

- RECOMMENDATION -
2002 BIGEYE TUNA CONSERVATION MEASURES

TITLE: *Recommendation by ICCAT on the 2002 Bigeye Tuna Conservation Measures*

(Entry into force: **August 21, 2002**)

RECALLING that the *Recommendation on the Bigeye Tuna Conservation Measures* was adopted at the 2000 Commission meeting;

RECOGNIZING that the effectiveness of the measure taken by the above recommendation has yet be reviewed and that the stock assessment of bigeye tuna will be conducted at the 2002 SCRS meeting;

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

1. Each Contracting Party and Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity shall, in 2002, limit their catch of Atlantic bigeye tuna to the average of the catch of bigeye tuna taken by all their vessels in 1991 and 1992.
2. Notwithstanding the paragraph above,
 - a) China shall limit, in 2002, its catch of Atlantic bigeye tuna to 4,000 MT, while the overall number of its vessels registered with the Commission be frozen at 60 for 2002 and thereafter, unless the Commission decides otherwise. The catch and the number of the fishing vessels of China will be reviewed before the 2002 Commission annual meeting.
 - b) The Commission shall request Chinese Taipei to limit, in 2002, its catch of Atlantic bigeye tuna to 16,500 MT and the number of its fishing vessels fishing for Atlantic bigeye tuna to 125.
 - c) The Commission shall request the Philippines to limit, in 2002 and thereafter the number of its fishing vessels fishing for Atlantic bigeye tuna to five (5).
3. The provision of paragraph 1 will not apply to Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities whose reported 1999 catch, as provided to the SCRS in 2000, was less than 2,100 MT.
4. Underages/overages of the 2002 catch limit for bigeye tuna may be added to/must be subtracted from the 2003 and/or 2004 catch limits for bigeye tuna.
5. The SCRS shall include in its next assessment of the Atlantic bigeye stock, possible recovery scenarios, including specific TAC recommendations, with the goal of rebuilding Atlantic bigeye tuna to biomass levels that will support MSY.