

-- RECOMMENDATION --  
ON BIGEYE TUNA & YELLOWFIN TUNAS

**TITLE: *Recommendation by ICCAT on Bigeye and Yellowfin Tunas***  
(Entered into force: **August 4, 1997**)

*NOTING* the management recommendations and the associated resolutions adopted by ICCAT for the conservation of tunas and related species in the Atlantic;

*NOTING* the 1996 report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) of ICCAT;

*NOTING* the management and research recommendations proposed to the Commission by the SCRS, particularly those relating to bigeye and yellowfin tunas.

*DEPLORING* the inadequacy of scientific knowledge relative to bigeye tuna and to the effects of the fishing techniques with fish aggregating devices (FADs) on the multi-species fisheries of tropical tunas;

*CONVINCED* of the urgent need to improve knowledge and the scientific basis for these subjects,

*AWARE* of the danger that the large increase in bigeye tuna catches and juvenile catches observed, could present to the stock of Atlantic bigeye tuna.

*DETERMINED* to do everything possible to improve, as quickly as possible, this scientific basis, indispensable for better knowledge and good management of this stock which is of the greatest economic importance, particularly for longline fleets as concerns bigeye tuna,

*EQUALLY DETERMINED* to adopt adequate, viable and efficient management measures which will be proposed by the SCRS on the basis of improved scientific information.

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

*FIRST:* That in order to contribute to the rapid acquisition of information, a national observer program for longliners, purse seiners and baitboats be established according to the provisions to be decided by an ad hoc working group of the SCRS:

- a) on 25% of vessels fishing with fish aggregating devices (FADs), mainly in order to determine in which time/area strata juvenile tunas could be most associated with FADs.
- b) on 5% of vessels fishing using other methods in order to obtain data on the composition of the catches, particularly those of spawners, relative to the fishing areas and seasons.

*SECOND:* To supplement the study carried out by the observer program with a survey of the vessels that use FADs.

*THIRD:* Based on the results of these investigations and in order to assure the taking of precautionary measures:

- a) to present, during the Commission Meeting in November, 1997, the results of studies undertaken in accordance with the *FIRST* paragraph and on this basis, consider during that meeting, the necessary measures to assure maintaining the stock of tropical tunas, mainly as concerns the regulation of the use of FADs;
- b) to respect the SCRS recommendations relative, on the one hand, to the bigeye tuna catches in reference to MSY and to the catches of juveniles, and on the other hand, with the yellowfin catches, in reference to fishing mortality.