

- RECOMMENDATION -
BELIZE & HONDURAS: PURSUANT TO 1995 SWO ACTION PLAN

**TITLE: *Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding Belize and Honduras
Pursuant to the 1995 Swordfish Action Plan Resolution***

(Entered into force: **June 15, 2000**)

RECOGNIZING the authority and responsibility of ICCAT to manage populations of swordfish in the Atlantic Ocean and its adjacent seas, at the international level;

NOTING the need for all non-Contracting Parties, Entities, and Fishing Entities fishing for swordfish in the Atlantic Ocean and its adjacent seas to join ICCAT or cooperate with ICCAT's conservation and management measures;

RECALLING the Commission's past actions over many years to encourage Belize and Honduras to cooperate with ICCAT conservation and management measures for Atlantic swordfish;

CONSIDERING the import data submitted to the Commission by its Contracting Parties, in recent years, including 1999, which reveals significant exports of Atlantic swordfish by Belize and Honduras;

EXPRESSING CONCERN with regard to the over-fished status of swordfish in the Atlantic Ocean;

RECALLING the Commission's *Resolution for an Action Plan to Ensure the Effectiveness of the Conservation Program for Atlantic Swordfish*, adopted in 1995, to ensure the effectiveness of the conservation for Atlantic swordfish;

RECOGNIZING that effective management of swordfish stocks cannot be achieved by Contracting Parties of ICCAT whose fishermen are forced to reduce their catches of Atlantic swordfish unless all non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities cooperate with ICCAT in connection with its conservation and management measures;

CALLING ATTENTION to the 1998 decision by the Commission identifying Belize and Honduras as countries whose vessels have been fishing for Atlantic swordfish in a manner which diminishes the effectiveness of the ICCAT swordfish conservation measures, and recognizing that the decision was based on trade and vessel sighting data;

CAREFULLY REVIEWING information regarding the efforts by the Commission to get the collaboration of Belize and Honduras over the past year, including recognition of the fact that there has been an unsatisfactory response from Belize to ICCAT requests, no response from Honduras, and no substantive action from either nation to rectify the situation and,

NOTING that this Recommendation does not prejudice the rights and obligations of Contracting Parties based on other international agreements; Therefore,

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

- a Contracting Parties take appropriate measures, consistent with provisions of the *Resolution by ICCAT for an Action Plan to Ensure the Effectiveness of the Conservation Program for Atlantic Swordfish*, to the effect that the import of Atlantic swordfish and its products in any form from Belize and Honduras be prohibited, effective from the time this Recommendation enters into force.
- b The Commission again request that Belize and Honduras cooperate with ICCAT by ensuring that these vessels fish in a manner and extent consistent with ICCAT conservation and management measures and by providing catch statistics to ICCAT in accordance with ICCAT procedures.
- c The Commission continue to encourage participation by Belize and Honduras in all ICCAT meetings.
- d Contracting Parties lift the import prohibitions on either of the two countries referred to in paragraph (a) above, upon the decision of the Commission and receipt of notification from the ICCAT Executive Secretary that fishing practices of that country have been brought into consistency with ICCAT measures.