefit package has been updated and these amendments have been reflected in the *ICCAT Staff Regulations and Rules*. These amendments were adopted by the Commission.

12 Adoption of Report

The Committee adopted its Report on Monday, November 20, 2000.

13 Adjournment

The 2000 meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD) was adjourned on Monday, November 20, 2000.

Appendix 1 to ANNEX 11

STACFAD AGENDA

1 Opening of the meeting
2 Adoption of Agenda
3 Nomination of Rapporteur
4 2000 Administrative Report
5 2000 Financial Report
   - 1999 Auditor's Report
   - Financial status of the first half of the Biennial Budget - 2000
6 Status and financial 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)
8 Budgetary implications of the Commission's general activities in 2001:
   - Research and statistics
   - Inter-sessional meetings
   - Publications
9 Revised Budget and Contracting Party contributions for 2001
10 Date and place of the next meeting of STACFAD
11 Other matters
12 Adoption of Report
13 Adjournment

Appendix 2 to ANNEX 11

Draft Proposal by Ghana or a Resolution by ICCAT on the Collection of Contributions for the Running of the Secretariat

(Proposal not adopted)

Noting that contrary to paragraph 2 of Article X of the Convention, some Contracting Parties fail to declare their net weight of canned products in order to qualify them to pay a lower contribution to the Commission;

Also realizing that most Contracting Parties do not declare their net values of the processed products of the fish they catch for commercial operations, leading to a loss of revenue to the Commission;

The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) Resolves That:

1 The Secretariat of the Commission shall transmit a circular to all the Contracting Parties indicating whether or not they have declared amounts of canned tuna and tuna-like products and, if so, state the weight of such canned products that is used in the calculation of the Contracting Party contributions.

2 The Chairman of the Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD) shall use all the facilities at his disposal, not excluding the use of financial experts to prevail upon all Contracting Parties who have not indicated that they are involved in canning, to provide sufficient information that would lead to the financial valuation of their products before they are put on the market. This information should enable the Secretariat to calculate the contributions of such Contracting Parties equitably. It is hoped that without prejudice to any future changes, these measures would establish a firm basis for the collection of funds to run the Secretariat.

Table 1. Commission Budget Adopted for 2001 (Pesetas)

Chapters	*Budget for 2001*
1 Salaries	113,044,560
2 Travel	6,695,000
3 Commission Meeting (Annual & Inter-sessionals)	11,330,000
4 Publications	5,150,000
5 Office Equipment	1,236,000
6 Operating Expenses	14,935,000
7 Miscellaneous	927,000
Sub-total Chapters 1 to 7	*153,317,560*
8 Coordination of Research:	
a Salaries	62,418,000
b Travel to improve statistics	5,665,000
c Statistics/Biology	5,150,000
d Computer-related items	3,605,000
– Major data base revision	6,050,000
e Scientific meetings (including SCRS)	9,991,000
f Bluefin Year Program (BYP)	2,266,000
g Bigeye Year Program (BETYP)	0
h Billfish Research Program	1,751,000
i Miscellaneous	927,000
Sub-total Chapter 8	*97,823,000*
9. Contingencies	1,802,500
TOTAL REVISED BUDGET	**252,943,060**

Table 2. Contracting Party Contributions to the 2001 Commission Budget

US$ 1.00= 187.850

Based on 1997 figures

			Total Budget (Convertible Pesetas)				***252,943,060***				
Contracting Parties	*Panels*	*Panel*	*Catch*	*Canning*	*C+C*	*C+C*	*Fee*	*Panel*	*Panel*	*C+C*	*Total*
	#	*%*	*MT*	*MT*	*MT*	*%*	*Conv. Pts*	*Conv. Pts*	*Conv. Pts*	*Conv. Pts*	*Conv. Pts*
	(A)	*(B)*	*(C)*	*(D)*	*(E)*	*(F)*	*(G)*	*(H)*	*(I)*	*(J)*	*(K)*
Angola	2	3.659	241	96	337	0.046	187,850	375,700	2,896,821	72,156	3,532,527
Brasil	2	3.659	41,710	3,098	44,808	6.056	187,850	375,700	2,896,821	9,590,093	13,050,464
Canada	3	4.878	1,908	0	1,908	0.258	187,850	563,550	3,862,429	408,361	5,022,190
Cap Vert	1	2.439	3,035	287	3,322	0.449	187,850	187,850	1,931,214	711,042	3,017,957
China, People's Rep.	3	4.878	614	0	614	0.083	187,850	563,550	3,862,429	131,412	4,745,240
Cote d'Ivoire	1	2.439	425	1,400	1,825	0.247	187,850	187,850	1,931,214	390,597	2,697,511
Croatia	1	2.439	1,131	0	1,131	0.153	187,850	187,850	1,931,214	242,063	2,548,977
European Community	4	6.098	297,205	86,433	383,638	51.849	187,850	751,400	4,828,036	82,108,379	87,875,665
France - Dep.Terr.	1	2.439	0	0	0	0.000	187,850	187,850	1,931,214	0	2,306,914
Gabon	1	2.439	225	0	225	0.030	187,850	187,850	1,931,214	48,156	2,355,070
Ghana	1	2.439	53,930	44,093	98,023	13.248	187,850	187,850	1,931,214	20,979,411	23,286,325
Guinea Ecuatorial	0	1.220	2,991	0	2,991	0.404	187,850	0	965,607	640,151	1,793,608
Guinee, Rep. de	0	1.220	463	0	463	0.063	187,850	0	965,607	99,094	1,252,551
Japan	4	6.098	39,616	0	39,616	5.354	187,850	751,400	4,828,036	8,478,841	14,246,127
Korea	2	3.659	1,924	0	1,924	0.260	187,850	375,700	2,896,821	411,785	3,872,157
Libya	2	3.659	1,474	1,747	3,221	0.435	187,850	375,700	2,896,821	689,476	4,149,847
Maroc	3	4.878	17,208	135	17,343	2.344	187,850	563,550	3,862,429	3,711,847	8,325,676
Namibia	3	4.878	1,315	0	1,315	0.178	187,850	563,550	3,862,429	281,444	4,895,272
Panama	2	3.659	13,378	0	13,378	1.808	187,850	375,700	2,896,821	2,863,235	6,323,607
Russia	1	2.439	5,959	0	5,959	0.805	187,850	187,850	1,931,214	1,275,379	3,582,293
S.Tome & Principe	1	2.439	891	0	891	0.120	187,850	187,850	1,931,214	190,697	2,497,611
South Africa	2	3.659	6,841	0	6,841	0.925	187,850	375,700	2,896,821	1,464,150	4,924,521
Trinidad & Tobago	2	3.659	3,782	0	3,782	0.511	187,850	375,700	2,896,821	809,445	4,269,817
Tunisie	1	2.439	4,176	0	4,176	0.564	187,850	187,850	1,931,214	893,771	3,200,685
U.S.A.	4	6.098	29,475	31,933	61,408	8.299	187,850	751,400	4,828,036	13,142,888	18,910,174
UK- OS Terr.	4	6.098	637	0	637	0.086	187,850	751,400	4,828,036	136,334	5,903,620
Uruguay	1	2.439	988	0	988	0.134	187,850	187,850	1,931,214	211,457	2,518,372
Venezuela	2	3.659	31,937	7,207	39,144	5.290	187,850	375,700	2,896,821	8,377,909	11,838,281
Total	54	100	563,479	176,430	739,909	100	5,259,800	*********	79,179,787	158,359,573	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 ANGOLA[1]

Kumgi Kilongo[2]

1 Introduction

Angola is a country that has an extensive Exclusive Economic Zone, from 5° to 17° South. The crossing of two currents (the warm current of Guinea coming from the North and the cold current of Bengala from the South) along its coast which makes it very fertile from the point of view of the variety of species present, which include tunas.

The major species caught all along the coasts are: *Thunnus albacares* (yellowfin tuna), *Thunnus obesus* (bigeye tuna), *Katsuwonus pelamis* (skipjack tuna) and small tunas, mainly *Sarda sarda* (Atlantic bonito), *Auxis thazard* (frigate tuna) and other species of lesser importance.

All these species are caught by different fishing gears, mainly longline, baitboat, purse seine, pelagic trawl and snares. The data submitted by Angola are considered under-estimated, since the licensed foreign fleets report directly to ICCAT.

2 State of the fisheries

Figures 1 and 2 show the current status of the fisheries from different aspects.

The first figure shows the data submitted by Angola to ICCAT from 1978 to 1999. The figure shows a continuous decline in catches that has more or less stabilized at the lowest level since 1993. These data reflect an under-estimation since they are only from the southern part of the country (Lobito) and do not include other coastal areas or other fishing gears (only longliners, baitboats and snares for this region), due to the insecurity all along the coasts in past years.

The second figures shows a drastic increase in the data in 1998 and 1999, with total catches at 6,734 MT for 1999, comprised of 170 MT of yellowfin tuna, 3,000 MT of skipjack, 1,998 MT of Atlantic bonito, 618 MT of frigate tuna, and 618 MT of unidentified species. This figure includes a correction that regroups data for the entire coast and includes the different fishing gears, in spite of slight decrease observed in 1999 as compared to 1998.

The foreign fleet is characterized by the current presence of 30 licensed vessels fishing under European Community flag, notably those of Spanish nationality, of which 12 are purse seiners having an average length of 66 m, and 18 are longliners measuring an average of 45 m. The catch data are still not known, since they are sent directly transmitted to ICCAT, but efforts are being made to re-establish a data series of these catches.

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1 Original report in French.

2 *Institut de l'Investigation Marine.*

Research activities

With the main objective of updating and improving the collection of statistical as well as biological data, the following research activities are currently being carried out:

- Intensified collection of statistical data on the fishing activities of national and foreign vessels, and the respective entry of such data in the data base.
- Initiation of a solid sampling scheme for all the tuna species caught along the Angolan coast.
- Updating and improvement of the information submitted to ICCAT.
- Active participation in ICCAT activities

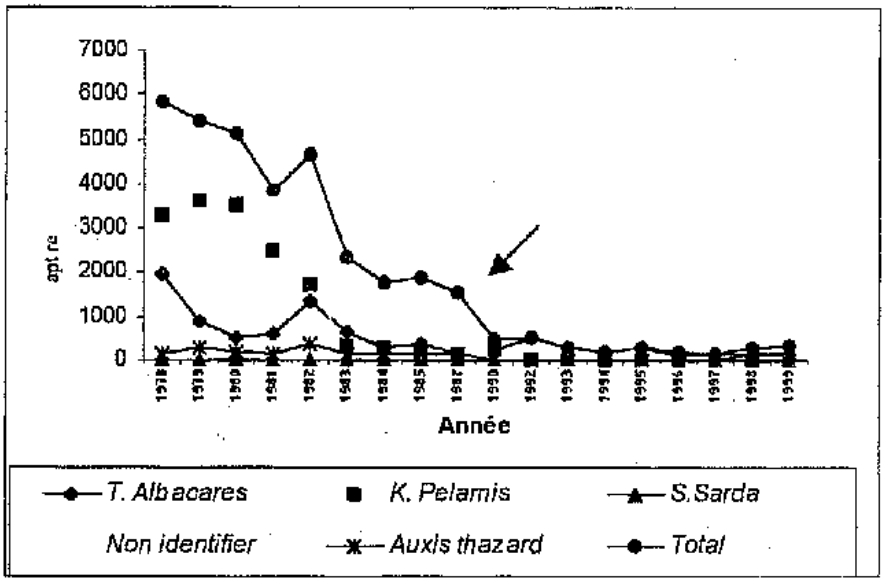

Fig. 1. Catches reported to ICCAT by Angola from 1978 to 1999 (data from the Lobito area, without international fleet).

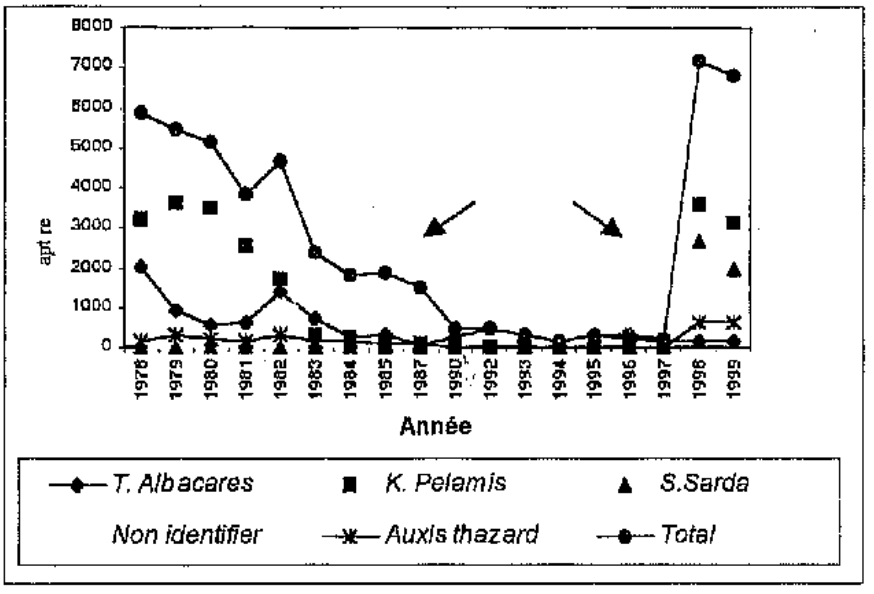

Fig. 2. Catches reported to ICCAT by Angola from 1978 to 1999 (entire coast since 1998, without international fleet).

NATIONAL REPORT OF BRAZIL[1]

Ministério da Agricultura e do Abastecimento
Secretaria de Apoio Rural e Cooperativismo
Departamento de Pesca e Aqüicultura

1 The catches

In 1999, The Brazilian tuna longline fleet consisted of 70 vessels operating from the following ports: Itajai-SC (6), Santos-SP (25), Cabedelo-PB (20), Natal-RN (17), and Rio Grande-RS (2). Of these 70 longliners, 42 were national and 28 were foreign leased vessels. There was a 4% increase in the total number of vessels from 1998, when 67 vessels were operating. The number of leased vessels, however, decreased by 24 %, whereas the national fleet rose by 36%. This trend is a result of a national policy designed to promote the development of Brazilian high-seas fisheries and to use the chartering of vessels as a tool to internalize new fishing technologies. The leased longline fleet was responsible for the catch of 9,681 MT, distributed by flag as follows: Uruguay - 238.34 MT; Panama - 228.68 MT; United States - 209.8 MT; Spain -3,092.4 MT; St. Vincent - 503.26 MT; Equatorial Guinea - 2,840.81 MT; Belize - 434.57 MT, Chinese Taipei - 1,812.72 MT; Honduras - 298.18 MT; and Portugal - 22.85 MT. Meanwhile, the national longline fleet caught a total of 4,738.15 MT of tunas and tuna-like fishes. The number of baitboats remained stable (42) and worked out of the same ports as in the previous year: Itajai-SC, Rio de Janeiro-RJ and Rio Grande-RS. All baitboats are national. For the first time, an experimental operation with a leased purse seiner was carried out from Cabedelo Port, resulting in a total catch of 240 MT of skipjack and 194.5 MT of other tuna species, mainly yellowfin tuna. Due to the productivity, however, the operation was discontinued. From August 1999 to January 2000, a total of three fishing cruises were carried out and in all of them an observer was aboard the vessel, resulting in the collection of a large amount of data, including the measurement of 1,777 fish, of which 794 were skipjack and 983 were yellowfin tuna (a paper in this respect has been presented to the SCRS).

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 39,709.15 MT (round weight) in 1999 **(Table 1A)**, representing a decline of about 10% from the catch in 1998 (44,236.6 MT). The majority of catch again was taken by baitboats (62.6%), with skipjack tuna being the most abundance species (22,947.5 MT), accounting for 92.3% of the baitboat catches. Catches of this species remained relatively stable, falling by only 144 MT from the previous year. With a total catch of 1,196.6 MT, yellowfin tuna was the second dominant species in the baitboat fishery. The total catch of the tuna longline fishery (14,407 MT) was about 22% higher than in 1998, mainly due to an increase in catches of yellowfin tuna, by 30%, the second most caught species, with a total of 2,930.4 M%, representing 20.3% of the total catch. Swordfish catches in 1999 reached 4,721.1 MT, representing 32% of the total catch of longliners and an increase of 24% from 1998, when 3,840 MT were caught. Albacore, the second most important species caught by longliners in 1998, with a total of 3,407 M%, represented only 10.2% (1,479.25 MT) of the total catch in 1999, a decrease of 56.6% from the pervious year. For the first time since the late 1960s, a catch of 12 MT of bluefin was recorded. A total of 1,942 MT of sharks were caught as by-catch. The predominant species caught was the blue shark *(Prionace glauca)*, which comprised almost half of the catch, followed by sharks of the genus *Carcharhinus* and shortfin mako *(Isurus oxyrinchus)*.

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 references to Brazilian boats include both categories of vessels. In addition to log sheets, supplementary information on landings is provided by fishing companies.

1 Original report in English.

The responsibility for all issues relating to highly migratory species in Brazil (including data collection and submission to ICCAT), pertains to the Fisheries and Aquiculture Department of the Ministry of Agriculture (MA-DPA), which prepared and submitted Task I and Task II data, in due time. Four institutions directly assisted the Ministry of Agriculture in processing and analyzing relevant data from 1999, namely: the *Superintendencia do Desenvolvimento do Nordeste-SUDENE*, the *Universidade Federal Rural de Pernambuco* (UFRPE), both 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, together with many others, including the *Instituto Brasileiro do Meio Ambiente e dos Recursos Naturais Renováveis* (IBAMA), continued to 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 and analyzed. Besides, genetic samples were taken from swordfish caught off northeast Brazil and are now being analyzed through a cooperative research project with Texas A&M University, under the guidance of Dr. Jaime Alvarado.

Several studies continued to be developed as part of the Brazilian Program for the Assessment of Living Resources in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), termed REVIZEE (*Programa de Avalinçao do Potencial Sustentável dos Recursos Vivos na Zona Econômica Exclusiva*). This is the largest national research program on marine science and fisheries ever carried out in Brazil and encompasses a broad range of surveys in oceanic areas off the south, southeast and northeast coasts. This research program is coordinated, at the national level, by the Ministry of the Environment (MMA), under the operational coordination of IBAMA. 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 multi-filament and mono-filament longlines.

Data have also been collected from several recreational fisheries based off southeast Brazil and mainly in the Rio de Janeiro-RJ and Ilhabela-SP where sport tournaments are conducted by local yacht clubs. Up to now, about 400 billfishes and a few swordfish have been tagged and released, whilst only one swordfish (1993), one white marlin (1997) and one sailfish (1997) have been recaptured.

3 Implementation of ICCAT conservation and management measures

As previously indicated, in order to adequately comply with ICCAT recommendations, several fishery regulations have been implemented by the Brazilian government. These include:

- A minimum-size limit for swordfish (in 1999 the Brazilian catch of fish less than 125 cm was only 6.4% of total production).
- A prohibition on 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 drift nets.

In addition, the number of leased vessels allowed to fish for swordfish as a target species was restricted to 16 (*Instruçao Normativa No. 17*, of December 1999). In all other leased vessels that do not have the specific license, the catch of swordfish can amount to a maximum of 15% of the total landings. Besides, in order to better follow up the catches of albacore and swordfish, information has begun to be summarized and submitted to ICCAT every four months, the time some of the vessels remain at sea. Also, in order to curb the swordfish catches and comply with the Brazilian quota, all specific licenses of the leased vessels were suspended by September 28, 2000, thus shortening the fishing season by one-fourth. Furthermore, on September 21, 2000, the Brazilian Government established a Permanent Committee for the Management of Brazilian Tuna Fisheries (*Comitê Consultivo Permanente de Gestao sobre Atuns e Afins -CPG; Portaria No. 370*), which includes representatives of several Government bodies, such as, *inter alia*, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of the Environment and the Brazilian Navy, the private sector and the scientific community. The establishment of the CPG is expected to enhance the transparency of the management process of Brazilian tuna fisheries and significantly strengthen its institutional aspects.

Table 1A. Catch and effort statistics for Atlantic tunas (Task I)

ICCAT FORM 1-1

Country:	BRASIL (3)	**Year:** 1999	**DATA:**	Quick estimates:	High Seas
				Estimates:	EEZ
Flag:	All Flags	**Catch: X**		Preliminary:	**Combined:X**
				Final: X	
Person in charge:	Sergio Macedo Gomes de Mattos	**Weight: X**	**Unit: Metric Tons**		
Address of agency:	UFRPE - Universidade Federal Rural de Pernambuco Av. Dom Manoel de Medeiros, s/n. Dois Irmãos Recife-PE		**Round weight: X**		

Unit of effort: No. hooks /days at sea

Conversion factor — Converted from

Flag	Region	Gear	No. hooks Effort	Total	BFT	YFT	ALB	BET	SAI	WHM	BUM	SWO	SHARK	OTH
BRAS-URU	SW	LL	162,410	238.34	0.00	49.85	1.36	11.82	2.42	4.30	12.39	118.57	33.76	3.87
BRAS-PAN	SW	LL	122,250	228.68	0.00	71.17	3.15	10.09	1.82	3.45	16.61	103.01	15.71	3.67
BRAS-USA	SW	LL	105,853	209.80	0.00	38.49	5.54	5.72	1.87	1.50	9.53	135.15	8.84	3.16
BRAS-ESP	SW	LL	1,623,964	3092.40	0.00	489.97	101.49	145.16	50.83	4.91	22.31	2050.77	175.63	51.33
BRAS-ST.VINCE	SW	LL	1053630	503.26	0.00	83.62	241.42	82.42	24.55	0.34	9.51	17.62	20.44	23.34
BRAS-E.GUINEA	SW	LL	4,662,110	2840.81	12.50	490.07	586.48	966.10	69.88	36.10	149.26	155.23	263.13	112.05
BRAS-BELIZE	SW	LL	517,376	434.57	0.00	90.76	198.64	83.86	1.31	0.17	1.76	19.30	35.80	2.96
BRAS-TAI	SW	LL	2,395,337	1812.72	0.00	437.25	218.99	563.91	93.82	39.53	120.78	73.23	196.79	68.43
BRAS-HON	SW	LL	279,455	298.18	0.00	120.03	16.51	10.43	2.68	3.60	17.70	92.29	31.05	3.90
BRAS-POR	SW	LL	11,500	22.85	0.00	6.39	0.27	0.00	0.10	0.07	0.54	14.43	1.06	0.00
BRAS-BRAS	SW	LL	2,664,375	4738.15	0.00	1052.79	105.41	145.37	28.41	62.62	147.08	1941.48	1159.31	95.68
Total	**SW**	**LL**	**13,598,260**	**14419.75**	**12.50**	**2930.40**	**1479.25**	**2024.88**	**277.67**	**156.59**	**507.48**	**4721.07**	**1941.51**	**368.39**

		Gear	Days at sea Effort	Total	YFT	ALB	BET	SKJ	FRI	LTA	DOL	OTH
BRAS-BRAS	SW	BB	4,150	24854.9	1196.6	394.1	0	22947.5	116	9.8	183	7.9
Total	**SW**	**BB**	**4,150**	**24854.9**	**1196.6**	**394.1**	**0**	**22947.5**	**116**	**9.8**	**183**	**7.9**

		Gear	No. sets Effort	Total	SKJ	OTH
BRAS-ESP	SW	PSG	13	434.50	240.00	194.50
Total	**SW**	**PSG**	**13**	**434.50**	**240.00**	**194.50**

	Total	BFT	YFT	ALB	BET	SAI	WHM	BUM	SWO	SKJ	FRI	LTA	DOL	SHARK	OTH
TOTAL CATCH	**39709.15**	**12.50**	**4127.00**	**1873.35**	**2024.88**	**277.67**	**156.59**	**507.48**	**4721.07**	**23187.50**	**116**	**9.8**	**183**	**1941.51**	**570.79**

Table 1B. ICCAT Reporting tables for Brazilian catches in 1999

PANEL 1

Species/Region	*1999 Catch limit (MT)*	*1999 Catches (MT)*	*Estimated catch over/under catch limit*	*Estimated catch over 15% tolerance of fish < 3.2 kg*
Bigeye tuna	None	2,024.9	Not applicable	0
Yellowfin tuna	None	4,127.0	Not applicable	0
Skipjack tuna	None	23,187.5	Not applicable	17.5%

PANEL 3

Species-Region	*1999 Catch limit (MT)*	*1999 Catches (MT)*	*Estimated catch over/under catch limit*
Southern albacore	None	1,873.4	Not applicable

PANEL 4

Species/Region	*1999 Catch limit (SWO) landings limit (BIL) (MT)*	*1999 Catches (SWO) Landings (BIL) (MT)*	*Estimated SWO catch over/under catch limit (MT)*	*Estimated SWO catch over 15% tolerance of fish < 125 cm*
North Atlantic swordfish	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
South Atlantic swordfish	2,339.2	4,721.1	2,381.9	0
White marlin	56.2	156.6	Not applicable	Not applicable
Blue marlin	248	507.5	Not applicable	Not applicable

NATIONAL REPORT OF CANADA [1]

J.M. Porter [2] and C.J. Allen [3]

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 1999 calendar year was 577.7 MT (573 MT allocated quota plus 4.7 MT of carry-over from 1998) The Canadian nominal landings of Atlantic bluefin tuna in 1999 were 576.1 MT (**Table 1**), leaving 1.6 MT uncaught. In addition, 10.7 MT were estimated to be discarded dead from the swordfish longline fleet (**Table 2**). Canada has 5.6 MT of the overall allowance for dead discards from ICCAT Recommendation 98-7. When this and the 1.6 MT uncaught quota are included, Canada was 3.5 MT over its allocated TAC (including the estimate of dead discards) in 1999 that will be deducted from the 2000 quota (573 MT less 3.5 = 569.5 MT).

In general, in 1999 the bluefin fishing fleets reported both higher catch rates and a greater number of productive fishing areas. 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 and in 1999 the Hell Hole accounted for about 32% (182 MT) of the Canadian landings (from 70% in the early 1990s; **Table 2**). In 1998 and 1999, the catches in the Hell Hole increased, and have again become more concentrated spatially (SCRS/00/44). Fish captured in this fishery weigh about 200 kg (round), on average. The standardized CPUE in 1998 and 1999 has shown an increase such that the 1999 value is about twice that of the 1996-97 values, although it is still only about 40% of levels seen in the late 1980s and early 1990s (SCRS/00/44). In 1999, 28% (164 MT) of the Canadian catch came from the Gulf of St. Lawrence. This represents an increase in the level of harvest generally seen during the 1990s. The standardized CPUE levels also show an increase in the past two years, though levels are still much lower than the CPUE observed in the early 1980s (SCRS/00/44). 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 (44 MT), from the rod and reel fishery off northeastern Nova Scotia (26 MT), and from new fishing areas off Halifax and Liverpool, Nova Scotia (93 MT). The latter fisheries (Halifax and Liverpool) are becoming increasingly important (**Table 2**). In the Bay of Fundy, 38 MT were taken by electric harpoon In 1992, 10 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 18 MT of its 20 MT by-catch limit in 1999.

In 1999, 460 licensed fishermen actually participated in the directed bluefin fishery, one offshore longline license was authorized to direct for other tuna with a small bluefin by-catch 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 1999 was 1,070 MT, plus the carry over from the 1998 quota of 25.5 MT, giving Canada a quota of 1095.5 MT. The Canadian nominal landings of swordfish in 1999 were 1118.5 MT (**Table 1**), and resulted in a 23.0 MT

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1 Original report in English.

2 Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Biological Station, 531 Brandy Cove Road, St. Andrews, New Brunswick, E5B 2L9

3 Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Resource Management Branch, 200 Kent Street, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0E6

overrun in quota which will be deducted from the 2000 quota (1018 MT less 23.0 = 995 MT). As for bluefin tuna, there is a strict management regime established to ensure that the Canadian swordfish quota is not exceeded (see Appendix A[4]), and reasons for overages in 1999 have been addressed in the 2000 fishery. Landings of undersized swordfish were as close to zero as possible (< 0.3%)Based on data from at-sea observers on the swordfish longline fleet, 34.6 MT of small swordfish were estimated to discarded dead **(Table 4)**.

In 1999, 1100.7 MT were taken by longline (or 98% of the catch), while the tonnage taken by harpoon was 17.6 MT **(Table 4)**. The mean weight (round) of longlined and harpooned swordfish was 56 kg and 109 kg, respectively **(Table 4)**.

Only 53 of the 77 licensed swordfish longline fishermen landed fish in the 1999 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 1999 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 1,336 fishermen are eligible for harpoon licenses, only 66 actually landed fish in 1999, as harpooning swordfish is usually an opportunistic activity conducted during other fisheries. In addition, one offshore longline license was issued for tunas other than bluefin with a swordfish by-catch 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 by-catch, and the 77-vessel swordfish/other tunas longline fleet has been designated to direct for other tunas with no bluefin tuna by-catch. In addition, bluefin tuna vessels are authorized to catch and retain an incidental by-catch of other tuna while fishing for bluefin. In 1999, pelagic longline vessels directed for bigeye early and late in the season. In addition to bigeye catches (263 MT) there were also small catches of albacore (39 MT) and yellowfin (22 MT; **Table 1**).

1.4 Sharks

Historically, blue shark, porbeagle and shortfin mako have been a by-catch of the Canadian swordfish and groundfish longline fisheries although small amounts are also landed from other fisheries. It is believed that the by-catch is larger than reported because of discarding and live releases, 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 1999, 43 exploratory shark fishing licenses were authorized to land porbeagle and/or blue shark, with all other sharks, including shortfin mako regulated to a by-catch **(Table 3)**. The management plan has put a freeze on any new exploratory shark fishing license authorizations. In fact, there were 12 less exploratory shark fishing licenses in 1999 than in 1996 as the Atlantic Large Pelagics Advisory Committee agreed that licenses not fishing would lapse. Total reported landings in 1999 were 958 MT of porbeagle, 54 MT of blue shark and 70 MT of shortfin mako **(Table 1)**. In addition, there were 437 recreational shark licenses restricted to hook and release only **(Table 3)**.

4 Appendix A, the 1999 Canadian Atlantic Integrated Fishery Management Plans, was presented to the 2000 SCRS and Commission Meetings and is available upon request. Additional details on these Management Plans should be requested from the Authorities of Canada.

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, independent and certified Dockside Monitors must be present for off-loading, and log record data must be submitted by each fisherman to the 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 by-catch. 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 1999, and appropriate changes implemented, as necessary. Problems such as by-catch and highgrading are assessed through Observer Programs and at-sea surveillance on the domestic fleet. License holders who 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

Canada fully supports research that improves the basic inputs and approaches of the Atlantic bluefin stock assessments. Canada (government scientists and managers, and industry) has supported and participated in recent state-of-the-art bluefin tagging studies that have resulted in compelling new scientific information that differs broadly from prevailing views of bluefin biology. Since 1997, these new fishery-independent pop-up satellite tagging efforts targeting adult and spawning size fish in New England and Canada showed that about 30% of bluefin each year were located in the eastern management zone when their tags reported. Further, none of the spawning size fish were located in either known spawning ground when their tags reported their location, raising the possibility of a previously unknown spawning area in the central Atlantic. As the management implications of possible spawning of bluefin tuna in the central Atlantic are enormous, Canada fully supports the Bermuda Working Group's Consensus Document recommending an exploratory research cruise to sample spawning size bluefin tuna and larvae in 2001.

The 1999 scientific research program at the Biological Station (St. Andrews) was as follows:

1 Continued a collaborative (Canada/USA/Science/Industry) high-tech satellite tagging project (SCRS/99/104): continued training, industry cooperation, and tagged six bluefin with point location (3) and fully archival (3) pop-up satellite tags.

2 Dockside monitoring for all bluefin tuna landed in Canada, and data entry by the Monitoring Companies or Regional Statistical offices. Since 1996, there has been monitoring and data entry for all trips even when no fish were landed. In 1999, biologists provided training to the monitors, and to fisheries officers.

3 Collected bluefin blood and tissue samples for a NMFS (USA) research project on bluefin sexual maturity and genetics.

2.2 Swordfish research

The 1999 scientific research program at the Biological Station (St. Andrews) was as follows:

1 Calculated age- and sex-specific CPUE for Canadian swordfish longline (1988-1998) for fish 2-9+ (SCRS/99/76). Updated the Canadian component of the biomass index (SCRS/99/88).

2 Dockside monitoring in place for all longline swordfish landed in Canada and data entry conducted by the Monitoring Companies or Regional Statistical offices. Since 1996, there has been dockside monitoring for both the longline and harpoon fleets.

3 Provided preliminary estimates of dead swordfish and bluefin discards based on Observer coverage of the domestic large pelagic longline fleet (SCRS/99/77).

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 8% observer coverage. Dockside monitoring is in place for the other tuna fisheries.

2.4 Sharks

An intensive research program on sharks was initiated at the Bedford Institute of Oceanography (Dartmouth) in 1998, with the initial focus being on porbeagles.

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 two-year 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 was renewed in 2000 and will remain in effect until the spring of 2001.

2 Detailed catch-effort and size composition information from past years was integrated with new information on age and growth and reproduction from the JPA to reconstruct past population trends. Current and past population abundance was estimated from catch at age and tag-recapture studies. These and other population indices were incorporated into an analytical stock assessment of porbeagles in the fall of 1999, and formed the basis for a new management plan in 2000-2001.

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 covered 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 contributed 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 1999. Logbook records were also obtained from recreational shark fishers.

2.5 Precautionary approach

Canada strongly supports the Precautionary Approach and assigns a high priority to its implementation in fisheries management domestically as well as in the context of ICCAT. Recognizing that ICCAT stocks are currently not information rich, Canada fully supports new research aimed at improving stock assessments. Furthermore, as the Precautionary Approach is not limited to the development of reference points, Canada also strongly promotes the use of appropriate fisheries management and compliance measures to ensure the rebuilding and safeguarding of the resource.

1 Participated in ICCAT Working Group on the Precautionary Approach Dublin, 17-21 May 1999.

2 Prepared summary of ICCAT Precautionary Approach Questionnaires, and presented a document co-authored with Restrepo and Kell.

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 (issued pursuant to the Fishery (General) Regulations), 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 1999 quota was set at 577.7 MT (573 MT of allocation plus 4.7 MT of 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.

Prior to the implementation of the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program, Canada developed a system of uniquely numbered tags to be attached to all bluefin tuna landed in Canada. Since 1995, it has tracked the utilization of these tags through a computerized system and can cross reference data from this system with the information on the Bluefin Tuna Statistical Documents once they are returned from Japan.

Canada has implemented a time/area closure for the area west of the 65° 30' W line to reduce the by-catch 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 1999 quota was set to 1095.5 MT (1,070 allocation plus 25.5 MT of carry-over), and there is a prohibition on the taking and landing of swordfish less than 119 cm LJFL (no tolerance). In 1999, Canada landed 23 MT over quota which will be deducted from the 2000 quota. In 2000, a restructuring of the fleet, combined with longline trip limits and a system of daily hails from sea during the latter portion of the fishery have been implemented to ensure the quota is not overrun. In 1998 and 1999, landings of fish <119 cm LJFL were reduced to as close to zero as possible (0.3%). In addition to the ICCAT regulatory recommendations, Canada has limited entry into the fishery, strict by-catch provisions, time-area closures to protect small fish and minimize by-catch, and gear restrictions. In an effort to protect large (spawning stock) swordfish, the industry initiated a closure of a substantial portion of the Scotian Shelf for the past four 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 by-catch of bluefin tuna. In addition, five trips during the regular swordfish fishery carried observers, while 11 trips directing for tunas carried observers (five trips for the offshore licence that has an allowance of bluefin tuna, and six trips on vessels directing for bigeye and yellowfin with no bluefin allowance at the end of the season when the swordfish quota was caught). Based on these observed trips, dead discards of swordfish and bluefin tuna were estimated (see 1.1, 1.2).

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/other tunas longline license and to one offshore vessel with an other tuna longline license. There was 8% observer coverage (by trip) on the fleet fishing for other tunas. 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, by-catch 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

Although Canada has few large pelagic vessels over 24 meters in length, and most fishing is conducted within the 200 mile zone, in 1999 Canada had five vessels equipped with a VMS system as per the recommendation adopted by ICCAT. 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/by-catch of restricted species or undersized targeted species.

Table 1. Canadian landings (tonnes round weight) of large pelagic fish species, 1991-1999

Species	*Landings*								
	1991	*1992*	*1993*	*1994*	*1995*	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*
Swordfish	1026.5	1546.5	2233.7	1675.7	1609.2	739.1	1089.5	1,115.1	1118.5
Bluefin tuna	481.7	443.5	458.6	391.6	576.1	598.0	504.5	596.0	576.1
Albacore	5.7	1.0	8.7	32.2	11.5	23.9	30.8	23.2	38.8
Bigeye tuna	27.1	67.5	124.1	110.5	148.6	144.0	165.7	119.6	262.8
Yellowfin tuna	28.0	25.5	71.5	52.3	174.4	154.5	100.1	56.6	21.8
Unspecified tuna	2.0	3.2	9.1	0.2	0.0	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	53.5
Shortfin mako	346.0[1]	119.0	152.2	157.2	107.0	67.4	110.1	69.5	70.4
Porbeagle		741.0	919.0	1549.0	1305.0	1015.4	1339.4	1007.8	958.2
Unspecified sharks	61.4	49.0	22.7	107.1	38.4	12.7	42.5	37.3	17.6
White marlin	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0	2.0	0.0	8.3	7.9	4.8

[1]Mackerel sharks

Table 2. Canadian bluefin tuna landings and discards (tonnes round weight) by fishing area, 1991-1999

Bluefin fishing area (west to east)	*Landings*								
	1991	*1992*	*1993*	*1994*	*1995*	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*
Bay of Fundy	0	0	0	34	43	32	55	36	38
Hell Hole	302	289	223	165	211	147	101	152	182
St Margaret's Bay	0	1	29	80	72	90	59	68	44
Halifax	0	0	0	0	0	60	84	106	93
NE Nova Scotia	14	29	45	39	61	41	69	82	26
Gulf of St Lawrence	43	61	111	61	175	111	101	115	164
Newfoundland	105	56	26	5	10	95	30	21	10
Offshore	13	8	25	0	4	22	6	16	18
Year-end adjustment[1]	5	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	1
Total landings	**481.7**	**443.5**	**458.6**	**391.6**	**576.1**	**598.0**	**504.5**	**596.0**	**576.1**
Discards[2]	-	-	-	-	-	-	6.0	16.3	10.7
Canadian quota	*573.0*	*573.0*	*587.5*	*510.0*	*654.0*	*613.5*	*552.6*	*600.7*	577.7

1 e.g., seized, Bermuda fishery.
2 Discarded dead from swordfish longline fishery: no estimates prior to 1997; 1997 actual tonnage observed by at-sea Observers; 1998-1999 estimate for entire fishery based on Observer coverage (see SCRS/99/77).

Table 3. Distribution of tuna, swordfish longline and shark fishing licenses by region and species[1] in 1999

Region	*Number of licenses*							
	Bluefin		*Swordfish (LL)*		*Other tuna (LL)*[4]		*Sharks*[1]	
	Total	*Active*	*Total*	*Active*	*Total*	*Active*	*Explore.*	*Rec.*
Gulf	601	362	0	0	0	0	19	10
Newfoundland	55[3]	15	8	1	8	1	0	6
Scotia-Fundy	42	42	69	52	69	52	22	421
St Margaret's Bay[2]	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Laurentian	54	37	0	0	0	0	3	0
Total	756	460	77	53	77	53	43	437

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, and the number varies from year-to-year, depending on demand.
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 1989-99 swordfish vessels landing fish, landings (tonnes round weight), discards[1], average weight of fish (kg round) by gear, percentage of small fish[2], and percentage of catch sampled for size

	1989	*1990*	*1991*	*1992*	*1993*	*1994*	*1995*	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	1999
No. of vessels landing fish											
Longline	52	50	53	46	75	74	77	77	60	49	53
Harpoon	+	+	61	72	72	32	97	112	105	109	66
Landings (t)											
Longline	1097	819	953	1486	2206	1654	1421	646	1000	89	875	1101
Harpoon	146	92	73	60	28	22	188	93	1089	240	18
Total	1243	911	1026	1546	2234	1676	1609	739		1115	1119
									5.0		
Discards (t)[1]	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		51.7	34.6
Ave weight (kg)											
Longline	52	61	61	57	56	63	68	69	70	61	56
(# sampled)	(3902	(10280	(8111	(5904	(19469	(26279	(20247	(9077	(14438)	(13447	(1963
	)	)	)	)	)	)	)	)		)	0)
Harpoon									131		109
(# sampled)	129	138	78	67	129	120	122	161	(652)	126	(147)
	(637)	(164)	(146)	(136)	(151)	(83)	(1131)	(561)		(1911)	
% small fish landed (by #)[2]											
<125 cm									5		3
<119 cm	16	11	11	16	15	11	9	3	2	3	<<1
	11	5	8	7	9	6	4	<1		<1	
% of catch									100		100
sampled	23	71	49	23	50	99	94	97		95	

[1] Discarded dead from swordfish longline fishery; no estimates prior to 1997; 1997 actual tonnage observed by at-sea Observers; 1998-1999 estimate for entire fishery based on Observer coverage (see SCRS/99/77).

