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**RESOLUTION FOR SCRS TO EVALUATE THE APPROPRIATENESS
OF THE CURRENT BOUNDARY BETWEEN EAST AND
WEST ATLANTIC BLUEFIN TUNA**

RECALLING that in order to control development of the fishery for bluefin tuna in the central Atlantic, the U.S. proposed in 1993 the establishment of a "cautionary fishing area" in the vicinity of the 45° West longitude boundary between the west and east Atlantic bluefin tuna management units;

RECALLING that the Commission adopted a Recommendation to (a) establish on an interim basis (until the end of 1995) a limit on the catch from the central Atlantic, and (b) conduct a thorough scientific review of the impact of harvesting in the central Atlantic on the west Atlantic bluefin tuna stock;

NOTING that the 1993 SCRS Report concluded that if bluefin tuna caught in the central Atlantic are from the west Atlantic stock, there will be important effects on the stock assessments, and consequently on the effectiveness of conservation measures;

NOTING that the 1996 SCRS Report indicates that there is a continuous fishery from the east coast of North America eastward beyond the current 45° West longitude boundary between the management units;

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

- 1) To request the SCRS to re-examine the boundary placed at 45° West longitude to determine if it should be changed in order to improve the accuracy of stock assessments and effectiveness of conservation measures.