

**- RECOMMENDATION -  
MANAGEMENT OF BFT FISHING  
IN THE WESTERN ATLANTIC OCEAN**

**TITLE: *Recommendation by ICCAT for the Management of Bluefin Tuna  
Fishing in the Western Atlantic Ocean***  
(Entered into force: **October 2, 1995**)

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

- 1 a) That the Contracting Parties, whose vessels have been actively fishing for bluefin in the western Atlantic, will institute a scientific monitoring quota for 1995 and 1996 of 2,200 MT each year, unless the SCRS scientific information in 1995 indicates otherwise, which is divided annually into the following country quota shares:

Canada	535.6 MT
Japan	353.0 MT
United States	1,311.4 MT

- b) Unused quota or overage from the 1994 quotas for each Contracting Party, agreed to at the 1993 ICCAT meeting, will be added or subtracted as appropriate from the above 1995 quotas.
- c) Furthermore, a Contracting Party may carry over any unused quota in 1995 to 1996 and any overage by a Contracting Party in 1995 will be deducted from their 1996 quota.
- 2 a) If a scientific monitoring quota between 2,200 MT and 2,660 MT is established for 1997 and thereafter, the ratio of sharing among the three countries shall be according to the shares set forth in paragraph 1(a) above. If a scientific monitoring quota of 2,660 MT or above is established for 1997, or thereafter, the sharing of the annual quota shall return to the following traditional shares:

Canada	21.54 %
Japan	26.32 %
United States	52.14 %

- b) However, if a scientific monitoring quota between 2,200 MT and 2,660 MT is established, the quotas for Canada and the U.S. will not exceed the traditional quotas that have been applied to the scientific monitoring quota of 2,660 MT (573 MT for Canada, 1,387 MT for the U.S. Any amounts in excess of these countries' traditional quotas shall be added to Japan's quota.
- c) Notwithstanding paragraph 1(a), if a scientific monitoring quota greater than 2,660 MT is established for 1996, the traditional shares in paragraph 2(b) shall apply.
- 3 a) That the three Contracting Parties will prohibit the taking and landing of bluefin tuna weighing less than 30 kg, or in the alternative having a fork length of less than 115 cm.
- b) Notwithstanding the above measures, the Contracting Parties may grant tolerances to capture bluefin tuna either weighing less than 30 kg, or in the alternative having a fork length less than 115 cm, to limit the take of these fish to no more than 8% by weight of the total bluefin catch on a national basis and to institute measures to deny economic gain to the fishermen from such fish.
- 4 These three Contracting Parties will encourage their commercial and recreational fishermen to tag and release all fish less than 30 kg or in the alternative having a fork length less than 115 cm.
- 5 That the adoption of the above measures concerning the western Atlantic must not imply any modification in the ICCAT Recommendation adopted in 1974 concerning a minimum weight of 6.4 kg adopted for the entire Atlantic and fishing mortality limited to recent levels in the eastern Atlantic; this latter measure having been extended until a new decision is made at ICCAT.

- 6 In order to avoid increasing fishing mortality of bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic, the Contracting Parties will continue to take measures to prohibit any transfer of fishing effort from the western Atlantic to the eastern Atlantic.
- 7 That the developing bluefin tuna fishery in the western Atlantic of Brazil shall not be subject to the limitation addressed herein.
- 8 That there will be no directed fishery on the bluefin tuna spawning stocks in the western Atlantic in spawning areas such as the Gulf of Mexico.
- 9 That, notwithstanding the provisions of Article VIII, paragraph 2, of the Convention, with respect to paragraphs 1(a) and (b) above, the Contracting Parties whose vessels have been actively fishing for bluefin tuna in the western Atlantic shall implement this recommendation as soon as possible in accordance with the regulatory procedures of each country.
- 10 That the assessment and determination of quota for western Atlantic bluefin tuna shall be made at the 1996 annual ICCAT meeting.