[2] 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 1999

Panel 1

Species/Region	*1999 Catch Limit (t)*	*1999 Landings (t)*	*Estimated landings over/under catch limit (t)*	*Estimated landings over 15% tolerance of fish below 3.2 kg*
Bigeye	none	262.8	n/a	0
Yellowfin	none	21.8	n/a	0
Skipjack	n/a	0	n/a	n/a

Panel 2

Species/Region	*1999 Catch Limit (t)*	*1999 Catch (t)*	*Estimated catch over/under catch limit (t)*	*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 -landing -dead discards -total	 577.7[1] 5.6	 576.1 10.7	 1.6 (under) 5.1 (over) 3.5 (over)	 0 n/a 0	 0 n/a 0	 0 n/a 0
Eastern BFT	n/a	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
N. Albacore	none	38.8	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

[1] 573 allocated quota, plus 4.7 t carry-over from 1998.

Panel 4

Species/Region	*1999 Catch Limit (t)*	*1999 Catch (t)*	*Estimated catch over/under catch limit (t)*	*Estimated SWO landings < 119 cm; OR landings > 15% tolerance of fish < 125 cm (by number)*
N. Atlantic SWO	1095.5[2]	1118.5	23.0 (over)[3]	< 119 cm: < 0.3%[4]; > 15% tolerance < 125 cm: 0
-dead discards	n/a	34.6	n/a	not landed; all estimated < 119 cm LJFL
S. Atlantic SWO	n/a	0	n/a	0
Atl White marlin	none	4.8	n/a	n/a
Atl Blue marlin	none	0	n/a	n/a

[2] 1070 t allocated quota, plus 25.5 t carry-over from 1998.

[3] In 2000, a restructuring of the fishery, combined with a system of daily hails from sea during the latter portion of the fishery have been implemented to ensure the quota is not overrun.

[4] In 1998 and 1999, landings of fish <119 cm LJFL were reduced to as close to zero as possible (< 0.3%)Canada also has a time-area closure to protect small fish See section 3.2.

NOTE: In 1999, for swordfish, ICCAT Regulatory Recommendations applied to landings, not catches

NATIONAL REPORT OF CAPE VERDE[1]

1 Introduction

Tunas are very important species for Cape Verde since they are caught not only by the artisanal fleet but also by the commercial fleet. They are highly migratory pelagic species with seasonal movements through Cape Verde waters.

The major species caught are: yellowfin, skipjack, bigeye and small tunas (Atlantic black skipjack, frigate tuna and wahoo).

At the national level, some changes have been noted, notably in relation to catches that have been somewhat irregular, with a declining trend.

2 Status of the fisheries

Catches of tunas and tuna-like species amounted to 4,081 MT in 1999, which represents an increase of 44% as compared to 1998 **(Tables 1, 2 and 3)**. This increase is due to the decline in the catch of small pelagic species and consequently to an increase in effort on tunas and tuna-like species.

Fishing is carried out by means of fishing licenses for national and for foreign flagged vessels.

The Government of Cape Verde has signed fishing agreements, within the framework of the principle of reciprocity, with the Governments of the countries of the Sub-Regional Commission, namely Senegal, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Guinea Conakry, and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania. There is also a protocol of cooperation with the Government of Angola.

Within this framework, four Cape Verdian vessels used bait to fish for tuna last year, within the EEZ of Senegal.

A fishing agreement with the European Union has been in force since April 1991 (Decree No. 23/91 of April 4) and it is renewed every three years.

There is also an agreement with Japan that authorizes Japanese vessels to fish in the EEZ of Cape Verde.

3 Research activities

- The intensive collection of statistical data on catches of tunas and tuna-like species and their compilation in a data base has continued.
- A "Statistical Bulletin" has been published every year since 1985, with data series available since 1981, and that corresponding to 1999 will be published soon.
- Contribution of information towards updating ICCAT stock assessments.
- Participation in ICCAT activities.

1 Original report in French.

Table 1. Cape Verde national catches (MT) by the industrial fishery, 1997-1999

Year	*Yellowfin*	*Bigeye*	*Skipjack*	*Atl. black skipjack*	*Frigate tuna*	*thazard batard*	*Others*	*Total*
1997	422	4	517	24	15	86		1,067
1998	273	1	609	33	137	99		1,152
1999	478		944	421	133	88		2,064

Table 2. Cape Verde national catches (MT) by the artisanal fishery, 1997-1999

Year	*Yellowfin*	*Bigeye*	*Skipjack*	*Atl. black skipjack*	*Frigate tuna*	*thazard batard*	*Others*	*Total*
1997	1,299	6	75	63	7	517	245	2,212
1998	1,145	0	74	79	54	330		1,681
1999	1,176	1	17	340	19	464		2,017

Table 3. Cape Verde total national catches (MT) by the industrial/artisanal fishery

Year	*Yellowfin*	*Bigeye*	*Skipjack*	*Atl. black skipjack*	*Frigate tuna*	*thazard batard*	*Others*	*Total*
1997	1,721	10	592	86	22	603	245	3,279
1998	1,418	1	683	112	191	429		2,835
1999	1,654	1	961	761	152	522		4,081

NATIONAL REPORT OF CHINA[1]

Xu L.X. and Song, L. M. [2]

1 Fishing activities

A present, longlining is the only fishing method deployed by China for tuna and tuna-like species in the Atlantic Ocean. By the end of 1999, the number of tuna longliners with Chinese flag reached 27, of which 16 longliners are between 501 and 1000 GRT, nine more than last year, and 11 vessels are between 201 and 500 GRT, two more than last year. The main species targeted by most Chinese longliners are bigeye and yellowfin tunas.

The total catches of tunas and tuna-like species, including sharks, produced by the Chinese tuna longline fleet amounted to 10,984 MT (round weight) in 1999, an increase of 8,317 MT as compared to that of 1998. The increase is mainly explained by the incorporation of 11 longliners to the Chinese tuna fleet and to improvements in fishing technology, as well as to the harvest year in 1999. Bigeye and yellowfin tunas are the major target species, which comprised 66.8% and 19.94% of the total catches, respectively, as shown in **Figure 1**. **Table 1** and **Figure 2** show the revised catches of tunas and tuna-like species in round weight and their corresponding species composition in 1993-1999. **Figure 2** clearly indicates that a significant increase in the tuna catch started in 1998, followed by an even larger increase in 1999.

Table 2 shows the area breakdown of Task I catches by the Chinese longline fishery in 1999. The difference between the Chinese catch and the Commission's catch limit in 1999 is given in **Table 3** where it can be seen that eastern bluefin tuna, North Atlantic swordfish and South Atlantic swordfish are over limit. There are reasons for the over-limit catch of different species. The over-limit catch of eastern bluefin tuna was caused by two vessels that targeted the stock before the relative recommendation entered into force. After the recommendation entered into force, the fisheries authority of China withdrew the fishing permit of one vessel that targeted the stock. At present, only one vessel can fish for the stock. Moreover, the fisheries authority of China did not sign the document for the over limit catch. The over-limit catch of North Atlantic swordfish and South Atlantic swordfish resulted from dead discards of by-catch.

2 Historical catch revision

Due to historical reasons, the catches in the national tuna fisheries report previously submitted to the ICCAT Secretariat by the Chinese administrative authority were in dress weight (DWT, gilled, gutted, part of head off, fins off) or gilled and gutted weight (GWT), which are based on sales records. Consequently, an under-estimate of the Chinese tuna catch has resulted in the last years. In order to meet ICCAT's requirements that catch data should be submitted in round weight (RWT), all the catch data reported to the ICCAT Secretariat in previous years have been revised based on the relationship between RWT and DWT or GWT recommended by Makoto Miyake (1990). The catch included in **Table 1** is the estimated value re-calculated according to the following revised factors:

- Gilled and gutted weight (GWT) to round weight (RWT)
  Yellowfin and bigeye tunas: 1.13
  Bluefin tuna: 1.16

- Dressed weight (DWT) or gilled and gutted weight (GWT) vs. round weight (RWT)
  Billfish: 1.20
  Swordfish:

1 Original report in English.

2 Shanghai Fisheries University, 334 Jun gong Road, Shanghai 200090, China.

Northwest Atlantic: 1.3333
Central-East Atlantic: 1.3158
Southwest Atlantic: $0.8009 * RWT^{1.015}$
Southeast Atlantic: 1.140

4 Catch statistics and fisheries management

The Bureau of Fisheries of China is very concerned about the over-catchy limit of some species and has taken measures to guarantee that, starting in 2001, the catch of eastern bluefin tuna shall be under the catch limit allocated by ICCAT. All the Chinese fishing companies with permits to fish bluefin tuna have been requested to abide by the regulation. The Bureau of Fisheries will not sign Bluefin Tuna Statistical Documents if the catch goes over the new catch limit adopted by ICCAT, and a penalty is imposed on the company that catches more bluefin tuna than the catch limit. The penalty will include the cancellation of the permit to fish eastern bluefin tuna.

The fisheries administration authority of China has been encouraging the fishing companies to use and develop new fishing technologies to reduce the amount of by-catch. Considering that such by-catch mitigation technology is not available to the Chinese fishing fleet at present, the Bureau of Fisheries of China has decided to send Chinese scientists to relative international meetings for such information. For instance, a Chinese scientist will participate in the International Fisheries Forum on Solving the Incidental Capture of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries in New Zealand in November. China hopes to introduce effective by-catch mitigation methods adopted by other countries into the Chinese fishing fleet and will request that they be implemented accordingly.

In order to improve the quality of catch statistics, Dr. Miyake of ICCAT was specially invited to visit China in early 2000. During his stay in China, Mr. Miyake visited fishing companies, met government officials and scientists involved in tuna fisheries, and introduced the management regime and management requirements of ICCAT. His visit provided China with a very good opportunity to improve the statistical work in ICCAT waters. For example, through a face to face exchange of information, it was found that all the catch data reported by Chinese tuna companies were based on sales records. Therefore, not only have the catch data in 1999 been reported to ICCAT in round weight, but also all the catch data from China's reports prior to 1999 have been revised accordingly for consistency with the ICCAT data requirements (see **Table 1**).

In June, the Chinese Fisheries Administration Authority requested the managers or executive managers of all Chinese fishing companies involved in tuna fishing to attend the tuna catch and statistics meeting in Beijing. During the meeting, it was reiterated that all the fishing companies have to report their catches monthly to the Tuna Working Group. If a company has submitted the required catch data on time to the Tuna Working Group will be taken into consideration as one of the most important records when issuing the fishing licenses next year. Furthermore, the Tuna Working Group has prepared a simplified tuna longline log sheet (see **Annex 1**) that includes the basic requirements by ICCAT, in order to facilitate the work of the fishermen. The log sheet has been distributed to one of the main fishing companies for their completion. It is hoped that the catch reports next year will include size frequency data.

5 References

MIYAKE, M., 1990. Field Manual for Statistics and Sampling of Atlantic Tuna and Tuna-like Fishes. ICCAT: p. 173.

Table 1. Catches of tunas and tuna-like species (in round weight, MT), 1993-1999

Species	*1993*	*1994*	*1995*	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*
Bluefin tuna	—	97.4	136.9	92.8	48.7	85.3	103
Yellowfin tuna	139.0	155.9	200.0	124.3	83.6	698.3	2,19
Bigeye tuna	70.1	428.3	475.7	519.8	427.1	1502.9	7.347
Swordfish	72.5	85.7	104.2	131.9	39.6	365.3	838
Albacore	—	14	8	20	---	---	60
Skipjack	—	—	—	—	---	4.0	—
Sharks	—	—	—	—	---	5.0	31
Spearfish	—	—	—	—	---	2.4	---
At. White marlin	—	—	—	—	—	3.6	—
Others*	41.0	68.0	76.0	80.0	90.0	—	415
Total	**322.6**	**849.3**	**1000.8**	**968.8**	**689.0**	**2666.9**	**10.984**

* Including spearfish, Atlantic white marlin, Indo-Pacific sailfish, striped marlin, Atlantic blue marlin, etc.

Table 2. Catches (in round weight, MT) and effort (in 1000 hooks)by the Chinese longline fleet in the Atlantic Ocean, 1999

Area	*Effort*	*Bluefin*	*Yellowfin*	*Bigeye*	*Swordfish*	*Albacore*	*Sharks*	*Other*	*Total*
E. Atl.	411	103							
E. Atl.	15,750		1,535						
W. Atl.	3,599		655						
N. Atl.	12,710			2,520	304	21	11	150	
S. Atl.	6,649			4,827	534	39	20	263	
S. Atl.	6.649			4,827	534	39	20	265	
Total	**39.131**	**103**	**2,190**	**7,347**	**838**	**60**	**31**	**415**	**10,984**

Table 3. Difference between China's catches in 1999 and the Commission's catch limit (in MT)

Species/Region	*Catch limit*		*Estimated catch Over/under catch limit*	*Estimated catch over Tolerance of fish < 3.2 kg*
Bigeye	No	7,347	No	0
Yellowfin	No	2,190	No	0
Skipjack	No	0	No	0
W. Atl. bluefin	0	0	0	0
E. Atl. Bluefin	82	103	21	0
N. Atl. Albacore	200	21	0	0
S. Atl. Albacore	193	39		0
N. Atl. Swordfish	100	304	>204	0
S. Atl. Swordfish	250	534	>284	0
Atl. White marlin		0	0	0
Atl. Blue marlin		0	0	0

* LL non-albacore target countries, 4% or less of total bigeye catch in the S. Atlantic in 1999; the bigeye catch in the S. Atlantic was 4,827 MT.

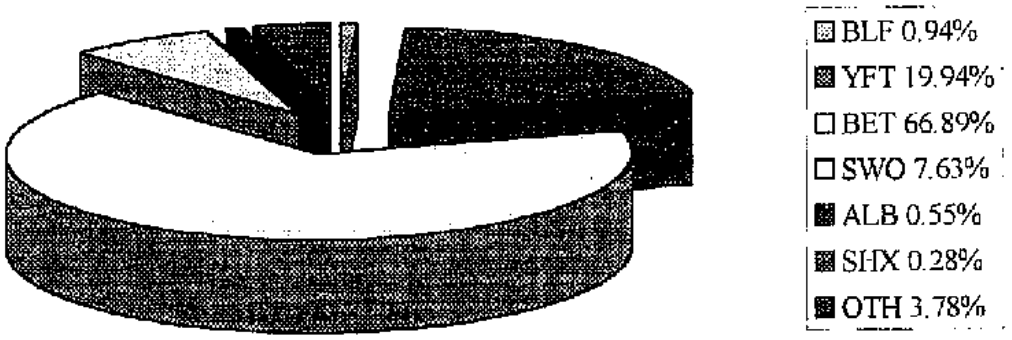

Fig. 1. Composition of China's catches in 1999.

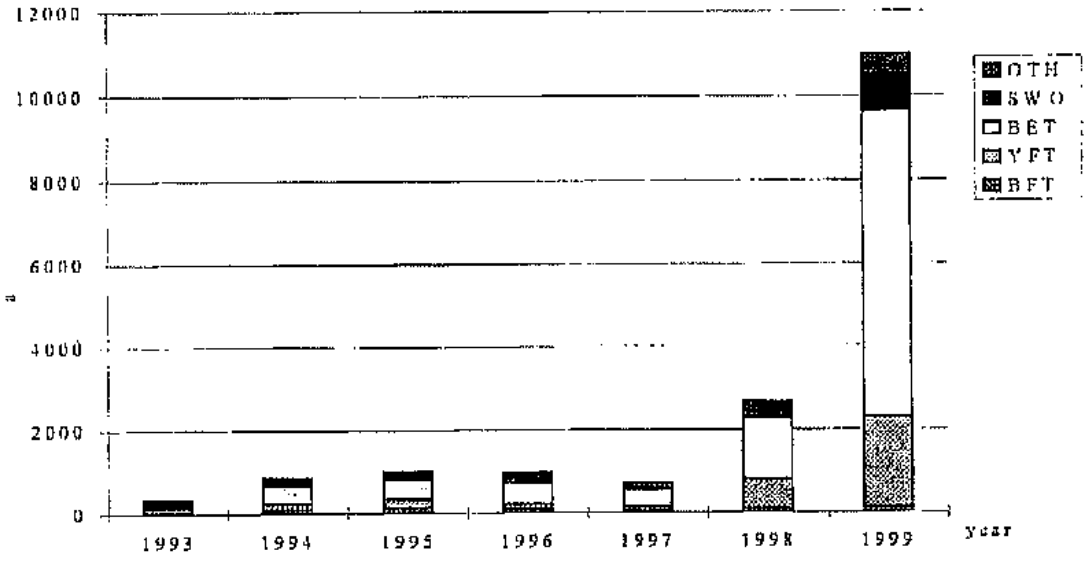

Fig. 2 The composition of revised Chinese catches, in round weight, 1993-1999.

NATIONAL REPORT OF CÔTE D'IVOIRE[1]

Y. N. N'Goran and J.B. Amon Kothias[2]

1 Introduction

The *Centre de Recherches Océanologiques* (CRO) is a national research center that depends from the Ministry of Secondary Education and Research. The CRO is in charge of marine fisheries and lagoon research in Côte d'Ivoire. It is, therefore, responsible for research on Atlantic tunas. This report outlines the activities of this Center as concerns fishing statistics of large pelagic species in 1999. These activities concern two major parts: the industrial tuna fishery that the CRO monitors jointly with the IRD, and the artisanal maritime fishery for large pelagics, which is an initiative of this center, and whose monitoring has been reinforced by the ICCAT Enhanced Research Program for Billfish. This report emphasizes the importance of the large pelagic resources, particularly tunas, at the fishing port of Abidjan through the activities of the tuna vessels (mainly French and Spanish) as well as those carried out by the canoes using driftnets that operate off Ivorian coasts. As regards the industrial tuna fleet, the importance of the fishing port of Abidjan should be pointed out, from the total landings, particularly of tunas, and the number of tuna vessels, as well as fishing effort relative to these landings. Special emphasis has also been placed on the importance of the amount of "false fish" landed. It should be noted that this type of fish has socio-economic importance as a food source in the Côte d'Ivoire. With respect to the artisanal driftnet fishery that targets large pelagics, this report presents information on the nominal and weighted catches of the various species caught, as well as the fishing effort exerted. The report emphasizes the development of effective fishing effort, taking into account the progressive increase in the length of the fishing nets and the weighted catches of billfishes (sailfish and marlins) and swordfish from 1988 to 1999.

2 Tuna landings at the fishing port of Abidjan

Tuna landings at the port of Abidjan are mainly carried out by French and Spanish purse seiners (about 20 per country) and by some vessels flagged to Guinea and Vanuatu. These landings are monitored daily by a team of scientists comprised of two researchers, three upper level technicians, of which monitor the French vessels and Not Elsewhere Included (NEI) vessels, and a technician for the Spanish boats; seven researchers (technicians and support staff, of which four monitor the French vessels, two monitor the Spanish vessels, and one monitors the "false fish". "False fish" are those that are rejected by the canneries due to their small size, excessive saltiness, or which are too damaged for transformation in canning. The French and NEI data are processed and published by French and Ivorian scientists, while the Spanish data are processed by the Spanish scientists. The raw data are reported here, as collected at the port of Abidjan in 1999. **Table 1** shows the list of French and similar vessels on one side and a list of Spanish and similar vessels on the other side. **Table 2** shows catches by tuna species landed by French and similar vessels in 1999. These total landings that amounted to 55,045 MT (**Table 2, Figure 1**), were carried out by 18 French tuna vessels and similar vessels. These vessels made140 trips for 104,001 hours at sea and 51,038 hours fishing, i.e. 49% of the time at sea spent fishing. These catches are slightly higher than those of the last two years, which were 50,334 MT in 1997 and 46,122 MT in 1998. In addition, reported catches of "false fish" were 9,221 MT in 1997, 9,168 MT in 1998, and 11, 923 MT in 1999 (**Table 3**). "False fish", whose consumption is becoming more important in Côte d'Ivoire, has increased since 1990 with the introduction of fishing under floating objects (**Figure 2**). "Ravil, comprised mainly of tunas and frigate tunas (**Figure 3**) is predominates in the "false fish" catches. Another important observation on size and which should be noted, from data obtained in the last three years, refers to the effect of the moratorium, as indicated in the monthly landings. In effect, **Figure 4** shows, contrary to that which occurred in other years represented by 1996, a decrease in the amounts landed at the end of 1997, 1998 and 1999, when the moratorium was in effect. This proves that this

1 Original report in French.

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measure has been well followed and that the recommendation for the reduction in fishing effort on juveniles has been effective.

As regards catches in the Côte d'Ivoire EEZ by foreign vessels (Côte d'Ivoire does not have tuna vessels to exploits its waters), these amount to an average of 6,614 MT for the last four years.

3 Artisanal catches of large pelagics in 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, that started in 1984 as an extension of the Ghanaian fishery. Since 1988, this artisanal fishery is routinely monitored. The monitoring of the landings by the CRO has been improved thanks to the ICCAT Billfish Program. The major groups of fish landed are: billfishes (sailfish and marlins), swordfishes, sharks, and tunas. The fishermen use canoes to fish at night using driftnets, in the area close to Abidjan, where they can easily sell their catches. The fishing zone is located about 5 to 10 miles from the coast beyond the continental shelf which is not very extensive. The driftnet sets last a night and the fish are sold directly every morning at the port of Abidjan.

As regards the large pelagic catches by the canoe fishery, the billfish caught are: blue marlin *(Makaira nigricans)*, white marlin *(Tetrapturus albidus)*, sailfish *(Istiophorus albicans)*, and swordfish *(Xiphias gladius)* are the most abundant in the catches. The shark catches, comprised mainly of silky sharks *(Cacharhinus falciformis)*, smooth hammerhead sharks *(Sphyrna zygaena)*, scalloped hammerhead sharks *(S. lewini)* and mako sharks *(Isurus spp)*, are second in importance (**Table 4**). Tunas, such as yellowfin *(Thunnus albacares)*, skipjack *(Katsuwonus pelamis)*, frigate tuna *(Auxis thazard)*, and Atlantic black skipjack *(Thunnus atlelteratus)* are next in importance. The canoes take, as by catch, other large fish such as bigeye *(Thunnus obesus)*, rays *(Manta spp)*, and wahoo *(Acanthocybium solandri)*, coryphenes *(Coryphena spp)*, turtles *(Chelonia mydas, Dermochelys coriacea)* and some dolphins. **Table 4** (a and b) shows the total annual catches (nominal and weighted) of the large pelagic species (billfishes and sharks) taken by the canoe driftnet fishery.

The complete results of the total catches and specifically billfish catches, fishing effort exerted by the canoes, as well as the effect of upwelling on the abundance of these species were the subject of two documents (SCRS/00/63 and SCRS/00/152). In addition, a detailed study on the fishing effort of these canoes has indicated the regular increase in the length of the nets through the years. In effect, these analyses show that the average length of the driftnets used by the fishers practically doubled from 1981 to 2000 (from 900 m to 2,100 m). This study also was the subject of a document (SCRS/00/135).

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 and, consequently, sustain an important source of employment and provide impressive economic activity. This economic activity has been characterized by an average annual production of 56,423 MT of canned products in the last three years, with a value of 120 Ivorian francs (1.2 million French francs). The routine monitoring of the statistics of these landings by the CRO has contributed to an improvement in ICCAT's knowledge of the tuna fisheries in the Atlantic. 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 the amount of catches landed, but also for their species diversity. Thus, 600 MT of large pelagics (billfishes and sharks) are caught annually by this fishery, in addition to small tunas and other fish species. The CRO hopes to increase the level of 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. The importance of the billfish and swordfish landings by the Côte d'Ivoire artisanal fishery reflects the artisanal catches of these fish off the coasts of the Gulf of Guinea. Consequently, a scheme to monitor this fishery should be developed by countries bordering the Gulf of Guinea, Senegal and Gabon. The analysis and data processing methods used by the CRO of Abidjan seem to provide satisfactory results. This could be applied in the other countries through sub-regional collaboration. In addition, billfish landings off the coasts of the Gulf of Guinea should be better monitored and coordinated. This point could be the subject of a discussion during the course of the present session of the SCRS.

Table 1. List of French and Spanish vessels that landed at the port of Abidjan in 1999

French vessels and similar			*Spanish vessels and similar*		
No.	*Name*	*Flag*	*No.*	*Name*	*Flag1*
1	Avel Huel	France	1	Albacora 10	Neth. Antilles
2	Avel Viz	France	2	Albacora 9	Neth. Antilles
3	Belouga	France	3	Albacora Caribe	Neth. Antilles
4	Bougainville	France	4	Alboniga	Spain
5	Cap Saint Paul	France	5	Almadraba 2	Spain
6	Cap Saint Pierre	France	6	Bermeotarak Dos	Spain
7	Christophe Colombe	St. Vincent	7	Bermeotarak Tres	Spain
8	Ile Tristan	France	8	Egalabur	Spain
9	Marine 712	Ghana	9	Egaluze	Spain
10	Marine Kim	Vanuatu	10	Germon	Morocco
11	Mervent	France	11	Gure Campolibre	Ghana
12	Perre Briant	France	12	Gure Campolibre	Spain
13	Prince de Joinville	France	13	Izurdia	Spain
14	Santa Maria	France	14	Juan Maria Soroa	Panama
15	Via Avenir	France	15	Kurtzio	Spain
16	Via Euros	France	16	Matxikorta	Spain
17	Via Harmattan	France	17	Montecelo	Spain
18	Via Mistral	France	18	Montefrisa 9	Spain
			19	Monteneme	Spain
			20	Playa de Anzoras	Spain
			21	Playa de Noja	Spain
			22	Txirrine	Spain
			23	Txori	Spain

Table 2. Landings (in MT) of tuna by French and similar vessels at the port of Abidjan in 1999

Month	*Yellowfin*	*Skipjack*	*Bigeye*	*Albacore*	*Total*
January	2,517	660	231		3,408
February	3,913	610	224		4,747
March	3,349	1,840	212		5,401
April	4,694	1,406	263	1	6,364
May	2,314	2,249	245		4,808
June	809	2,880	267		3,956
July	2,261	2,625	523	6	5,415
August	1,939	1,745	492	144	4,320
September	3,885	1,662	326		5,873
October	2,451	2,355	40	39	4,885
November	2,160	1,249	263		3,672
December	1,522	633	40		2,195
TOTAL	**31,814**	**19,914**	**3,126**	**190**	**55,044**

Table 3. Landings (in MT) of tunas at the port of Abidjan by French and Spanish vessels and landings of "false fish" from 1996 to 1999

Year	*Total tunas*	*"False fish"*
1996	78,929	10,899
1997	50,334	9,221
1998	46,122	9,168
1999	55,045	11,923

Table 4. Nominal annual catches (A) and weighted catches (B) of large pelagic species by the Côte d'Ivoire driftnet fishery, 1988 to 1999

	Year	*Effort (trips)*	*Sailfish (I. albicans)*	*Marlins (M. nigricans)*	*Swordfishes (X. albidus)*	*Various sharks*	*Total*
	1988	2,167	2,548	552	228	1,515	4,843
	1989	1,700	2,012	253	127	542	2,934
	1990	2,011	2,191	457	207	774	3,629
	1991	3,356	1,496	462	496	1,264	3,718
A							
(No.)	1992	3,973	2,727	353	347	2,253	5,680
	1993	4,689	1,627	576	457	1,330	3,990
	1994	7,036	2,190	942	491	1,841	5,464
	1995	7,826	2,457	1,068	506	1,748	5,779
	1996	7,697	3,731	1,150	856	2,358	8,095
	1997	6,761	2,262	963	669	1,832	5,726
	1998	5,484	1,360	713	399	657	3,129
	1999	7,101	2,982	1,415	710	1,155	6,262
	1988	2,167	55.3	87.7	12.7	242.2	397.8
	1989	1,700	44.2	45.2	5.4	146.7	241.4
	1990	2,011	48.3	68.8	8.5	181.5	307.1
	1991	3,356	32.4	76.9	21.3	185.9	316.4
	1992	3,973	57.6	57.5	15.4	284.0	414.5
B							
(MT)	1993	4,689	33.6	107.9	17.3	199.5	358.3
	1994	7,036	46.0	152.7	23.6	273.2	495.5
	1995	7,826	51.3	139.1	22.2	289.0	501.5
	1996	7,697	70.1	124.8	29.7	404.8	629.3
	1997	6,761	52.6	161.4	20.6	286.3	520.9
	1998	5,484	29.9	132.5	16.7	156.4	335.6
	1999	7,101	67.7	198.2	30.3	313.1	609.3

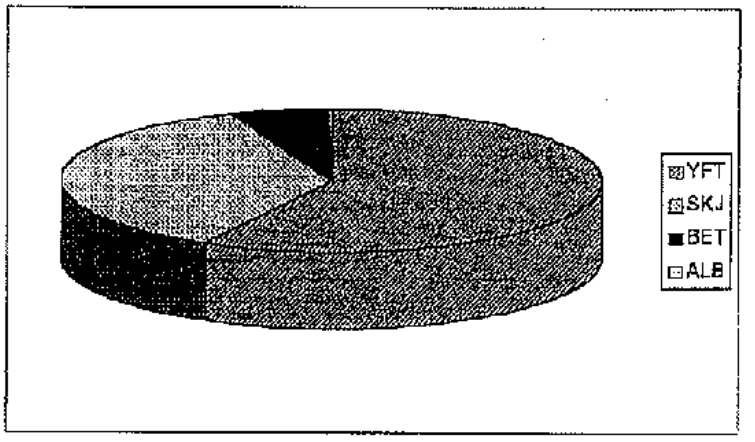

Fig. 1. Species composition of the tuna landings at the fishing port of Abidjan in 1999: yellowfin (YFT), skipjack (SKJ), bigeye (BET) and albacore (ALB).

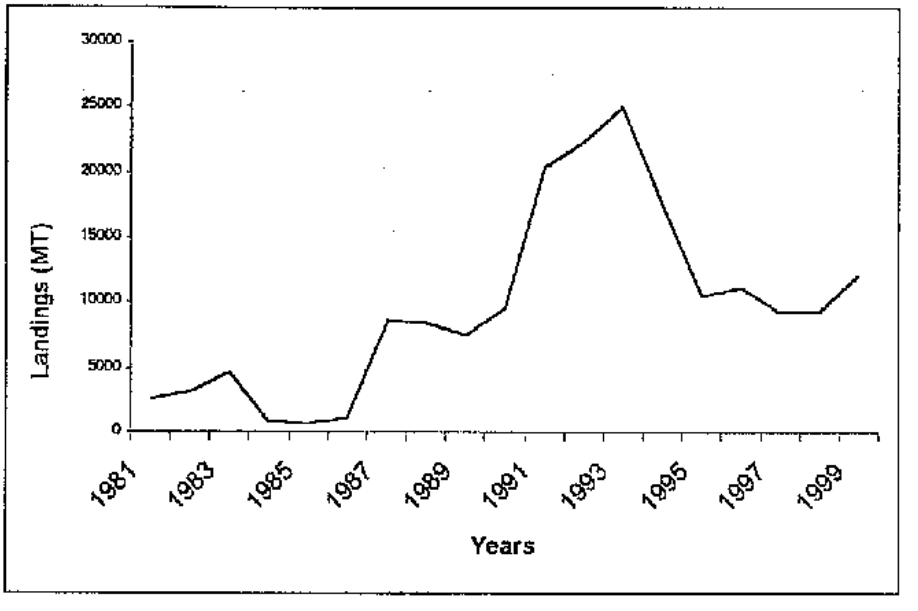

Fig. 2. Total landings of "false fish" at the fishing port of Abidjan from 1981 to 1999.

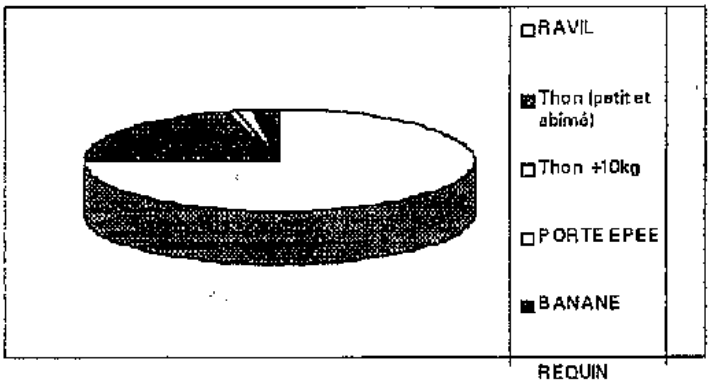

Fig. 3. Species composition of "false fish" landed at the port of Abidjan.

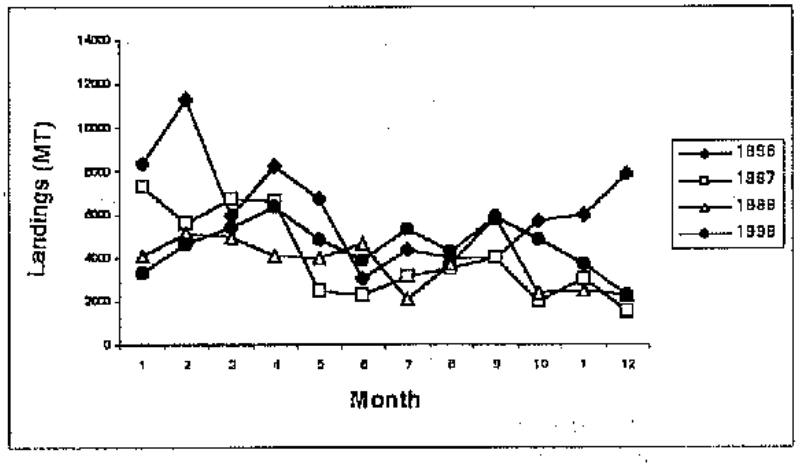

Fig. 4. Monthly variations in the total catches landed at the port of Abidjan, in 1997, 1998 and 1999, for all fishing gears.

NATIONAL REPORT OF CROATIA [1]

Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry-Directorate of Fisheries [2]

1 National fisheries information

As is well known, the bluefin tuna fishery is the most important type of fishery for highly migratory species, and has been so for thousands of years. The second most important type of fisheries is that for small tunas. More and more, Croatia is recording catches of swordfish and other types of fishes from the group of highly migratory species, but the quantities are usually bellow 50 MT.

1.1 Bluefin tuna

Bluefin tuna is one of most important species in all our fisheries. Bluefin tuna have been harvested by Croatian fishermen for many years. Thus, Croatia could consider some fishing techniques (i.e. purse seine nets) as being of Croatian origin. This is a small contribution of a small country to the world fisheries.

Catches of bluefin tuna for all of these years have been between 500 and 1,500 MT annually. In the last decade, catches have been over 1,000 MT. However, catches of bluefin tuna have been decreasing over the last few years by more than 35%. This is result of the fact that a specific fishing quota has been imposed. It is worth noting that such a decline could be also be due to a reduction in fishing licences and fishing gears in the fisheries.

Almost all (more than 95%) of Croatian catches of bluefin tuna are taken by purse seine. The remainder of the total catch is taken by longline and hooks.

1.2 Bluefin tuna farming

Bluefin tuna caging and farming started in 1995. Over the last five years framing has become more important than tuna fishing. Year after year, the part of the catches intended for farming has been increasing. At the same time, the catches destined for direct consumption are declining to less than 10% of the total. With regard to the technology of farming, it is becoming "real" aquiculture since the farming periods are increasing to more than one year. Some times the growth in captivity is more than previously in the wild. The farming methods are also becoming better organised and managed.

In such conditions, the Croatian production of bluefin tuna is already 50% more than the catch. Following such trends, it is expected that production in the coming years could be doubled or even several times more than catches from the wild. Such movements could encourage conservation efforts and should be supported by all.

It should be noted that there are five farms in operation and all these are respecting very strict regulations with regard to environmental protection.

1.3 Swordfish

The swordfish fisheries could be consider as by-catch fisheries more than a target fishery. There is are only several small longliners and sport fishing boats that target swordfish and their catches are around 20 MT.

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1 Original report in English.

2 Ul. Grada Vukovara, 78, Zagreb.

1.4 Other tunas

Among other tunas, the most important fisheries for Croatia are small tunas. At present, bonito catches of more than 100 MT are the most important fish from this group. The major part of the catches are taken by purse seiners, but bonito has also been fished by gillnets, and hooks. Some of the catches are from the sports and recreational fisheries.

2 Research and statistics

In cooperation with other SCRS scientists, Croatia has several on-going research projects for bluefin tuna. First of all, there is the tissue sampling project for the collection of samples for genetic research. In the last year, in cooperation with Japanese scientists, 70 bluefin tunas were tagged with archival tags.

Statistical data on bluefin tuna catches have been collected directly from the fishermen's reports, which they are required to submit within 24 hours after the catch. Actually, fish intended for the market must be reported within 24 hours. Catches intended for tuna farms must be reported as estimates within 24 hours as well. Final reports for each of the catches for farms should be done within 30 days after the catch.

The final step in the collection of data is their correction. Thus, reports for 1999 were corrected (increased) for the estimation of non-reported catches that, fortunately, represent less than 10% of the total catch. As a result of this data collection, the statistical report of catch and size data was submitted to the SCRS.

3 Implementation of ICCAT conservation and management measures

3.1 Bluefin tuna

Croatia has implemented the ICCAT regulatory recommendations for bluefin tuna.

A quota for bluefin tuna has been imposed in recent years. The specific quota for 1998 was 1,057.5 MT (25% reduction of the catch from 1994). The total 1998 catch amounted 902 MT. For 1999, the quota was set at 950 MT (ICCAT 1998 recommendations) and the total catch of bluefin tuna has reached 970 MT. There were 20 MT carried over from the previous year.

Since 1996, Croatia has had an organised system for the validation and implementation of the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Documents. This system is administered through the local offices of the Directorate of Fisheries, such that each BTSD has been validated and completed by government administrators.

Minimum size regulations have been imposed over the last 30 years on the level of 70 cm with zero tolerance. In recent years, 10% tolerance (in each catch of the purse seine net) was introduced but only for catches intended for farming.

The specific closed season for purse seiners during the month of May in the Adriatic Sea has also been implemented. However, it should be noted that this measure some times has a negative impact on conservation. During the closed season small tunas form large schools because they are not disturbed by fishing operations. After the reopening of the fishing season, large quantities of small fish are caught. Thus, in some circumstances where the specific quota is respected, such "conservation" measures could have a negative effect.

3.2 Swordfish

As concerns the conservation measure for swordfish (*Xiphias gladius L.*), the Republic of Croatia has imposed the minimum size limit of 120 cm fork length for the last 30 years. From the same reasons, Croatia does not allow the use of large-scale drift nets.

3.3 Small tunas

The most important species of the Croatian small tunas fisheries is bonito (*Sarda sarda*). As a national conservation measure for this fish, Croatia has a closed season for gillnet fishing of this species.

3.4 Compliance with the ICCAT recommendations

In accordance with paragraph 1 of the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Application of Three Compliance Recommendations*, the completed compliance tables are attached herewith.

