

**RESOLUTION BY ICCAT ON IMPROVING
RECREATIONAL FISHERY STATISTICS**

(Transmitted to Contracting Parties: **December 16, 1999**)

RECOGNIZING that in accordance with the terms of the Convention, it is the responsibility of each Contracting Party to provide annually on a timely basis, data relating to fishing activities in the Convention Area for species of interest to the Commission;

RECALLING that the Commission, through its Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS), has established minimum data reporting requirements comprised of Task I and Task II, and length sampling annual statistics for all tunas and tuna-like fishes as defined by the Convention, by flag vessels, by fishing area and time, and by gear (e.g., longline, purse seine, baitboat, trap, troll, other methods, and by recreational gears);

CONSIDERING that lack of compliance with the minimum data reporting requirements established diminishes the effectiveness of the Commission;

CONSIDERING that ICCAT managed species provide important benefits to recreational fishery activities and that these benefits may not be achieved through management that relies primarily on quotas, effort and access limitations, and commercial fishing gear limitations;

RECOGNIZING that the scientific information that can be obtained from recreational fishing can be substantial; for example fish can be tagged and released without adversely affecting the recreational experience.

NOTING that information and scientifically collected data concerning the extent of and participation in recreational fishery activities are generally lacking;

RECOGNIZING that these activities generally occur almost exclusively within waters outside the high seas;

DESIRING that significant improvements be made in the routine, standardized submission of data concerning the use of ICCAT-managed species;

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

- 1 Beginning in 2000, each Contracting Party, Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity, or Fishing Entity provide specific data to SCRS that allow the Commission to determine separately the magnitude of recreational fisheries of each species of Atlantic tuna and tuna-like fish.
- 2 Beginning in 2000, each Contracting Party, Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity, or Fishing Entity should include a discussion in their annual national reports¹ to ICCAT of the techniques used to manage these fisheries.
- 3 The Commission urge all non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities not referred to above to act in conformity with operative paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Resolution.
- 4 That SCRS carry out an examination of the extent of recreational fisheries and their effects on Atlantic tuna and tuna-like resources.

¹Note from the Secretariat: Based on a Commission decision in 2004, these reports are now called *Annual Reports*. Please see the *Revised Guidelines for the Preparation of Annual Reports* [Ref. 12-13].