

- RECOMMENDATION -
ESTABLISH STAT. DOC. PROGRAMS: SWO, BET & OTHER
SPECIES MANAGED BY ICCAT

**TITLE: *Recommendation by ICCAT on Establishing Statistical Document Programs
for Swordfish, Bigeye Tuna, and Other Species Managed by ICCAT***

(Entered into force: **June 26, 2001**)

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;

RECOGNIZING the nature of the international market for Atlantic swordfish and bigeye tuna;

AWARE that the SCRS has stated it is unable to estimate accurately the catch of Atlantic swordfish and bigeye tuna in the Convention Area and that the availability of trade data would greatly assist in making such estimates;

REAFFIRMING the usefulness of the Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document (BTSD) Program in tracking the trade of Atlantic bluefin tuna, especially Not Elsewhere Included (NEI) catch that has not been reported to the SCRS;

DESIRING to improve the quality and availability of data relating to trade in Atlantic swordfish, bigeye tuna and such other species for which ICCAT may adopt conservation and management measures;

HAVING AS ITS PURPOSE to improve the ability of ICCAT to develop effective conservation and management recommendations for such species, and to control trade in such species as are harvested in violation of ICCAT's conservation and management measures;

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

- 1 The Commission shall establish statistical document programs for swordfish and bigeye tuna, modeled, in principle, after the BTSD Program, with the aim of having the program or programs fully implemented by 1 January 2002, or as soon as possible thereafter.
- 2 The ICCAT Secretariat shall facilitate a meeting of technical experts prior to the 2001 meeting of the Commission to consider and resolve technical issues relating to the implementation of the program or programs.
- 3 Following the adoption of conservation and management measures for other species, the Commission should establish comparable statistical document programs for those species as well, as appropriate.
- 4 The Commission shall endeavor to harmonize all statistical document programs under its purview.
- 5 Pending the full implementation of the statistical program or programs for swordfish and bigeye tuna, Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities are encouraged to closely monitor imports and exports of swordfish and bigeye tuna, such as through the collection of import information relating to these species.