

Taking into account the goals of maintaining improvements in the west Atlantic bluefin tuna stock and taking precautionary measures and without prejudicing the traditional fishing rights of nations,

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

FIRST :

- a) That the Contracting parties, whose nationals have been actively fishing for bluefin tuna in the western Atlantic, institute, for the interim, effective measures to limit the biennial quota for scientific monitoring purposes for 1994 and 1995 to 3,195 MT, which is divided into a quota of 1,995 MT in 1994, and a quota of 1,200 MT in 1995, unless SCRS scientific information in 1994 indicates otherwise.
- b) That 400 MT of the 3,195 MT two-year quota for scientific monitoring purposes described in paragraph (a) be taken by the Japanese pelagic longline fishery with no more than 250 MT taken in 1994, and Japan will forego, for the two-year period, its percentage share of the west Atlantic quota agreed to in 1991. The remaining portion of the catch limit for scientific monitoring purposes will be taken by Canada and the United States in the same relative proportions previously agreed to in 1991.
- c) Unused quota in 1994 can be carried over to the 1995 quota. Beginning with the 1994 catch, if the catch of one of these Contracting Parties exceeds its relative proportion of the scientific monitoring quota, then in the year following the reporting of that catch to ICCAT, that Contracting Party will reduce its catch to compensate in total for that overage. Such a reduction will be applied to the domestic catch category of the applicable Contracting Party of the overage.
- d) That Contracting Parties conduct studies during the two year interim period; specifically, a comprehensive scientific review of matters related to the west Atlantic stock so that the Contracting Parties that have traditionally harvested this stock will have sufficient scientific information so as to be able to develop in 1995 a recovery program aimed at achieving a 50 % increase from current levels in the spawning stock biomass by the year 2008.

SECOND :

That the three Contracting Parties will prohibit the taking and landing of bluefin tuna weighing less than 30 kg or, in the alternative, having a fork length of less than 115 cm.

Notwithstanding the above measures, the Contracting Parties may grant tolerances to capture bluefin tuna either weighing less than 30 kg, or in the alternative having a fork length less than 115 cm, to limit the take of these fish to no more than 8 % by weight of the total bluefin catch on a national basis and would institute measures such that there would not be economic gain to the fishermen from such fish.

THIRD :

These three Contracting Parties will encourage their commercial and recreational fishermen to tag and release all fish less than 30 kg or in the alternative having a fork length less than 115 cm.

FOURTH :

That the adoption of the above measures concerning the western Atlantic must not imply any modification in the ICCAT recommendation adopted in 1974 concerning a minimum weight of 6.4 kg adopted for the entire Atlantic and fishing mortality limited to recent levels in the eastern Atlantic; this latter measure having been extended until a new decision is made by ICCAT.

FIFTH :

That the Contracting Parties take measures to prohibit any transfer of fishing effort from the western Atlantic to the eastern Atlantic in order to avoid increasing fishing mortality of bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic. Such measures shall be reported in due time to the Commission for possible review at its next meeting.

SIXTH :

That the developing bluefin tuna fisheries in the western Atlantic of Brazil and Cuba shall not be subject to the limitation addressed herein.

SEVENTH :

That there will be no directed fishery on the bluefin tuna spawning stocks in the western Atlantic in spawning areas such as the Gulf of Mexico.

EIGHTH :

That, notwithstanding the provisions of Article VIII, paragraph 2, of the Convention, with respect to paragraphs a) and b) of the First recommendation, the Contracting Parties whose nationals have been actively fishing for bluefin tuna in the western Atlantic take steps to implement this recommendation as soon as possible in accordance with the regulatory procedures of each country.