

- RECOMMENDATION -
ICCAT BLUEFIN TUNA STATISTICAL
DOCUMENT PROGRAM (BTSD): FROZEN BLUEFIN PRODUCTS

**TITLE: *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning
the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program***
(Entered into force: **July 25, 1993**)

RECOGNIZING the special situation of the west Atlantic bluefin tuna stock and the bluefin tuna market:

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the stringent ICCAT management regime for this stock and the need to adopt complementary measures to ensure its effectiveness;

RECOGNIZING that in this context it is essential to improve the reliability of statistical information on catches of Atlantic bluefin tuna;

RECALLING the Resolution Concerning Catches of Bluefin Tuna by Non-Contracting Parties adopted at the Twelfth Regular Meeting of the Commission (in Madrid in 1991);

RECALLING further the efforts of the Working Group to Develop Technical Details for the Implementation of the ICCAT Resolution on Non-Contracting Parties, held in Tokyo, Japan in May, 1992;

BEING AWARE that a considerable number of vessels fishing for Atlantic bluefin tuna are registered to nations which are not members of ICCAT;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the strenuous efforts which have been undertaken by Contracting Parties to address the problems created by catches of Atlantic bluefin tuna by non-ICCAT member nations;

CONSIDERING that some of the non-ICCAT member nations have great difficulty in providing information on the catches of their flag vessels;

ALSO BEING AWARE that this Program may be adapted to the specific regulations established in ICCAT Contracting Parties, as well as in the framework of regional economic organizations;

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

RECOMMENDS that Contracting Parties, no later than September 1, 1993, require that all bluefin tuna, when imported into the territory of a Contracting Party or at the first entry into a regional economic organization, be accompanied by an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document which meets the requirements described in the Appendix to this Recommendation.

*Appendix to the Recommendation Concerning
the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program*

- 1 The ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Document must contain the following information:
 - a the name of the country issuing the document
 - b the name of the exporter and the importer
 - c the area of harvest of the fish in the shipment (i.e., for the Atlantic Ocean the areas would be the east, west, or Mediterranean Sea)
 - d the gear utilized to catch the fish
 - e the type of product and total weight
 - f the point of export;

and must be validated by a government official of the flag state of the vessel that harvested the tuna.

However, such a validation may be waived when the following criteria are met by the flag state for the vessel that harvested the tuna:

- a all bluefin tuna available for sale are tagged or included in an ICCAT-accepted logbook or ICCAT-accepted information retrieval system;
- b all information relating to the tag, the ICCAT-accepted logbook or the ICCAT-accepted information retrieval system is compiled by that government;
- c the compiled information is provided in a timely fashion to ICCAT;
- d the compiled information includes that outlined as the above.

ICCAT accepts that an equivalent statistical document program, that ensures the same objectives and provides the same information as the above may be applied. Countries or regional economic organizations will inform the ICCAT Executive Secretary, for appropriate circulation, six months in advance of application, of equivalent statistical document program.

- 2 Customs or other appropriate government officials will request and inspect all import documentation including the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document for all bluefin tuna in the shipment. Those officials may also inspect the content of each shipment to verify the information on the document.
- 3 At the initial stage of the program, the document will be required for frozen bluefin products. Prior to implementing this Program for fresh products, several practical problems need to be solved, such as guidelines to ensure procedures to handle fresh products at customs.
- 4 Implementation of this Program shall be in conformity with relevant international obligations.
- 5 The effectiveness and practical aspects of the implementation of this Program will be considered by the Commission.