

- RECOMMENDATION -
ON CLOSED AREA/SEASON FOR FISHING WITH FADs
IN E. TROP. ATLANTIC

TITLE: *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Establishment of a Closed Area/Season for the Use of Fish Aggregation Devices (FADs)*
(Entered into force: **June 21, 1999**)

NOTING that the Commission's Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) has considered the time/area closures applied voluntarily by vessel owners of the European Community is a very promising approach to reduce catches of juveniles;

RECALLING that SCRS has considered that, for this type of measure to be most effective, it should be applied by all purse seiners fishing over floating objects;

RECALLING that the strict application of the minimum weight of 3.2 kg for bigeye and yellowfin tunas would entail the loss of very important catches of adult skipjack;

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

- 1 Fishing by purse seiners flying the flag of Contracting Parties and cooperating non-contracting parties, entities and fishing entities over floating objects, shall be prohibited during the period and the area specified in paragraphs 2 and 3 below:
- 2 The area referred to in paragraph 1 is the following:
 - Southern limit: parallel 4/ South latitude
 - Northern limit: parallel 5/ North latitude
 - Western limit: meridian 20/ West longitude
 - Eastern limit: the African coast
- 3 The period covered by the prohibition of paragraph 1 will be from 1 November 1999 to 31 January 2000.
- 4 The prohibition referred to in paragraph 1 includes:
 - Prohibition to launch all floating objects;
 - Prohibition to fish over artificial objects;
 - Prohibition to fish over natural objects;
 - Prohibition to fish with auxiliary vessels;
- 5 In 2000, SCRS shall analyze the impact of the measure on the stock as well as the area and the dates of this measure and will recommend any change that may be deemed necessary to improve its effectiveness.
- 6 Contracting Parties shall ensure that all purse seiners concerned by this measure have an observer on board, during the whole duration of the period, who shall observe the respect of the prohibition referred to in paragraphs 1 to 4.
- 7 The observers should possess the following skills in order to discharge their duties:
 - sufficient experience to identify species and gear
 - navigational skills
 - a satisfactory knowledge of the ICCAT conservation measures
 - the ability to carry out elementary scientific tasks e.g collecting samples, as requested and observe and record accurately,
 - a satisfactory knowledge of the language of the flag of the vessel observed.