

- RECOMMENDATION -  
IMPLEMENTATION SOUTHERN ALBACORE CATCH LIMIT

**TITLE: *Recommendation by ICCAT on implementation of the  
Annual Southern Albacore Catch Limit***  
(Entered into force: **June 13, 1998**)

*RECALLING* that ICCAT has established an annual catch limit of 22,000 MT for southern albacore by countries, entities or fishing entities fishing actively for albacore in the Atlantic Ocean south of 5°N, with effect from 1 January 1998;

*CONCERNED* that "countries fishing actively for albacore" have not been objectively defined, thereby creating potential uncertainty in the application of the southern albacore catch limit;

*CONSIDERING* the need to jointly review the southern albacore catch history for South Africa and Namibia;

*ALSO CONCERNED* that maximum southern albacore catch levels of countries, entities or fishing entities that catch southern albacore as by-catch have not been established;

*DESIRING* to ensure the implementation of 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;

Therefore,

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

- 1 All countries, entities or fishing entities which have reported an average annual catch of albacore in the Atlantic Ocean south of 5°N of more than 1,000 MT over the period 1992-1996 be considered to be "fishing actively for southern albacore", in terms of the 1996 ICCAT southern albacore catch limit recommendation.
- 2 Namibia be considered as a party "fishing actively for southern albacore".
- 3 Annual catch limits be established on a two yearly basis for albacore caught in the Atlantic Ocean south of 5°N by countries, entities or fishing entities fishing actively for southern albacore (in terms of (1) and (2) above), to be set at 22,000 MT for 1998 and 1999, subject to revision at the end of 1998.
- 4 Those countries, entities or fishing entities fishing actively for southern albacore, in terms of the above definition, implement suitable measures to limit their catches so as to ensure that the catch limit of 22,000 MT is not exceeded during 1998.
- 5 All countries, entities or fishing entities which have reported average annual catches of albacore in the Atlantic Ocean south of 5°N of 1,000 MT or less over the period 1992 to 1996, and all countries, entities or fishing entities developing new fisheries for albacore in the Atlantic Ocean, be subject to an annual catch limit of no more than 110% of their average of 1992-1996 for albacore in the Atlantic Ocean south of 5°N.
- 6 The southern albacore catch limit be reviewed by the Commission (SCRS and Panel 3) on a two yearly basis in order to revise the catch limit, as necessary, to achieve the desired re-building of southern albacore stock to MSY levels by the year 2005.
- 7 Those countries, entities or fishing entities participating actively in the fishery for southern albacore continue negotiations in order to achieve agreement on the division of the recommended southern albacore catch limit into quotas among them.
- 8 Longline fishing countries, entities or fishing entities who are not actively fishing for southern albacore will endeavor to limit their total annual catch of southern albacore to no more than 4% by weight of their total bigeye longline catch in the Atlantic South of 5°N. This incidental catch provision applies only to calendar year 1998 and will be reviewed at the 1998 ICCAT meeting.

- 9 Notwithstanding the provisions of Article VIII, paragraph 2 of the ICCAT Convention, and considering that the catch limit for southern albacore is effective from 1 January 1998, the countries, entities or fishing entities concerned shall consider the above recommendations fully in implementing the catch limits established in 1996 by the Commission.