

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT TO ESTABLISH A SCIENTIFIC
MONITORING QUOTA FOR BLUEFIN TUNA IN THE
WESTERN ATLANTIC FOR 1997-1998**

CONSIDERING that the SCRS has indicated that a catch level of 2,500 MT of bluefin tuna in the western Atlantic is sustainable and that the spawning stock biomass will have a 50 % chance of showing a net increase over a period of about 20 years to twice the size in 1995;

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

- 1a) The Contracting Parties whose vessels have been actively fishing for bluefin in the western Atlantic will institute a scientific monitoring quota for 1997 and 1998 of 2,354 MT each year, which is divided annually into the following country quota shares:

Canada	552.6 MT
Japan	453.0 MT
United States	1,344.4 MT
United Kingdom	
Dependent Territory of Bermuda	4.0 MT

- 1b) These quota shares will apply only for 1997-1998. Unused quota or overage in 1997 may be added or subtracted, as appropriate, from the 1998 quota.

- 1c) All Contracting and non-Contracting Parties will monitor and report their discards, and minimize them, to the extent practicable. The United States of America will adopt national measures designed to reduce discards during 1997-1998.

- 2a) For 1999 and thereafter, the annual quota for the United Kingdom Dependent Territory of Bermuda shall be determined by the Commission. Quotas for Canada, Japan, and the United States shall be calculated after the United Kingdom Dependent Territory of Bermuda's share is deducted from the overall scientific monitoring quota, and according to the following:

- 2b) If a scientific monitoring quota between 2,350 MT and 2,660 MT is established for Canada, Japan, and the United States for 1999 and thereafter, the ratio of sharing among the three countries shall be as follows unless agreed otherwise:

Canada:	24.3 %
Japan:	16.0 %
United States:	59.6 %

- 2c) If a scientific monitoring quota of 2,660 MT or above is established for Canada, Japan, and the United States for 1999 or thereafter, the sharing of annual quota among them shall return to the following traditional shares:

Canada:	21.54 %
Japan:	26.32 %
United States:	52.14 %

- 2d) However, if a scientific monitoring quota between 2,350 MT and 2,660 MT is established for these countries for 1999 and thereafter, the quotas for Canada and the United States 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 United States). Any amounts in excess of these countries' traditional quotas shall be added to Japan's quota.
- 3a) Canada, Japan, United States, and United Kingdom Dependent Territory of Bermuda 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.
- 3b) 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) Canada, Japan, United States, and United Kingdom Dependent Territory of Bermuda 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 of 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) The developing bluefin tuna fishery in the western Atlantic of Brazil shall not be subject to the limitation addressed herein.
- 8) There be no directed fishery on the bluefin tuna spawning stocks in the western Atlantic in spawning areas such as the Gulf of Mexico.
- 9) 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) The next assessment and determination of quota for western Atlantic bluefin tuna shall be made at the 1998 meeting of the ICCAT Commissioners.

This Recommendation supersedes those adopted by the Commission in 1994 and 1995 concerning the scientific monitoring quota for west Atlantic bluefin tuna.