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 3,2 kg*
Bigeye	-	-	-	-
Yellowfin	-	-	-	-
Skipjack	-	-	-	-

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 6,4 kg*	*Estimated Catch over 8% tolerance of fish below 30 kg or 115 cm*
Western BFT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eastern BFT	950 MT	970 MT	-	0	0	-
N. Albacore	-	-	-	-	-	-

Panel 3 – South Atlantic albacore

Species/ Region	*Catch limit*	*Catches*	*Estimated Catch over/ under catch limit*
S. Albacore	-	-	-

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 OR cath over 15% tolerance of fish less than 125 cm*
N. Atlantic SWO	-	-	-	-
S. Atlantic SWO	-	-	-	-
Atl. White marlin	-	-	-	-
Atl. Blue marlin	-	-	-	-

NATIONAL REPORT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY [1]

1 The fisheries

The various fleets of the European Community fish all the major species that are under ICCAT regulation in the Atlantic and the Mediterranean.

The total catches of tunas and tuna-like species obtained by these fleets in 1999 were on the order of 217,000 MT, i.e. 1.5% more than in 1998. Community catches of the major tuna species in 1999 are given in **Table** 1.

The national reports of the different members of the Community contain information and technical details on the various fisheries, by species as well as by fishing gear.

2 Research

All the Member States of the Community have research institutes or regional laboratories which, in some cases, are supervised by the major universities of the country.

With respect to the tropical tuna fisheries, the Member States work in close collaboration with the research institutes of third countries in which the fleets involved land all or part of their catches.

In 1999, scientists of the European Community and its Member States participated regularly in the scientific meetings organized by ICCAT.

The Community totally or partially finances research program on large migratory species, implemented jointly with the Member States directly involved. The major studies carried out in 1999 within the framework of such European programs were:

a Bluefin tuna - ICCAT Bluefin Year Program (BYP)
- Reproductive biology
- Time/area dynamics
- Abundance indices of spawners in the Mediterranean
- Sexual maturity, through hormonal and histological analyses
- Tagging

b Swordfish
- Analysis of 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 type
- Observers on board purse seiners (analysis of bigeye catches - BETYP Program)
- Revision of the current data bases, within the framework of the future creation of a European laboratory for research on tunas (ORDET Program)
- Development fishing power of the 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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1 Original report in French.

Parallel to Community programs, some Member States finance research programs jointly with other Member States or with third parties, such as:

a Bluefin tuna
- Relationships between biological parameters and the area of recruitment of juveniles
- Analysis of abundance indices in the traps (ICCAT Bluefin Year Program)

The European Community has pointed out that the implementation of the bluefin tuna conservation measures, adopted by ICCAT in 1999, continue to cause problems of understanding and acceptance by the fishers, which has resulted in minor collaboration in some fishing sectors with the biological research programs developed by the countries.

b Albacore

Atlantic:
- Size structure analyzed by sampling of the landings
- Relationships between biological parameters and surface fisheries catches
- Observation of water temperatures by tele-detection.

Mediterranean:
- Analysis of a possible genetic homogeneity of the stock.

c Swordfish
- Analysis of the ICCAT Task I criteria and sex identification of the fish.
- Tagging cruises.

d Tropical tunas
- Analysis of the associations between schools and baitboats.
- Study of the environmental characteristics 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 1999, the European Community as well as its Member States maintained close collaboration with the SCRS.

The Community has a mandatory regulation for its Member States, applicable to all the fleets that fish large migratory fish in the various fishing areas. This provision is adjusted to the ICCAT recommendations.

This regulatory measure, included in the national legislation of the Member States, is aimed at responding to the ICCAT Task I and II requirements. The instruments used (fishing logbooks, landing reports, etc.) and the possibility of checking the data, should result in improved, faster and more precise monitoring of the catch data.

On the other hand, the Member States adopt and apply regulations at the national level which in some cases supplement the Community regulation, in order to take into account the special characteristics of the national fisheries.

The European Community finances programs aimed at improving fishery statistics, such as sampling schemes and logbook correction methods, and the collection of landing data on bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean.

In addition, the Member States organize networks for the collection and processing of catch data on the various fleets concerned.

4 Implementation of the ICCAT conservation and management measures

After the annual ICCAT meetings, the Community incorporates the conservation measures adopted into its regulations, making them mandatory for the nationals of its Member States in the time frames stipulated by ICCAT.

Furthermore, the Member States make every effort, on the national level, to fish in conformity with the requirements of ICCAT, in terms of reduction as well as in the analysis of biological criteria of the catches.

The progressive reduction in the reported catches for the large highly migratory species, which was followed in 1999 by the Community as a whole and in particular by the major fishing States, is adjusted to the requirements of ICCAT and, on occasion, goes beyond the established criteria.

5 Complementary conservation and management 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 resource that constitutes the objective. With regard to bluefin tuna, this adaptation imposed a 20% reduction in fishing capacity before 2002 on all the Member States concerned.

All the Member States concerned have incorporated into their respective national legislation the conservation and management measures imposed by Community regulation, which at the same time are adjusted to the ICCAT recommendations.

Besides these mandatory regulations, the Member States concerned adopt in the case of some species more severe regulations than those that have been imposed by the Community or by ICCAT. These regulations, adopted to the national situation, are aimed at rational management and at more strict monitoring of the fisheries, including the commercialization of the catches. According to the States and the fisheries, there are the following instruments: Annual fishing plans, permits issued prior to the fishing activity of the vessels, vessel registry, mandatory specific annual license, limit on the number of licenses, withdrawal of fishing licenses in case of a violation, detailed fishing records, scientific observers on board vessels, communication of entries to and departures from the ports and the fishing zones, regular reporting of transshipments and landings, limit on by-catches, fishing vessel quotas, halt in fishing once the quota is reached.

Currently, some of the Member States are studying the manner of applying new measures in the future aimed at controlling fishing activities on large migratory species and the protection of the resources. These measures should above all reinforce the monitoring of the fish, from their catch to their commercialization

The European Community has created specific programs for some species and gears:

- Driftnets for albacore fishing: decrease of 60%, starting in 1998, in the number of vessels authorized to use this gear, relative to the average number of vessels that used driftnet gear during the 1995-1997period; limit on the length of the driftnets to 2.5 km, per vessel; prohibition on the use of this gear starting on January 1, 2002; mandatory Community fishing logbook.

- Scientific observers on board longliners (catches of juveniles).

- Monthly transmittal of bluefin tuna catches.

- Closured season for purse seiners that fish under objects in the Gulf of Guinea. This limit, initiated in November 1997 by Community boat owners for a four-month period, has been extended with Community coverage in November, 1998.

- Monitoring of vessels by satellite.

The European Community, on the other hand, has reinforced its monitoring regime in three areas considered as priority: improved monitoring after landing, monitoring of third country vessels that fish in Community waters, and cooperation between the Member States and the European Community.

6 Inspection schemes

6.1 Port inspection

The controls on land by the Member States are usually carried out at the landing port, or at the time of sale when this is done by auction. Controls can also take place during transport or at the central markets. These controls are, in essence, on the catches landed, sizes, age and weight of the fish, observance of closed fishing seasons. In some cases, controls can be done during the commercialization process, as a means to cross-check the data. In the case of a violation, fines are imposed.

Some Member States have created an information network between the different landing ports, in order to better monitor the movements of the vessels.

During the landings of tropical tunas by Community vessels in Africa, personnel affiliated with the scientific institutes carry out systematic controls.

These controls at port are also carried out in the case of transshipment of Contracting Party and Non-Contracting Party catches, including from foreign vessels.

6.2 At sea inspection

In addition to land-based means, the Member States also have maritime and aerial means to monitor fishing activities and the compliance of Community vessels with the technical and administrative measures imposed for each fishery. Aerial and maritime surveys are organized on a regular and timely basis, particularly during the fishing season. If necessary, judicial sanctions are imposed.

This mechanism involves practical problems for the administrators of some Member States to efficiently control the often high number of landing points in their own 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 included in the national reports.

At the same time, the European Community has an Inspection Unit comprised of 25 fishery inspectors, whose job it is to supervise the activities of inspection and control carried out by the national services of the Member States.

In 1999, seventeen (17) inspections took place, that is, 40% of the overall missions carried out, were aimed at monitoring the tuna fisheries, particularly those for bluefin tuna and albacore, in the Mediterranean and the northeastern Atlantic, respectively. A total of 229 inspection days on land were carried out, with 163 days at sea in national patrol vessels, in Community and neighboring waters.

The major objectives of these missions was to:

- Check on compliance with Community regulations relative to fishing with driftnets in the Mediterranean and the northeastern Atlantic.

- Check on the measures taken by the Member States to assure the observance of the technical Community measures in effect in the Mediterranean and particularly those that are based on ICCAT recommendations.

- Evaluate the mechanisms implemented by the Member States to regulate the access to the fisheries, particularly bluefin tuna and albacore, and consequently, evaluate the active fleets.
- Check the implementation of the Community regulations relative to the reporting of catches and landings of bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean.
- Evaluate t6he schemes implemented by each Member States regarding the monthly reporting of bluefin tuna catches to the Commission.
- Assess the control mechanisms implemented by the Member States and their entry into force.
- Analysis of the commercialization circuits of bluefin tuna.

8 Other activities

Technical trials are carried out, with Community financial support, aimed at the reconversion of the driftnet fleets. The use of this gear will be definitively prohibited in the Community starting on January 1, 2002.

Table 1. Catches by the European Community of the major tuna species in 1999 (in MT)

Species	*1999*	*(1998 SCRS figures)*
Bluefin tuna	16,200	(18,300)
Albacore	32,500	(23,900)
Swordfish	19,800	(20,500)
Yellowfin tuna	51,300	(62,400)
Skipjack tuna	66,700	(58,900)
Bigeye tuna	21,900	(18,800)

NATIONAL REPORT OF EC-FRANCE [1]

1 Information on the national fisheries

The total French catches of tunas and tuna-like species caught in the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea amounted to 71,281 MT in 1999, slightly higher than that of 1998. However, this catch has shown a declining trend since the mid-1980s, mainly due to the moratorium in the Gulf of Guinea, to the decline in the number of tropical purse seiners, and to the decrease in catches of temperate tunas.

1.1 Temperate tunas

– *Albacore (North Atlantic stock)*

In the Atlantic Ocean, albacore fishing was carried out during the 1999 fishing season by the three fleets that normally operate in this fishery: driftnet, pelagic trawl and baitboat. The total catches amounted to 7,191 MT, an increase as compared to the 1998 catches. This increase is due to the pelagic trawl fleet, which in19991 obtained a higher catch than in previous years, particularly 1998, the year when the catch was the lowest reported since 1991.

Since July 27, 1994, the length of the nets used by the French fleet has been limited to 2.5 km per vessel.

In the Mediterranean, albacore are caught incidentally by purse seiners (less than a ton in the last four years) while the sport fishermen catch this species actively from mid August to the end of October. The sport fishery catches are not monitored for statistics, but they are estimated to be between 3 and 5 MT, depending on the years at between 3 and 5 MT.

– *Bluefin tuna (East Atlantic and Mediterranean stock)*

The time/area distribution of the fleets in 1999 was similar to previous years. The 1999 total French catches of bluefin tuna were 6,741 MT (588 MT in the Bay of Biscay and 6,153 MT in the Mediterranean Sea).

In the Mediterranean, bluefin tuna have been caught mainly by purse seiners since the 1970s. In 1998, the catch statistics were revised for 1992, 1993, 1995 and 1996. The 1999 figure (5,907 MT) continues the declining trend in the catches of this fleet since 1994 (approximately 11,800 MT in 1994; 9,500 MT in 1995; 8,500 MT in 1996; 7,700 MT in 1997; and 6,800 MT in 1998).

Apparently, the level of the catches, particularly those from the Balearic Islands cruise, are in part determined by environmental factors that affect the availability of bluefin tuna to the fishing gears. The 1999 season was characterized by variable weather which hampered fishing activities. During the Balearic season, the major part of the fish caught measured between 190 and 230 cm (140 and 250 kg). The development of trade with Japan is the main reason this fishery targets large fish.

The remainder of the fishing season was based on fish averaging from 10 to 30 kg (mostly age-classes 2 and 3). The volume of the catches in the Fall depends on the abundance of small and average sized bluefin tuna along the French-Catalonian coasts. Some vessels exploit fishing grounds located in the central Mediterranean; in essence, fishing effort is concentrated in the western part of the Mediterranean basin, with a trends of a progressive extension towards the North of Africa.

1 Original report in French.

The 1999 bluefin tuna catches in the East Atlantic amounted to 588 MT, which is the average of the last decade. The main target of the French tuna fisheries in the northeastern Atlantic continues to be albacore, although bluefin tuna catches are appreciable and could become the target species of the Bay of Biscay baitboats. The other fleets catch bluefin tuna as by-catch using pelagic trawl or driftnet (gear that will be prohibited for tuna fishing starting on January 1, 2002).

1.2 Tropical tunas

Taking into account the multi-species character of the tropical tuna fisheries, detailed information by fleet rather than by species will be given. Of note is the important decline in catches (-27%) due to the effect of the moratorium in the Gulf of Guinea and also due to the decrease in fishing effort, in terms of number of vessels as well as in number of fishing days. The total catch of tropical tunas in 1999 was 57,192 MT.

– *The purse seine fleet*

In 1999, French purse seiners caught 51,749 MT of tropical tunas: 30,178 MT of yellowfin tuna, 18,001 MT of skipjack tuna, 3,503 MT of bigeye tuna, and 67 MT of albacore and small tunas. In comparing the average catches of period before the moratorium (1993-96) with catches during the moratorium (1997-99), these results show a considerable decrease (-27%), particularly as concerns skipjack (-41%) and bigeye (-56%), while yellowfin catches remained relatively stable (-6%). This is due mainly to the important decrease in the sets on floating objects (-48%) and to a lesser number on free schools (-5%), in the overall context of a decline in fishing effort in terms of number of days at sea (-12%). It should also noted that the implementation of the moratorium did not produce apparent changes in the general distribution of fishing effort, which is divided among the existing traditional areas around the area of application.

Sampling for size and species composition of the landings continued on the overall European fleet (France, Spain and the associated NEI fleet) in collaboration with Cote d'Ivoire and Senegal. As a result, adequate catch statistics by species and by size have been transmitted to ICCAT for the 1991-1991 period. The normalization of previous statistics is being done and a complete series that takes into account the stratification of free schools and floating objects schools could be available next year.

– *The baitboat fleet*

In 1999, five French-flagged baitboats operated in Dakar. These vessels caught a total of 5,442 MT, comprised of 1,068 MT of yellowfin, 2,343 MT of skipjack, 1,997 MT of bigeye, and 34 MT of small tunas. This catch is declining, mainly due to the decline in the fleet that went from seven to five vessels. It should be noted that this decline mainly concerns skipjack, whereas bigeye catches have remained stable and yellowfin catches have increased considerably after the regular decrease in recent years.

1.3 Other species

– *North Atlantic swordfish*

Swordfish are caught sporadically in the Northeast Atlantic, as a by-catch of the fleets that target albacore. The 1999 catches amounted to 104 MT.

2 Research and statistics

French research on tunas and tuna-like species is carried out by the "*Institut Francais de Recherche pour l'Exploitation de la Mer*" (IFREMER) as concerns the species and the fisheries of the Atlantic Ocean (North temperate zone) and the Mediterranean Sea; and by the "*Institut de Recherche pour le Developpement*" (IRD) for the species and the fisheries in the tropical Atlantic Ocean.

2.1 Temperate tunas

– *Bluefin tuna*

The Mediterranean purse seine fleet is required to maintain a fishing register in accordance with the ICCAT norms. The information from these documents are cross-checked against landings information (mainly in Spain for the Balearic cruise) in order to evaluate the amount of the total catches.

A program financed in part by the European Union (EU) has resulted in 1995 in improved in knowledge on French landings in Spain. This comparison was carried out continued in 1996 and 1998. Another program, also partially financed by the EU, entitled "BFTMED" was started, in which the four Member States of the EU bordering on the Mediterranean (Spain, France, Greece and Italy) took part. The program is aimed at the collection and improvement of Mediterranean statistical data. This program, coordinated by France, also studies the reproductive biology of this species.

There is another program that started in the Spring of 2000, partially financed by the EU, to study bluefin It is also coordinated by France. This program, entitled "Stromboli", will continue until 2002. Its main objectives are: (1) to collect and analyze the historical catch data on the Atlantic and Mediterranean traps; (2) to test, by simulation models, the potential of this species to resist exploitation based on its biological and ecological characteristics; and (3) to study the possibility of establishing abundance indices from aerial surveys carried out in the area of the Balearic Islands and Sicily.

These aforementioned programs contribute to the objectives of the ICCAT Bluefin Year Program (BYP).

– *Albacore*

The fleets that fish albacore in the Bay of Biscay are required to have a European Community fishing logbook. The data included in these logbooks are cross-checked against the sales data in order to evaluate the amount of the total catches.

For the North Atlantic, biological sampling is carried out on the landing of the catches of some fleets to evaluate their size structure. Furthermore, some technological trials have been carried out with a view towards a reconversion of the fleets affected by the prohibition of driftnets, following the decision taken by the EU to prohibit this gear for albacore fishing starting on January 1, 2002. The techniques tested up to now mainly include longline, "automatic" trawl line, (which is identical to the traditional trawl line, but different in its handling on board), troll, and purse seine.

2.2 Tropical tunas

As regards tropical tunas, fishery statistics and research are conducted in close collaboration with the research institutes of Cote d'Ivoire and Senegal. These statistics cover 100% of the fishing logbooks of this fleet.

The statistical studies carried out within the framework of the European Program "ET" (analysis of the multi-species sampling scheme for tropical tunas) have demonstrated the importance of stratified sampling that takes school type into account to correct the species composition, as well as considering the European fleet (France, Spain and NEI) as a unique entity, for which sampling now includes the entire fleet: in 1999, more than 200,000 tropical tunas were sampled to determine the species composition of the landings, and more than 100,000 fish were measured to determine the stock structure in the landings of each of the species.

Detailed fishing statistics of the French inter-tropical fleets were submitted on a timely basis to ICCAT. The research carried out on tropical tunas has involved the following:

– Analysis of the ethology and the dynamics of association between schools and baitboats, carried out by the Dakar fleet, in collaboration with the *"Centre de Rechereches Oceanographiques de Dakar Thiaroye"* (CRODT) of Dakar (the "MAC" Program, or schools associated with baitboats). This program, initiated

in 1991, ended this year and the classification of the most interesting and original results should be done in the course of the next two years.

- Further to the analysis of the data collected by the Bigeye Year Program (1997-98, program partially financed by the EU), in particular, an estimate of the by-catches of billfishes by the purse seiners of the European fleet.

- Deployment of oceanographic buoys ("PIRATA" Program) for real-time monitoring of the environmental conditions of the sub-surface in the Gulf of Guinea (these observations are interesting for the tropical purse seiners which are accessible in real time on the Internet). This French-Brazilian program includes the deployment of four buoys in 1998 (3 by Brazil in January and 1 by France in February); four others will be deployed in 1999 (3 by France and 1 by Brazil), adding to the 2 (by France) deployed in September, 1997.

- Development and updating of the "GAO" oceanographic data base, which will facilitate valid and easy access in various time-area strata.

- Lastly, the IRD cooperates closely with the Bigeye Year Program (BETYP) which did not start until 1999. Within this framework, the IRD collaborates in the collection of fishery statistics on the Ghanaian purse seine and baitboat fleets, together with the Marine Fisheries Research Department (MFRD), and will participate in the four oceanographic cruises by the Japanese R/V *Shoyo Maru*.

3 Implementation of the ICCAT conservation and management measures

3.1 Bluefin tuna

- *Implementation of the ICCAT recommendations*

In accordance with the 1994 Recommendation, French catches of bluefin tuna between 1995 and 1997 have not exceeded the 1994 level; on the contrary, catches have gradually declined from 1994 to 1998, such that the 1998 catch is 37% less than that of 1994 (the 1994 Recommendation stipulates a 25% reduction). In 1999, bluefin tuna catches amounted to 6,741 MT and slightly exceeded the quota assigned to France within the European Union quota.

French purse seiners that operate in the Mediterranean did not fish between July 16 and August 15, 1999, in accordance with the 1998 Recommendation.

Lastly, the fleet of Mediterranean purse seiners were required to turn in a fishing record in accordance with the ICCAT norms.

- *National measures*

The fourth *"Plan d'Orientation Pluriannuel"* (POP IV), for 1998 to 2002, is the major instrument of direct limitation of the capacity of the EU fleets. Within the framework of the POP IV, the EU Commission classified the stocks fished by the Community fleets according to their level of catch. This classification was proposed by experts of the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee on Fisheries (CSTEP), which is comprised of independent scientists and is in charge of advising the Commission. When a stock is considered as to be over-exploited, a limit is set on capacity and, if necessary, on fishing effort of the fleets fishing that stock. The level of the reduction depends on the degree of over-fishing. If no over-fishing is reported, no increase is, therefore, possible.

In the case of bluefin tuna, the fleets that fish this species should reduce their fishing effort by 20% during the POP IV Plan. This regulation applies to the French fleet.

On the other hand, bluefin tuna fishing by purse seine in the Mediterranean Sea requires authorization, through a system of fishing licenses that are limited through ministerial decree and are issued every year. These licenses be withdrawn from vessels that do not comply with the regulatory measures in effect or if they do not respond to the conditions required for issuance or for maintaining the permits to fish, as foreseen in Decree No. 93-33 of January 8, 1993, relative to the licenses to fish for fishing vessels.

3.2 Albacore

– *Implementation of the ICCAT Recommendations*

In accordance with the 1998 Recommendation, the number of fishing vessels fishing albacore is limited to the average number of vessels present in the fishery between 1993 and 1995. This limit is implemented by means of a Special Fishing Permit (see below), in force since 1995.

– *National measures*

Community regulations limit to 2.5 km the length of driftnets used for albacore fishing. Besides, albacore fishing requires authorization within the framework of a Special Permit System (PPS). This regime, which covers all the gears present in the fishery, was put into force in 1995. The total number of PPS per gear (pelagic troll, driftnet, baitboat) that can be issued each year by the National Committee of Maritime Fishing and Marine Culture, and must approved by ministerial decree. In the case of the driftnets, there is a supplementary restriction imposed by a Community Regulation (CE 1239/98), that prohibits this fishing gear for albacore starting on January 1, 2002. This regulation also foresees, starting in 1998, a decline of 40% as compared to the level of 1995-1997 in the number of vessels fishing with driftnets.

In addition, the fleets that fish albacore in the Bay of Biscay are required to have European Community logbooks.

3.3 Tropical tunas fisheries

– *Implementation of the ICCAT Recommendations*

In 1993, ICCAT recommended that effective fishing effort of vessels targeting yellowfin tuna not exceed the 1992 level. France is complying with this recommendation, since the number of French flag purse seiners has declined overall since 1992, as well as the number of baitboats. Yellowfin catches have also shown a decreasing trend since 1992. In general, catches of tropical tunas have tended to decrease in recent years, due in part to the reduction in the fleet and in part to the decline in effort exerted by the vessels that fish in this area, due to the moratorium on fishing under floating objects.

The moratorium on objects fishing has been satisfactorily respected by the French purse seine fleets during the period from November 1, 1999 to January 31, 2000. A total of 17 observers embarked French purse seiners in the area. In terms of number of fishing days, the coverage rate of the fleet by observers was 96.4%.

– *National measures*

The French and Spanish boat owners took the initiative of not fishing under floating objects in the Gulf of Guinea from November, 1997 to February, 1998. This voluntary measure was extended to the following year. Considering the interest of this measure and taking into account that to attain its maximum efficiency the measure should be respected by all the Contracting Parties, in 1998 ICCAT adopted a Recommendation aimed at extending this measure to all the purse seiners concerned.

4 Inspection schemes and activities

4.1 Bluefin tuna

France has aerial and naval control schemes in various sectors of its administration (National Navy, Maritime Affairs, National Police and French Customs) all along the Mediterranean coast. These regularly carry out cruises to monitor fishing, in which specific monitoring is aimed at bluefin tuna. Violations are transmitted to the Justice Department.

As concerns monitoring of the fishery, it should be noted first of all that the major part of the bluefin catches taken by French vessels is destined for export to Asia (particularly to the Japanese market) and that this same fleet lands the major part of the catches in Spain. Cross-checking is carried out between the logbook data and Customs data.

This situation which is difficult for France to control, does not however prevent monitoring of the part of the catch that is landed in national territory. In this regard, bluefin tuna are monitored for size and weight at the time of landing and at all the stages of their commercialization. This activity was carried out in 1999. There were no infractions, since the weight of the fish was satisfactory.

4.2 Albacore (North Atlantic stock)

The monitoring carried out in 1999 of the albacore fishery mainly concerned verifying the length of the driftnets on board (limited to 2.5 km by a Community regulation), verifying the presence of possible by-catches (marine mammals, etc.), and checking for compliance with administrative and safety regulations.

Four vessels were mobilized for monitoring at sea: the *Tenace*, the *Cormoran*, the *Rari* of the National Navy, and the *Iris* of Maritime Affairs. Also, the trawler *Iseran*, chartered by the National Committee of Maritime Fishing and Marine Culture, for at sea surveillance, had an on-board inspector from the Maritime Affairs Department. Finally, some planes, in the course of their specific missions, participated in fishing surveillance by locating vessels present in the area.

Besides the inspectors on board the *Iris*, other inspectors from the Maritime Affairs Department embarked on the other four vessels: four inspectors during 76 days on the vessels of the National Navy, two inspectors for 60 days on the trawler *Iseran*.

During the campaign, 32 inspections at sea were carried out, 186 inspections of landings. No violations were observed.

5 Other activities

5.1 Implementation of a pilot program to monitor vessels

France has implemented a satellite monitoring system for all tuna vessels whose length exceeds 24 m (or 20 m between perpendiculars). This mechanism derives from a general regulation adopted by the European Union and goes beyond the requirements of the pilot program foreseen in the 1997 Recommendation. The vessels are required to use buoys with satellite positioning, starting on January 1, 2002, and the French Administration, for its part, is in charge of installing a satellite monitoring center for fishing vessels (VMS), located in the regional centers of surveillance and rescue operations in the Atlantic. This system concerns all the purse seine fleets and the majority of the baitboats that fish tropical tunas, the majority of the baitboats that fish bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean, as well as some vessels that fish albacore in the North Atlantic.

NATIONAL REPORT OF EC-GREECE[1]

Directorate General of Fisheries

1 General information

Fishing activities concerning large pelagics in Greece were carried out in 1999 in the Aegean, Aeonian and Levantine Seas. Landings of fish products are effected at a great number of fishing ports because of the complicated geomorphologic profile of the Greek coasts (highly dispersed islands and extensive continental and insular coasts).

Vessels involved in the bluefin tuna and tuna-like fishery in 1999 held special permits that were based on provisions of Ministerial decision No. 277297/294849/99, in accordance with EC Regulations No. 1626/94 (EC), 1075/96 (EC), and national legislation.

The category, number and characteristics of the fishing vessels targeting bluefin tuna and tuna-like species (swordfish, albacore) are shown in **Table 1.**

The overall length of the majority of these vessels was between 8 and 15 m, and the fishing gears utilized were hand line, longline and purse seine. Almost the total production of bluefin tuna was exported to Japan.

2 Statistics

The total catches of bluefin tuna in 1999 reached 248 MT round weight (214 MT dressed weight), which represents a decline of 13% as compared to 1998. The total catches of swordfish for the same period were 1,520 MT.

The decrease in bluefin tuna catches is due to restrictions by Council regulation (EC) 49/1999, which sets Total Allowable Catches (TACs) and quotas among the Member States for the main fish stocks and migratory species. The low bluefin TAC allocated to Greece caused serious problems among Greek fishermen. The situation of strong oppositions was worsened after the decision taken on November 15, 1999, by the Greek Ministry of Agriculture to halt fishing activities on bluefin tuna, as the allocated quota was reached.

The Directorate of Fisheries Extensions of the Ministry of Agriculture is in charge of collection fishery statistical data for bluefin tuna and tuna-like species.

The final catch data for tuna and tuna-like species for 1999 have been reported to the ICCAT Secretariat.

3 Implementation of ICCAT conservation and management measures

3.1 Catch quotas management system

The EC Council regulation No. 49/EC/99 established the TAC of bluefin tuna for each Member State of the European Community for 1999. Based on the requirements of this regulation, Greece issued a Ministerial Decision for 1999. In accordance with the aforementioned Decision, fishing for bluefin tuna, swordfish and albacore can only be conducted by vessels that have a special permit. That permit is revoked after verification that the fixed TAC has been reached. The owners of these vessels are obliged to report their landings of bluefin tuna and tuna-like species to the port authorities, including information on the landing port.

1 Original report in English.

4 Research

Since 1998, the University of Athens (Department of Zoology – Marine Biology) has been involved in several joint research projects to study the biology, fishery and dynamics of swordfish and bluefin tuna. The Institute of Marine Biology of Crete coordinates research projects on statistical data, on data relative to fishing effort and size composition of the catches of bluefin tuna and swordfish.

The financing of these projects is supported by the European Community and by the national budget.

Table 1. Characteristics of Greek fishing vessels targeting bluefin tuna and tuna-like species

Category	*Number of vessels*	*Capacity (GRT)*	*Power (in KW)*
Small-scale fishery	373	4,130	25,184
Purse seiners	23	887	4,698
Total	**396**	**5,017**	**29,882**

NATIONAL REPORT OF EC-ITALY [1]

1 Introduction

The previous National Report discussed the repercussions of the introduction of a quota system for the fishing of bluefin tuna in Italy.

The problems relative to this introduction persist among the interested parties and the administration, due to the adoption of regulations Nos. 49/99 and 2742/99, that establish the total allowable catch of bluefin tuna for 1999 and 2000, respectively.

The suppression of the historical right to be able to fish bluefin tuna by having a simple fishing license, implies the need to determine who has the option to receive a fishing quota for this resource, based on compliance with the obligation to present statistics.

This was done through the adoption of ministerial decrees (of 14 September 1999 and 7 February 2000) which establish the individual fishing quotas for bluefin tuna for 1999 and 2000, respectively.

The complexity associated with the need to monitor each individual case, as regards the fishermen's observance of the legal provisions, which is further complicated by the fact that, contrary to the provisions established for bluefin tuna fishing with purse seine, there is no specific license for longline, which has given way to contentious situations with the professionals that resulted in 180 administrative appeals, 15 appeals to tribunals of the regional administration, 40 extraordinary appeals to the President of the Republic, and 15 complaints re-requesting a quota.

In order to solve these conflicts inasmuch as possible and determine with surety the composition and number of vessels in the Italian tuna fleet, with a view towards the 2001 fishing season, a ministerial decree was adopted on July 27, 2000 (establishing criteria for allocating bluefin tuna fishing quotas); this decree establishes that those who consider they have the right to practice such fishing must present the necessary documentation to be included in the special registries of the competent central administration.

This same decree, reiterating the text of the resolution adopted by ICCAT in 1999, contemplates sport fishing for the first time in Italy. Vessels whose owners have submitted a request can register and be granted authorization to fish bluefin tuna, but this includes the obligation to declare their catches at landing, according to the fishing gear and within the limits set forth by the legislation.

Italy adopted another regulation (ministerial decree of 7 February 2000) aimed at rationalizing the management of the bluefin tuna quotas. This decree, that also involves the bluefin tuna producers and their national associations, provides for forming a national organism, i.e. a national association in charge, on the one hand, of the management of the quotas established and assigned by the administration for those who have the right to them and, on the other hand, allows the administration to comply in a complete and rapid manner with the obligations imposed by the Community legislation in force.

In spite of all these efforts, the work of the administration in charge of putting in practice strict monitoring of a very extensive marine environment where a migratory and cosmopolitan species inhabits has proven difficult, since it is faced a professional sector that is very much discouraged by the conservation policy applied and by the practices of many vessels flying flags of convenience, as well as by the increased fishing effort exerted by non-Community countries in international waters.

This phenomenon is also the result of the increased demand for bluefin tuna on the Japanese market, which requires investments and improved technologies in the fishing sector.

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1 Original report in French.

The quota system alone cannot halt this trend, and the difficulties, which on the one hand are a Community problem, could be resolved contemplating a series of measures such s specific agreements with southern Mediterranean countries aimed at limiting the race for investments, and also by discussing with Japan ways to improve the monitoring of activities of their commercial operators.

The system of fishing and management of bluefin tuna is very complex and the statistical data, which are essential, are not always adequate in the case of a resource that is so widely distributed.

Thus, Italy reaffirms it full compromise in favor of the implementation of a conservation policy on bluefin tuna, respecting international agreements and Community guidance in matters of conservation. It continues to develop and adopt administrative regulations in this respect and is studying, among other things, the possibility of resolving the current communication difficulties between the producers and the scientists, undertaking, on a new and more reliable basis, the collection of statistical data.

2 Structure of the national fishery

The structure of the Italian fishery for large pelagics is the same, in essence, to that of recent years; it includes bluefin, swordfish, albacore and small tunas, such as Atlantic bonito and spotted Spanish mackerel.

Bluefin tuna is caught mostly by purse seine, followed by longline, the sport fishery, and traps.

The official data on Italian catches of bluefin tuna in 1999 are shown in **Table** 1.

Swordfish is caught in all the Italian waters, except the northern Adriatic Sea, and in other areas of the Mediterranean. Through the application and progressive development of the "Plan Spadare" (Swordfish Plan), this fishing has declined considerably (of the 770 vessels that originally used driftnets, only 150 are left, and a complete halt in this fishery is contemplated); at present fishing is carried out basically by trollers.

Under these new circumstances and taking into account some reservations on the reliability of the data, the catches are much less than those of recent years, estimated at 6,312 MT.

With regard to albacore, in 1999 restrictions were imposed on the size of the driftnets. Catches have been progressively decreasing which is not due to a decline in the resource but to a specific management measure. The total catch of this species is estimated at 2,561 MT.

That discussed on albacore as regards management measures is applicable to the rest of the small tunas (Atlantic bonito, spotted Spanish mackerel). It should be noted that the economic importance of these species is less, and that their fishing is very difficult to monitor for statistics, since such fishing is carried out with small boats that land their catches at imprecise points.

The total catch in 1999 can be estimated at 4,621 MT.

The initiation of aquiculture involves some dubious points as regards the type of management that has been proposed up to now, and constitutes another complex factor for the management of the resource. It is known, for example, that the tunas caught are taken to floating cages for fattening.

The legal framework of this activity, which not only involves Italian companies but also vessels of various nationalities for the fishing and the purchase of live products, is not yet clearly defined.

The Italian administration is currently studying this phenomenon very closely, which could involve establishing fishing quotas in a somewhat uncertain manner.

Italy is also considering applications based on current research programs within the framework of the law 41/82, in order to confirm the estimate of the biomass sold as live product.

3 Research and statistics

In the last year, the statistical data collection system was carried out according to the Community regulations in force.

It is difficult to obtain reliable information from some distrustful professionals who see the administration and in the scientists as illegitimate controllers of their activities.

The administration makes constant efforts to reestablish acceptable relations among the parties, as seen in the adoption of the afore-mentioned regulations, which contemplate the possibility of establishing a structure or association to head the national tuna associations. This initiative is encountering some obstacles.

As has already been pointed out to the Community, the collection of statistical data such as it is currently set up, does not fully satisfy the general requirements.

In the hopes that all these problems are being duly studied, the Italian administration intends to collect and transmit the most reliable catch data as possible to ICCAT. For this, the decree of 27 July 2000, which will be applied in its entirety in 2001, foresees a new survey of the entire Italian tuna fleet, particularly the professional sector which benefits from individual quotas, but also from the catches of bluefin tuna that are taken sporadically and, for the first time, from the sport fishery. All those who may be authorized to practice this fishing in 2001 are obliged to complete the "bluefin tuna form" at the time of landing, which will result in obtaining more reliable catch data.

As regards scientific research, the joint program between 10 national institutes is continuing, even though there continued to be some problems for the rapid and complete research that is necessary to develop a picture of the overall situation as concerns the large pelagics that under ICCAT competence.

The Italian administration is trying to restore confidence to the fishermen, who are still very confused by the permanence of general conditions relative to the regulations in force.

4 Application of the ICCAT conservation and management measures

This aspect is discussed in detail in the general introduction, with a description of the regulatory actions adopted by the Italian administration:

- Ministerial Decree 14 September 1999 - Setting of individual bluefin fishing quotas
- Ministerial Decree 7 February 2000 - Setting of individual bluefin fishing quotas for 2000
- Ministerial Decree 7 February 2000 - Criteria for the management of bluefin catch quotas
- Ministerial Decree 27 July 2000 - Establishing allocation criteria of the bluefin fishing quotas
- Letter of 17 February 2000 - Explanatory circular / supplemental instructions / transmission of bluefin statistical data
- Letter of 28 September 2000 - Interpretative circular on Minister Decree 27 July 2000

Another aspect that should be taken into account concerns the actions to sensitize the fishing community with a view to application of a code of conduct for responsible fishing, which is supported by considerable efforts on the part of the central fishing organizations.

Currently a series of discussions and consultations are taking place between the administration and the operators in the fishing sector, some of which demand measures with respect to the minimum size for bluefin tuna.

This signifies the search, in a new context, for a more sensitive interlocutor who, while having some reservations with respect to the research community due to the quota system, understands the need for an equitable regulation to guarantee the duration of the economic activity and the survival of the resource.

5 · Monitoring activities

The inspections and controls, which extend along the 8,000 kms of coast and some 880 landing points, requires large-scale organization with considerable means and personnel.

Considerable efforts have been made. In 1999, there were 271 maritime vessels among 13 operative command points, as well as 25 planes and 8 helicopters.

Within the framework of the monitoring operations on fishing, 6,661 missions were carried out with maritime means and 29 missions with aerial means.

Land-based personnel carried out 7,089 monitoring operations on landings, on the distribution and sale of fish, and 2,957 controls were carried out on fishing gears, which resulted in 2,411 sanctions or seizures.

Special attention was given to the species under ICCAT mandate, particularly bluefin tuna and swordfish.

The excellent specific and general cooperation on behalf of the Italian authorities should be noted, in central as well in peripheral areas during the numerous inspections carried out by the European Commission in 1999 and 2000.

The commitment of the Italian authorities towards obligations derived from Community legislation in force and ICCAT in matters of port inspection, is confirmed by some outside organisms who have verified some bluefin tuna fishing in the Mediterranean by "Contracting Parties" that do not have an assigned quota.

The corresponding documents have been transmitted to the European Commission, for their later processing, particularly as concerns ICCAT.

6 Development of a satellite detection system

The EC Regulation No. 2847/93 (modified by EC Regulation 686/97 of the Council, 14-4-1997) which establishes a monitoring regime applicable to the common fishing policy, stipulates that all the coastal Member States should create a system to locate and monitor the activities of their respective flag fishing vessels by satellite, in order to protect the marine resources (monitoring system on fishing).

After some very complex political and bureaucratic procedures, such as searching for the necessary funds for joint financing, announcing a contest to select the organism to create the fishing monitoring system, the adoption of the decree of award, and the establishment and registration of the contracts for the work - this contract is now in process and within six month a scheme will be in place, as it is in the other Member States.

Table 1. Bluefin tuna by Italy in 1999

Fishing gears	*Catch (MT)*
Purse seine	1,859,103
Longline	514,801
Fixed trap	307,994
Sport fishing	425,584
Others	170,913
Total	3,278,395

NATIONAL REPORT OF EC-PORTUGAL[1]

1 General information on the national tuna fisheries

Fishing for tunas and tuna-like species by the Portuguese fleet takes place in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean, in the North Atlantic and in the South Atlantic Ocean.

Portuguese catches of tunas in 1999 were 8,104 MT, of which 4,029 MT corresponded to the fleet registered to the Azores, 2,103 MT to the fleet registered to Madeira, and 1,972 MT to the Continental fleet.

The total catches in 1999 show a reduction of close to 40% as compared to 1998. This decrease is not due to a departure from the fisheries, but to a lesser presence of tunas in the sub-areas of the national EEZ of the Azores and Madeira in that year.

The breakdown of the catches, by principal species is as follows: 3,152 MT of bigeye tuna *(T. obesus)*, 1,790 MT of skipjack *(K. pelamis)*, 1,159 MT of swordfish *(X. gladius)*, 487 MT of bluefin tuna *(T. thynnus)*, and 324 MT of albacore *(T. alalunga)*.

