94-13 RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON LIMITATION OF CATCHES OF SOUTHERN ALBACORE

NOTING that the southern albacore (Thunnus alalunga) resource is assessed to be exploited beyond maximum sustainable yield (MSY) and current replacement yield (RY) levels;

NOTING FURTHER that this assessment is consistent with annual assessments produced for this resource since 1991, all indicating exploitation beyond MSY;

RECOGNIZING THAT this continued exploitation beyond MSY and RY levels has resulted in a decline of the southern albacore resource to below B_{MSY} , and that current fishing morality (F) exceeds F_{MSY} ;

RECOGNIZING ALSO the importance of introducing immediate measures to limit southern albacore catches to sustainable levels, thereby halting further declines in this resource;

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

- 1. Countries fishing actively for south Atlantic albacore should introduce appropriate domestic measures to limit their catch of southern albacore during 1995 to not more than 90 % of their respective average annual catches over the period 1989 to 1993.
- 2. The Commission shall request ICCAT non-Contracting Parties which actively fish for southern Atlantic albacore to respect this Recommendation, to introduce similar measures to reduce their catches of southern Atlantic albacore and not to shift fishing effort so released onto other fully exploited Atlantic tuna resources.
- 3. During the 1995 Regular Commission Meeting, ICCAT should review the success of such domestic measures in reducing southern Atlantic albacore catches, with a view to introducing an appropriate Total Allowable Catch limit for south Atlantic albacore, with effect from 1 January 1996.