

RECALLING that, in response to continued indications of over-exploitation, ICCAT has implemented a measure to limit annual catches of southern albacore by countries fishing actively for this stock to not more than 90 % of average annual catches taken between 1989 and 1993;

CONCERNED that improvements in historic catch data have resulted in estimates of average catches from 1989 to 1993 exceeding the current sustainable yield of the southern albacore resource, thereby negating the effectiveness of the current catch limitation;

NOTING that updated stock projections indicate that southern albacore biomass will continue to decline by the year 2005 at current catch levels of approximately 26,000 MT per year;

DESIRING to implement effective measures to prevent further declines in the southern albacore resource, and to ensure the re-building of this stock to MSY levels by the year 2005;

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

1. The existing catch limit on southern albacore be replaced with an annual catch limit of 22,000 MT for countries fishing actively for albacore in the Atlantic Ocean south of 5° North, with effect from January 1, 1998.
2. Those countries participating actively in the fishery for southern albacore initiate immediate bi-lateral or multi-lateral negotiations in order to achieve agreement on the division of this catch limit into national quotas before the implementation date of 1 January, 1998.
3. This southern albacore catch limit be reviewed annually by the SCRS from 1997 onwards in order to revise it upwards or downwards, as necessary, to achieve the desired re-building of southern albacore biomass to MSY levels by the year 2005.