The fishing gears used are surface longline and baitboat in the Azores and Madeira, hand line and troll (mainly in Madeira). In the south of Continental Portugal bluefin tuna fishing is carried out by trap.

1.1 Bluefin tuna

Bluefin tuna are found all along the Continental coast of Portugal, as well as in the Azores and Madeira. Portuguese catches of bluefin tuna are from the East Atlantic and from the Mediterranean Sea. Bluefin tuna catches in the Mediterranean are taken during the months of March, April, and May.

The majority of the catch is made by the artisanal fleet registered to ports of Madeira, with the highest catches between February and May, and also in September-October. In the Azores, this species is usually present between April and June, but with annual variations.

Although bluefin catches are made all along the Continental coast, the catch taken by trap on the southern coast is noted.

A significant component of the Portuguese catches of bluefin tuna, approximately about 146 MT, are destined for export to Japan, and the corresponding statistical documents were validated.

1.2 Swordfish

Swordfish are present in Portuguese waters throughout the year. Portuguese swordfish catches are made in the North Atlantic as well as in the South Atlantic.

An ICCAT recommendation established a quota for the European Union, and the Portuguese quota for the catch of this species in 1999 in the North Atlantic, North of 5°North, was 802.5 MT.

Landings of swordfish in the North Atlantic, North of 5°North, reached 774.7 MT, which correspond to the activity of 53 vessels with licenses for surface longline and which target this species, besides the by-catches of mostly small sized vessels, that also have licenses to use other gears.

1 Original report in Spanish.

The Portuguese quota was distributed internally by groups of vessels, according to the port of registry, by means of a Ministerial Decree ("Portaria") No. 154/99 of 8 March.

As concerns the fleet registered to ports on the Continent, a vessel quota was established for the swordfish catches taken North of 5°North, and the catches and landings were monitored, vessel-by-vessel, and the fishery was closed when the quota assigned to each vessel was reached. In the rest of the cases, monitoring of the catches was carried out by means of the fishing logbooks, and reports of catches and landings at the ports.

In the South Atlantic South of 5°North, the catches (383.8 MT) were taken by larger sized surface longliners registered to Continental ports, that are able to carry out fishing in areas distant from the Portuguese coast and which supplemented their fishing activity with other catches, corresponded to the quota assigned to Portugal (385 MT).

1.3 Bigeye tuna

Bigeye tuna are found in Portuguese waters, in Madeira and in the Azores, starting in March and mainly from April to July, and throughout the year.

This species has a particular importance in the Portuguese catches of tunas, and fishing is carried out mainly by licensed baitboat vessels.

1.4 Other tunas

Other tunas caught by the Portuguese fleet are yellowfin tuna, albacore and skipjack tuna.

Yellowfin and albacore occur in Portuguese waters, but the catches taken by the fleet that fishes in the South Atlantic should also be noted.

In the Azores, the albacore fishery is an autumn fishery, since this species occurs mainly at the end of year. The catches show wide variations over the years, in direct relation to the occurrence of this species in the Portuguese EEZ. In a short period, reported annual catches that fluctuated between 90 MT and 6,500 MT, which shows the wide variability of the occurrence of this species in Portuguese waters (mainly in the Azores)

In the Azores, this fishery, which is carried out by a fleet comprised exclusively of tuna baitboats (BB), catches mostly adult fish.

Skipjack tuna are found in Madeira, usually during the second quarter of the year, and in the Azores in the months of July, August and September. Catches in 1999 (1,780 MT) showed a significant decrease with respect to 1998 (4,599 MT). The reasons for this decrease, once again, are related to the presence of this species in Portuguese waters.

2 Application of ICCAT management and conservation measures

2.1 Bluefin tuna

Portugal has been applying recommendations relative to bluefin tuna in the East Atlantic and in the Mediterranean, particularly those concerning the monitoring of fishing quotas, the Mediterranean closed season, and the validation of statistical documents. In 1999, there was no reported increase in the number of authorized vessels.

2.2 Swordfish

In accordance with the ICCAT recommendations that establish a Total Allowable Catch (TAC) and country quotas for the 1997-1999 tri-annual period, the breakdown of the quota assigned to Portugal for 1999 for vessels registered to the ports on the Continent, the Autonomous Region of the Azores and the Autonomous Region of Madeira was carried out through a Ministerial Decree ("Portaria") No. 1554/99.

The aforementioned Ministerial Decree also established a set of rules aimed at a strict compliance of the assigned catch quotas.

It should be pointed out that there were no new fishing licenses issued to catch swordfish, whereas on the contrary, the number of licenses granted was reduced to 53, as compared to 83 licenses granted for 1998.

On the Continent, the licenses issued specifically indicate the species that the vessel is authorized to fish (swordfish), and a maximum catch per vessel is set.

In the Azores, on the contrary, as there were no surface longline licenses granted, this fishing gear was as well swordfish fishing were prohibited.

3 Inspection and control

Since all the vessels authorized to fish swordfish are required to complete fishing logbooks and landings declarations, systematic monitoring was carried out on submitting such documents and an analysis of the data they contain. Information was also collection from the landings carried out at the fishing auction by vessels that landed fresh and chilled tunas and tuna-like fish. The first sale at auction is mandatory for the former vessels in accordance with the national law.

Important landings were reported of swordfish caught by the 26 vessels registered to Continental ports, at the port of Peniche and at the ports of other EC Member States (Vigo, Spain).

Effective monitoring of swordfish and bluefin tuna catches is carried out, as regards the catch amounts as well as minimum sizes. Violations detected in swordfish fishing triggered the immediate initiation of the corresponding procedures of investigation.

Control is exercised on the data of the vessels authorized to carry out direct fishing of swordfish, or also on the level of authorized by-catches.

In the Azores, the establishment of swordfish quotas was accompanied by a rigorous monitoring of the catches, particularly of the fishing logbooks.

On the other hand, the General Fishing Inspection has tried to be present at all the landings of third countries that include this species. No new licenses were issued for swordfish fishing in the North and South Atlantic.

There has been a gradual increase in the number of vessels that have blue boxes installed (MONICAP system), now on 423 vessels of the Continental, Azorian and Madeiran fleets. This has made it possible for greater monitoring of the swordfish fishing vessels.

The Portuguese Air Force conducted 96 missions in the Continental territory and 65 in the Azores directed especially at vessels that fish swordfish.

At sea, the War Navy also carries out monitoring of fishing operations.

4 Research and statistics

Research programs are carried out by the Institute on Fishing and Marine Research (IPIMAR), of the University of the Azores (Department of Oceanography and Fisheries) and the General Directorate of Fishing of Madeira (Research Laboratory on Fishing).

On the Continent, monitoring of catches by the traps, located on the southern coast, has been carried out since 1995, with special attention given to minimum sizes, particularly for bluefin tuna.

In the Azores, a fishery observer program (POPA) has been carried out in the last three years, which in 1999 covered 63% of the tuna fleet. The 1999 results suggest a high level of acceptance of the program. In the program's coverage rate of the fleet, there were few incidents of cetaceans noted in the tuna fishing. The aforementioned program guarantees the protection of cetaceans and promotes measures of environmental awareness, while improving the commercial aspects of the products fished in the area, particularly, the guarantee of the "dolphin safe" statute.

The scientists involved in the research departments of the Autonomous Regions are compiling the catch statistics by species (minimum sizes and weights).

It should also be noted that Portuguese scientists have participated in ICCAT meetings and working groups and have systematically compiled annual biological data, including and data processing and analysis of the statistical data. In the Azores, a bigeye and bonito tagging program has been carried out.

NATIONAL REPORT OF EC-SPAIN [1]

1 General information

Spanish catches of tunas and tuna-like species in 1999 in the Atlantic and Mediterranean amounted to 112,062 MT, broken down as follows: 19,978 MT yellowfin; 13,379 MT bigeye; 44,520 MT skipjack; 16,676 MT albacore; 10,658 MT swordfish; 5,357 bluefin tuna; and 1,465 MT of other tunas and tuna-like species.

As in past years, considerable effort was made to collect scientific data to adequately comply with ICCAT tasks. For the species overall, in 1999 size sampling was carried out on 407,080 fish (59,265 yellowfin; 103,987 skipjack; 34,309 bigeye; 72,415 albacore; 10,057 bluefin tuna; 99,891 swordfish; and 27,156 other species). A total of 21documents were presented this year to the SCRS (4 ALB, 5 BFT, 3 SWO, and 9 TROP and Canaries).

2 The fisheries

2.1 Tropical tunas and Canary Islands tunas

– *Tropical fisheries: purse seine*

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 January, November and December, 1999, the Spanish fleet participated in the time-area closure established for the floating objects fishery.

In 1999, there was no change in the number of vessels with respect to 1998; thus 19 vessels continued to operate in this fishery. The vessel carrying capacity (calculated taking into account the time each vessel spent in the fishing ground) increased slightly, from 9,563 MT in 1998 to 9,988 MT. Effort, expressed in standardized days fishing, decreased to 5,943 days (as compared to 6,781 days in 1998).

The catches taken by this purse seine fleet increased to 63,547 MT (60,549 MT in 1998). The breakdown, by species, was as follows: Yellowfin 18,599 MT (27,787 MT in 1998); skipjack 38,912 MT (27,413 MT in 1998); bigeye 5,021 MT (4,534 MT in 1998); and other species 1,015 MT (815 MT in 1998).

CPUE, in MT/standardized fishing days, was 3.12 MT/day for yellowfin (4.10 in 1998); 6.55 MT/day for skipjack (4.04 in 1998); and 10.69 MT/day for the species overall (8.93 in 1998). The average catch per set underwent an important increase, to 36.5 MT (23.0 MT in 1998). The average weights of the fish caught were: 17.3 kg for yellowfin, 2.0 kg for skipjack, and 3.8 kg for bigeye.

– *Tropical fisheries: baitboat*

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"). The total catches amounted to 4,324 MT for all species combined (4,304 MT in 1998). The breakdown by species is as follows: yellowfin 787 MT (251 MT in 1998), skipjack 1,488 MT (3,153 MT in 1998), and bigeye 2,049 MT (900 MT in 1998). Effort was 898 days fishing, slightly less than that of 1998, which was 909 days.

1 Original report in Spanish.

– *Canary Islands tunas*

This fishery, which takes place in Canary Islands waters and off the African coast close to the Islands, is carried out by baitboat vessels. The number of vessels that operated in 1999 amounted to 394; these vessels carried out a total of 5,071 trips, with an estimated duration of 9,535 days at sea.

Catches rose to 12,870 MT (10,141 MT in 1998). The breakdown by species is as follows (the figures in parentheses correspond to 1998): bluefin 32 MT (39 MT); yellowfin 524 MT (3,259 MT); albacore 1,972 MT (313 MT), bigeye 6,191 MT (1,034 MT); skipjack 4,119 MT (5,441 MT); and other species 31 MT (55 MT). The average weights of the fish caught were: yellowfin 10 kg, albacore 17 kg, bigeye 14 kg, skipjack 3.0 kg, and bluefin 231 kg.

2.2 Temperate tunas

– *Bluefin tuna*

The Spanish bluefin tuna fishery in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean remained stable due to the catch limit imposed by country quota regulation. The catch of bluefin tuna amounted to 5,357 MT, of which 3,354 MT were caught in the East Atlantic and 2,003 MT in the Mediterranean. Of note is the reverse trend in the catches in both areas as compared to the previous year, since in 1998 the catches were 2,000 MT and 3,880 MT in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean, respectively. This species is caught to a lesser degree in the area of the Canary Islands (see following section).

Bluefin catches in the East Atlantic were 3,354 MT in 1999, which represents a decline of 12% as compared to 1998. Catches by the baitboat fishery were 1,311 MT, which represents a 42% decrease with respect to the previous year, due to a decline in catches and effort in the Bay of Biscay fishery. On the other hand, trap catches rose to 2,004 MT, an increase of 24% as compared to 1998 with the same effort (4 operative traps). In the area of the Strait of Gibraltar 32.6 MT were caught by hand line.

In the Mediterranean, fishing continued with purse seine, longline and hand line, among other surface gears of lesser importance. Purse seine catches (1,503 MT) decreased by 14% with respect to 1998. The commercial optimization of the catches by fattening processes in the aquiculture installations in Mazarron constituted a restrain of fishing effort. Longline catches (376 MT) and hand line catches (79 MT) increased by 29% as compared to 1998. On the other hand, catches by surface gears (35 MT) decreased by 36% with respect to the previous year. The null catches continued in the Mediterranean traps close to the Strait of Gibraltar.

– *Albacore*

The total catch taken by the Spanish surface fleets in the fisheries of the Cantabrian Sea and adjacent waters of the eastern Atlantic, North of 35°N, were 13,305.5 MT in 1999, which represents a slight decrease as compared to the 13,404 MT unloaded in 1998 from this fishery. In the Cantabrian Sea area, the baitboat fishery caught 6,435 MT, a decline of 12% as compared to 1998 catches (7,346 MT). Nominal effort was 4,974 days fishing, which also decreased as compared to effort in 1998 (5,407 days fishing). In the same area and also in waters of the Atlantic, the troll fishery caught 6,829 MT, which represented an increase of 17% as compared to the 1998 catch (5,834 MT), with a nominal effort of 11,651 days fishing, slightly below the effort level of the fleet in 1998 (11,709 days fishing in 1998). 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 constant since 1994 with slight annual variations. In 1999, 130 baitboats and 406 troll vessels participated in the fishery. In the autumn months, part of the Cantabrian baitboat fleet shifts to the southwestern area of the Iberian Peninsula in the Atlantic. In 1999, the catches in this area were 41.3 MT.

The Spanish albacore fleet in the Mediterranean is not highly developed, although in recent years, part of the swordfish longline fleet directs its effort in some months at albacore. Albacore is caught by surface drift longline, troll and baitboat. The total albacore catch in the Mediterranean amounted to 283 MT, which represents a 56%

increase over catches of the previous year and a 7% decline in the average annual catches of the last 10 years. By gears, the most notable is the annual variability of the baitboats, which is compensated for by the longline catches.

– *Swordfish*

In 1999, 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 10,658 MT, of which 9,752 MT were caught in the Atlantic and 906 MT were from the Mediterranean. The fishing areas where the Spanish fleet operated in 1999 have not changed significantly in relation to previous years (SCRS/00/154).

The traditional fleet of surface longliners that fish the North stock continued their fishing strategy based on the economic maximization of the activity, without clearly defining the target species, maintaining a bi-species fishery, changing the target species various times during the same trip. A similar change in fishing strategy has also been detected in the fleet that operated in the South Atlantic, although this change is more recent and to a lesser degree. Even though the number of authorized vessels has remained constant as compared to 1998, these vessels have been affected by drastic, domestic management measures limiting their fishing activity throughout the year.

The Spanish catch of swordfish in 1999 in the Mediterranean was 906 MT. Surface longline catches were 790 MT, which represents a decrease of 43% as compared to the 1998 catch, with a 39% decrease in fishing effort, including all gears (surface longline, "piedri'bola" longline, other gears). This decline in surface longline swordfish catches is due to the decrease in fishing effort brought about by a change in strategy of the fleet that directed part of its effort at albacore and to the problem of minimum size (120 cm LJFL) imposed by the EC, which is difficult to comply with, in spite of the use of regulated gears and hooks as was observed by the IEO on-board observers.

In the Mediterranean, swordfish are taken as the target species using surface drift longline, seasonally with "piedri-bola" longline in some areas, and occasionally by other gears. Fishing is carried out throughout the year, with the highest catches in summer and fall. The fleet of vessels remained stable through the concession of annual licenses to a fixed number of vessels. The current regulation limits the number and size of the hooks. In spite of this, the number of young fish continues to be high, and for this reason a program of on-board observers and a research project aimed at finding the causes for the high number of juveniles are being conducted, which will possible motivate additional future regulations, such as the establishment of a time-area closure or technical modifications in the gear that significantly reduce the catch of juveniles.

– *Small tunas*

Small tuna species are caught by trap and surface gears. Frigate tuna *(Auxis* spp) amounted to 669 MT in the Mediterranean, a decline of 27% with the respect to the previous years. Catches of Atlantic bonito *(Sarda sarda)* were 432 MT, an increase of 23% over the previous year.

3 Research and statistics

3.1 Tropical tunas and Canary Islands tunas

Eight (8) documents concerning the various tropical tuna fisheries and the Canary Islands fisheries were presented to the 2000 SCRS.

– *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 1999 was 61% of the catches. Sampling of the catches was carried out at the major landing and/or transshipment ports: Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)and Dakar (Republic of Senegal).

As regards the size composition of the catches, 2,603 samples were taken in 1999 (corresponding to the Spanish , French and NEI fleets, as a result of the application of the new sampling system) in which 183,148 tuna were measured: 53,249 yellowfin,97,681 skipjack, 10,062 bigeye, and 22,156 fish of other species.

Since 1990, this fishery has undergone a change in the exploitation pattern, which has consisted of the massive 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 1999, the joint Spanish-French project (IEO-IRD-DG XIV 96/028)was finalized, partially financed by the EU. The objective was to study the causes for the increase in bigeye catches by this fleet. Among the different activities carried out was the introduction of observers on board the tuna purse seiners. The program of fishing trips started in June, 1997, finalized in June, 1999, and 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, and other activities), 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 are being carried out in collaboration by the IRD and the IEO: "ESTHER"(a study on the development of fishing power of the Spanish-French tropical purse seine fleet) and "TESS" (a review of the current tropical tuna data bases and their integration in the future European laboratory on tunas ORDET).

In 2000, the BIOTHON project was initiated, financed by the DG XIV of the EU, in collaboration with the IRD. The main objective of the project is to reinforce the current level of sampling for species composition and size at the major landing ports of the tuna purse seine fleet, to assure improved coverage of the time-area strata exploited by these fleets.

– *Tropical tunas: 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 many 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 (the major landing port).

– *Canary Islands tunas*

There is an information and sampling network in place at the 10 major tuna landing points in the Canary Islands. This network is comprised of 10 reporter-samplers at the ports of: 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 Cruz 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 collaborating reporter-sampler. There is a 100% coverage rate for catch data. The number of samples increased considerably to 376 (176 in 1998), with 40,410 fish measured (11,396 in 1998). By species, sampling was as follows: 6,016 yellowfin, 3,818 albacore, 24,247 bigeye, 6,306 skipjack, and 23 bluefin tuna.

In 1999, monitoring of the objects fishery continued, 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: species composition, catches by time intervals, etc. The data collected are being processed.

In 1999, and within the Bigeye Year Program (BETYP), three bigeye tagging cruises were 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 187 tag recoveries. In August, 2000, another cruise within the BETYP was carried out, during which 505 fish were tagged: 463 bigeye, with sizes between 48 and 11 cm, 41 skipjack with sizes between 50 and 66 cm and 1 yellowfin. Up to now 64 bigeye and 5 skipjack tunas have been recovered.

3.2 Temperate tunas

– *Bluefin tuna*

Five documents on this species were presented to the SCRS (SCRS/00/108, 109, 110, 111 and 151) concerning growth, traditional tagging, pop-up tagging, genetic analysis, and methodological aspects that affect the assignment of ages from size data. Samples of the catches, effort and size by time-area strata in the eastern Atlantic bluefin tuna fisheries were carried out in 1999 through a sampling and information network of the IEO at Cantabrian ports for the baitboat fisheries in the Bay of Biscay (ICCAT area BF54), at the ports of the Spanish South Atlantic region for the baitboat, trap and hand line fisheries, and at Canary Island ports for the baitboat fishery (ICCAT area BF58).

In the Bay of Biscay, 1,777 bluefin were sampled (4% coverage rate) with ages between 1 and 8 years. The catches were characterized by a high number of large fish, of Age 5 (140 cm, 50 kg), the major percentage in number of fish. The CPUE of Age 2, used as a relative index of abundance in the assessment of the East Atlantic stock, represents the lowest value of the historical series since 1970. It is confirmed that the 1994 cohort was very good and that it has maintained the fishery up to the present. A total of 170 spines were obtained to age the catch. A study has been carried out to compare the age composition of the catch estimated by three different methods: size-age keys by spine reading and analysis of the size frequencies through Multifan and age-slicing (SCRS/00/151).

For the Spanish South Atlantic and Mediterranean region, Task I and II data were prepared in the appropriate format from data obtained by the RIM and on-board observers. A total of 8,257 bluefin were sampled (4,675 in the Atlantic area of the Strait). A total of three documents were presented to the GFCM-ICCAT meeting (SCRS/00/109, 110 and 111). In 1999, research projects were developed on bluefin tuna, co-financed by the European Union and the IEO. The DG-XIV-97/029 EU project centered on the improvement of knowledge on the biology of Mediterranean bluefin tuna, in particular, on sexual maturity through hormonal analysis. In the area of statistical improvement, landings of bluefin tuna from non-Spanish flagged purse seiners were monitored, at Spanish ports, for a total of more than 4,000 MT. The FAIR-97/3975 EU project continued the electronic tagging experiments using pop-up satellite tags, whose objective is gain knowledge of the stock structure of bluefin tuna and the migratory patterns. Up to now, 47 adult bluefin tuna have been tagged in the Spanish fisheries. The preliminary results are presented in GFCM/ICCAT-2000, although since that time, two new tag signals have been obtained.

Various other activities on this species have been developed within the framework of the FAO-COPEMED project (see section on other activities).

– *Albacore*

Four documents were presented to the SCRS on this species (SCRS/00/114, 115, 116 and 117). The ICCAT recommendations concerning statistics, which refer to the preparation of ICCAT Task II data from information on the baitboat and troll fisheries collected from the sampling and information network established at 13 major ports of sale along the Cantabrian coast and the South Atlantic region. Estimates of the catches and effort by gear, month and ICCAT statistical area are obtained from surveys conducted at these ports, which represent coverage of 85-95% of the total landings. The size distribution of the Atlantic catches is obtained by sampling, stratified by commercial category, from the landings of the trips made by baitboat and troll vessels at the ports that are monitored. In 1999, sampling was conducted on 12,092 fish (0.9% coverage of the fish unloaded) while 50,063 fish (4.8% coverage rate) were sampled from the baitboat fishery. These catches are comprised of albacore ranging in size from 45-110 cm JLFL.

Indices of relative abundance by age (1 to 4 years) were obtained from the Spanish baitboat and troll fleets in the northeastern Atlantic from nominal catch rates from individual trips of these fleets. The results are included in documents SCRS/00/114 and SCRS/00/115, respectively. A description of the time-area distribution of the activity of the baitboat fleet from individual trip data from this fleet in the 1981-1999 period, is given in document SCRS/00/116.

Research continued on the growth of these species by means of analysis of data on tag-recovery in the North Atlantic, and the results are presented in document SCRS/00/117. Task I and II for the Mediterranean were prepared from size sampling of 6,442 fish.

– *Swordfish*

A total of three documents on Atlantic swordfish were presented to the SCRS and the Species Groups in 2000. The papers deal with a description of the fisheries (SCRS/00/154), with standardized CPUE indices in biomass and by age for the North and South Atlantic (SCRS/00/155), as well as an update of the possible relation in recruitment levels with environmental factors (SCRS/00/156).

In 1999, 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 or by age and in biomass for the South Atlantic, and the relationship of some of these recruitment indices with environmental factors. There were 99,891 swordfish sampled in the Atlantic and Mediterranean, which represents an overall size sampling coverage of 35% of the total fish landed. This sampling coverage rate was about 40% for the Atlantic fisheries. Biological sampling of swordfish continued to obtain size-sex variables by time-area strata.

Voluntary tagging by the commercial fleet in the Atlantic was encouraged. Furthermore, scientific observers continued opportunistic tagging of swordfish and other species such as pelagic sharks and billfishes. Contacts with the fleet were intensified so as to attain quantitative and qualitative improvement in the recovery of tagged fish. In 1999, 200 recoveries were made in the Atlantic by longliners. All the tags and their information were transmitted to the respective tagging laboratories, basically in the United States, Ireland and Spain. In recent years, considerable progressive improvement has been noted in the quantity and quality of the tagging information provided by the fleet. In addition, widespread circulation of information to the longline fleet on tagging and recovery techniques was continued, as was the information on the use and possible recovery of electronic tags.

In 1999, the FAIR CT-3941 project continued, co-financed by the European Union, 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. The SHKLL project also continued, aimed at assessing the levels of landings of by-catch species caught by surface longline. This project concludes at the end of 2000.

As regards Mediterranean swordfish, the DG-XIV-97/074 EU project conducted in-depth studies on the incidence of juveniles in regular surface longline in the Mediterranean, analyzing all the factors, with a view towards compliance with the minimum size regulation imposed by the European Community (120 cm LFFL). This project finalizes in 2000. The second year of the DG-XIV-97/050 EU project on by-catch of the surface longline directed at swordfish in the Mediterranean has been completed. All these projects have been developed from the IEO sampling and information network and from an on-board observer program. In total, 480 observer days on board longliners were carried out, and 8,257 bluefin tuna, 10,154 swordfish, and 6,442 albacore were sampled in 1999. Various other activities on this species are being carried out within the FAO-COPEMED project (see section on other activities).

3.3 Other activities

– *Tropical tunas*

The catches of the purse seine fleet that operates in the Atlantic Ocean are also monitored and are reported to ICCAT under the NEI category. This fleet includes the vessels from various countries that normally do not provide official statistics to ICCAT. In 1999, seven 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.

– *Mediterranean tunas*

Special mention is made of the FAO-COPEMED project "Tunidos '99", coordinated by the Oceanographic Center of Malaga, which conducted its research activities mainly on the different aspects of bluefin and swordfish biology, such as sex-ration by size class, a study on the spawning area and season, biometric relationships, reproduction (sexual maturity), growth (size-age keys), and stock structure through genetic analysis. Three scientific papers on bluefin tuna (traditional tags, genetic study applied to tagging, and pop-up satellite tags) were presented to the GFCM/ICCAT *Ad Hoc* Working Group. This project also coordinates research activities that are of considerable interest to the various countries of the Mediterranean area, whose results could also be of considerable interest to ICCAT.

The second year has ended of the DG-XIV-97/050 EU project concerning by-catch of the surface longline fishery directed at swordfish in the Mediterranean. The incidence of species other than swordfish in the Spanish fishery was 10% in weight.

– *By-catches of the Atlantic fisheries*

Various research projects were carried out in recent years to evaluate the levels of by-catch of the major tuna and tuna-like fisheries (longline and purse seine). These data have been transmitted to ICCAT and/or presented in scientific documents.

4 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 entries and departures from the ports and the fishing grounds, and 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 5°N, which was finalized that same year. In December 1999, the Fishing Plan for 2000 was approved through a Resolution from the Director General of Fishery Resources, and included a breakdown of the quotas by vessel.

In 1999, a closed registry was developed on the fleets that fish North of 5°N. In December of that same year, the Fishing Plan for 2000 was approved through a Resolution from the Director General of Fishery Resources, and included a breakdown of the quotas by vessel.

On the other hand, but closely linked to the management of the swordfish fishery, it should be pointed out again that Community markets are under pressure from swordfish imports from third countries. Of particular concern is that the main countries importing countries, through landings, include Panama, Belize and Honduras and others, which, up to now, have not been complying with the ICCAT conservation and management measures.

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 5°N in 1998. In December 1999, through a Resolution of the Director General of Fishery Resources, the 2000 Fishing Plan was adopted, which includes the breakdown of the catch quotas by vessel.

– *North Atlantic*

Following the guidelines developed for the South, the Administration and the fishing sector worked on the development of a Resolution for 2000, with the allocation of vessel quotas for North of 5°N.

Quota allocated by ICCAT for swordfish for 1999

– *North Atlantic*

The quota allocated by ICCAT for 1999 amounted to 4,413.75 MT, of which 3,993.75 MT have been caught.

– *South Atlantic*

The quota corresponding to 1999 amounted to 5,848 MT, of which 5,758 MT have been caught.

The final result of the swordfish fishery shows that the catch underage for the North was 420 MT and for the South the underage was 90 MT (which will be added to the quota corresponding to 20000).

4.2 Northern albacore

In compliance with the recommendation on limiting fishing capacity directed at northern albacore, a list was developed of Spanish vessels that were present in the fishery for this species during the 1993-1995 period, resulting in an average of 751 vessels. None of those vessels used driftnets as their gear, instead they utilized hook gears.

In order to monitor the 1999 limit on fishing capacity, a list was developed of vessels that could target albacore. The total number of vessels was 738, less than the average of the three aforementioned years.

On the other hand, it should be noted that a Ministerial Order of 17 February 1998, regulates tuna fishing in the Atlantic Ocean, and makes it mandatory for the boat owning companies of authorized vessels to transmit a monthly report on the fishing days by area of effort and the catches by species and fishing areas.

4.3 Tropical tunas

As regards yellowfin tuna, catches in 1999 were 12,964 MT, which represent a 52% reduction as compared to 1998 levels.

Bigeye catches were 2,892 MT, while skipjack catches amounted to 23,563 MT.

As concerns compliance with the recommendation on bigeye and yellowfin, for the second consecutive year Spain continued its observer program, covering all the components of the fleet. The coverage rate was 25%, which fully satisfies the objective of the recommendation. In addition, during the moratorium periods (November, December 1999 and January 2000), the observer coverage of the purse seine fleet reached 100%.

5 Implementation of the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program, 1999

In 1999, Task I data corresponding to bluefin tuna were 3,354 MT for the Atlantic and 2,003 MT for the Mediterranean, for a total catch of 5,357 MT, compared with an available quota for last year of 5,446 MT.

The total number of export documents (BTSDs) validated by the Spanish Chambers of Commerce in 1999 amounted to 1,308, with a volume of exports, as indicated in the two bi-annual reports, that amounted to 8,369 MT. Of this amount, 1,210.5 MT corresponded to exports of bluefin tuna from French flagged vessels.

6 Inspection scheme and activities

6.1 Introduction

Inspection activities relative to ICCAT, conducted by the Monitoring 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, 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 were reinforced.

On the other hand, in 1999, the Legal Decree 14/1998 continued to be applied, which establishes the monitoring regime for the protection of fisheries resources, in which the types of violations 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

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.

Materials. The materials used are as follows:

Maritime. Patrol vessels of the Spanish Navy designated to carry out monitoring activities within the General Fishing Monitoring Plan.

Land-based. 30 four-wheel drive vehicles that pertain to the General Secretariat of Maritime Fishing of Spain are distributed all along the coast.

Aerial. Three "Augusta 109" helicopters ("Alcotán I", "Alcotán II" and Alcotán III") which pertain to the Spanish General Secretariat of Maritime Fishing.

6.3 Results

	Number of vessels inspected	*Number of infractions*
Atlantic		
Port inspections	151	30
At-sea inspections	6	1
Aerial sightings (7)		0
TOTAL	**157**	**31**
Mediterranean		
Port inspections	59	14
At-sea inspections	26	14
Aerial sightings (42)		1
TOTAL	**85**	**29**

6.4 Activities of third country vessels

– *Summary of third country inspections*

Third country vessels were inspected, regardless of whether they were of Contracting Parties or Non-contracting Parties.

NATIONAL REPORT OF FRANCE (ST. PIERRE & MIQUELON*

1 Introduction

The St. Pierre & Miquelon archipelago is an French overseas territory with a population 6,000. Due to its island nature and to its geographic location, the socio-economic equilibrium of the territory rests on maritime fishing, a traditional activity and the principle economic activity of St. Pierre & Miquelon.

In spite of the general decline in the high seas resources reported in recent years, the fishing industry continues to be a fundamental sector for St. Pierre & Miquelon. This industry employs more than 250 people on-board vessels and in the companies that process the fish products.

This situation makes the overseas territory of St. Pierre & Miquelon among the communities dependent on fishing.

The territory borders the area of responsibility of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) and participates in the work of the organization. Since the adherence of the European Union to ICCAT in 1997, France has remained a member of the Commission in respect of the overseas territory of St. Pierre & Miquelon which is not covered by the provisions of the Treaty of Rome relative to the European common fishery policy.

2 Information on the national fishery

The fishing activities of St. Pierre & Miquelon are carried out mainly on the stocks found in waters under French sovereignty or jurisdiction at the level of the overseas territory.

The overseas territory also subscribes to the agreements between France and Canada governing the common management and conservation of the high seas resources found in the Canadian and French Maritimes on the basis of the recognition of reciprocal fishing rights on the stocks concerned.

The local fishing activities are by regional organizations that cover the sectors and the coastal stocks of St. Pierre & Miquelon. Within this framework France has adhered in respect of the overseas territory of St. Pierre & Miquelon to the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) in 1994 and to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) in 1997, and has participated since then in the work of these two organizations.

3 Research and statistics

The scientific and research activities of the overseas territory of St. Pierre & Miquelon are assured by the *"Institut Francais de Recherceh pour l'Exploitation de la Mer"* (IFREMER) which has a permanent delegation in St. Pierre & Miquelon. The IFREMER participates in this manner in all the scientific work and research developed within the framework of NAFO and ICCAT.

The IFREMER also contributes its technical support for the work of statistical monitoring of the catches that the competence of the legal administrations of the state present in St. Pierre & Miquelon.

* Original report in French.

4 Application of the conservation and management measures *(as concerns the bluefin tuna stock relative to ICCAT)*

The bluefin tuna fishing that is carried out in St. Pierre & Miquelon within the possibilities offered by ICCAT constitutes, taking into account the level of available quotas, a secondary fishing activity for the small artisanal fishing companies of the archipelago. This corresponds therefore to a type of subsistence fishing.

Fishing vessels have to have an authorization (license) issued by the competent administrative authorities and based on applicable national regulations on maritime fishing. This allows for a strict and constant control of fishing effort.

The individual authorizations (licenses) to fish bluefin tuna issued to St. Pierre & Miquelon vessels (a dozen vessels) also establish some technical measures to carry out fishing, which refer in particular, to the characteristics and conditions of use of the fishing gears. In 1999, only two floating lines equipped with a maximum of two hooks per vessel was authorized. These gears are under constant surveillance of the vessels that deployed them (resolution extended in 2000).

The vessel captains were required to report to the administration all the catches made. These reports represent an optimal control of the fishery and a permanent monitoring of the statistics on the usage of the available quotas.

5 Inspection scheme and activities

All the regulatory measures indicated in section 4 and applicable to the St. Pierre & Miquelon vessels were the object of monitoring on the part of the competent authorities, and are susceptible, in the case of violations, to judicial actions and to the withdrawal or suspension of the fishing authorizations issued.

The services of the State administration present in St. Pierre & Miquelon also exert their competence as regards to ICCAT Resolution 94-9 relative to vessel sighting. The corresponding actions have resulted, in particular, to the collection of information on the transshipments of bluefin tuna products reported at the port of St. Pierre & Miquelon by foreign vessels (5 Japanese vessels in 1999, corresponding to 490.5 MT of products landed).

The information collected is transmitted to the ICCAT Secretariat in accordance with the provisions of Resolution 94-9.

6 1999 catches

The catches of marine fish by the overseas territory of St. Pierre & Miquelon are as follows for 1999:

- ICCAT: 0.761 MT of bluefin tuna (2 fish)
- NAFO: 892 MT of black halibut - NAFO areas 3L and 3M (international waters)
- Agreements between Canada and France:

  NAFO area 3Ps:
  - Cod: 3,171 MT (of which 2,548 MT were caught by Canadian vessels and landed and processed at St. Pierre & Miquelon)
  - Rock fish *(sébaste)*: 419 MT (caught by Canadian vessels and landed and processed at St. Pierre & Miquelon)
  - Gray plaice *(plie grise)*: 33 MT (caught by Canadian vessels and landed and processed at St. Pierre & Miquelon)
  - Canadian plaice *(plie canadienne)*: 24 MT - by catch (of which 19 MT were caught by Canadian vessels and landed and processed at St. Pierre & Miquelon).

NAFO area 21 3KL:
– Black halibut: 255 MT

- National stocks - all in NAFO area 3Ps:
  – Snow crabs: 589 MT
  – Lumpfish: 422 MT
  – Whelk: 16 MT
  – Other species: 16 MT

NATIONAL REPORT OF GABON [1]

Gabon ratified the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic tunas with the intention of collaborating in the conservation of the tuna stocks and participates every year in the working sessions for research on tunas and tuna-like species organized by ICCAT.

The purpose of this report is to carry out a statistical monitoring of the landings of tunas by the industrial and the artisanal fishery in 1999.

The tuna fishery

The industrial tuna fishery and the artisanal fishery (canoes) of Gabon landed 642.6 MT in 1999 (**Table 1**). These catches were comprised of:

- Bigeye tuna *(Thunnus obesus)*: 183.7 MT (of which 56% corresponds to the canoes)
- Yellowfin tuna *(Thunnus albacares)*: 225.3 MT (which corresponds exclusively to the industrial fishery)
- Skipjack tuna *(Katsuwonus pelamis)*: 75.5 MT (only by the artisanal fishery)
- Small tunas *(Scomberomorus spp.*, mackerels): 158.1 MT.

The fishing vessels use hand line and surface trawl. The canoe fishing uses purse seine, hand line and longline.

Table 1. Catches by the industrial and artisanal fisheries of Gabon, 1999

Species	*Catches (in MT)*	
	Industrial fishery	*Artisanal fishery (canoes)*
Bigeye tuna	61.2	122.5
Yellowfin tuna	225.3	–
Skipjack tuna	–	75.5
Small tunas	115.6	42.5
Total	402.1	240.5
General Total	**642.6**	

1 Original report in French.

NATIONAL REPORT OF GHANA [1]

Paul Bannerman [2]

1 Fleet

Tuna resources off the EEZ of Ghana were exploited by baitboats and purse seiners with gross tonnages ranging from 250-500 for baitboats and from 400-1000 for purse seiners. The total number of vessels currently in operation is 33 comprised of 24 baitboats and 9 purse seiners. (Purse seining was introduced commercially in 1996.) The development of the fleet since 1980 is shown in **Table 1.**

2 Resources

Tunas are grouped under the large pelagics, comprised of three main species, namely: Yellowfin tuna *(Thunnus albacares)*, bigeye tuna *(Thunnus obesus)*, and skipjack tuna *(Katsuwonus pelamis)*. These species occurring in Ghanaian waters are part of a large community in the entire Atlantic Ocean. Skipjack tuna have been the most abundant in the catches in the past five years, accounting for about 57% of the total landings, followed by yellowfin tuna (30%) and bigeye tuna (13%), respectively. Catches in 1999 increased to 85,000 MT, from 65,000 MT in 1998. This increase can be attributed to the influx of more purse seiners in the fishery.

3 Exploitation

Tuna baitboats are the major exploiters of tunas in Ghanaian waters, using anchovy *(Engraulis encrasicolus)* as the main bait for their operations. In addition to the use of anchovy to attract tunas, about 300 rafts ("payaols") are used by the Ghanaian tuna fleet as fish aggregating devices (FADs). Recently, the purse seiners work in association with baitboats, often sharing the catches.

4 Research and statistics

The Marine Fisheries Research Division of the Fisheries Department is the Government agency responsible for tuna research and statistics in Ghana.

Sampling of the three major species of tuna was carried out from the port of Tema to determine, among others, length frequency distribution for stock assessment purposes. Data for 1999 have been duly transmitted to ICCAT. Catch-at-size data, however, need to be intensified in subsequent years. The ICCAT logbook recovery improved in the past year.

4.1 Observer program on the use of FADs

An observer program in the Gulf of Guinea was successfully carried out to verify compliance with the moratorium initiated by ICCAT, and five out of the eight purse seiners participated. This covered a three-month period from November, 1999, to January, 2000. Results of the moratorium were encouraging with a reduction of approximately 40% in catches as compared to the same period a year before. A few by-catch species were noted to have been discarded.

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1 Original report in English.

2 Fisheries Department, Marine Fisheries Research Division.

4.2 Bigeye Tagging Program (BETYP)

There have been few recent assessments of bigeye tuna in the Atlantic Ocean. ICCAT has hence initiated a tagging program aimed at a better understanding of the biology and dynamics of the species. As part of the program, which started in November, 1999, scientific officers from the Research Division of the Fisheries Department have been involved. Over 400 specimens of bigeye tuna have been tagged with 10 bigeye tuna recovered so far.

This program is also being carried out in the Canary Islands, Madeira Islands, the Azores and Senegal.

4.3 Billfish Program

Beach sampling of billfishes continued off the western coast of Ghana. Data for 1999 have not yet been transmitted. These data, including catch and effort and length frequencies, are also submitted to the Southeast Fisheries Center in Miami, U.S.A.

