

- RECOMMENDATION -  
EQUATORIAL GUINEA: PURSUANT TO 1996 COMPLIANCE  
RECOMMENDATION - BFT AND N. SWO FISHERIES

**TITLE: *Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding Equatorial Guinea Pursuant to the 1996 "Recommendation Regarding Compliance in the Bluefin Tuna and North Atlantic Swordfish Fisheries"***

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

*RECOGNIZING* the authority and responsibility of ICCAT to manage populations of tuna and tuna-like species in the Atlantic Ocean, and its adjacent seas, at the international level;

*EXPRESSING CONCERN* with regard to the over-fished status of bluefin tuna in the Atlantic Ocean;

*NOTING* the obligation of all Contracting Parties to comply with ICCAT conservation and management measures;

*RECOGNIZING* that effective management of bluefin tuna stocks cannot be achieved unless all Contracting Parties comply with ICCAT conservation and management measures;

*RECALLING* the actions of the Commission over many years in calling upon Equatorial Guinea to comply with ICCAT conservation and management measures for Atlantic bluefin tuna;

*RECALLING* the Commission's *Resolution for an Action Plan to Ensure the Effectiveness of the Conservation Program for Atlantic Bluefin Tuna*, adopted in 1994 to ensure effective conservation of Atlantic bluefin tuna;

*RECALLING FURTHER* the 1996 *Recommendation Regarding Compliance in the Bluefin Tuna and North Atlantic Swordfish Fisheries*, which provides for the possibility of imposing import restrictions, consistent with each Contracting Party's international obligations;

*CONSIDERING* the import data and other compelling information submitted by ICCAT Contracting Parties for 1997, 1998, and 1999, which reveal significant exports of Atlantic bluefin tuna by Equatorial Guinea, despite the fact that, for those years, Equatorial Guinea has had a catch limit of zero for both east and west Atlantic bluefin tuna stocks;

*MINDFUL* of the repeated efforts of the Commission to express its concerns to, and seek the cooperation of, Equatorial Guinea over the past several years;

*NOTING* with concern the fact that Equatorial Guinea has not responded to the expressions of concern from the Commission and has reported no bluefin tuna catch data; and

*FURTHER 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 1996 *Recommendation Regarding Compliance in the Bluefin Tuna and North Atlantic Swordfish Fisheries* to the effect that the import of Atlantic bluefin tuna and its products in any form from Equatorial Guinea be prohibited, effective from the time this Recommendation enters into force.

- b The Commission again call upon Equatorial Guinea, as a Contracting Party to ICCAT, to comply with all the ICCAT conservation and management measures.
  
- c Contracting Parties lift the import prohibitions on Equatorial Guinea, upon the decision of the Commission that fishing practices of Equatorial Guinea have been brought into compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures.