

- RESOLUTION -  
TIME/AREA CLOSURES NORTH & SOUTH ATLANTIC SWO  
AND GEAR MODIFICATIONS

**TITLE: *Resolution by ICCAT for the Development of Possible Time/Area Closures for North and South Atlantic Swordfish and Gear Modifications to Reduce Undersized Swordfish Catch and Fishing Mortality***  
(Transmitted to Contracting Parties: **December 16, 1999**)

*NOTING* the need to take measures regarding the gears used during periods when their impact is more pronounced on undersized swordfish than on adults;

*CONSIDERING* the continued need for Contracting Parties to reduce their catches of undersized swordfish in accordance with prior Recommendations by the Commission;

*ALSO CONSIDERING* the need for action to ensure the effectiveness of ICCAT objectives to conserve and manage North and South Atlantic swordfish;

*RECALLING* the highly migratory characteristics of swordfish, including undersized swordfish, as well as the difference in the abundance of these undersized swordfish at different times and in different areas of the Atlantic;

*NOTING* that the Commission's Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) has considered time/area closures and gear modifications for other ICCAT species as an effective approach to reduce catches of undersized fish;

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

- 1 The SCRS shall analyze and identify times and areas for possible closure in the Atlantic that would contribute to the protection of undersized North and South Atlantic swordfish.
- 2 In order for SCRS to analyze effectively possible time/area closures in the Atlantic, Contracting Parties, Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, and Fishing Entities shall provide data on catch at size, by sex, location, and month of capture on the smallest scale possible as determined by SCRS.
- 3 The SCRS shall conduct the necessary studies to determine whether modifications in longline gear configurations and use can reduce catches of undersized swordfish.
- 4 The SCRS should provide a report on this topic at the Commission Meeting in 2002.