Table 1. Development of the Ghanaian fleet, 1980-1999

Year	*Number of baitboats in operation*	*Number of purse seiners in operation*
1980	39	
1981	41	
1982	36	
1983	33	
1984	30	
1985	27	
1986	25	
1987	27	
1988	29	
1989	28	
1990	28	
1991	29	
1992	28	
1993	28	
1994	28	
1995	30	
1996	33	1
1997	31	4
1998	27	6
1999	24	9

Table 2. Ghanaian catch estimates for baitboats and purse seiners, 1999 (in MT)

Month	*Effort (in days)*	*Total catches*	*Yellowfin*	*Bigeye*	*Skipjack*	*Atl. black skipjack*
			Baitboat			
1	493	3,595	912	46	2,627	10
2	340	3,951	859	16	3,073	4
3	391	7,394	1,424	102	5,846	22
4	213	3,506	541	42	2,913	9
5	332	6,006	1,098	53	4,844	12
6	294	2,596	609	61	1,913	13
7	288	1,415	325	11	1,076	3
8	264	2,416	1,478	148	774	16
9	411	2,915	1,420	135	1,344	16
10	377	4,079	2,335	185	1,535	25
11	385	5,277	3,178	177	1,903	19
12	399	4,045	1,818	295	1,911	21
Total	**4,187**	**47,196**	**15,997**	**1,269**	**29,760**	**169**
			Purse seine			
1	109	1,282	678	41	555	9
2	211	4,186	1,035	124	3,011	16
3	183	2,032	542	203	1,277	11
4	117	3,405	528	64	2,812	1
5	183	4,638	1,087	363	3,175	14
6	154	1,316	644	113	555	3
7	161	2,964	823	399	1,736	6
8	132	2,050	1,018	175	843	14
9	150	2,645	966	149	1,516	13
10	189	3,489	1,586	198	1,685	19
11	111	4,543	2,141	205	2,182	15
12	127	3,808	1,237	377	2,178	16
Total	**1,827**	**36,357**	**12,285**	**2,411**	**21,524**	**137**

NATIONAL REPORT OF JAPAN [1]

Fisheries Agency of Japan [2]
and
National Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries [3]

1 Fisheries Information

1.1 Type of fisheries

Longline is the only tuna fishing gear deployed by Japan at present in the Atlantic Ocean. Two other types of fisheries, baitboat and purse seine, ceased fishing in the Atlantic in 1984 and 1992, respectively.

1.2 Trends in fishing effort

The number of Japanese longliners that operated in the Atlantic in 1999 was estimated at 239 (**Table 1**), which is 10% lower than the previous two years, and corresponds to three-quarters of the highest number recorded in 1981. The level of decline is higher than the expected decrease (20%) in fishing capacity (in number of boats) which the Government of Japan undertook starting in April 1999, in accordance with the FAO agreement. While the number of boats that operated in the Atlantic was reduced, fishing days in 1999 exhibited only a slight decline (40,100 days) or 6% more than in 1998. The average number of fishing days per boat increased to 168, the highest on record. This longer residence in this Ocean by the Japanese fleet may suggest a decline in daily catch.

1.3 Statistical coverage

The logbook coverage from the Japanese longline fleet in the Atlantic has been very good (90-95%). The current coverage for 1999 preliminary data is estimated to be about 60%. All the catch statistics in this report are raised so that they represent total statistics.

1.4 Catch trends

The provisional 1999 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 36,500 MT (**Table 2**). This represents a decline (4,000 MT or 10%) from 1998 and is the lowest since 1987. It is worth noting that total fishing effort is similar for 1993 and 1995 but that the total catch was only two-thirds in both years. This difference is attributable to the decline in catches of bigeye (by 11,000 MT) and yellowfin (by 3,000-5,000 MT) as shown in **Table 3.**

Table 3 shows the catch by species for the total Atlantic since 1980. The area breakdown of the catch by species is also shown in **Table 4** for the most recent two years (1998-1999). In 1998, bigeye tuna, which is the most important species, accounted for about 60% (23,700 MT) of the total catch of tuna and tuna-like species. In terms of weight, bluefin tuna, swordfish, and yellowfin tuna are the important species, in this order. In 1999, the catch decreased for bigeye (1,000 MT, 4%), yellowfin (2,200 MT, 40%), bluefin tuna (800 MT, 20%) and blue marlin (300 MT, 27%). On the other hand, albacore (230 MT, 26%) and southern bluefin (160 MT, 17%) catches increased slightly.

The catch by area breakdown (North-South or East-West) in **Table 4** indicates increased catch in the North Atlantic as well as in the West Atlantic (5°N-20°N and 20°W-45°W, close to the boundary of the South Atlantic and

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1 Original report in English.

2 1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, 100, Japan.

3 5 Chome, 7-1, Orido, Shimizu, Shizuoka-pref., 424-8633, Japan.

the East Atlantic (see **Figure 1**) which indicates the geographical distribution of fishing effort). This treend has continued for the past three years.

1.5 New developments or shifts in the fishery

Two major changes have occurred 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 northeast in the East Atlantic Ocean.

The collection of information on the material for the main and branch lines started in 1993. Since there were many kinds of materials, it was considered impractical to cover all the materials in the statistics. Only nylon, which is the most popular material, has been separated from the other materials. The annual deployment rates by materials (nylon or others) are given in **Table 5** for 1994-1999. It is clear that the use of nylon became more and more popular until 1997, and has stabilized since then. The current use of nylon gear for both main and branch lines is about 75%, while the percentage of vessels that do not use nylon material for any line decreased to 11%. Since others include unknown materials, the actual use of nylon gear could be higher than this figure.

Figure 1 illustrates the geographical distribution of fishing effort for the Japanese longline fleet. Some effort was exerted in waters off Norway (North of 65°N, 5°W-15°E). The catch distribution of bluefin tuna in 1998 and 1999 (**Figure 2**) indicates the catch in this area was minor and the major component was caught in waters South of Iceland to South of Newfoundland as well as off 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 South of Iceland, respectively. The size of fish in the catch was similar to that of fish caught in the so-called central area (34°-50°N, 30°-45°W) caught in the same season. The average weight was reported at around 100-150 kg (gilled and gutted).

The geographic distribution of longline fishing effort in 1998 and 1999 (**Figure 1**) shows that much of the fishing effort was exerted in the northeastern Atlantic, the tropical eastern Atlantic as well as 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 geographic distributions of bigeye tuna and swordfish are shown in **Figures 3 and 4**, respectively. In general, those distributions well reflect the geographic pattern of fishing effort.

2 Research and statistics

The National Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries (NRIFSF) is in charge of the data collection and compilation of Atlantic tuna fishery statistics necessary for the scientific research on Atlantic tuna and billfish stocks. All the statistical data have been routinely reported to the ICCAT Secretariat and the results of scientific research have also been presented at regular meetings and inter-sessional workshops of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS).

2.1 Fishery data

The NRIFSF submitted almost final 1998 catch, catch/effort and partial size frequency data (Task I. II and biological sampling) on the longline fishery to the ICCAT Secretariat. The compilation of the same data for 1999 is in progress as usual. The preliminary 1999 catch estimates are given in this report. Catch-at-size data for bluefin, albacore, yellowfin 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, one observer trip on a longline vessel in the Atlantic was conducted during June and July 2000 and several more trips are now being made, mostly on bluefin fishing boats. The area covered by the former observation was 11°N-19°N, 27°W-39°W, and the total number of operations observed was 25. A summary report of this cruise, including data collection, size measurements and biological sampling of tunas and other fishes, including sharks, was presented to the 2000 SCRS.

2.2 Tuna biology and stock assessment

The biological and stock assessment studies carried out by the NRIFSF on Atlantic tunas and billfishes have been continued.

Since one of the activities of the Bigeye Year Program, which the Government of Japan is partly financing, a high-tech research boat (*"SHOYO-maru"*) dispatched from Japan is now engaged in a joint scientific cruise in the tropical Atlantic Ocean. The major objectives are to broaden understanding on the biology of bigeye tuna, aimed at improving stock assessment, such as a better estimation of age-specific natural mortality, migration pattern, how the fishing process interrelates with fish behavior, and to study behavior of small tunas around Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs). This last point attempts to find any behavioral difference among species that makes selective catches possible in addition to avoiding the unnecessary catch of small tunas. The following research items are scheduled: (1) archival and conventional tagging of adult bigeye tuna caught by longline, (2) collection of samples, such as stomach contents of tunas and prey organisms through the planktonic net tows for the tropho-dynamic study, and (3) simultaneous multiple sonic tracking of small tunas (bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack) around FADs. The provisional research plan, that includes the longline operation, acoustic survey of bigeye tuna and others, has been circulated and reviewed by the ICCAT scientists. Five scientists from the NRIFSF and another five scientists from IRD, France, will participate in this cruise. Samples (such as gonads, otolith, tissue, etc) and data collected on this cruise will be shared and analyzed by the interested scientists. The results will also be presented at the future SCRS and the BETYP symposium.

Regarding the Bluefin Year Program, Japan conducted bluefin tagging with archival tags in Croatia in November 1999 in the Adriatic Sea. About 60 fish ranging in size from 70 cm and 90 cm (10-15 kg) were released. These fish were caught by purse seine and reared in a pen for about four months. A researcher from the Japanese Marine Resources Research Center was sent to Croatia for this project. To date, 10 fish have been recovered, and data were successfully retrieved from the tags. Although these recoveries were still limited to the area around the Adriatic Sea, they provided valuable detailed information on vertical movements, temperature preference and changes of internal body temperature. Several fish occasionally made very deep dives to nearly 800 m. There is no such clear diurnal pattern in the swimming depth (deeper during the day and shallower at night) as has been observed for bigeye tuna. This activity may be continued but the scale may be reduced due to budgetary limitations. Details will be determined later.

In 2000, the NRIFSF participated in the following ICCAT related meetings in addition to the regular SCRS meetings: the Working Group Meeting on Methodology (May 8-11, Madrid), the Yellowfin Tuna Stock Assessment Session (July 10-15, Cumaná, Venezuela), the Fourth Billfish Workshop (July 18-28, Miami, USA), the GFCM/ICCAT Ad Hoc Working Group Meeting on Stocks of Large Pelagic Fishes in the Mediterranean (Sept. 11-15, Malta), the West Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Stock Assessment Session (September 18-22, Madrid), the Albacore North and South Stock Assessment Session (October 9-14, Madrid) and the Session on Evaluation of Tropical Tuna Moratorium on FADs (October 9-14, Madrid).

3 Implementation of ICCAT conservation and management measures

3.1 Catch quota and management system on the number of bigeye tuna vessels

a Reporting by radio

The Fisheries Agency, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of the Government of Japan (FAJ) requires 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 FAJ:

i Position (Longitude and Latitude) of each vessel in order for the FAJ to know the movement of all vessels operating in the Atlantic Ocean.

ii Catch weight of bluefin tuna, swordfish, blue marlin and white marlin (Ministerial order of 2 April 1975 and supplemented on 13 December 1991 for swordfish and 20 February 1998 for blue marlin and white marlin).

b Introduction of vessel position and catch data report via satellite

The FAJ 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 GPS receiver and personal computer on board a fishing vessel. The data are compiled and analyzed by FAJ in Japan.

Development of the system was initiated in 1992, and has been conducted on a trial basis with an increased number of vessels 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.

c Catch quota management

i Catch quota

The FAJ sets a catch quota for western and eastern Atlantic bluefin tuna 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.

ii Fishing year

The FAJ sets 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 1998 quotas for these tunas are applied to the 1998 Fishing Year which starts in August, 1998, and ends in July, 1999. Because ICCAT recommendations come into effect about six months after the recommendation is adopted (generally, ICCAT meetings take place in November, hence, recommendations that were adopted in November, 1997, come into force in May, 1998). the FAJ needs a certain period to legislate the ICCAT recommendations domestically.

d Number of bigeye tuna fishing vessels

The FAJ has already submitted the 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 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 FAJ prohibits the catch of undersized fish with an exemption of a certain percentage of tolerance, by Ministerial order. The catch prohibition of undersized bluefin and yellowfin was established by a Ministerial order on 2 April 1975 and the FAJ amended this Ministerial order several times to cover undersized bigeye, swordfish, etc. The latest amendment of this order was in the spring of 1997 to implement the 1996 ICCAT recommendation on bluefin 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 that 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

As a domestic measure, the FAJ has, since 1975, prohibited Japanese longline vessels from operating in the Mediterranean from May 21 to June 30 by a Ministerial order. In 1994, the FAJ amended this order to amend the closed season to the period of June 1 to July 31 in accordance with the 1993 ICCAT recommendation.

The FAJ also 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 December 31, 1999, Japan collected 10,447 BTSDs (10,245 for fresh/chilled product and 202 for frozen product). Of these documents, 5,640 BTSDs, or 54% of the total, were validated by non-Contracting Parties. By product weight, 1,896 MT of the 12,841 MT (or 15% of the total) were imported from non-Contracting Parties. There were 706 MT of farmed tuna imported from Spain and Croatia. There were 22 MT of re-imported tuna. Chinese Taipei is a main exporting non-Contracting Fishing Entity and it exported 5,277MT in product weight. Japan has not imported any bluefin tuna products validated by Belize (since 1996), Honduras (since 1994) or 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 FAJ dispatched a patrol vessel to the North Atlantic and Mediterranean in 1999. This vessel also collected information on activities of non-Contracting Parties.

4.2 Random inspection of landings at Japanese ports

All Japanese tuna fishing vessels which land their catch at any Japanese port must report their landing plan in advance. The FAJ randomly inspects landings of those Japanese longline vessels to enforce the minimum size limit and catch quotas of bluefin tuna and swordfish.

4.3 Management of transshipment 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, the time and place of each transshipment and, if necessary, conducts inspections of landings at Japanese ports when reefers return to Japanese ports.

4.4 FAJ official resident in Shimizu port

Since 1996, a FAJ official has been stationed at the fishing port of Shimuzu, which is one of the largest tuna landing ports in Japan, to collect information on the tuna fishery, inspect the landings of Japanese longline vessels at that port, 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 Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries is legally required to submit a catch report to the Minister within 30 days after the end of the cruise or when the vessel has entered a port. Submission of this report is established by a Ministerial order of 22 January 1963. The above-mentioned catch report includes the daily information of the vessel's noon position, the number and weight of the catch by species, the quantities of gear used, surface water temperatures, etc. The information on the catch reports submitted is examined and compiled into the database by the National Research Institute for Far Seas Fisheries.

5.2 Collection of biological data collected on board longline vessels

The 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, such as quantity, value, export country, etc. of imported products. Japan improved its HS (Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System) code in 1993, responding to the 1992 ICCAT resolution to collect all data on the various types of bluefin tuna products, e.g. fillet, meat (round, dressed) etc. and the status of products, e.g. frozen, fresh or chilled. Japan also improved its HS code in 1997 regarding swordfish to collect more accurate import data on this fish species.

5.4 Effort limitation

The number of longline vessels that can operate in the western Atlantic North of 35°N and the Mediterranean has been limited. Furthermore, the FAJ requires that longline vessels operating in the northern part of the East Atlantic Ocean submit an advance notice of their planned operations to the FAJ to have an idea of the fishing activities for bluefin tuna.

5.5 Restriction of re-flagging of vessels

No Japanese tuna longline vessel is authorized to operate on the high seas unless the Government of Japan issues a license. The license is not issued to vessels flying flags of States other than Japan. No Japanese vessel can escape from the FAJs control even when a vessel is conducting fishing operations in waters far distant from Japan, since a Japanese port is designated as its operational base and all the products are brought into Japan. (The export and lease of Japanese longliners and purse seiners are strictly and closely controlled by the FAJ to avoid their use for 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 new law was enacted in June 1996 with the objective of implementing measures necessary to enhance the conservation and management of tuna stocks and to develop international cooperation for the conservation and management of tuna 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 thus is 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 reinforce ICCAT activities, ensuring the strength of tuna resource conservation and the stability of the tuna supply.

Since last November, the FAJ has implemented a mandatory reporting system, based on this law, to obtain more information on the activities of flag-of-convenience (FOC) vessels whose products enter the Japanese market. All importers and persons in charge of transport vessels are required to report detailed information on the fishing vessels that caught and transported their tuna.

An up-to-data FOC list, the amount of products that entered the Japanese market, and other information, are available on the FAJ internet home page.

5.7 Prohibition of import of Atlantic bluefin tuna and swordfish

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. Japan also prohibited the import of Atlantic bluefin tuna and its products in any form from Equatorial Guinea, and the import of Atlantic swordfish and its products in any form from Honduras and Belize on August 1, 2000, in accordance with the 1999 ICCAT recommendations. The import prohibition on Atlantic bluefin tuna from Panama was lifted on April 3, 2000. Japan conducts DNA examination against other species of imported tuna from Honduras and Belize to prevent the false import of Atlantic bluefin tuna.

5.8 Scientific observers

According to the 1996 ICCAT recommendation concerning bigeye and yellowfin tunas, the FAJ has dispatched scientific observers on board Japanese longline vessels. In 2000, the number of observers will be increased to collect data, not only on bigeye and yellowfin, but also on swordfish and other species. The results of these observations have been analyzed by the NRIFSF and will be reported to the 2000 ICCAT meeting.

Table 1. Annual number of Japanese tuna boats that operated in the Atlantic and Mediterranean, 1980-1999

	Longline			*Purse seine*	*Pole-and-line*
Year	*Number of boats*	*Fishing days (sets in 100)*	*Fishing days per boat*	*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	414	157	-	-
1998*	269	426	158	-	-
1999**	239	401	168	-	-

*1 Almost final.
*2 Preliminary.

Table 2 Japanese catch (MT) of tuna and tuna-like fishes by type of fisheries, Atlantic and Mediterranean, 1992-1999

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	38,887*	-	-	38,887*
1998**	40,515	-	-	40,515
1999***	36,505	-	-	36,505

* This figure includes 8 tons of bluefin tuna discards in the west Atlantic.
** Almost final.
*** Preliminary.

Table 3. Catches (MT) of tuna and tuna-like fishes taken by the Japanese longline fishery, 1980-1999

Year	*Bluefin*	*Southern bluefin*	*Albacore*	*Bigeye*	*Yellow-fin*	*Sword-fish*	*Blue marlin*[1]	*Black marlin*	*White marlin*	*Sailfish*[2]	*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		129	99		378		33,241	-	
1987	2,140	1,120	851	18,575	3,364	2,294	438		134	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	301	838	26,489	3,539	2,765	1,349	1	58	36	31	415	8	39,242	1,304	40,546
1998[3]	4,247	917	864	24,657	5,258	2,559	1,184	4	56	61	30	741	-	40,578	1,548	42,126
1999[4]	3,436	1,073	1,091	23,690	3,033	2,341	867	1	54	31	39	809	-	36,466	1,084	37,550

1 Blue marlin and black marlin was not separated until 1993.
2 Sailfish and spearfish were not separated until 1993.
3 Almost final figures.
4 Preliminary data.

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-South, and East-West are separated at 5°N and 30°W, respectively.

1998*

SPECIES	*WEST*	*EAST*	*NORTH*	*SOUTH*	*MEDIT*	*TOTAL*
Bluefin tuna	691	3,195	3,886	0	361	4,247
Southern bluefin tuna	0	917	0	917	0	917
Albacore	333	532	431	434	0	864
Bigeye tuna	4,803	19,854	14,382	10,275	0	24,657
Yellowfin tuna	908	4,350	2,516	2,743	0	5,258
Swordfish	345	2,207	1,481	1,071	7	2,559
White marlin	10	46	37	19	0	56
Blue marlin	244	940	570	614	0	1,184
Black marlin	0	4	1	3	0	4
Sailfish	3	58	25	36	0	61
Spearfish	8	22	14	16	0	30
Skipjack tuna	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blue shark	198	877	765	311	0	1,076
Other sharks	134	337	339	132	0	472
Other fishes	16	725	49	692	0	741
Total	7,693	34,064	24,496	17,263	368	42,126

1999**

SPECIES	*WEST*	*EAST*	*NORTH*	*SOUTH*	*MEDIT*	*TOTAL*
Bluefin tuna	365	2,690	3,055	0	381	3,436
Southern bluefin tuna	0	1,073	0	1,073	0	1,073
Albacore	481	610	514	577	0	1,091
Bigeye tuna	6,802	16,888	13,975	9,715	0	23,690
Yellowfin tuna	700	2,333	1,662	1,371	0	3,033
Swordfish	487	1,848	1,414	921	6	2,341
White marlin	10	44	34	20	0	54
Blue marlin	186	682	404	463	0	867
Black marlin	0	1	0	1	0	1
Sailfish	8	23	5	26	0	31
Spearfish	10	29	13	26	0	39
Skipjack tuna	1	0	1	0	0	1
Blue shark	266	604	439	430	1	871
Other sharks	55	157	112	100	0	213
Other fishes	47	762	67	741	0	809
Total	9,418	27,744	21,695	15,464	391	37,550

* Almost final.
** Preliminary.

Table 5. Annual deployment rate of longline materials for main and branch lines in the Atlantic, 1994-1999

Year	*Main line* *Nylon*	*Branch line* *Nylon*	*Main and branch lines* *Nylon*	*Others*
1994	34 %	41 %	29 %	54 %
1995	61 %	63 %	51 %	27 %
1996	75 %	76 %	66 %	16 %
1997	82 %	82 %	75 %	11 %
1998*	84 %	80 %	75 %	11 %
1999**	84 %	80 %	76 %	12 %

* Almost final.
** Preliminary.

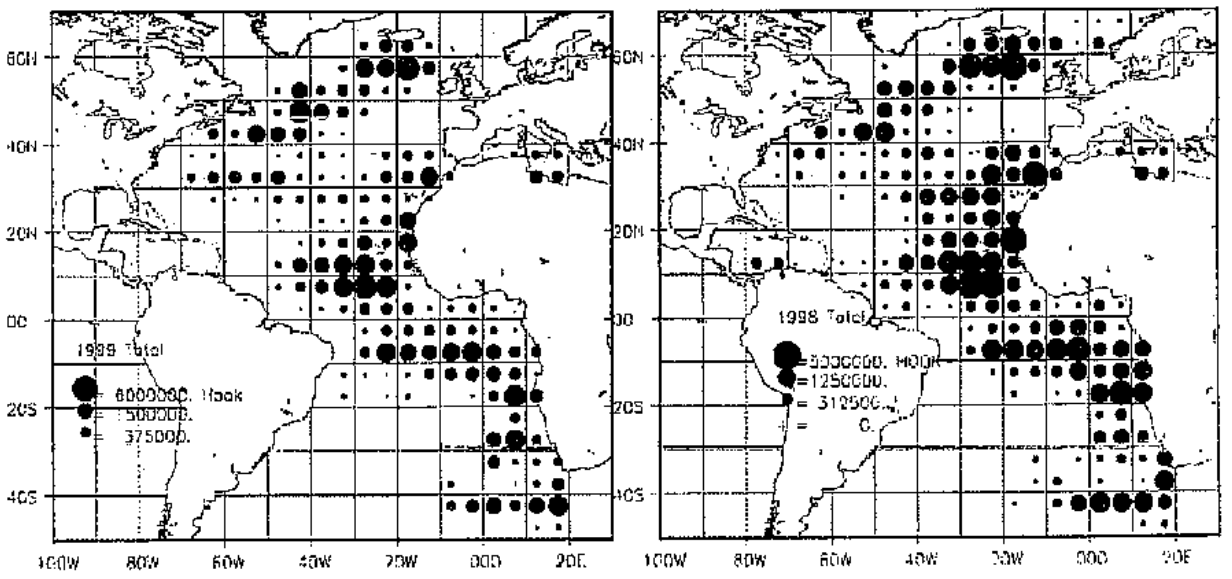

Fig. 1 Geographic distribution of longline effort (number of hooks) in the Atlantic, 1999 (left) and 1998 (right).

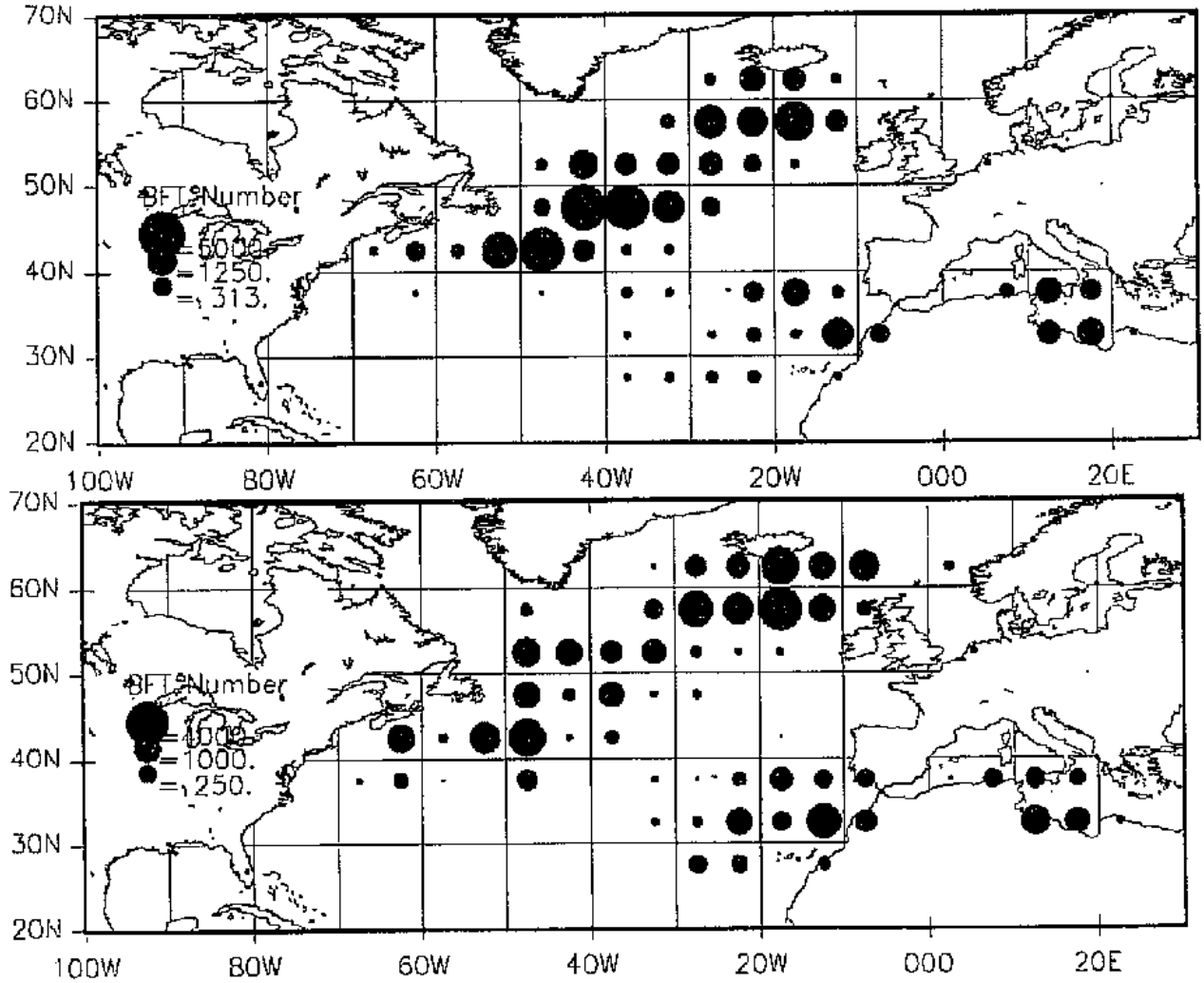

Fig. 2 Geographic distribution of bluefin catch in number in the Atlantic, 1999 (upper figure) and 1998 (lower figure). Plus sign indicates no catch with fishing effort.

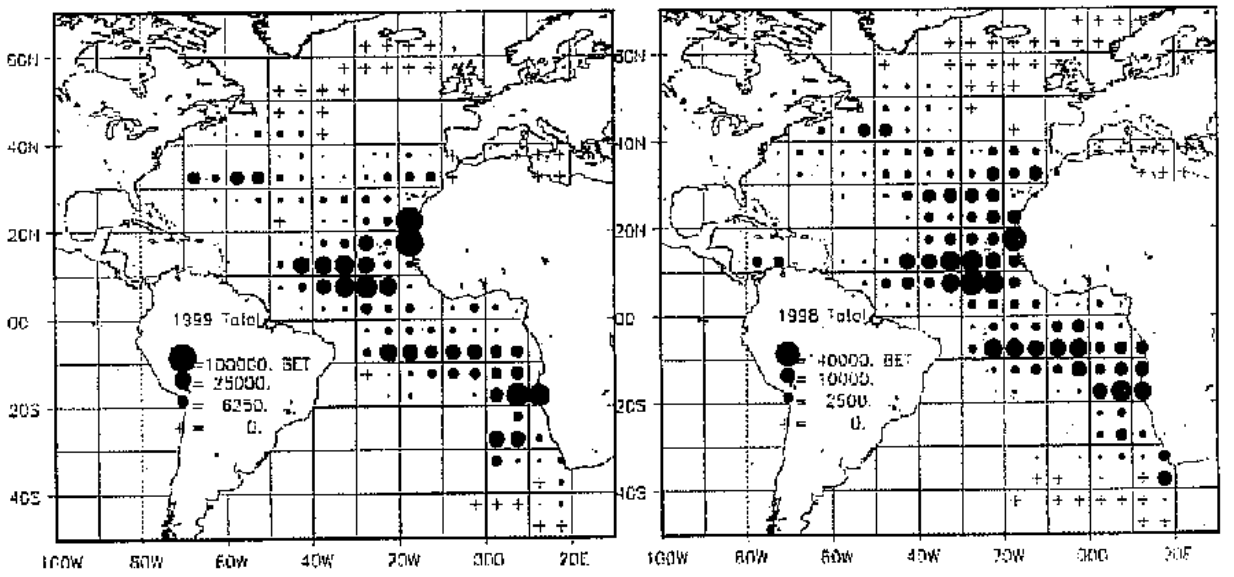

Fig. 3 Geographic distribution of bigeye catch in number in the Atlantic, 1999 (left) and 1998 (right). Plus sign indicates no catch with fishing effort.

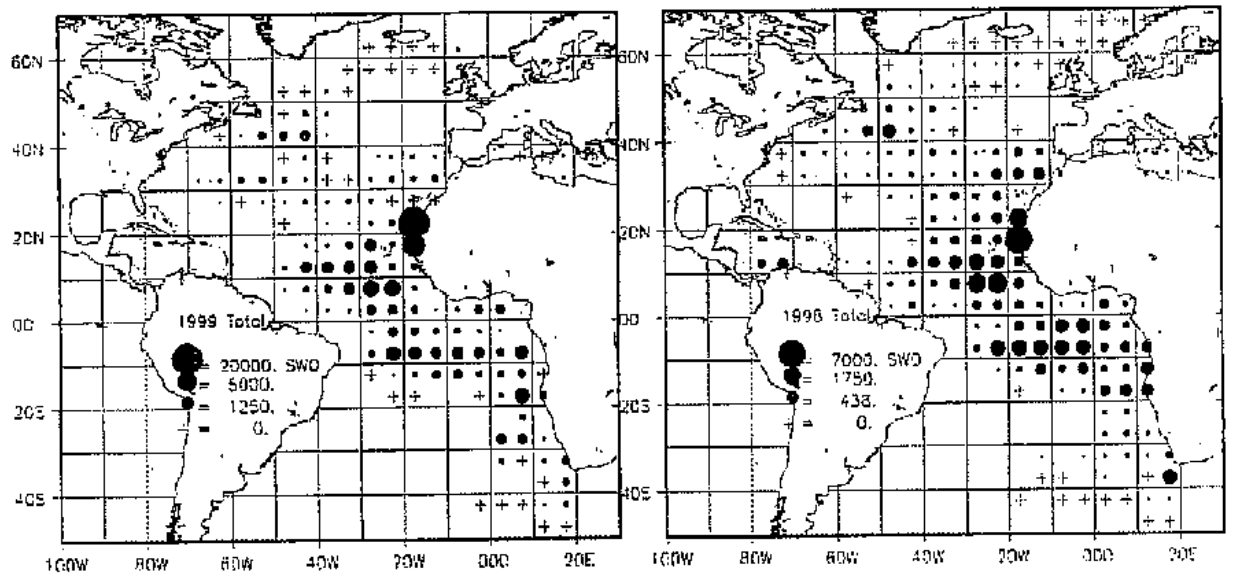

Fig. 4 Geographic distribution of swordfish catch in number in the Atlantic, 1999 (left) and 1998 (right). Plus sign indicates no catch with fishing effort.

NATIONAL REPORT OF KOREA [1]

National Fisheries Research and Development Institute (NFRDI)

1 Fisheries information

The Korean longline fishery for Atlantic tunas and tuna-like species has shown a gradual decline every year since 1985, not only in terms of number of fishing vessels but also in terms of catches. During the 1990s, the average number of Korean tuna longliners active in the Atlantic was less than 10 each year, with 1,600 MT of annual catches, corresponding to about one-tenth the annual catch of the early 1980s (**Table 1**). In recent years, annual catches have declined further to less than 1,000 MT, due to the withdrawal of vessels from the Mediterranean Sea where Korean longliners fished for northern bluefin tuna up to 1997. In recent years, most of the fishing operations by Korean longliners have been carried out in the South Atlantic Ocean.

In 1999, the annual catch of tunas and tuna-like fishes by the Korean fishery amounted to 277 MT, representing a 4.5% decrease from the previous year's figure. The shift in fishing area from North to South has caused some changes in the species composition of the longline catch. While bigeye and yellowfin tunas made up the major component of the total Korean catch as in past years, accounting for 45% and 34%, respectively, occasional catches of southern bluefin tuna were also reported when the fishery moved further South.

Bigeye tuna

Bigeye tuna has been the most important tuna species of the Korean tuna longline fishery not only as concerns production but also from an economic viewpoint, since the early 1980s when the deep-longline fishing technique was introduced. Due to the decreased number of longliners, the bigeye catch has decreased continuously and remained below 1,000 MT during the 1990s. The 1999 bigeye tuna catch was 124 MT, a decrease of 39 MT from the previous year.

Yellowfin tuna

Yellowfin tuna is the second most important species of the Korean tuna longline fishery in The Atlantic. Catches of yellowfin as well as bigeye continued to decline due to the decrease in the number of vessels. The 1999 catch of this species amounted to 94 MT, an increase of 29 MT compared to 1998.

Southern bluefin tuna

Although most of the southern bluefin tuna catch by the Korean fishery was taken in the South Indian Ocean, some catches were made by a few longliners in the South Atlantic Ocean on a seasonal basis. The 1999 catch of this species was 28 MT, which accounts for about 10% of the total catch.

Other tunas and billfishes

The 1999 nominal catch of other tunas and billfishes by the Korean tuna longline fishery are not available for the respective fish species, whereas they are included in the "Others" column of **Table 1**. Task II data indicated that albacore, swordfish, and other billfish species were also caught in minor quantities by the Korean longline fishery.

1 Original report in English.

2 Research and statistics

The National Fisheries Research and Development Institute (NFRDI) carried out routine scientific monitoring work as in past years. This monitoring covers the collection of catch and fishing effort statistics from 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 minimum size limits for bigeye, yellowfin, bluefin tuna and swordfish. In order to protect the spawning stock of northern bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean Sea, a new domestic regulation has been in effect since 1995.

Table 1. Nominal catch (MT) of tuna and tuna-like fishes by the Korean tuna fisheries in the Atlantic Ocean, 1980-1999

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
1999	<1>	--	94	--	124	28	--	--	--	--	--	31	277

( ) = Estimated by the ICCAT Secretariat (ICCAT Report, 1994, Vol. 2).
< > = Tentative.

NATIONAL REPORT OF LIBYA [1]

M. Y. Tawil [2]

Bluefin tuna *(Thunnus Thunnus* L.*)* is a large pelagic species that is highly migratory and is widely distributed, particularly in the Atlantic and Mediterranean regions. It is believed that bluefin tuna migrate every year from the Atlantic through the Strait of Gibraltar to the Mediterranean.

The migratory route usually takes place along the African coast (Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya) up to Misurata, maintaining a distance from the Libyan coast. Most of the fish are large size, mature fish and it is supposed that they spawn in the Mediterranean during the summer.

Taking this opportunity, the fish are caught by several methods, such as trap nets, longline and purse seine. Similarly, these methods have been applied to catch bluefin tuna in Libya. Following herewith is a description of each method that operated in 1999.

Trap nets

Only four traps were in operation in 1999, from 10 traps during the period between 1949-1955. The order of the traps from East to West is: Garzira, Zreg, Zeletin and Garabulli. Each is set in the form of a huge trap about 3.2 km in the case of the Gazira and Zreg traps, and 3.6 km in Zeletin, while in Garabulla, the trap is only about 2.4 km from the shore. The exact location, the fishing grounds, the size of the trap nets, and the distance of the trap from the shore, are given in **Table** 1 between the trap net and the shore. A leader net is stretched between the trap net and the shore. The net is kept in its position by large anchors and floats.

Zreg tuna trap

The 1999 season started on 27 May 1999 and ended on 30 June 1999. The total number of bluefin tuna caught during the season was 918 fish, with an average weight of 47 kg, and an average length of 157 cm. The total weight of the fish was 43,557 kg. For eight net liftings **(Table 2)** the date of the net lifting, the total weight and the number of fish in each net lifting is given.

The number of little tuna was 1,150, with a total weight of 11,121 kg.

Gazira tuna trap

This trap is located about 5 km East of the Zreg tuna trap. The season started on 16 May 1999 and ended on 28 June 1999. The total number of bluefin tuna caught during the 1999 season was 850 fish; the average length was157 cm and the average weight was 50 kg. The total weight was 42,500 kg from seven (7) net liftings. **Table 3** shows the date of each net lifting, the total weight and the number of bluefin tuna in each net.

The number of little tuna was 2,500 fish, with a total weight of 10,000 kg.

Zeletin tuna trap

This trap is located about 80 km West of the Zreg tuna trap. The 1999 season started on 16 May 199 and ended on 25 June 1999, with only two net liftings. The total number of bluefin tuna was 200 fish, with a total weight of 13,500 kg.

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1 Original report in English.

2 M.B.R.C - Tajura, Libya.

Garabulli tuna trap

This trap is located East of Tripoli. Although the net was set in early May; unfortunately no fish were caught during the 1999 season.

For biological parameters, 325 bluefin tuna were sampled for length from both the Gazira and the Zreg tuna traps. In addition, 252 bluefin tuna were sampled for total weight from both localities, and of these, 204 fish were sampled for sex and the length frequency percentage distribution for females was reported. These biological results will be published in the final COPEMED report for 1999.

Surface longline

In 1999, the total catch of bluefin tuna by surface longline was 450 MT, of which 200 MT were caught by the Libyan fleet and the remainder were taken in joint ventures. The weight of the fish ranged from 25 to 280 kg, with the majority between 25 and 70 kg.

Purse seine

The Libyan fleet using purse seine consists of five fishing vessels. In 1999, some of those vessels operated in Libyan waters; the total catch was 195 MT.

The weight of fish ranged between 25 and 270 kg, with the majority between 100 and 150 kg.

The 1999 production was exported directly without landing in any of the fishing ports. However, the production from the tuna traps was canned locally immediately after catching.

