

- RESOLUTION -  
ATLANTIC SWORDFISH ACTION PLAN

**TITLE: *Resolution by ICCAT Concerning an Action Plan to Ensure the Effectiveness of the Conservation Program for Atlantic Swordfish***  
(Entered into force: **June 22, 1996**)

*RECOGNIZING* that the goal of ICCAT is to maintain populations of tuna and tuna-like fishes in the Atlantic at levels which will permit harvesting maximum sustainable yield;

*CONSIDERING* the need for action to ensure the effectiveness of ICCAT objectives to conserve and manage Atlantic swordfish;

*RECOGNIZING* that a considerable number of vessels fishing for Atlantic swordfish are registered to nations which are not members of ICCAT;

*BEING AWARE* of the strenuous efforts by Contracting Parties to ensure enforcement of ICCAT's conservation and management measures and to encourage non-member nations to abide by these measures;

*FINDING* that the ICCAT regime's ability to manage Atlantic swordfish on a sustainable basis is diminished by harvesting contrary to ICCAT recommendations and recognizing the need for measures complementary to the ICCAT regime to ensure the effectiveness of those recommendations;

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

- a) That the Commission, through its appropriate subsidiary body, shall review annually the implementation of the Commission's conservation recommendations by each Contracting Party. The Commission will recommend annually any necessary new measures to be taken to ensure compliance by Contracting Parties.
- b) That the Executive Secretariat shall develop and send a letter to non-Contracting Parties fishing for Atlantic swordfish in the Convention area requesting full cooperation with the Commission in implementing the ICCAT conservation programs.
- c) That the Commission, through its appropriate subsidiary body, shall identify annually those non-Contracting Parties whose vessels have been fishing for Atlantic swordfish in a manner which diminishes the effectiveness of the relevant conservation recommendations of the Commission. These identifications shall be based on the catch data compiled by the Commission, the trade information obtained through national statistics, and any other relevant information. Every effort shall be made by all Contracting Parties in a position to do so, to develop, by the 1996 ICCAT meeting, adequate catch and trade information with respect to non-Contracting Parties sufficient to determine the effect on the swordfish conservation program.
- d) That the Commission shall request those non-Contracting Parties identified in paragraph (c) to rectify their fishing activities so as not to diminish the effectiveness of the ICCAT conservation programs and to advise the Commission of actions taken in that regard.
- e) That the Commission, through its appropriate subsidiary body, shall review annually the actions taken by those non-Contracting Parties identified and requested in paragraphs (c) and (d) and identify those non-Contracting Parties which have not rectified their fishing activities in accordance with paragraph (d).
- f) That to ensure the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation recommendations for Atlantic swordfish, the Commission will recommend that Contracting Parties take non-discriminatory trade restrictive measures, consistent with their international obligations, with respect to Atlantic swordfish products in any form from those non-Contracting Parties identified in paragraph (e).