Table 1. Distribution of the Libyan trap nets that operated in 1999

Fishing ground	*North*	*East*	*Water depth (m)*	*Bottom quality*	*Length of leader net*	*Length of body of net*
Gazira	32°20'	15°09'	40	Mixed sand and rock	3-2 km	480 m
Zreg	32°26'10"	14°54'20"	36	Mixed sand and rock	3-6 km	454 m
Zeletin	32°32'	14°27'	38	Sand and rock	3-6 km	454 m
Garabulli	32°48'	12°40'	38		2-4 km	332 m

Table 2. Date of lifting, total weight and number of fish in the Zreg tuna trap in 1999

No. of net lifting	*Date*	*No. of fish*	*Weight of fish (kg)*
1	27 May 99	276	13,769
2	02 Jun 99	171	8,335
3	04 Jun 99	48	2,207
4	16 Jun 99	233	9,734
5	17 Jun 99	44	2,160
6	19 Jun 99	24	1,150
7	20 Jun 99	92	4,561
8	30 Jun 99	30	1,641
Total	**35 days**	**918**	**43,557**

Table 3. Date of lifting, total weight and number of fish in the Gazira tuna trap in 1999

No. of net lifting	*Date*	*No. of fish*	*Weight of fish (kg)*
1	16 May 99	210	16,500
2	27 May 99	160	8,000
3	28 May 99	110	65,000
4	31 May 99	120	6,000
5	08 Jun 99	60	3,000
6	20 Jun 99	120	6,000
7	28 Jun 99	70	3,500
Total	**44 days**	**850**	**42,500**

NATIONAL REPORT OF MOROCCO [1]

A. Srour [2] and A. Fahfouhi [3]

1 Introduction

Due to the geographic location of Morocco and to its temperate climate, Moroccan waters are either at the northern limit of distribution of a considerable number of tuna species or within the migratory route of the large tunas between the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea.

Tuna fishing is carried out essentially during the two tuna passages off the coast of Morocco, which take place from the Atlantic towards the Mediterranean in April-June and from the Mediterranean towards the Atlantic in July-November.

2 Tuna fishing

The main tuna species caught by Moroccan fishermen are bluefin tuna *(Thunnus thynnus)*, swordfish *(Xiphias gladius)*, and small tunas, such as Atlantic bonito, frigate tuna and skipjack tuna.

The fishing areas of these species are located mainly in the Mediterranean. On the other hand, the small tunas (frigate tuna, Atlantic bonito, etc.) are caught mainly off the Atlantic coast. The major landing ports are Agadir, Safi, Mohamedia, Mehdia and Larache in the Atlantic, and Tanger, El Hoceima, Nador and Ras Kebdana. in the Mediterranean.

2.1 Fishing methods

Tuna and tuna-like species are caught mainly by four gears:

– Traps

This gear is directed mainly at bluefin tuna. In 1999, five traps were set off the Moroccan coasts: one in the Mediterranean and four in the Atlantic.

The active period of the traps is between the months of April and June in the Atlantic and between June and October in the Mediterranean.

– Hand line

Currently there are about a hundred artisanal vessels (less than 5 m in length) that practice this type of fishing.

This fishing is directed at large-size bluefin tuna and is carried out throughout the year, with a two to three month halt in fishing (April to June).

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1 Original report in French.

2 Institut National de Recherche Halieutique.

3 Ministère des Pêches Maritimes.

– *Purse seine*

This gear is directed essentially at bluefin tuna. About 250 vessels use this technique in the Atlantic and their activity is sporadic and seasonal. The tunas caught by purse seine are smaller than those caught by other gears. The average weight of the fish is between 20 and 40 kg and never exceeds 70 kg.

It should be noted that the purse seine takes a large amount of accidental catches, almost always of small tunas.

– *Driftnet*

This fishing method is used specifically to fish swordfish when they migrate along the Moroccan coasts between the months of April and November.

About 300 coastal vessels use driftnets, of which 60% are based in Tanger and fish in the Moroccan Mediterranean area. This gear, directed at swordfish, also takes by-catches of bluefin tuna.

2.2 Catches

Statistics on the national fishery for tunas and tuna-like species are shown in **Tables 1 to 4**.

In 1999, catches of tunas and tuna-like species amounted to 10,683 MT, with 55% of the catches from the Atlantic and 45% from the Mediterranean. In terms of weight, small tunas constitute approximately 40% of the total catch. Swordfish, bluefin tuna and bigeye tuna represent 31, 21 and 7% of the total weight, respectively.

– *Bluefin tuna*

In 1999, the total catch of bluefin tuna amounted to 2,227 MT, of which 29% was caught in the Mediterranean. This figures is almost the same as the average for the 1996-1998 period. The trap and purse seine fisheries obtained 40% and 32%, respectively, of the total production of bluefin tuna (**Table 2**).

Currently, hand line catches contribute 550 MT, which constitutes 25% of the total catch of bluefin tuna (three-year average).

– *Swordfish*

Swordfish fishing in the Mediterranean started in 1983. The catches obtained since that time have been minor, at about 50 MT up to 1988. Since 1989, swordfish catches have experimented a clear increase, surpassing 5,000 MT in 1997. In 1998 and 1999, the catches started to decline, and were 3,357 MT in 1999, or 15% less than in the 1996-1998 period. The high catches reported during the period considered coincide with the introduction of driftnet fishing in the Mediterranean.

In 1999, the Mediterranean catches represented 96% of the total Moroccan catch of swordfish. Currently, driftnet fishing produces 90% of the national catches, whereas longline and other gears contribute the remaining 10% (**Table 3**).

– *Bigeye tuna*

This species is caught exclusively by Spanish flag vessels in the Atlantic. In 1999, catches amounted to 700 MT.

– *Small tunas*

In 1999, catches of small tunas (including skipjack tuna) reached 4,246 MT, of which 81% were from the Atlantic. An important part of the catch (70%) is taken by purse seine. The catches of small tunas, by gear and by area, in 1999 are shown in **Table 4**.

3. Research activities

In the field of research on tunas, the following activities took place:

- Updating and improvement of the collection of national tuna statistics.
- A regional research program on tunas, coordinated by FAO-COPEMED, was initiated in 2000, and is dedicated to the study of the biology and exploitation of tunas in the Mediterranean.
- development of a catch and effort and data series on the bluefin tuna and swordfish fisheries in order to establish standardized indices of abundance, in collaboration with the Spanish Institute of Oceanography (IBO).
- Study on the by-catches in the driftnet fisheries for swordfish, and definition of the fishing grounds of this species in the Moroccan area of the Mediterranean.
- Preparation of the biostatistician data needed by the SCRS to carry out an assessment of the swordfish and bluefin tuna stocks.
- Active participation of Moroccan scientists in ICCAT activities.

Table 1. Moroccan statistics on tuna fishing in 1999 (in MT)

Species	*Atlantic*	*Mediterranean*	*Atlantic+ Med*
Bluefin tuna	1,591	636	2,227
Swordfish	119	3,238	3,357
Small tunas	3,425	821	4,246
Bigeye tuna	700	---	700
Others	82	71	153
TOTAL	**5,917**	**4,766**	**10,683**

Table 2. Moroccan catches (in MT) of bluefin tuna, by area and by gear, 1990-1999

Area	*Gear*	*1990*	*1991*	*1992*	*1993*	*1994*	*1995*	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*
Med.	Hand	0	0	0	0	373	816	541	455	544	600
	Gill	31	13	4	6	16	92	30	17	18	6
	PS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Trap	1,118	912	201	73	703	127	15	63	2	30
ATL.	Trap	323	482	94	387	494	210	699	1,240	1,518	852
	PS	54	46	462	24	213	458	323	828	37	709
	Gill	31	3	6	4	13	10	13	0	31	30
Teetotal		**408**	**530**	**562**	**416**	**720**	**678**	**1,035**	**2,068**	**1,866**	**1,591**
Tot.Med		**1,150**	**925**	**206**	**79**	**1,092**	**1,035**	**586**	**535**	**564**	**636**
TOTAL		**1,558**	**1,455**	**768**	**495**	**1,812**	**1,713**	**1,621**	**2,603**	**2,430**	**2,227**

Table 3. Catches (in MT) of swordfish, by area and by gear, 1990-1999

Area	*Gear*	*1990*	*1991*	*1992*	*1993*	*1994*	*1995*	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*
Medit.	LL	371	508	807	517	527	169	273	245	323	259
	Gill	866	1,186	1,883	2,068	2,109	1,518	2,461	4,653	2,905	2,979
	PS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Trap	12	12	2	4	18	9	0	2	0	0
Atlantic	Trap	34	5	21	2	11	12	7	5	2	13
	PS	14	4	3	8	5	7	98	10	10	11
	Gill	19	9	4	2	13	32	322	13	179	60
	LL	24	92	41	27	7	28	35	239	0	35
Total ATL.		**91**	**110**	**69**	**39**	**36**	**79**	**462**	**267**	**191**	**119**
Total Med.		**1,249**	**1,706**	**2,692**	**2,589**	**2,654**	**1,696**	**2,734**	**4,900**	**3,228**	**3,238**
TOTAL		**1,340**	**1,816**	**2,760**	**2,628**	**2,690**	**1,775**	**3,196**	**5,167**	**3,419**	**3,357**

Table 4. Catches (in MT) of small tunas, by area and by gear, in 1999

Area	*Gear*	*ATL black skipjack (LTA)*	*Atlantic bonito (BON)*	*Skipjack (SKJ)*	*Frigate tuna (FRI)*	*Plain bonito (BOP)*	*TOTAL*
Med.	Trap	0	65	10	210	0	285
	Hand	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Gill	8	55	0	463	1	527
	LL	0	0	0	0	0	0
	PS	0	0	0	9	0	9
ATL.	Trap	0	15	7	0	0	22
	Hand	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Gill	0	41	126	74	31	272
	LL	0	0	0	0	0	0
	PS	67	1,334	715	420	595	3,131
Tot Med		**8**	**120**	**10**	**682**	**1**	**821**
Tot ATL		**67**	**1,390**	**848**	**494**	**626**	**3,425**
TOTAL		**75**	**1,510**	**858**	**1,176**	**627**	**4,146**

NATIONAL REPORT OF NAMIBIA [1]

Namibia's tuna fisheries are largely pole and line and longline fisheries targeting albacore, bigeye tuna, and swordfish. During 1999, Namibia issued 24 permits to longline vessels, of which 11 were South African, 10 Japanese and 3 Namibian flagged. During the same period, a total of 39 pole and line vessels were licensed. Of these, 30 were Namibian and 9 were chartered to South Africa. Ninety-nine percent of the catches by Namibian licensed vessels were made within Namibia's Exclusive Economic Zone. Foreign flagged vessels fished on behalf of Namibian right holders.

Catch and effort data are recorded on the logsheets after each set by the skippers. Proper recording of catches and effort data is mandatory under Namibian laws and is applied to all vessels, regardless of flag or charter arrangement. All fish have to be off-loaded at the Namibian ports where the Fisheries Inspectors collect the catch/effort data and reconcile them with the skipper's records. All vessels have observers, except the smaller ones.

The National Marine Information and Research Center in Swakopmund is responsible for large pelagic research and monitoring. At the moment the research is focused on biological sampling at the landing ports where length frequencies are measured. Length frequency data for 1999 were provided to the SCRS in time for stock assessment purposes in 2000.

The total landing of southern albacore in1999 was 1,161 MT, which were caught primarily by pole and line vessels. Further, a total of 729 MT of swordfish were caught almost in equal proportion between the pole and line and the longline vessels. Bigeye tuna catches in 1999 were 422 MT, which were caught mainly by longline vessels. The total catches of yellowfin tuna by longline in 1999 amounted to 146 MT.

Implementation of ICCAT conservation and management measures

At the Commission meeting in Santiago de Compostela in 1998, ICCAT recommended that the four actively fishing parties of southern albacore (Brazil, Chinese Taipei, South Africa and Namibia) submit bimonthly summaries of catches to South Africa in order to monitor the progress towards filling the ICCAT recommended TAC. Namibia has regularly provided South Africa with catch information since 1998. Namibia supports the interim arrangement and trusts that the Working Group on Allocation Criteria will finalize its work soon.

1 Original report in English.

NATIONAL REPORT OF RUSSIA [1]

Atlantic Scientific Research Institute of Marine Fisheries & Oceanography (AtlantNIRO) [2]

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 the All-Russian Scientific Research Institute of Marine Fisheries and Oceanography (VNIRO). These organizations collect catch and biological statistics and analyze these data, provide operative fishery monitoring, prepare proposals and recommendations required for tuna-catch vessel operations. The statistical data in this report are presented on a yearly basis.

2 Fishery in 1999

In the first half of 1999, six purse seiners carried out the fishery within the economic zone of Sierra Leone and the adjacent open seas areas. In June, three vessels operated in the Senegalese zone for a short period. The total catch amounted to 5,793 MT, including 4,359 MT (75.3%) of yellowfin tuna, 1,426 MT (24.6%) of skipjack, and 8 MT (0.1%) of bigeye tuna. In addition, trawlers caught 477 MT of frigate mackerel in FAO subdivisions 34.1.3 and 34.3.1.

2.1 Fleet and fishing gears

A specialized tuna fishery was carried out by six mid-tonnage purse seiners. The net registered capacity of each vessels was 181 GRT (class 101-200). The tuna net measuring 1,450 m in length and 196 m in depth was used as the fishing gear.

2.2 Sierra Leone economic zone

The total tuna catch from Sierra Leone economic zone amount to 5,540 MT. The major part of the catch was comprised of yellowfin tuna (4,326 MT; 78.1%), skipjack tuna (1,206 MT; 21.8%), bigeye tuna (8 MT; 0.1%) **(Table 1)**.

– *Effort and catch per unit effort*

The total effort of all vessels amounted to 649 vessel fishing days. The catch per vessel fishing day by months was follows: 8.0 MT in February, 8.4 MT in March, 9.0 MT in April, and 8.8 MT in May.

2.3 Open central eastern Atlantic

Six mid-tonnage purse seiners took part in the tuna fishery. In January and in May-June, the vessels periodically moved from the Sierra Leone zone into adjacent ocean areas. The total catch from the ocean area amounted to 233 MT, including yellowfin tuna (33 MT; 14.2%) and skipjack tuna (200 MT; 85.8%) **(Table 1)**.

– *Effort and catch per unit effort*

In the open eastern Atlantic Ocean, purse seiners spent 76 days at the tuna fishery. The catch per vessel fishing day in the open sea amounted to 4.0 MT in January, 4.8 MT in May and 3.0 MT in June.

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1 Original report in English.

2 No. 5, Dm. Donskoy, Str., Kaliningrad 236000, Russia; Fax: +7 0112 219997; Email: atlant@batlnet.ru.

2.4 Economic zone of Senegal

In June, three vessels operated in this zone. The total catch of skipjack tuna amounted to 20 MT for 15 vessel days.

3 Fishery in the first half of 2000

During the March to May period, tuna purse seiners fished in the open seas areas, with three seiners taking part in the fishery. According to the preliminary statistical data, the total tuna catch amounted to 1,043 MT, including 654 MT of yellowfin tuna, 298 MT of skipjack, and 91 MT of bigeye tuna (**Table 2**).

4 Research

Analysis of Russian purse seine operations during the 1982-1998 period in the various areas of the Atlantic Ocean and the proportion of yellowfin tuna in the purse seine catches were assessed. Russian purse seiners carried out a year-round fishery in the central eastern Atlantic Ocean from 1982 to 1998. No fishing operations were carried out by the fleet during certain months because of organizational problems. The total catch of all tuna species taken by Russian seiners from the Atlantic Ocean varied from 1,648 MT to 8,496 MT, while the bulk of tunas was caught from the economic zones of the coastal countries. In 1996-1998, 75% of the tunas were caught from the coastal areas, while the remainder was caught in the open sea.

Purse seine catches of yellowfin tuna from 1982 to 1998 were lower than the total catch of all other tuna species. In 1995-1998, the annual catches of this species exceeded 58% of the total tuna catch. In March-June, 1995-1998, yellowfin tuna constituted over 74% of the total tuna catch. In the open seas areas, yellowfin tuna predominated in the catches only during some years. The following pattern of successful catch areas was set up in the process of the tuna fishery. During the first half of the year, the fishery was carried out in the Sierra Leone economic zone and adjacent open sea areas (Liberian area). In the second half of the year, the vessels fished in the equatorial and open part of the Gulf of Guinea up to 23°W (Equatorial and Liberian areas). High values of catch per effort were typical for January-June and November-December.

Work was carried out to transfer retrospective data on tunas and related species to magnetic carriers. The computer data base of catch and biological data includes data from discards of purse seine and longline catches, data of biological analysis by species, and the results of measurements.

Table 1. Species composition of tuna catches taken by Russian purse seiners, and fishing effort in the Atlantic Ocean in 1999, by areas and fishing seasons

Area	*# of vessels*	*Fishing period*	*Effort (days at sea)*	*Catch (MT)*			
				YFT	*SKJ*	*BET*	*TOTAL*
Sierra Leone	6	II-V	630	4,326	1,206	8	5,540
Open sea	6	I, V-VI	76	33	200		233
Senegal	3	VI	15		20		20
TOTAL	6	I-VI	721	4,359	1,426	8	5,793

Table 2. Tuna catches by Russian purse seiners in the first half of 2000 (in MT)

Species	*Catches*
Yellowfin tuna	654
Skipjack tuna	298
Bigeye tuna	91
Total	1043

NATIONAL REPORT OF SOUTH AFRICA [1]

1 National fisheries information

Early records of tuna fishing in South Africa date back to the 1950s, when catches were taken mainly by recreational shore anglers. Commercial longlining for tunas started in the early 1960s, with catches of up to 1 800 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, Verna 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. 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 1999, South Africa issued permits to longline vessels from Japan (83) and Chinese-Taipei (23) 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 applications for permits to fish with longlines 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 1999.

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 South African National Report for 1995).

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%

1 Original report in English.

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. Consequently they are not always reliable.

The amounts of fish exported are precisely known, because all exports must be inspected and passed by Customs and Excise. 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 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 5,089 albacore was measured in 1998 and 2,348 in 1999. 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.

During 1998, swordfish comprised 70% (467.8 MT dressed weight) of the catch in the experimental pelagic longline fishery. In 1999, stronger measures to limit the swordfish component of the catches were introduced, and the swordfish contribution to the catch was reduced to 35% (125 MT dressed weight).

Some South African longline vessels moved to Namibia in response to the stringent limits on swordfish catches imposed by the South African authorities. Catches made by those vessels have been reported to ICCAT as Namibian catch. It is noted, however, that international import figures reflect both Namibian and South African catches as South African.

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 the 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 mean LJFL of the swordfish catch taken by the South African longline fleet has declined from 184.5 cm in 1998 to 176.4 cm in 1999 (**Figure 5**). This marked decline in mean size is thought to reflect changes in fishing patterns because: fish caught in the austral summer months average larger than those caught in winter; fish for the southern grounds are larger than those from the north; and the mean size in the summer catches from the southern grounds is similar between 1998 and 1999.

The total effort for the fishery has escalated from 9.9 thousand hooks deployed in 1997 to an estimated 460 thousand hooks in 1999. This escalation in effort has accompanied a steep decline in annual catch per unit effort (CPUE) from 3.8kg dressed weight per hook in 1997 to 0.4kg dressed weight per hook in 1999. It is possible that

this rapid decline in CPUE reflects changes in the fishery more than changes in stock abundance. At the start of the fishery in November 1997 there were only two operators deploying a low number of hooks. As the fishery developed, additional vessels with inexperienced crew joined the fishery. The rapid escalation in effort could have resulted in some degree of hook saturation, and there has been a shift in targeting towards tuna.

3 Implementation of ICCAT conservation and management measures

3.1 Albacore

At the 1998 ICCAT commissioners 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 during 1999, some of the participating parties did not submit albacore catch data. As a result South Africa was unable to monitor catch progress during 1999.

At the 1999 SCRS swordfish species working group meeting, both Brazil and South Africa reported that there were unavoidable long time delays in obtaining catch data from their fleets. Consequently they were unable to comply with the requirement to submit bimonthly catch summaries timeously.

During 2000, South Africa was again unable to monitor progress towards the filling of the ICCAT recommended TAC by the participating parties, because not all parties submitted bimonthly catch summaries. Catch information submitted to date is summarised 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 during 1998 and 1999 has forced many of the South African fishers to land their catches in ports of neighbouring countries.

An observer scheme was launched in 1998, with the first observer placed on a local longline vessel in November. The scheme was expanded in 1999, targeting both local and foreign longline vessels, and will be further expanded in 2000.

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 Reported*	*Exported*
1985	6,697	
1986	5,930	
1987	7,275	
1988	6,570	
1989	6,890	
1990	5,280	
1991	3,410	
1992	6,360	
1993	6,743	6,881
1994	5,268	6,931
1995	4,246	5,213
1996	2,856	5,635
1997	---	6,707
1998	---	8,412
1999	---	5,101

Table 2. Albacore catches for 2000 reported by participating parties to South Africa for each reporting period

Participating Party	*Jan-Feb*	*Mar-Apr*	*May-Jun*
Brazil	No data	No data	No data
Chinese-Taipei	2,226	2,102	2,856
Namibia	No data	No data	No data
South Africa	1,348	536	476*

* Catch for May only.

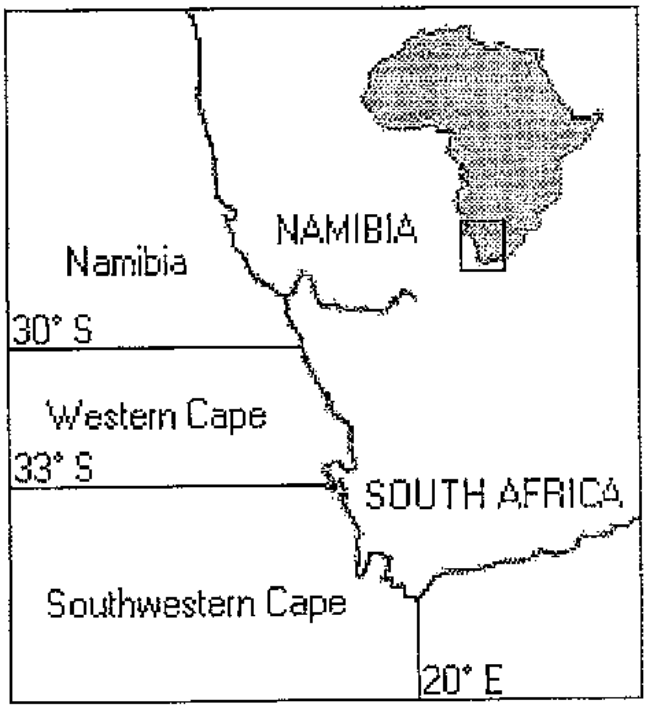

Fig. 1. Areas off South Africa and Namibia that support South African albacore catches. The areas are the same as those shown in Fig. 3.

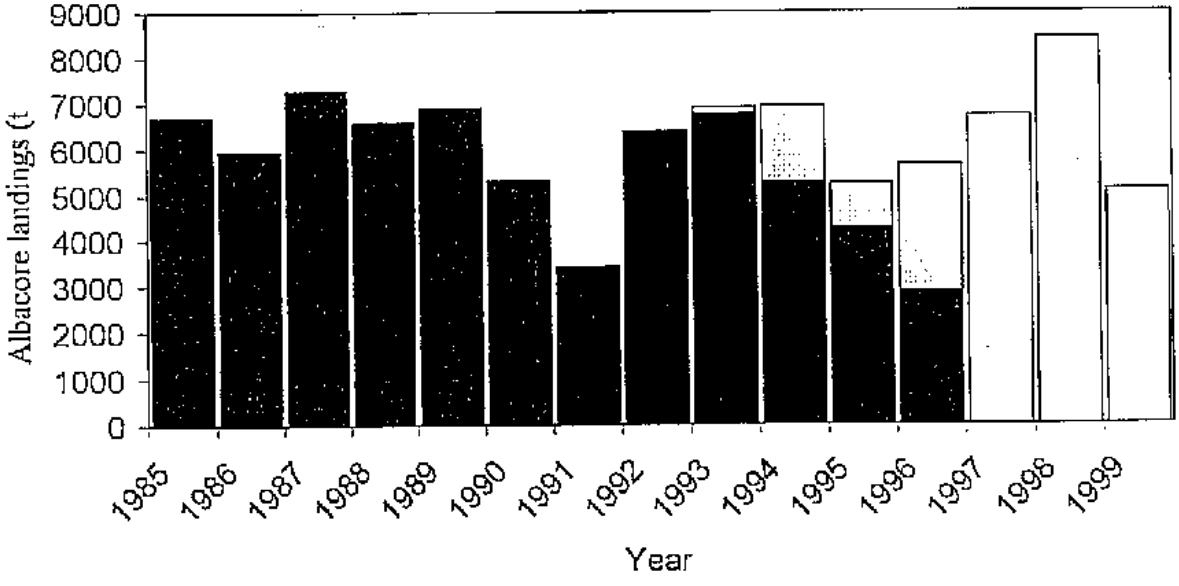

Fig 2. South African albacore catches (nominal mass) in recent years. Solid bars up to 1993 represent the annual albacore catch estimated from dealer returns. The solid bars for 1994 and 1995 represent the reported total albacore catch. The pale bars represent the nominal mass of South African caught albacore that was exported.

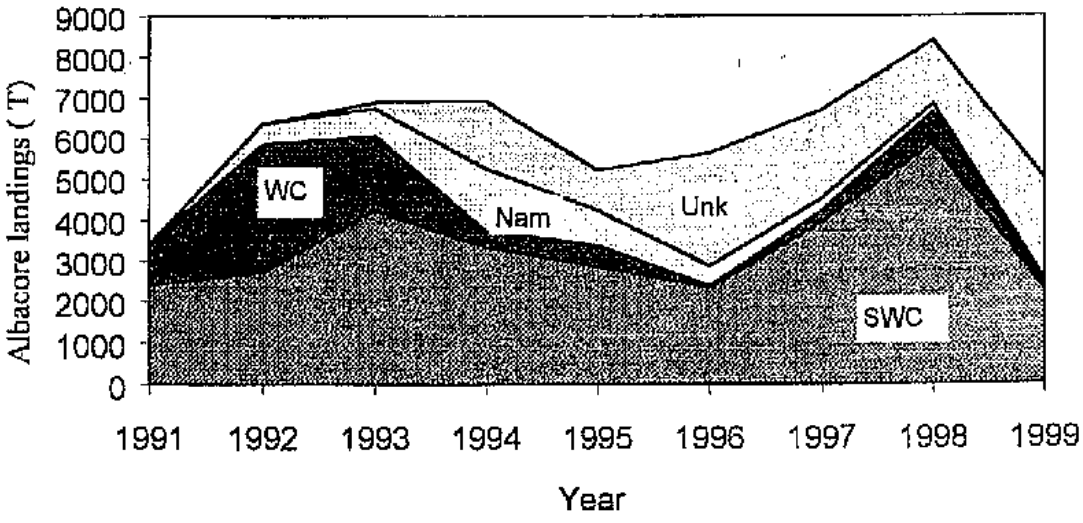

Fig. 3. Catches by area for the South African albacore fishery. Nam = Namibia; WC = Western Cape; SWC = Southwestern Cape; Unk = Area unknown.

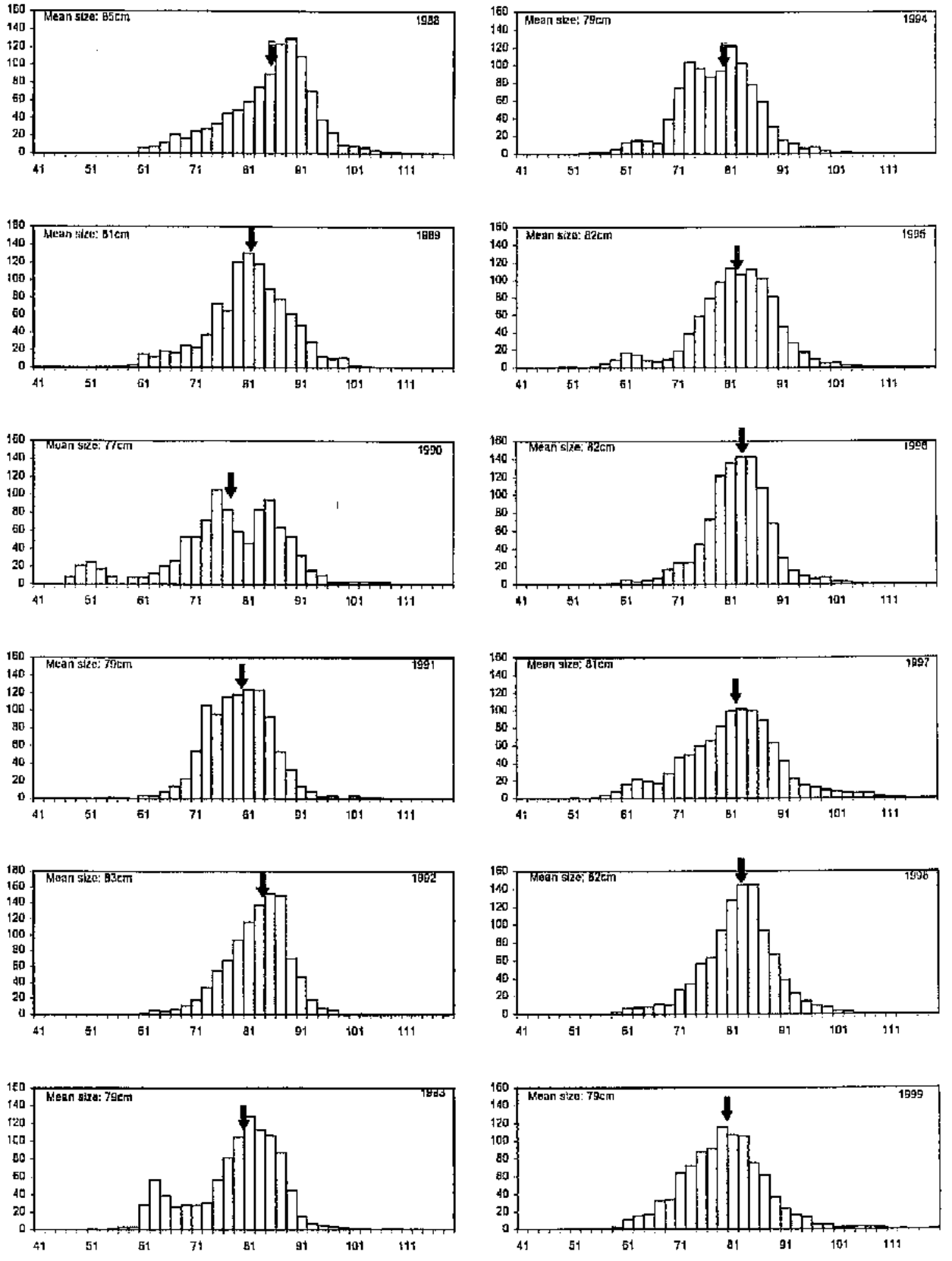

Fig. 4. Length frequency distribution of albacore in South African catches 1988-1999.

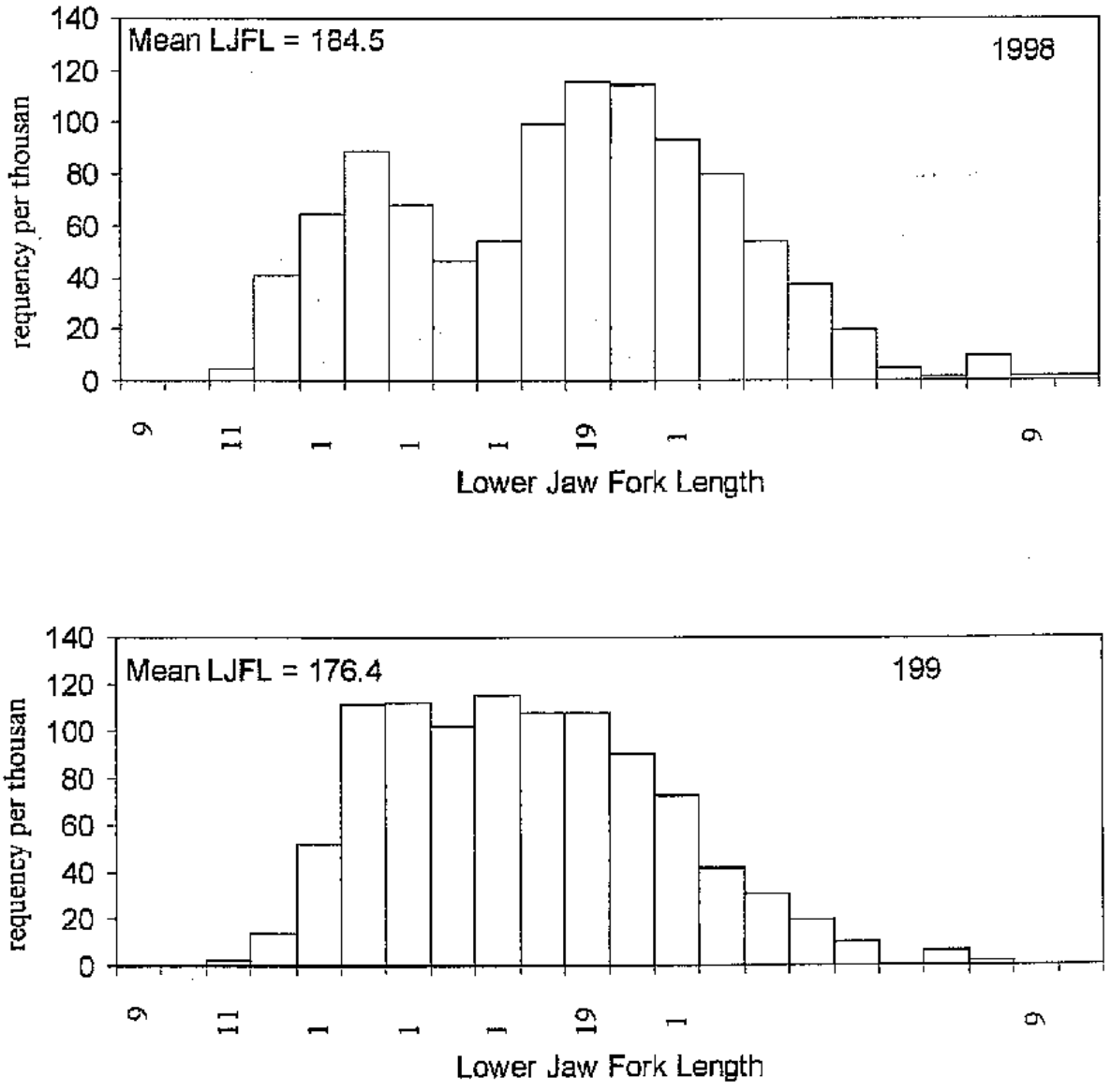

Fig. 5. Length frequency distribution of the swordfish catches made by the South African pelagic longline fleet in 1998 and 1999. Note that these data include fish caught in the IOTC convention area.

NATIONAL REPORT OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO [1]

Carlisle M. Jordan, Director of Fisheries

1 National fleet

The national commercial fishing fleet of Trinidad and Tobago that was involved in 1999 in fishing for tuna and tuna-like species and those other species that fall under the management of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) consisted of seven (7) vessels. These vessels are all registered as fishing vessels with the Fisheries Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources, while three (3) are registered with the Maritime Services Division of the Ministry of Works and Transport, the National Registry for vessels. The vessels operate primarily in waters under the jurisdiction of Trinidad and Tobago and not on the high seas nor the open Atlantic.

The reports for these vessels are listed in **Table 1.**

2 The transshipment fleet

A fleet of commercial fishing vessels utilizes the fish port of National Fisheries Company Limited for the purpose of transshipping catches that are reportedly harvested on the high seas. None of the listed vessels are under the Trinidad and Tobago Registry as can be verified by the national registry.

The Maritime Services Division of the Ministry of Works and Transport that monitors these vessels and is authorized to conduct the Port State Control activities for maritime safety compliance records the movement of these vessels on a continuous basis. In 1999, the Fisheries Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources monitored the operation of 93 vessels (Annex 1)[2], which called at the Port of National Fisheries Company Ltd. and the transshipment information is listed in **Table 2.**

3 Unregulated fishing vessels

The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) in February, 2000, indicated that four (4) fishing vessels operating in the Atlantic under the flag of Trinidad and Tobago were considered to be unregulated vessels according to the rules and guidelines of the Organization.

Trinidad and Tobago wishes to express its concern to the Commission that these fishing vessels which are classified as unregulated are under its flag, when the records of the Register of Shipping shows that they are not.

A response was dispatched to ICCAT in March, 2000, indicating that these vessels which are listed below are not under the flag of Trinidad and Tobago and the Maritime Services Division of the Ministry of Works and Transport has provided the supporting information.

Further communication of this issue was dispatched by facsimile to ICCAT in October, 2000.

The fishing vessels under consideration are:

- Hsiang Chang No. 101
- Hsiang Chang No. 102

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1 Original report in English.

2 Annex 1 (list of 93 vessels) was presented at the meeting and is available on request. Additional details should be requested from Trinidad & Tobago.

· Hsiang Chang No. 136
· Nam Sun No. 27

In 1999, the records show that only Hsiang Chang No. 101 and Hsiang Chang No. 102 utilized the National Fisheries Company Ltd. port and there is no record of either Hsiang Chang No. 136 or Nam Sun No. 27.

To date in 2000, the records show that Hsiang Chang No. 101, Hsiang No. 102 and Hsiang Chang No. 136 utilized the port but there is no record of Nam Sun No. 27.

4 Certificate of Eligibility for Swordfish

Trinidad and Tobago in 1999 implemented the Certificate of Eligibility for Swordfish that is landed and reported by Trinidad and Tobago.

An annual quota of 42 MT was assigned to Trinidad and Tobago flagged vessels.

Trinidad and Tobago does not approve nor authorize Certificates of Eligibility to any foreign flagged vessels.

5 Survey to identify and track the movement of fish and fish products

The Fisheries Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources has instituted a three-month survey that commenced in September, 2000, for the purpose of identifying and tracking the movement of fish landings and exports both from national flagged and foreign flagged vessels for local marketing and exports.

The outcome of this survey would assist in identification of those procedures and gaps in the system which would allow for the provision of the required information data and statistics which are desired by ICCAT.

The Fisheries Division has pursued this initiative having recognized that the existing procedures and systems which are in place in Trinidad and Tobago to identify and track the landings and export of catches may be considered to be rather complicated, outdated and somewhat not fully compatible or user friendly to allow for compliance with the current requirements of ICCAT.

The number of transshipments and local vessels, their frequency of calls, the volume of catches and the roles of the Transshipment Agencies, the Customs and Excise Division, the Ministry of Trade and Industry and Brokers have placed tremendous stress and strain on the now limited resources which are available to the Fisheries Division to achieve the level of compliance acceptable to ICCAT.

The recognition for changes to the system and the need for amendment and providing the necessary resources have caused the Fisheries Division to undertake this exercise.

The provision of advice and technical support by ICCAT to allow Trinidad and Tobago to resolve the situation toward compliance with ICCAT would be viewed in a most favorable light.

6 Catches/exports

Table 1 shows the export by national vessels only, while **Table 2** shows the total transshipment for vessels which are listed in Annex 1 and monitored by the Fisheries Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources. Information on the operations of nationally owned/foreign registered vessels are in the process of preparation.

Table 1. Exports by the national fleet, 1999

Species	*Metric tons (MT)*
Yellowfin tuna	39.40
Swordfish	38.95
Bigeye tuna	7.80
Mako	1.10
Albacore	0.48

Table 2. Total of transshipments for Continental Handlers and Kuo Jeng Marine

Agent	*Species*	*Lbs.*	*Kgs.*
Continental Handlers	Swordfish	531,733.00	236,325.78
	Yellowfin tuna	3,333,763.00	1,481,672.44
	Bigeye tuna	1,104,976.00	491,100.44
	Dolphin fish	9,023.00	4,010.22
	Black marlin	0.00	0.00
	King fish	0.00	0.00
Kuo Jeng Marine	Swordfish	148,392.00	65,952.00
	Yellowfin tuna	1,770,835.00	787,037.78
	Bigeye tuna	2,632,257.00	1,169,892.00
	Dolphin fish	481.00	213.78
	Black marlin	879.00	390.67
	King fish	332.00	147.56

NATIONAL REPORT OF TUNISIA [1]

Abdallah Hattour [2]

1 Introduction

Tunisian tuna catches, by fishing type, have developed in a different manner in the course of the last (1990-1999). The catches went from 88,613 MT in 1990 to 93,186 MT, an increase of 4,573 MT, which is equivalent to 5%.

While the coastal and trawl fisheries have shown considerable declines of 38% and 60%, respectively, the other fishing types have, on the other hand, experienced important increases.

Tuna catches (tuna vessels and traps), which is the subject of this report, increased 1,921 MT (121%), and went from 1,589 MT in 1990 to 3,510 MT in 1999.

The overall market value of the national catches aquiculture went from 156.924 million Dinars in 1990 to 249.153 million Dinars in 1999, representing an increase of 92.229 million Dinars (i.e. 59%). The tuna fishery contributed to these catches with 7.177 million Dinars.

The tuna production in 1999, by the purse seiners and traps showed an increase of 1,342 MT, which represents a ratio of 62% as compared to 1998 catches.

2 Information on the fishery

In1999, the catches of tunas and tuna-like species (swordfish) amounted to 5,812 MT. In terms of weight, the small tunas comprised 51.16% of the total catches, while bluefin tuna catches did not represent more than 40.73%. The proportion of the catches of swordfish was about 8.11%.

2.1 The bluefin tuna fishery

In 1999, the total production of bluefin tuna amounted to 2,352 MT, thus registering an appreciable increase as compared to the 1998 catch. This increase, estimated at 607 MT, represents 34.8% more than the 1998 reported catch.

Three main fishing methods used by the Tunisian professional fishermen to catch tunas are:

Purse seine

Since the early 1980s, a particular rhythm has been established that has affected the tuna fishing activity of the purse seiners. Guided by an ever increasing demand for their fishing products (bluefin tuna), these tuna vessels annually visit the fishing zones that have now become traditional areas. They fish from October to March along the Gulf of Gabès and close the Tunisian-Libyan border. These vessels target average size tuna from 25 to 70 kg destined exclusively for export. They fish again from April until the end of July following the movements of the spawners from the North of the country to the extreme South. A part of these catches is exported and the remainder is sold for local consumption and for transformation. The weight of these fish varies from 50 to more than 250 kg.

The purse seine landings of bluefin tuna currently comprise 90% of the national catches.

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1 Original report in French.

2 Institut National des Sciences et Technologies de la Mer (INSTM).

Traps

The contribution of the two traps within the national catches of bluefin tuna is becoming less and less. In1999, the trap catches were less than 35 MT, which represents a more 2% of the bluefin tuna catches. The period of activity of the two traps is between the end of April and the end of July. On the other hand, as regards the landings of recent years, bluefin tuna catches cease towards the end of May, whereas in the past the catches were spread from May until June and sometimes until the early part of July.

Hand line

Hand line fishing is carried out in a accessory manner by the trawlers that encounter bluefin tuna schools by chance. This fishery's contribution to the total catches is very variable. In 1999, such catches were the lowest, at less than 5 MT.

2.2 The small tuna fishery

In 1998, the small tuna catches amounted to 2,061 MT. Of these, Atlantic black skipjack catches represented 54% of the catches, followed by Atlantic bonito with 41% and then by frigate tuna which represented less than 4% of the catches.

These figures should be considered with some reservation, and since we have noted some intra-species confusion, Tunisia started over a year ago to impress upon the statistical services concerned the importance they should assign to the breakdown of these species. Some illustrated fishing pamphlets are being distributed through the fishermen's union and the administration.

An important part of these catches are made by purse seine, by vessels that fish using artificial light, and other coastal gears. Currently, small tuna catches comprise more than 70% of the trap catches.

2.3 Swordfish fishing

Swordfish fishing in Tunisian waters is gaining importance. This fishing activity is carried out all along the coast which, before 1992 had been carried out only in the northern part of the country.

This increase in effort has resulted in an increase in the catches, which have gone from less than 200 MT up to 1992, to more than 460 MT in 1999.

Table 1. Tunisian catches (in MT) of large pelagic species, 1990-1999

a) Bluefin tuna

Type of fishery	*1990*	*1991*	*1992*	*1993*	*1994*	*1995*	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*
Purse seine	114	1,073	975	1,997	2,523	1,617	2,147	1,992	1,662	2,263
Trap	249	243	175	92	169	223	154	95	35	46
Hand line	43	50	45	43	81	57	92	113	48	43
TOTAL	461	1,366	1,195	2,132	2,503	1,897	2,393	2,200	1,745	2,352

b) Small tunas

	1990	*1991*	*1992*	*1993*	*1994*	*1995*	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*
Euthynnus alletteratus	2,113	1,343	664	242	204	696	824	333	1,113	740
Sarda	488	305	643	792	305	413	560	611	855	881
Auxis	985	985	35	20	13	14	13	26	87	1,330
Others			20	309	105	115	215	657	6	3
TOTAL	3,586	2,633	1,363	1,363	627	1,238	1,612	1,630	2,061	2,953

c) Swordfish

	1990	*1991*	*1992*	*1993*	*1994*	*1995*	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*
Swordfish	176	181	178	354	298	378	352	346	414	468

NATIONAL REPORT OF UK (BERMUDA) [1]

The Bermuda commercial fishing fleet for tuna and tuna-like species consisted of 205 vessels during 1999, 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. All Bermuda-based longliners are equipped with an Andronics satellite-based vessel monitoring system (VMS).

During 1999, the total catch of tuna and tuna-like species was 186 MT. Details are presented in **Table 1**.

Bermuda is actively involved in the ICCAT Enhanced Program for Billfish Research and this year co-sponsored a study on the survival of marlin caught on longlines utilizing satellite tags. The Bermuda Division of Fisheries continues to engage in a number of regional research programs directed at pelagic species.

In May of 2000, Bermuda co-sponsored an international workshop to discuss the distribution and biology of bluefin tuna in the mid-Atlantic. The consensus document arising from this meeting is reported in SCRS/00/125.

Scientists act as observers on selected fishing trips. Apart from ensuring compliance with management measures, they also collect scientific data on billfish and other species. Recreational fishing for tuna and tuna-like species is also monitored and it should be noted that such fishing is in compliance with all ICCAT recommendations.

Table 1. Summary table of Bermuda catches of tuna and tuna-like species, 1999

Species	*Weight (MT)*
Yellowfin tuna	59
Bluefin tuna	1
Blackfin tuna	6
Albacore	2
False albacore	4
Skipjack tuna	<1
Wahoo	104
Blue marlin	1
White marlin	<1
North Atlantic swordfish	3
TOTAL	**186**

1 Original report in English.

NATIONAL REPORT OF THE UNITED STATES [1]

U.S. Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and 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 1999 was 28,020 MT. This represents an increase of about 8% (2169 MT) from 1998. Estimated swordfish catch (including estimated dead discards) decreased 70 MT to 3,585 MT, and provisional landings from the U.S. fishery for yellowfin in the Gulf of Mexico increased in 1999 to 2,899 from 2,006 in 1998. The estimated 1999 Gulf of Mexico landings were about 38% of the estimated total U.S. yellowfin landings in 1999. U.S. vessels fishing in the northwest Atlantic landed an estimated 1,214 MT of bluefin, a decrease of 20 MT compared to 1998. Provisional skipjack landings increased by 47 MT to 152 MT from 1998 to 1999, estimated bigeye landings increased by 334 MT compared to 1998 to an estimated 1262 MT in 1999, and estimated albacore landings decreased from 1998 to 1999 by 513 MT to 317 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 1999 and 2000 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 Science Center's Cooperative Tagging Center tagged and released 2,555 billfishes (swordfish, marlins and sailfish) and 940 tunas in 1999. This represents a decrease of 2% from 1998 levels for billfish, and a 62% decrease for tunas. Cooperative research was conducted with scientists from other nations on development of assessment methodologies, on biological investigations and on development of indices of abundance for species of concern to ICCAT.

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 of which were 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 increased to 7,569 MT in 1999, from the 1998 landings estimate of 5,619 MT (**Table 2.1-YFT**). The 1999 estimate 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

1 Original report in English.

made by recreational anglers. A high proportion of the landings were due to estimated rod & reel catches of recreational anglers in the NW Atlantic (3,818 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%; in 1998, 36%; and in 1999, 39%; 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 105 MT in 1998 to 152 MT in 1999. Most of the catch is taken off the U.S. east coast (NW Atlantic) between Cape Hatteras and Long Island. Estimates of recreational harvests of skipjack continue to be reviewed and could 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 57% of the U.S. bigeye catch in 1999. Total reported catches and landings (preliminary) for 1999 increased by 36% from 928 MT in 1998 to 1262 MT. Note that like yellowfin, the estimates of rod & reel catch are considered provisional and may be revised based on results of a future review of recreational harvest estimates.

2.2 Temperate tunas

Bluefin tuna. The U.S. bluefin 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 1999 landed an estimated 1,214 MT of bluefin tuna. Those estimated landings represent a decrease of 20 MT from the 1998 landings. The 1999 landings by gear were: 248 MT by purse seine, 116 MT by harpoon, 15 MT by handline, 225 MT by longline (of which 111 MT were from the Gulf of Mexico), 761 MT by rod and reel (of which, 103 MT was the preliminary estimate for bluefin less than 145cm SFL from off the northeastern United States), and less than 1 MT was taken by other gears.

In response to 1992 regulations limiting the allowable catch of small fish by U.S. fishermen, in accordance 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 1999 rod and reel fishery off the northeastern U.S. (including the North Carolina winter fishery) for landings in several size categories were 2,841 fish <115 cm (of which 44 fish, less than 0.2 MT, were <66 cm), 1,241 fish 115-144 cm and 345 fish 145-177 cm (an estimated 53, 50, and 33 MT, respectively).

In 1994, a catch and release fishery for 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 >177 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 program was instituted to monitor the catch, catch rates, and landings from this fishery. This component of the 1999 rod and reel fishery landings (included in the totals reported above) was estimated to be about 5 MT of fish <145cm, about 8 MT of fish 145-177cm, and about 6 MT of fish >177 cm. During January and February of 1999, the catch rates were somewhat higher than in 1998, but the catches mainly occurred off southern North Carolina.

The magnitude of dead discarded catch is not observed in the same way that landed catch is observed. Because of this, the magnitude of dead discarded catch must be estimated in some fashion. Estimates can vary, depending on the information used for estimation, leading to more uncertainty in these estimates. In previous reports,

historical estimates of U.S. longline dead discards (1992-97) were based upon tallies of reported dead discards by the fishermen on logbooks. Use of direct observations of discard rates for estimating dead discarded catch in the U.S. longline fleet has been applied for a range of species, including marine mammals, sea turtles, swordfish, blue marlin, white marlin, sailfish, and other species of interest to ICCAT. For these species, it has been demonstrated that direct observations of dead discard rates are typically higher than self-reported rates from logbooks. This is not an unexpected result since, in general, it is believed to be more difficult for fishers to maintain accurate daily records of the numbers and condition of fish thrown back to the sea than for fish that are kept for sale. It has been a long-standing recommendation of ICCAT's Standing Committee on Research and Statistics to implement scientific observer programs in Atlantic tuna fleets for the purpose of characterizing the total catch and its disposition. In view of these recommendations, ICCAT has recommended implementation of observer programs on Atlantic tuna fleets to obtain coverage of at least 5%, depending on the fishery. The United States has implemented scientific observer sampling in selected fleets and the U.S. ICCAT scientific enterprise has pursued research on methods to address characterizing the total catch composition and disposition from the observed fleet.

As for swordfish, billfishes, sharks and other species of interest to ICCAT, provisional estimates of U.S. longline discards of bluefin tuna based on direct observation of the U.S. pelagic fleet for the period 1992-1999 were completed and reported to the ICCAT west Atlantic Bluefin Species Group at its year 2000 meeting. The method applied provided a basis for characterizing the uncertainty in the estimates, which can be high. Due to sparse sampling in a number of geographical and time strata, the estimation procedure also provided an option for pooling across strata to achieve a minimum of 30 observations per stratum. The pooling order applied was based on an analysis that indicated smaller differences between years than between geographical or quarterly strata. The effect of the pooling assumption was compared and it was observed that in recent years estimates made without pooling were somewhat lower than with pooling, although that is not the case for all years.

It was not clear to the year 2000 ICCAT west Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Species Group, which reviewed the document presenting time-series estimates based both on direct observation of the fleet and from logbook reports, that the pooling method resulted in the best estimation for each individual year, but it was noted that the pooling method, when considering the entire time series, provided a consistent time series. The ICCAT west Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Species Group agreed to use the pooling method time-series in the assessment, but recommended that increased numbers of per stratum observations be considered to avoid the need for pooling in the future. The difference between assessment results using the tallies versus those adjusted with observer data are marginal. Indeed, the estimated average recruitment level used for evaluating stock outlook is slightly more *optimistic* when using the observer adjusted data. The ICCAT west Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Species Group recommended *"that further attention needs to be paid to the collection of data on discards and their subsequent estimation so that the effect of discarding can be fully included in the stock assessment. The quality of the information is enhanced by Observer Programs. Observer sampling should be sufficient to quantify discarding in all months and areas and to avoid the need for pooling across time or area strata thought to be important to constructing estimates. Studies should be conducted to improve estimation of discards and to identify methods that would reduce discard mortality. Studies should also be conducted to estimate the subsequent mortality of bluefin discarded alive."*

As the recovery plan allocation for dead discards was based upon an historical standard which, in turn, was based upon the logbook tally estimates, the corresponding consistent estimator for longline discards in the most recent (1999) calendar year is 30 MT. It is likely that the logbook tallies are less than the actual level of dead discards. However, without additional observational data, it is not possible to more precisely determine the actual level for any given year. It should also be noted that even with relatively high numbers of observations per stratum, the precision of the resulting estimates may not meet the needs of management. Information can be gained by comparison of calendar year 1999 estimates to the historical average *within an estimation method*. This comparison indicates that the management goal has likely been achieved, *i.e.* that 1999 dead discards are not significantly different than the historical average and perhaps even less.

The United States is committed to seeking a review of the dead discard estimation methodology from an independent scientific panel. This panel would recommend the most appropriate fashion to evaluate the precision and accuracy of methods and assumptions needed to estimate dead discarded catches given current sampling levels for the range of species taken as by-catch and for determining compliance given the terms of the rebuilding program. Our intent is to report the results of this study to ICCAT in 2001.

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 1996-1999.. Historically, commercial landings have primarily been made using longline gear. In 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; estimated recreational landings of albacore exceeded commercial landings reports each year during the 1980s, and since 1990 have exceeded commercial landings in 4 of 9 years. Estimated total catches of albacore were 333 MT in 1999, a decrease of 496 MT from 1998 which was primarily due to a decrease in estimated rod and reel catches from 601 MT in 1998 to 90 MT in 1999.

2.3 Swordfish

For 1999 the provisional estimate of U.S. vessel landings and dead discards of swordfish was 3,585 MT. This estimate is somewhat lower than the estimate of 3,660 MT for 1998. Decline in U.S. landings of swordfish compared to the 1989-90 average of about 5,000 MT per year was at least in part due 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 1999 (compared to 1998) were: 539 MT (576 MT) from the Gulf of Mexico (Area 91); 1511 MT (1349MT) from the northwest Atlantic (Area 92); 252 MT (501 MT) from the Caribbean Sea (Area 93); and 605 MT (632 MT) from the North Central Atlantic (Area 94A), and 179 MT (160 MT) from the SW 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 36,604 fish discarded dead in 1999, representing an estimated 449 MT of swordfish. This reflects an increase of 57 MT in estimated discarded swordfish from the 1998 level. An increase could be due to recent relatively strong recruitment as estimated in the most recent swordfish stock assessment.

Total weight of swordfish sampled for sizing U.S. landings by longline, otter trawl, trap, and rod & reel and handline was 2,847 MT, 7.5 MT, 0.03 MT and 5.04 MT in 1999. No harpoon or gillnet landings were reported in 1999. The weight of sampled swordfish landings in 1999 were 93%, 100%, 100%, and 10% of the U.S. total reported annual landings of swordfish for longline, otter trawl, trap and rod& reel and handline. Again, incorporation of late reports into the estimated 1999 landings figure will likely result in changes in the sampled fraction of the catch. Recent estimates of rod and reel landings of swordfish based on statistical surveys of recreational anglers, range from about 5-21 MT per year for the period 1996-1999.

2.4 Billfishes

Blue marlin, white marlin, and sailfish are landed by U.S recreational rod and reel fishermen and are a by-catch of the U.S. commercial tuna and swordfish longline fisheries. The U.S. Fisheries Management Plan for Atlantic Billfishes was implemented in October, 1988. The Plan allows billfish that are caught by recreational gear (rod and reel) to be landed only if the fish is larger than the minimum size specified for each species covered by the Plan. 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 National Marine Fisheries Service which provides estimates of recreational billfish harvest from waters along the northeastern U.S. (north of 35° N latitude). Landed recreational catch of these species by non-tournament fishers is not well estimated and for this reason, the landings reported for recreational rod and reel fishers is thought to be conservative. It is not yet known

to what degree or for which species, estimates of rod and reel landed catch should be adjusted to account for this feature, although studies are underway which could help to resolve this question.

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 the data from mandatory pelagic logbooks and scientific observer data collected on this fleet. The procedure for estimating the historical by-catch of blue marlin, white marlin, and sailfish was detailed in SCRS/96/97-Revised. This procedure was implemented for estimating the 1998 and 1999 by-catch mortalities from the U.S. longline fleet. 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 1999 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: 36.9 MT for blue marlin, 1.6 MT for white marlin, and 0.7 MT for sailfish. The estimates for 1998 were 49.2 MT, 2.6 MT, and 1.2 MT, respectively, for the three species. The estimates of the U.S. recreational 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.

Provisional estimates, which make use of observer sampling data in combination with logbook reported effort levels, of billfish by-catch discarded dead in the U.S. commercial longline and other commercial fisheries for 1999 were 82.1 MT for blue marlin, 56.7 MT for white marlin, and 71.6 MT for sailfish. The estimated 1998 U.S. discarded dead by-catch was 52.4 MT, 32.8 MT, and 27.1 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 were presented at the 2000 SCRS meeting in SCRS/00/52. Although billfish are considered "rare event" species in this survey and accordingly the estimates may suffer from bias and imprecision, they do provide a possible basis for evaluating the potential degree of conservatism in the values reported for recreational (rod and reel) harvest. These estimates were predictably higher than the previous RBS estimate due to more complete coverage of the recreational fishery for billfish by the MRFSS. However, due to an abrupt change in the historical size distribution of the MRFSS samples, the expanded estimates for blue marlin remain suspect and could be the result of some statistical , or other anomaly. Thus, revision to the task I series for marlin should not yet be adopted at this time as best estimates for the historical record.

2.5 Mackerels

Significant catches of king and Spanish mackerels by U.S. fishermen have occurred since the 1850's for Spanish mackerel and since the 1880's 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 1980's. 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 4365 MT to 8772 MT between 1983 and 1998 with an average production of 7648 MT since 1995. Annual catches of Spanish mackerel have ranged from 2784 MT to 5957 MT from 1983 to 1998 with the average catch being 3299 since 1995.

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 dressed weight (dw) to 816 MT dw, apportioned between ridgeback (620MT dw) and non-ridgeback (196MT 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 pelagic shark quota by over-harvest in blue shark quota; (4) establish a minimum size of 137 cm fork length for ridgeback sharks; (5) reduce the recreational bag limit to 1 shark per vessel per trip from 2 sharks allowed, with a minimum size of 137 cm fork length for all sharks, and an additional 1 Atlantic sharpnose shark per person per trip which used to be a limit of 2; (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.

Provisional estimates for 1999 are not yet available for the compete suite of sharks. Estimated catches of sharks by U.S. Atlantic tuna fleet vessels have been provided to ICCAT. In 1998, large coastal shark landings were estimated to be 2,058 MT, slightly higher than the 1997 totals of 1,809 MT, but still a reduction from the peak recorded, 4,600MT, 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. Recreational 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 reported landings remains unidentified.

3 Research activities

Research activities in 1999 and 2000 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 was continued. Research continued on 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 into estimating discard rates and volumes based on direct observations by scientific fishery observers was also continued. Research was also conducted 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.

Collaborative research with scientists from ICCAT member nations and cooperating parties continues. In early 2000, the SEFSC hosted a Brazilian scientist for several months. The intent of this collaboration is to improve our capacity to collaborate on stock assessment research with Brazil. Collaboration with a U.K. and other European Community scientists on topics of evaluation of fishery management-assessment feedback approaches to ICCAT species, continues. A postdoctoral research associate at the University of Miami's Cooperative Unit for Fisheries Education and Research in collaboration with SEFSC scientists has completed an update to the FISHLAB analysis package, which has been broadly distributed within the ICCAT community. The product of this research is expected to enhance stock assessment analysis capabilities in the U.S. and within other ICCAT member nations. Cooperative research by the U.S. NMFS and the INP in Mexico was continued, resulting in joint analyses of longline observer program data from the Gulf of Mexico fisheries of both countries. Research was undertaken by U.S. and Spanish scientists to evaluate the sensitivity of Atlantic yellowfin tuna assessments to different models, options, and assumptions regarding increasing fishing power in the purse seine fishery.

3.1 Bluefin tuna research

As part of its commitment to the Bluefin Program, research supported by the U.S. 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 1999 and 2000. 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.

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 Carolina, 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/00/145). Progress was reported on a study of the genetic composition of 127-190 and 197-277 cm bluefin captured in the west Atlantic and bluefin from multiple year classes caught in the Mediterranean (SCRS/00/147). Results from that work generally indicated that differences in genetic frequencies were primarily within regions rather than between regions; it also indicated that there could be between year class differences within the Mediterranean. Researchers at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science and at Texas A&M University initiated a project in late1999 to try to substantially increase the number of known variable loci for Atlantic bluefin; delays in funding hampered progress on that research but results are anticipated in late 2000 or in 2001.

Scientists from the Texas A&M University, University of Maryland and the National Marine Fisheries Service continued research on the feasibility of using otolith microconstituents to distinguish bluefin stocks. Interlaboratory comparison of Atlantic bluefin tuna otoliths were conducted between U.S. and Canadian laboratories. Results were well within acceptable levels; apart from one element (Mn), differences between labs were relatively minor (generally <6% for four elements and for the two elements for which differences exceeded 5% the abundances of the elements were low and there relative abundances were similar between the labs). Preliminary analyses comparing age 1 bluefin from the west Atlantic and the Mediterranean collected in 1998 indicated good separation (67-89% correctly classified depending on the approach used). Only two age zero fish were collected in the west in 1998, so a statistical comparison of age-0 western Atlantic vs. Mediterranean was not attempted.

Otolith chemistry of age-0 ABT was determined for individuals from several locations (Alboran Sea, Tyrrhenian Sea, Ionian Sea, Ligurian Sea) within the Mediterranean; samples from both 1998 and 1999 were assayed to examine spatial and temporal stability. Otolith signatures from different regions were relatively similar

while signatures from similar regions did vary among years suggesting that shifts in ambient water chemistry may be important. Otolith chemistry of juvenile bluefin tuna was measured to assess differences in composition among nursery areas in the western Pacific: East China Sea, Sea of Japan, and Pacific Ocean. Various analyses of bluefin tuna collected in 1994 & 1995 indicated concentrations of four elements (Na, Mg, Mn, Sr) differed among nurseries. Temporal stability of the elemental fingerprint was examined over a three-year period (1995-1997) in the East China Sea. Significant inter-annual trends were observed for Na, Mg, and Ba; however, differences in elemental fingerprints among nurseries were greater than temporal variability within a nursery. Efforts to obtain samples both in the West Atlantic and the Mediterranean regions continue.

Research on bluefin tuna movement patterns using electronic tags and on the associated methodology was continued in 1999 and 2000. Tagging activities continued off North Carolina (scientists from Stanford University, Monterey Bay Aquarium and NMFS) and off northeast North America (by scientists from (1) New England Aquarium, Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries, and D.F.O. from Canada and (2) Stanford University and the Monterey Bay Aquarium). Additionally researchers from Stanford University and the Monterey Bay Aquarium continued studying the feasibility of tagging bluefin tuna in the Gulf of Mexico in 1999 and 2000 successfully releasing 4 bluefin with electronic tags in 1999 and about 10 fish in 2000.

A summary of pop-up satellite tagging of giant bluefin tuna in the joint U.S.-Canadian program in the Gulf of Maine and Canadian Atlantic was reported by Lutcavage et al. (SCRS/00/95). Since 1997, 58 singlepoint and 21 light-sensing pop-up archival satellite tags (Microwave Telemetry, Inc., Columbia, Maryland) were deployed on giant bluefin tuna (178-266 cm SFL) in the western North Atlantic. The goals of the initial deployments were to test external tag attachments and the tags themselves, which evolved to include greater data logging capacity, additional sensors, and increased power. All of the tags were deployed on fish from New England and Canadian commercial or charter fishing vessels (harpoon, rod and reel, trap, and purse seine) using tag attachment techniques developed by the U.S. fishermen (authors Murray, Chaprales, Mendillo, and Genovese). Attachment periods ranged from 5 - 365 days, although the majority of tags detached from the fish over the presumed spawning period (April-July). Tag reporting success rates were 59% for single point tags and 79% (15 out of 19 due) for the archival tags. Three tags (shed from large fish in Canada) reported from land. Without exception, results from 1997-2000 tagging showed that all tagged fish were in the central Atlantic when their tags reported, and 30-58 % annually were within the eastern management area. The high tag reporting success rate was attributed to the experience of fishermen tagging partners, appropriate handling of the bluefin tuna during capture and tagging, careful tag placement, and proper storage and handling of the satellite tags. There are now data capable of depicting full migration paths and environmental associations (80-327 days) of ten fish (193-266 cm). Data successfully returned from the archival tags will generate geolocation estimates and errors associated with light-derived data. In 2000, plans are to deploy pop-up archival tags for 365-500 day attachments. The high level of tag reporting success in the west Atlantic studies was noted by the Group. The success of the long-term attachment of the PSATs enables such questions as spawning site fidelity to be addressed. Some of the discussion focused on the importance of understanding the methods of calculating geolocation, a topic that has recently been addressed at international tagging meetings (see SCRS/00/123).

Results of archival and pop-up tagging of bluefin in the western north Atlantic by the Standford-NMFS group was reported by Block et al.(SCRS/00/145). A total of 380 Atlantic bluefin have been equipped with implantable archival tags or pop-up satellite tags since 1996. Of the 279 implantable archival tags deployed, 30 have been recovered and 21 of these instruments have been returned. Seventy pop-up satellite tags have provided positions, ambient temperature and/or depth movements. This represents 90% of the expected returns from deployed pop-up satellite tags. Data on seasonal movements, transatlantic movement patterns, depth preferences and breeding behaviors have been obtained for fish assumed to be in the age 6-13 range. The authors suggest that bluefin tagged in the west display at least three distinct types of behaviors: (1) western residency with no visitation to spawning areas, (2) western residency with Gulf of Mexico breeding, and (3) transatlantic migrations to the East Atlantic or Mediterranean Sea. Again the high success of the pop-up tags was noted compared to the eastern study. The Group recommended that there be additional releases in the Gulf of Mexico in order to better understand spawning site fidelity.

A workshop on the biology of bluefin in the central Atlantic was held in May 2000 under the sponsorship of the East Coast Tuna Association and the Government of Bermuda. Electronic tagging results indicated the presence of large, presumably adult bluefin in the north Sargasso Sea during periods when spawning occurs in the

Gulf of Mexico and the Mediterranean Sea raising questions about what they are doing there. A multi-faceted research expedition was recommended (SCRS/00/125).

Research to support assessments and on assessment methods continued. U.S. scientists participated in the SCRS Assessment Methods Meeting in May 2000 and submitted 3 papers on assessment methods. U.S. scientists also participated in the Fifth Meeting of the Ad Hoc GFCM/ICCAT Working Group held in Malta and the West Atlantic Bluefin Working Group meeting held in Madrid in September 2000. U.S. scientists presented fourteen papers at that meeting on genetic analyses and tagging results, on basic statistics and indices of abundance and on assessment methods.

3.2 Swordfish research

In response to ICCAT recommendations, randomized observer sampling of the U.S. large pelagic fleet was continued into 1999. 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, 817 during 1993, 648 during 1994, 699 during 1995, 361 during 1996, 455 during 1997, 287 during 1998 and 430 during 1999, corresponding to nominal sampling fractions of about 2.5%, 6%, 5.2%, 5.2%, 2.5%, 3.1%, 2.9% and about 4% 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, sharks and other species from the U.S. fleet were developed from that analysis for the 2000 SCRS.

Research on the genetics of swordfish in the Atlantic was also continued although no manuscript on the topic was presented to the 2000 SCRS. The analysis conducted by investigators from the FISHTEC consortium, has provided 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.

In support of monitoring the swordfish stock status in a way that explicitly accounts for the sexually dimorphic growth of swordfish, analyses of catch rate patterns which make use of the sex-specific age slicing algorithms used in the 1999 stock assessment were conducted and reported upon (SCRS/00/144). Fisher reported and observed swordfish catch, size and catch rate patterns through 1999 were examined in support of monitoring the recovery of north Atlantic swordfish. U.S. catch rates from the pelagic longline fleet indicate a somewhat improved condition in 1999 compared to earlier years.

3.3 Yellowfin tuna research

A number of studies were conducted by U.S. scientists in cooperation with scientists from other countries. Research was undertaken by U.S. and Spanish scientists to evaluate the sensitivity of Atlantic yellowfin tuna assessments to different models, options, and assumptions regarding increasing fishing power in the purse seine fishery. The results of this research are reported in SCRS/00/70. Cooperative research by the U.S. NMFS and the INP in Mexico was continued, resulting in joint analyses of longline observer program data from the Gulf of Mexico fisheries of both countries. This research led to the calculation of yellowfin tuna abundance indices, which are presented in SCRS/00/67. Future cooperative research plans include the development of abundance indices for sharks and other tunas, as well as the refinement of the yellowfin tuna indices as additional data becomes available.

Cooperative research on yellowfin tuna abundance indices was also conducted by scientists from Venezuela and the U.S. NMFS. The resulting standardized catch rates for yellowfin tuna from the Venezuelan pelagic longline in the Caribbean Sea and western central Atlantic are presented in SCRS/00/50. Scientists from the U.S.

NMFS and Venezuela also continued 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 results of this study are presented in SCRS/00/46.

U.S. scientists also calculated yellowfin tuna abundance indices using data from the U.S. rod and reel fishery off the U.S. coast from Virginia through Massachusetts (SCRS/00/64) as well as from logbook data reported by the U.S. longline fleet (SCRS/00/65). Yellowfin tuna tag-releases and recaptures from the U.S. Cooperative Tagging Center Program are reviewed in SCRS/00/66.

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. Further training sessions in late 2000 are also planned In 1999 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 makerels 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 Highly Migratory Species. 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 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 is also being monitored and reported to ICCAT through a scientific observer sampling program.

3.7 Billfish Research

Sampling of recreational billfish tournaments continued in 1999 along the U.S. east coast, Gulf of Mexico, Bahamas, and U.S. Caribbean. A total of 161 billfish tournaments were sampled in 1999 (compared to 120 tournaments in 1998). This represented 118,488 hours of fishing effort, an increase of about 29,445 hours from the 1998 level. In 1999, sampling accounted for 241 billfish boated (175 blue marlin, 36 white marlin, 30 sailfish, and 0 spearfish); 2,683 released; and 2,341 tagged-and-released. In comparison, in 1998, there were 245 billfish boated (168 blue marlin, 31 white marlin, 46 sailfish, and 0 spearfish); 2,629 released; and 1332 tagged-and-released). Morphometric measurements of billfish landings were also taken in conjunction with the ICCAT Enhanced Research Program for Billfish (ERPB).

A total of 10 U.S. scientific documents were prespared for and presented to the Fourth ICCAT Billfish Workshop, held in Miami, USA in July 2000. These are summarized below.

Document SCRS/00/52 noted that assessments of sailfish and marlins are usually limited to application of surplus-production models, because the size and age composition of catches are not known. However, even annual catches of these species are unreported in some Atlantic fisheries where they are taken as by-catch. Past billfish assessments have omitted the missing data, an *ad hoc* approach that reduces the credibility of the assessment. In

theory, if recent catch and effort data are available for fisheries lacking historical catch data, it should be possible to fit a surplus-production model by estimating historical catches from corresponding data on fishing effort. Enhancements to ASPIC(the computer program used for non-equilibrium surplus-production modeling in previous assessments) for this task were tested on simulated fisheries data generated by a simulation model constructed around life history characteristics of Atlantic blue marlin. The resulting simulated population included sex, size, and age structure on a monthly basis; growth was sexually dimorphic, with females attaining larger asymptotic mean sizes; and size at age was variable. Annual recruitment was determined from spawning biomass with a Beverton-Holt stock-recruitment function, as modified by density-independent stochastic survival. The simulation model was used to generate sample time series of simulated catches and population abundance histories using several alternative assumptions about natural and fishing mortalities, stock-recruitment slopes, and measurement error. The resulting time series of simulated catches and abundances were fitted with and without missing catches using ASPIC. Estimates of maximum sustainable yield (MSY), and the ratios of the most recent year's stock biomass to biomass at MSY (BMSY) and fishing mortality to fishing mortality at MSY (FMSY) were compared to known values from the simulations; results with and without missing catches were contrasted. The results characterized biases most likely arising from dissimilarity of the strongly age structured simulation model and the age aggregated surplus-production model. Nonetheless, fitted values for BMSY and FMSY averaged very near the true values. ASPIC results with missing catches were very similar to those based on complete catch data, but not surprisingly were somewhat more variable.

Document SCRS/00/53 pointed out that the objective of ICCAT resource management is to achieve stock sizes and fishing mortality rates that produce maximum sustainable yield in biomass (MSY). Generally, the model of choice for estimating the condition of the stock relative to MSY has been a surplus-production model. For recent billfish assessments, the surplus-production model has been fitted with computer program ASPIC. An underlying assumption in such estimation of MSY is that indices of population abundance used in fitting are measured in units of biomass. Because of available data, ICCAT billfish assessments have been conducted using indices of abundance (CPUE) in numbers rather than in biomass. This discrepancy is expected to bias estimates of MSY and related benchmarks. Using simulated fisheries data, we evaluated the impact of this substitution on estimates of management benchmarks. The simulation model was constructed around the life history characteristics of Atlantic blue marlin, and explicitly included sex, size, and age structure on a monthly basis. Growth was sexually dimorphic, with females attaining larger asymptotic mean sizes, and size varied about mean size at age. Annual recruitment was determined from spawning biomass with a Beverton-Holt stock-recruitment function, modified by density-independent stochastic survival. For this evaluation, natural mortality M was assumed to decline from 0.5/yr at first recruitment to 0.10/yr by the age of three, and the slope of the unfished stock-recruitment curve was assumed to be 10. A logistic surplus-production model was fitted to the simulated data sets using ASPIC. Simulations and analyses were performed over the range of estimates of the von Bertalanffy growth parameter k for blue marlin found in the literature. Estimates of management benchmarks differed when numbers- and biomass-based measures of abundance were used in fitting. In summary, biomass-based measures provided generally better fits and estimates of benchmarks closer to the truth. However, those summary results are strongly influenced by cases using the lowest published values of k. For other values of k, estimates from numbers-based CPUE tended to be more accurate than those in from biomass-based CPUE; this result presumably stems from offsetting biases. In the absence of conclusive data on billfish growth rates, the importance of this source of error cannot be quantified precisely. Better understanding of growth in these species would allow more precise quantification of likely biases arising from the use of numbers-based abundance indices.

Document SCRS/00/54 discussed the analyses of blue marlin and white marlin stock structure using mitochondrial DNA, single copy nuclear DNA, and microsatellite DNA are summarized to survey variation across large samples of both species. The levels of variation revealed by the different molecular methodologies varied between species and molecular markers, and was quite high for both mtDNA and the microsatellite loci. Analysis of samples from the same location taken in different years did not reveal significant spatial heterogeneity and allowed us to pool temporal samples to increase the power of spatial analyses. We did not find significant spatial heterogeneity in the distribution of allelic variants for any of the molecular markers. The genetic results are consistent with the natural history of both species--their continuous distribution across the tropics, broad spawning times and areas, and high vagility as adults--and support the hypothesis that blue marlin and white marlin comprise a single stock within the Atlantic Ocean.

Document SCRS/055 reviewed the 1997 ICCAT Commission recommendation that, beginning in 1998, all parties reduce "blue marlin and white marlin landings by at least 25% for each species from 1996 landings, such reduction be accomplished by the end of 1999." This Commission recommendation was based on the SCRS recommendation "that reductions in fishing mortality are necessary to avoid further declines in the stocks and to begin rebuilding these stocks." An evaluation is presented comparing the U.S. blue marlin rod and reel catches in 1999 with 1996, updating the 1998 versus 1996 preliminary comparison (SCRS/99/99). The results of the evaluation presented indicate that in order to achieve a 25% reduction by weight in blue marlin rod and reel landings in year 2000, relative to 1996 landings using minimum size, the minimum size for this species would likely have to be increased to above the current 99 inch lower jaw fork length limit. Higher minima would have greater chances of achieving this implementation for the entire fishing year, and some buffer against further increases in the average size of available blue marlin in 2000 and beyond relative to those available in 1996.

Document SCRS/00/56 provided an update of the historical tag release and recapture files for Atlantic istiophoridae (*i.e.* marlins and sailfish). The sources of data in this update were limited to the Southeast Fisheries Science Center's Cooperative Tagging Center (CTC), The Billfish Foundation (TBF), and the South Carolina's Department of Marine Resources (SCDMR). Data for Istiophoridae are available from 1954 to 2000 for the CTC, from 1990 to 2000 for TBF, and from 1980 to 2000 for SCDMR. The data were presented by agency, gear type, and days at large for Atlantic blue marlin (*Makaira nigricans*), white marlin (*Tetrapturus albidus*), and sailfish (*Istiophorus platypterus*).

Document SCRS/00/57 noted that some components of the U.S. recreational marlin landings are not precisely measured and have not been routinely included in the landings reported to ICCAT. This is reflected by the caveat that these reported landings are "minimum estimates." This paper represented a revision and update of SCRS/99/98 and further explores the possible integration of the U.S. Marine Recreational fishery Statistics Survey (MRFSS) catch estimates and the U.S. Atlantic Recreational Billfish Survey (RBS). The resulting model attempts to estimate total U.S. recreational marlin landings by adjusting for the bias in the relatively precise annual RBS estimates. The bias correction was based on regressions of relatively unbiased, but highly imprecise, MRFSS estimates on the RBS estimates. The resulting models were used to predict the U.S. recreational landings of Atlantic blue marlin and white marlin for 1981-1999.

Document SCRS/00/58 developed indices of abundance of blue marlin and white marlins from the U.S. recreational tournament and non-tournament fisheries for the period 1973-1999. The indices of abundance in numbers of fish and weight were estimated from numbers of billfish caught and reported to the Recreational Billfish Survey (RBS) program. The standardized indices were estimated using Generalized Linear Mixed Models under a delta lognormal model approach. Factors in the analysis included year, area, season and first-level interactions. The model analyzed the fishing success and effort of each day-location, weighted by the number of boat trips. Model selection, diagnostics and comparison with prior standardized series were presented.

Document SCRS/00/59 developed indices of abundance of blue and white marlins from the United States Pelagic Longline fishery are presented for the period 1986-1999. The index of weight (kg) per 1000 hooks was estimated from numbers of billfish caught and reported in logbooks submitted by commercial fisherman, and from mean annual weight recorded by scientific observers aboard longline vessels since. The standardization analysis procedure included the following variables: year, area, season, gear characteristics (light sticks, main line length, hook density, *etc*) and fishing characteristics (bait type, operations procedure, and target species). The Pelagic Observer Program, collects more detailed information which permitted evaluation of relationships between billfish catch rates and other fishing (hook type and size, main line material and size, rattlers, gangion size and material, etc) or environmental variables (sea-surface temperature, weather condition, wind) for the U.S. longline fishery. The standardized index was estimated using Generalized Linear Mixed Models under a delta lognormal model approach.

Document SCRS/00/60 indicated that size frequencies of catches represent a useful adjunct to catch, effort and abundance information for stock assessment. Size frequencies of blue and white marlin (*Makaira nigricans*, and *Tetrapturus albidus*, respectively) have been collected at U.S. recreational tournaments since 1972. The U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Marine Recreational Fishing Statistics Survey (MRFSS), and the NMFS Large Pelagic Survey have made limited additional observations of the U.S. recreational marlin catch during dockside interviews of fishermen since 1982 and 1984, respectively. Other size data for marlin are available

for U.S. and Venezuelan longline fisheries. These include measurements taken by observers on Venezuelan longline vessels since 1987, and on U.S. vessels since 1989. These data are supplemented with dockside samples of billfish landed in Venezuela beginning in 1987. Length frequencies constructed from these data showed increasing mean sizes in the recreational fisheries in recent years. This trend is the result of the implementation of minimum size regulations that truncated the size distribution of landed fish. This trend is not reflected in the samples from longline fisheries. Sex ratios for both species change from predominately male, or unknown sex at smaller sizes to predominantly female at larger sizes.

Document SCRS/00/61 reviewed attempts to improve the accuracy of stock assessments of blue marlin (*Makaira nigricans*) and white marlin (*Tetrapturus albidus*) using habitat based standardization of CPUEs derived from the longline fishery in the Atlantic Ocean. It has been suggested that by failing to account for the discrepancy between the vertical distribution patterns of marlins and non-traditional fishing effort, a strong bias will be present in the CPUE analysis. This paper examined the approach of estimating CPUEs under the assumption that blue marlin are restricted to a narrow depth and temperature range.

The NMFS SEFSC again played a substantial role in the ICCAT Enhanced Research Program for Billfish in 1999, with SEFSC scientists acting as general coordinator and coordinator for the western Atlantic Ocean. Major accomplishments in 1999 include the following: (1) completion of about 24 at-sea observer trips on Venezuelan longline vessels by October 1999; (2) three of the at-sea observer trips completed were on the larger Korean type vessels that stay out about one month; (3) continuation of the swordfish observer program and biological sampling in Venezuela; (4) continuation of work on shore-based sampling, including billfish tournament sampling in Barbados, St. Maarten, Grenada, Jamaica, Senegal, Cote d'Ivoire, Trinidad and Tobago, and Venezuela; (5) continued efforts to retrieve tag-recaptured billfish (particularly successful in the southeast Caribbean where more than 165 recaptures were reported in 1999); (6) age and growth sampling of billfish continued in 1999; (7) the Western Atlantic coordinator acted as chairman of the newly formed ICCAT tag recovery network in 1999; and (8) SEFSC staff made several extended trips to numerous Caribbean locations in 1999 to assist in coordination of the program and collect data; (9) the Western Atlantic Coordinator collaborated with VIMS and Bermuda Department of Fisheries on a pop-up satellite tagging project of blue marlin to evaluate this technology of estimating post-release survival.

3.8 Tagging

Participants in the Southeast Fisheries Science Center's Cooperative Tagging Center (CTC) tagged and released 2,555 billfishes (including swordfish) and 940 tunas in 1999. This represents a decrease of 2% from 1998 levels for billfish and a decrease of 62% for tunas for the CTC. The Billfish Foundation (TBF) reported tagging 5,929 billfish and 36 tunas for 1999. Among the CTC 1998 billfish releases, there were 963 blue marlin, 451 white marlin, 938 sailfish and 131 swordfish. For CTC tuna releases, there were 627 bluefin tuna, 297 yellowfin tuna, 1 bigeye tuna and 15 releases of other tuna species.

There were 90 billfish recaptures from the CTC reported in 1999, representing a decrease of 1% from 1998. Among the 1999 CTC billfish recaptures there were 30 blue marlin, 14 white marlin, 36 sailfish, and 10 swordfish. The ICCAT Enhanced Research Program for Billfish in the West Atlantic Ocean has continued to assist 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 1999, 55 bluefin tuna, and 17 yellowfin tuna. These recaptures represent a decrease of 1% with respect to 1998. The Billfish Foundation recovered a total of 204 tagged billfishes in 1999, including 111 blue marlin, 38 white marlin, 51 sailfish, and 3 swordfish. TBF also reported 9 tunas recaptured in 1999, all 9 bluefin tuna.

There were several noteworthy CTC billfish recaptures during 1999. The longest reported sailfish movement (i.e. minimum straight distance traveled) was 1,160 nautical miles (NM) from a fish released off South Florida (25° 50' N, 80° 0' W) and recaptured off La Guaira, Venezuela (11° N, 66° 50' West) after 2,289 days at large (6.2 years). The longest straight line distance traveled for a blue marlin recaptured in 1999 was 1,699 NM from a fish released off Louisiana coast (28° N, 91° W) and recaptured off La Guaira, Venezuela (11° N, 66° 50' W). Another blue marlin recaptured in 1999 was at large 9.5 years (3473 days), this fish was released and recaptured off La Guaira, Venezuela. The longest straight line distance traveled by a white marlin in 1999 was 1,603 NM from a

fish released off Hatteras, North Carolina (37°N, 74°W) and recaptured off La Guaira, Venezuela, after 1,740 days at large.

For bluefin tuna, the longest movement during 1999 (4,247 NM) was from a fish released off Hatteras, N. C. (35° 13' N, 75° 42' W) and recovered off Madeira Islands (Portugal) (14° 8' N, 34° 58' W) 857 days later. There was a trans-Atlantic yellowfin tuna recapture, released off Cape Hatteras, N.C. (38° 10' N, 74° 10' W) and recaptured off the Bay of Biscay, near Spain (34° N, 4° W), a distance of about 3,106 NM, in 779 days. All CTC and TBF release and recapture data for 1999 were made available to ICCAT to supplement its database.

Various electronic tagging efforts directed at bluefin tuna were continued in 1999. 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 (SCRS/99/103).

A successful pilot study assessing popup satellite tag technology for estimating post-release survival of blue marlin from recreational vessels off Bermuda (SCRS/99/71) was reported to the 1999 SCRS (SCRS/99/97). This collaborative research effort, between the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (Dr. John Graves and Dave Kerstetter), the Bermuda Division of Fisheries (Dr. Brian Luckhurst), and the National Marine Fisheries Service (Dr. Eric Prince) was continued in 2000 on longline vessels. Preliminary results from blue marlin tagged from longline vessels are encouraging, with data from 5 out of 7 tagged blue marlin indicating the fish survived the catching and tagging events.

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 4,026 sets (2,650,813 hooks) were recorded observed by personnel from the SEFSC and NEFSC programs from May of 1992 to December of 1999. Observers from the SEFSC region recorded over 94,000 fish species (primarily swordfish, tunas, and sharks), marine mammals, turtles, and seabirds during this time period. Observer coverage by the Southeast and Northeast Fisheries Science Centers (SEFSC and NEFSC) successfully recorded effort from 329 observed sets during 1992, 817 during 1993, 648 during 1994, 699 during 1995, 361 during 1996, 455 during 1997, 287 during 1998 and 430 during 1999, corresponding to nominal sampling fractions of about 2.5%, 6%, 5.2%, 5.2%, 2.5%, 3.1%, 2.9% and about 4% respectively.

Southeast U.S. Shark Drift Gillnet Fishery Observer Coverage. The SEFSC Pelagic Observer Program at the Panama City Laboratory observed 53 sets of the shark drift gillnet fishery during 1999. Effort took place in waters off of south Georgia, as well as central and south Florida.

Foreign Fishery Observers. There was no foreign fishing activity in the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) off the east coast during 1999.

4 Implementation of ICCAT conservation and management measures

Resolution Concerning the Need for New Approaches to Deter Activities That Diminish the Effectiveness of ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures (Rec 99-12) The United States is committed to full participation in ICCAT's efforts to ensure the sustainability of living marine resources in the Convention Area. The United States is actively involved in the FAO initiative to develop an international plan to action (IPOA) to combat IUU, including participating in all meetings related to the development of the IPOA to date. In addition, the United States signed the UN Agreement on Straddling and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks on December 4, 1995, and we ratified that agreement on August 8, 1996. With regard to the Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas, the United States accepted that agreement on December 19, 1995.

Resolution Endorsing the FAO International Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity (Res 99-13). This endorsement of the FAO Plan by the Commission requires no specific action of Contracting Parties. However, the United States was strongly supportive of the efforts to develop an IPOA for the Management of Fishing Capacity and is developing its NPOA as called for by that FAO document.

Recommendation on the Establishment of a Closed Area/Season for the Use of Fish-Aggregation Devices (Rec. 99-1). No U.S. action is necessary. The United States does not have any surface fleets fishing in the area covered by this recommendation.

Recommendation Concerning Possible Management Measures for Northern Albacore (Rec. 99-5). The United States is already in compliance with the limitation on fishing capacity as described in the 1998 recommendation because of the limited access program that has been implemented for the U.S. pelagic longline fishery. NMFS will continue to provide ICCAT with an annual list of commercial vessels in the directed fishery for northern albacore and will continue to submit the best available catch and effort data to the SCRS in support of scientific assessments.

Recommendation to Extend the Southern Albacore Management Arrangement and to Improve Monitoring (Rec. 99-6). The United States must endeavor to limit total catch of southern albacore to no more than 4% of the target catch. We expect that limited access in the pelagic longline fishery and the quota for swordfish, which is the major directed fishery for U.S. vessels in the South Atlantic, will prevent catches of southern albacore from increasing substantially. The recommendation allows approximately 15 MT of southern albacore landings by the United States (based on the U.S. quota of 384MT ww for South Atlantic swordfish). NMFS intends to monitor the fishery and annually consider whether rulemaking is necessary to limit the total U.S. catch of southern albacore.

Resolution on the Clarification of the Stock Structure and Boundaries Between the Swordfish Stocks in the Atlantic (Rec. 99-3). The United States will continue to support the study of swordfish stock structure and boundaries, including genetic analysis, tag recapture studies, and other scientific techniques, to the extent practicable, and will cooperate with the efforts of the SCRS to evaluate the results of these programs.

Recommendation to Establish a Rebuilding Program for North Atlantic Swordfish (Rec. 99-2). The NMFS is developing a final rule that establishes the U.S. quotas for North Atlantic swordfish for 2000-2002 in accordance with the 1999 ICCAT recommendation. The rule also establishes the U.S. allowance for dead discards for 2000-2002. Together with existing conservation measures, these measures comprise a rebuilding program for North Atlantic swordfish. On August 1, 2000, NMFS established time/area closures in the Gulf of Mexico and off the Atlantic coast of the southern United States in order to minimize by-catch of small swordfish.

Resolution for the Development of Possible Time/Area Closures for North and South Atlantic Swordfish and Gear Modifications to Reduce Undersized Swordfish and Fishing Mortality (Res. 99-4). The United States will continue to provide the SCRS with data on catch at size, by sex, location, and month of capture on the smallest scale possible.

Recommendation Regarding Equatorial Guinea Pursuant to the 1996 Recommendation Regarding Compliance in the Bluefin Tuna and North Atlantic Swordfish Fisheries (Rec. 99-10). Publication of a final rule to implement these trade sanctions in the United States is underway, and is expected to enter into force in October 2000.

Recommendation Concerning Import of Bluefin Tuna and its Products from Panama (Rec. 99-9). Publication of a final rule to lift these trade sanctions in the United States is underway, and is expected to enter into force in October 2000.

Recommendation Regarding Belize and Honduras Pursuant to the Swordfish Action Plan (Rec. 99-8) Publication of a final rule to implement these trade sanctions in the United States is underway, and is expected to enter into force in October 2000

Resolution Calling for Further Actions Against Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported Fishing Activities by Large-Scale Longline Vessels (Res. 99-11). No regulatory action is required at this time. Implementation of this

resolution will continue to be discussed within the U.S. government. The United States fully supports the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) initiative to address the problems associated with IUU fishing.

Resolution on Improving Recreational Fishery Statistics (Res 99-7). Recreational landings are estimated through a combination of tournament surveys, the Large Pelagic Survey (LPS), the Marine Recreational Fishing Statistics Survey (MRFSS), and state landings data. Final regulations adopted in 1999 require selected HMS charter/headboat vessels that do not already do so to complete a logbook; implementation of this requirement is underway. In 1999, NMFS mandated the registration of all recreational tournaments for highly migratory species. All tournaments are now required to submit landing reports. NMFS has also published an advance notice of proposed rulemaking to request public comment on options to further improve the monitoring of recreationally landed billfish and swordfish [65 FR 48671]. One potential management alternative is to require that a landing tag be affixed to all recreationally landed billfish and swordfish. Information supplied by a landing tag program could provide NMFS with improved catch data for HMS landings outside the tournament context and could help monitor recreational landings against applicable limits.

Recommendation Regarding Atlantic Billfishes (Rec. 98-10). 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%). Initially, 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) [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].

The NMFS recently published an advance notice of proposed rule making requesting the public to comment on options for reducing U.S. recreational landings of Atlantic blue marlin. One possible alternative is to further increase the minimum size. Another alternative is to establish a mandatory catch-and-release format for all Atlantic billfish tournaments.

Registration and Exchange of Information on Bigeye Tuna Fishing Vessels (Rec. 98-2; Rec. 98-3). 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 1999. 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 1999 fishing season.

Regarding the 1998 *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Bigeye Tuna Conservation Measures for Fishing Vessels Larger than 24 m LOA*, (Rec. 98-3) note 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 1,099MT, which is below the 2,000MT 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* (Rec. 98-3) 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 2000 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 (approximately 6.8 kg) applies to all U.S. fisheries landing bigeye tuna, both commercial and recreational.

Limitation of Fishing Capacity on Northern Albacore (Rec. 98-8). 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 was 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. The total number of longline vessels permitted to fish for Atlantic swordfish and Atlantic tunas, including northern albacore, is 455. While the number of permits in the longline fishery will not increase in future years, an 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 percent or an increase of more than 10 percent 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 (Rec. 97-12). The 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. The implementation date has been delayed by a pending lawsuit from a coalition of pelagic longline fishermen. However, more than 10% of permitted longline vessels have already purchased a VMS unit.

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 (Res. 98-18). 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. Any findings of interest will be circulated in advance of the Commission meeting. 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 into, or exported from, the United States must be accompanied by a Bluefin Statistical Document (BTSD). In the United States, the completed BTSD must be sent to NMFS' Northeast Regional Office within 24 hours of a bluefin tuna shipment entering or leaving the country. Data from the BTSD are included in Appendix I. [2]

Recommendation Concerning Implementation of an Alternative for the Conservation of Undersized Atlantic Swordfish and the Reduction of Fishing Mortality (Rec. 95-10). To facilitate enforcement of the U.S. minimum size, the import of Atlantic swordfish less than 33 lb (15 kg) dressed weight is prohibited. In 1999, NMFS

2 Information was provided to the SCRS and Commission Meetings (as Appendices I to VI); this information is available on request. Details should be requested from the United States.

launched a new program that requires a Certificate of Eligibility for all swordfish imports [64 FR 12903]. This program facilitates 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 that have been collected through the Certificate of Eligibility program from June 1999 through May 2000 are included in Appendix II.

Recent management actions for Atlantic highly migratory species can be found online at: http://www.nmfs.gov/sfa/hms/finalFMP.html. Federal Register notices containing the full text of proposed and final regulations can be found at: http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/aces/aces140.html

NATIONAL REPORT OF VENEZUELA [1]

Fondo Nacional de Investigaciones Agropecuarias (FONAIAP)
Servicio Autónomo de los Recursos Pesqueros y Acuícolas (SARPA)

1 Introduction

In Venezuela, the *Fondo de Investigaciones Agropecuarias* (FONAIAP), is the official organism in charge of carrying out agricultural research program, including the fishing sector. The *Servicio Autónomo de los Recursos Pesqueros y Acuícolas* (SARPA) is the agency responsible for the management and administration of the fishery resources.

The research projects on tunas and billfishes are carried out at the *Centro de Investigaciones Agropecuarias* of the States of Sucre and Nueva Esparta (CIAE-Sucre/N.Esparta), based in Cumaná, in cooperation with various national and international institutions, such as the University of Oriente, SARPA, ICCAT and IRD.

2 The fisheries

2.1 Purse seine

The Venezuelan fleet is comprised of 36 purse seine vessels, 10 of which fish in the West Atlantic Ocean and the remainder fish in the East Pacific Ocean **(Table 1)**. The fishing area of Venezuela purse seiners is between 5° and 15°N and 51° and 73°W.

The catch taken by the purse seine fleet in 1999 amounted to 10,290 MT, which showed a 27.42% decrease with respect to 1998. Yellowfin tuna *(Thunnus albacares)*, comprised 63.40% of the catches by this fleet, and skipjack tuna *(Katsuwonus pelamis)* comprised 26.20%. Other species caught by the fleet were blackfin tuna *(Thunnus atlanticus)*, frigate tuna *(Auxis thazard)*, albacore *(Thunnus alalunga)* and bigeye tuna *(Thunnus obesus)*. These species represented 10.40% of the catch **(Table 2)**.

The effort exerted by these vessels in 1999 was 1,146 days at sea, with the highest effort corresponding to the fourth quarter for vessels between 301 and 650 GRT. In addition, yellowfin tuna catches were between 1.35 and 22.23 MT/day at sea, and the highest catches correspond to the first and second quarters. Skipjack tuna catches amounted to 13.81 MT/day at sea in the first quarter **(Table 4)**.

2.2 Baitboat

The Venezuelan baitboat fleet is comprised of 13 fishing vessels and these operate in the same areas as the purses seiners. Catches taken by these vessels amounted to 4,762 MT, maintaining levels similar to those in 1998. The major species taken by this fleet were yellowfin tuna *(Thunnus albacares)* 87.19% and skipjack tuna *(Katsuwonus pelamis)* 5.90% **(Table 3)**.

Effort exerted by the baitboat fleet for this year was 1,711 days at sea. Yellowfin tuna catches ranged between 0.13 and 2.85 MT/day at sea. The highest catches were made during the second and fourth quarters. Skipjack catches ranged between 0.02 and 0.50 MT/day at sea, with the highest catches corresponding to the first quarter **(Table)**.

1 Original report in Spanish.

2.3 Longline

Thirty-two (32) Venezuelan longliners that operated in the Atlantic Ocean in 1999.

The catch by the tuna longline fleet was 749.3 MT. Yellowfin tuna *(Thunnus albacares)* was the most important species in the catch (65.65%), whereas catches of other tunas, namely albacore *(T. alalunga)* and bigeye tuna *(T. obesus)* represented 12.87% of the catch; billfishes comprised 8.24% of the catch. Effort applied by the fleet was 2,341,763 hooks **(Table 6)**.

2.4 Artisanal fleet

- Playa Verde (La Guaira area, central Venezuelan coast)

Billfish fishing activities in this region are carried out throughout the year. The fleet is comprised of 33 vessels, ranging in size from 7 to 10 m, and the fishing gear is floating driftnet.

The catch of this fishery is mainly comprised of fish of the *Istiophoridae* family, namely sailfish *(Istiophorus albicans)* and blue marlin *(Makaira nigricans)*, with catches of 140.1 and 190.3 MT, respectively, and tunas, with landings of 28.8 MT. Other species in the catch included various shark and dolphin species *(Coryphaena hippurus)* **(Table 7)**.

- Juangriego (Margarita Island)

This is the base port for 74 artisanal longline vessels that target king mackerel *(Scomberomorus cavalla)* and billfishes. Their fishing activities are carried out in the northeastern area of Venezuela. These vessels are of an artisanal nature with lengths ranging between 9 and 14 m, and they fish using surface drift longline.

In this fishery, the reported catches indicate that billfishes, i.e. white marlin *(Tetrapturus albidus)* and sailfish *(Istiophorus albicans)* were the most abundant, with catches of 21.32 and 17.50 MT. The volume of tunas landed was 43,47 MT, comprised mainly of blackfin tuna with 22.47 MT. A species that in recent years has acquired importance due to its market value is dolphin *(C. hippurus)* and landings of this species amounted to 39.15 MT in 1999 **(Table 8)**.

3 Activities in research and statistics

Venezuela carried out research on the fishery for large pelagics, including tunas and billfishes. Biological sampling continued on the various species landed at the ports of the States of Sucre, Anzoátegui and Nueva Esparta. In 1999, sampling was carried out on 8,799 tunas and billfish from industrial fishing landings, and 9,965 fish from the artisanal fishery **(Tables 9 and 10)**. The percentage composition of the catch was carried out by multi-species sampling at the ports in order to correct the landings reported in the logbooks on the different fishing methods of the industrial fishery. The results indicate that the most important species in the landings of the various fisheries is yellowfin tuna, with quarterly percentages that fluctuate from 54.89% to 75.98% in the purse seine fishery, 76.46% to 92.52% in the baitboat fishery, and 27.08% to 82.70% in the longline fishery **(Tables 11 and 12)**.

Catch and effort were studied in the hook fishery for king mackerel *(Scomberomorus cavalla)* in eastern Venezuela. This program was carried out at the Nueva Sparta local station of FONAIAP. A catch of 1,169 MT was reported for this species in 1999, with an effort of 53,760 hooks and an average annual CPUE of 21.8 kg/hook days. The species showed a marked seasonality and the major catches were taken in the months of May, June and July, as were catches per unit of effort **(Table 13)**.

Monitoring of catch and effort was carried out on the industrial vessels that fish in the West Atlantic Ocean using baitboat, purse seine and longline. The industrial fleet carried out 469 trips, with an overall coverage rate of 71.22%, while by fishery type, the coverage rates were 75.47% for purse seine, 74.12% for baitboat, and 68.29% for longline **(Table 14)**.

The digitalization of historical data continued in the Venezuelan longline fishery, attaining a catch and effort data series by time/area strata from 1986 to 1999, which will be transmitted to ICCAT.

Within the ICCAT Billfish Intensive Research Program in Venezuela, sponsored by the Commission, billfish sampling continued at the ports of Playa Verde and Juangriego, in the central coastal area and Margarita Island, respectively. In addition, trips were carried out on longline vessels that direct their effort at tuna and swordfish. In 1999, there were 35 observer trips carried out in this type of vessel. The research carried out within the framework of the Program continued, with the collaboration of the *Centro de Investigaciones Agropecuarias* (FONAIAAP) and the Oceanographic Institute of the University of Oriente. The research included the analysis of the seasonality of the various billfish species caught by the Venezuelan fleet (industrial and artisanal), the analysis of the artisanal billfish fishery in the area of La Guaira, and the analysis of sport fisheries of the Playa Grande Club (the major marina of Venezuela). The results of these investigations are presented in SCRS/00/45, SCRS/00/74, and SCRS/00/75. Scientists of the Oceanographic Institute of the University of Oriente and the NMFS of the United States, together with researchers of FONAIAP, carried out a study on the reproductive dynamics of yellowfin tuna in the West Atlantic, where the spawning areas and season of this species in the West Atlantic were determined; the results were presented in SCRS/00/46.

The research activities in the sport fishery are carried out in the Playa Grande Club, which is the major marina of the sport fishery in the country. In 1999, 950 trips/day were reported, during which six blue marlin, three white marlin and four sailfish were caught and released. Additionally, four sport fishery tournaments were organized by this Club, in which 44 vessels participated during 42 effective days of fishing. Seven white marlin, 61 blue marlin and one sailfish were caught and released during these tournaments. It was determined that the low reported catches of billfishes in the regular sport fishing activities of the Playa Grande Club are due to differences in the catch reports by the owners of the vessels.

Information is provided on the reported catches of small tunas in Venezuela in1999. In this group of species, caught by the artisanal driftnet fishery, catches of king mackerel *(Scomberomorus cavalla)* and Atlantic black skipjack *(Euthynnus alletteratus)*, with 2,423 MT and 2,247 MT, respectively were noteworthy (**Table 15**).

Implementation of the ICCAT conservation and management measures

Venezuela implemented conservation measures on billfishes and swordfish that entered into force in February, 2000. Among these are the following:

- A minimum size limit on swordfish (125 cm LJFL), with zero tolerance
- A minimum size limit on blue marlin (180 cm LJFL), white marlin (150 cm LJFL) and sailfish (160 cm LJFL).
- Mandatory release of live billfish that are caught by the industrial fishery.
- Prohibition imposed on sport fishermen to market billfish catches, and the mandatory reporting of their fishing trips and the number of fish released and/or retained to the fishing authorities.
- An expansion of the protection area of marlins in the La Guaira area, which excludes the industrial and artisanal fisheries. Only a group of 33 artisanal vessels are allowed to fish in the area, but the replacement and transfer of fishing permits is prohibited. There are also restrictions on the fishing gear.

Table 1. Composition of the Venezuelan industrial fleet in the Atlantic, by carrying capacity, 1990-1999

Capacity	*YEAR*									
(MT)	*1990*	*1991*	*1992*	*1993*	*1994*	*1995*	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*
Purse seine										
201-400	2	2	2	3	2	1	1	1	1	1
401-600	3	4	7	8	8	9	9	9	6	6
601-800		1	1		1	1	1	1		1
801-1000	7	9	6	4	8	3	4	4	2	2
1001-1200										
>1200	2	1	1	1	1				1	1
Total	14	17	17	16	20	14	15	15	10	11
Baitboat										
10-30	4	4	6	7	5	4	4	2	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	
71-90	1	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	8	8	8	8	6	8	8
Total	15	15	17	19	17	16	16	12	14	13
Longline										
0-50	21	19	27	24	29	33	33	33	30	26
51-100	2	2	2	3	5	4	3	3	4	4
101-150	2	2	3	3	4	6	6	4	4	2
151-200				1						
201-250										
251-300	2									
301-350			1							
351-400		1	1	1						
Total	27	24	34	32	38	43	42	40	38	32

Table 2. Venezuelan purse seine catches (in MT) in the central West Atlantic, 1999

	Quarter					
Species	*I*	*II*	*III*	*IV*	*Total*	*%*
Yellowfin tuna (YFT)	1,840	2,007	1,103	1,573	6,523	63.40
Skipjack tuna (SKJ)	424	560	490	1,222	2,696	26.20
Frigate tuna (FRI)	29	17	15	36	97	0.94
Albacore (ALB)	55				55	0.53
Bigeye tuna (BET)	26	4	4	41	75	0.73
Blackfin tuna (BLF)	50	44	57	693	844	8.20
Total	**2,424**	**2,632**	**1,669**	**3,565**	**10,290**	**100.00**

Table 3. Venezuelan baitboat catch (in MT) in the central West Atlantic, 1999

	Quarter					
Species	*I*	*II*	*III*	*IV*	*Total*	*%*
Yellowfin tuna (YFT)	558	1,190	998	1,406	4,152	87.19
Skipjack tuna (SKJ)	145	566		80	281	5.90
Frigate tuna (FRI)	0	0	0	0	0	
Albacore (ALB)	0	0	0	0	0	
Bigeye tuna (BET)	0	4			4	0.08
Blackfin tuna (BLF)	7	11	306	1	325	6.82
Total	**710**	**1,261**	**130**	**1,487**	**4,762**	**100.00**

Table 4. Effort (in days at sea) and catch per unit of effort (in MT/days at sea) for the Venezuelan baitboat and purse seine industrial fishery in the central West Atlantic, 1999

Quarter	*Gear*	*Days at sea*	*Capacity*	*RYFT*	*RSKJ*	*Others*
		20	<301	6.42	0.82	
I	PS	155	>301<650	3.83	5.83	0.30
		18	>650	22.23	13.81	0.39
		100	<301	2.08	2.53	0.33
II	PS	189	>301<650	9.49	3.52	0.08
		40	<301		0.48	1.74
III	PS	120	<301<650	5.21	1.87	0.71
		48	>650	1.35	0.81	
		240	<301<650	1.36	1.80	0.57
IV	PS	216	>650	2.41	0.82	0.07
		52	<60	0.13	0.50	0.01
I	BB	144	>60<150	0.41	0.48	0.02
		122	>60<150	1.33	0.13	
		240	>150	1.33	0.39	
		59	>60<150	2.19	0.02	
II	BB	344	>150	2.85	0.20	0.04
		116	>60<150	1.80	0.04	
III	BB	295	>150	2.49	0.22	
IV	BB	339	>150	2.71	0.22	

Table 5. Catch (MT) of the Venezuelan tuna longline fleet in the Atlantic Ocean, 1999

	Quarter					
Species	*I*	*II*	*III*	*IV*	*Total*	%
Yellowfin tuna (YFT)	42.8	92.1	173.5	183.5	491.9	65.65
Albacore (ALB)	16.6	5.0	3.0	11.5	36.0	4.80
Bigeye tuna (BET)	40.8	0.6	3.8	15.3	60.5	8.07
Blue marlin (BUM)	7.8	5.2	6.4	9.0	28.4	3.79
White marlin (WHM)	6.0	3.2	5.4	9.3	24.4	3.26
Sailfish (SAI)	2.9	1.5	1.5	2.9	8.9	1.19
Swordfish (SWO)	2.5	1.4	1.7	3.9	9.5	1.26
Wahoo (WAH)	0.7	2.3	0.7	0.1	3.8	0.51
Dolphinfish (DOL)	1.0	0.2	0.1		1.3	0.18
Sharks (SHK)	35.2	18.4	13.7	15.7	83.0	11.07
Atlantic bonito (BON)	1.3	0.2			1.5	0.21
Total	**15.76**	**130.1**	**209.8**	**251.2**	**749.3**	**100.00**

Table 6. Effort (in hooks) and CPUE (in kg-100 hooks) in the Venezuelan industrial longline fishery for tuna and billfishes in the central West Atlantic, 1999

	Quarter				
Species	*I*	*II*	*III*	*IV*	*Total*
Yellowfin tuna (YFT)	6.86	19.35	27.65	29.89	21.01
Albacore (ALB)	2.65	1.05	0.48	1.87	1.54
Bigeye tuna (BET)	6.54	0.13	0.60	2.50	2.58
Blackfin tuna (BLF)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Wahoo (WAH)	0.11	0.47	0.12	0.02	0.16
Dolphinfish (DOL)	0.16	0.05	0.02	0.00	0.06
White marlin (WHM)	1.05	0.67	0.85	1.51	1.04
Blue marlin (BUM)	1.24	1.10	1.01	1.47	1.21
Sailfish (SAI)	0.47	0.32	0.24	0.48	0.38
Swordifsh (SWO)	0.40	0.29	0.27	0.63	0.40
Sharks (SHK)	5.64	3.86	2.19	2.56	3.54
Atlantic bonito (BON)	0.21	0.04			
HOOKS	**624,096**	**475,959**	**627,617**	**614,091**	**2,341,763**

Table 7. Catch (in MT) and effort (in trips) for the Venezuelan artisanal driftnet fishery for billfishes off the central coast, 1999

Month	*SAI*	*BUM*	*WHM*	*SWO*	*FRI*	*WAH*	*SHK*	*DOL*	*BON*	*YFT*	*SKJ*	*OTH*	*Total*	*Trips*
Jan	11.2	23.1	3.1	2.5	0.5	0.2	1.3	0.3	2.0	1.7	0.4	0.1	46.3	277
Feb	2.2	12.8	2.0	4.0	4.7	0.1	2.1	1.6	2.9	2.4	1.6	1.3	37.6	236
Mar	8.7	23.8	1.5	2.4	4.3	0.1	1.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.1	42.1	250
Apr	6.6	19.8	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.1	0.4	0.7	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	28.3	161
May	11.3	24.3	0.6	1.4	0.0	0.1	0.5	0.7	0.0	1.8	0.0	1.7	42.5	197
Jun	9.6	13.0	0.6	2.8	0.0	0.1	0.9	1.0	0.5	0.6	0.0	1.1	30.3	229
Jul	16.0	11.6	2.0	1.2	0.0	0.1	1.0	0.7	0.0	0.4	0.4	1.0	34.4	242
Aug	19.8	16.5	1.6	2.1	0.0	0.1	1.0	0.8	0.1	0.4	0.0	0.7	43.1	389
Sep	16.2	12.3	3.1	1.0	0.0	0.1	0.9	0.4	0.1	0.4	0.0	0.5	35.1	343
Oct	22.5	13.9	1.9	1.2	0.0	0.1	0.7	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.7	41.2	331
Nov	12.0	10.7	1.5	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.1	0.0	0.4	0.1	0.1	26.4	301
Dec	4.0	8.6	0.5	0.5	0.1	0.0	0.7	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	14.8	144
Total	**140.1**	**190.3**	**18.3**	**20.5**	**9.7**	**1.2**	**11.0**	**6.6**	**5.7**	**8.3**	**2.9**	**7.4**	**422.1**	**3180**

Table 8. Catch (in MT) and effort (in hooks), monitored in the artisanal longline fishery for billfishes in eastern Venezuela and adjacent areas, 1999

Month	*Hooks*	*WHM*	*SAI*	*BUM*	*DOL*	*WAH*	*YFT*	*BLF*	*ALB*	*SHK*	*OTH*	*Total*
Jan	47,700	2.25	1.85	0.19	1.15	0.95	0.71	3.69	0.04	0.09	0.77	11.68
Feb	50,140	1.14	0.94	0.10	1.75	1.29	3.51	2.27		0.85	0.22	12.07
Mar	56,440	1.65	1.35	0.14	6.97	1.50	2.03	1.64		2.25	0.51	18.03
Apr	42,200	0.85	0.70	0.07	3.30	0.67	0.80	1.65		0.27	0.22	8.53
May	37,900	1.23	1.01	0.10	5.52	0.80	0.17	1.37		1.10	0.99	12.29
Jun	62,675	2.58	2.12	0.22	9.67	2.40	1.71	0.56		0.49	0.52	20.26
Jul	19,200	0.90	0.74	0.08	1.26	0.37	0.30	2.60		0.10	0.00	6.36
Aug	70,050	3.10	2.55	0.26	5.65	0.59	0.56	1.02		0.11	1.02	14.86
Sep	22,700	1.19	0.98	0.10	1.55	0.20	0.69	2.47		0.08	0.24	7.51
Oct	53,980	4.72	3.88	0.40	1.42	0.14	0.99	4.71		0.36	0.54	17.15
Nov	18,050	1.31	1.07	0.11	0.44	0.03	0.22	0.08		0.06	0.00	3.31
Dec	17,200	0.40	0.32	0.03	0.47	0.05	0.29	0.40		0.13	0.02	2.11
Total	**498,235**	**21.32**	**17.50**	**1.79**	**39.15**	**8.98**	**11.98**	**22.47**	**0.04**	**5.89**	**5.05**	**134.16**

Table 9. Biological sampling of tuna and tuna-like fish in the Venezuelan industrial fishery for tunas in the West Atlantic Ocean, 1999

Species	*Purse seine (PS)*	%	*Baitboat (BB)*	%	*Longline (LL)*	%	*Total*
Yellowfin tuna (YFT)	1,393	36.4	1,647	68.5	1,099	42.8	4,139
Skipjack tuna (SKJ)	1,874	49.1	677	28.1			2,551
Frigate tuna (FRI)	174	4.6	76	3.2			250
Albacore (ALB)	5	0.1			260	10.1	265
Bigeye tuna (BET)	51	1.3	5	0.2	209	8.1	265
Blackfin tuna (BLF)	329	8.6			24	0.9	353
White marlin (WHM)					105	4.1	105
Sailfish (SAI)					179	7.0	179
Spearfish (SPF)					37	1.4	37
Blue marlin (BUM)					63	2.5	63
Swordfish (SWO)					365	14.2	365
Sharks (SHK)							
Dolphinfish (DOL)					161	6.3	161
Wahoo (WAH)					66	2.6	66
TOTAL	**3,826**	**100.0**	**2,405**	**100.0**	**2,568**	**100.0**	**8,799**
%	**43.5**		**27.3**		**29.2**		**100.0**

Table 10. Biological sampling of billfishes in the Venezuelan artisanal driftnet and longline fisheries, 1999

Species	Artisanal driftnet	%	Artisanal longline	%
White marlin (WHM)	934	9.56	59	29.50
Blue marlin (BUM)	2,416	24.74	3	1.50
Sailfish (SAI)	5,878	60.19	138	69.00
Swordfish (SWO)	537	5.50		
Total	**9,765**	**100.00**	**200**	**100.00**

Table 11. Percentage composition, by quarter, of the tuna catches by Venezuelan surface tuna fleets (baitboat and purse seine), in the central West Atlantic, 1999

	Baitboat				*Purse seine*			
Species	*I*	*II*	*III*	*IV*	*I*	*II*	*III*	*IV*
Yellowfin tuna (YFT)	78.66	94.33	76.46	92.52	75.98	76.26	54.59	44.18
Skipjack tuna (SKJ)	20.37	4.49	0.00	4.28	17.48	21.29	38.37	34.30
Frigate tuna (FRI)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.17	0.66	1.07	0.98
Albacore (ALB)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.28	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bigeye tuna (BET)	0.00	0.30	0.00	0.14	1.05	0.14	0.42	1.20
Blackfin tuna (BLF)	0.97	0.88	23.54	3.07	2.05	1.65	5.24	19.34

Table 12. Percentage composition, by quarter, of tuna catches by the Venezuelan tuna longline (LL) fleet in the central West Atlantic, 1999

	Longline				
Species	*I*	*II*	*III*	*IV*	*Total*
Yellowfin tuna (YFT)	27.08	70.76	82.70	73.06	65.66
Albacore (ALB)	10.47	5.44	1.42	4.56	4.80
Bigeye tuna (BET)	25.81	0.46	1.80	6.10	8.07
Blue marlin (BUM)	4.91	2.46	2.55	3.70	3.79
White marlin (WHM)	4.16	2.46	2.55	3.70	3.26
Sailfish (SAI)	1.85	1.16	0.73	1.02	1.19
Swordfish (SWO)	1.58	1.08	0.81	1.54	1.26
Wahoo (WHA)	0.43	1.73	0.35	0.06	0.51
Dolphinfish (DOL)	0.61	0.18	0.06	0.01	0.18
Sharks (SHK)	22.26	14.11	6.55	6.25	11.07
Atlantic bonito	0.84	0.16			0.21
Total	**100.00**	**100.00**	**100.00**	**100.00**	**100.00**

Table 13. Catch (in kg), by species, and effort (in hook days) and CPUE (kg/hook day), in the artisanal hook fishery in eastern Venezuela, 1999

	Catch (kg)				*Effort*		*CPUE*				
Month	*KGM*	*DOL*	*PIC*	*WAH*	*TOT*	*Hooks/ day*	*KGM*	*DOL*	*PIC*	*WAH*	*Total*
Jan	36.1	27.6	0.0	0.0	63.6	2,730	13.2	10.1	0.0	0.0	23.3
Feb	49.3	9.1	5.4	0.3	64.2	4,760	10.4	1.9	1.1	0.1	13.5
Mar	59.2	7.6	13.1	1.1	81.0	6,236	9.5	1.2	2.1	0.2	13.0
Apr	109.3	5.7	11.9	0.0	126.8	4,575	23.9	1.2	2.6	0.0	27.7
May	223.9	48.5	0.7	0.2	273.4	6,826	32.8	7.1	0.1	0.0	40.0
Jun	227.0	41.3	14.6	0.0	283.0	8,118	28.0	5.1	1.8	0.0	34.9
Jul	267.1	7.3	17.2	0.0	291.7	9,778	27.3	0.8	1.8	0.0	29.8
Aug	117.2	0.8	6.0	0.0	124.1	5,203	22.5	0.2	1.2	0.0	23.8
Sep	46.2	0.0	5.0	0.0	46.7	2,140	21.6	0.0	0.3	0.0	21.8
Oct	18.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	18.5	1,144	16.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.2
Nov	13.8	3.1	0.0	0.0	17.0	922	1.5	3.4	0.0	0.0	18.4
Dec	2.1	0.0	5.7	0.0	7.8	1,328	1.6	0.0	4.3	0.0	5.9
Total	**1169.8**	**151.0**	**75.3**	**1.6**	**1397.7**	**53,760**	**21.8**	**2.8**	**1.4**	**0.0**	**26.0**

Table 14. Trips by industrial tuna vessels in the central West Atlantic, 1999

	Purse seine		*Baitboat*		*Longline*	
Month	*R*	*C*	*R*	*C*	*R*	*C*
Jan	3	1	1	11	10	2
Feb	1	1	17	14	13	6
Mar	4	3	18	12	28	25
Apr	1	1	8	9	19	18
May	5	5	16	14	25	17
Jun	2	2	13	12	21	16
Jul	4	3	13	8	19	14
Aug	3	3	16	7	21	13
Sep	4	4	15	8	20	15
Oct	3	2	13	10	29	20
Nov	6	5	18	15	25	13
Dec	17	10	12	7	24	9
TOTAL	**53**	**40**	**170**	**126**	**246**	**168**
%	75.47		74.12		68.29	

Table 15. Catches of small tunas in Venezuela, 1999

Species	*Catch (MT)*
Frigate tuna (FRI)	1524
Atlantic bonito (BON)	1596
Atlantic black skipjack (LTA)	2247
Serra Spanish mackerel (BRS)	1766
King mackerel (KGM)	2424
Wahoo (WAH)	448
Total	**8239**