

- RECOMMENDATION -
REVISION & SHARING S. ALBACORE CATCH LIMIT

**TITLE: *Recommendation by ICCAT on Revision and Sharing of
the Southern Albacore Catch Limit***

(Entered into force: **September 21, 2002**)

NOTING that the updated stock assessment conducted during 2000 indicates that the replacement yield of the southern albacore stock is estimated to be 29,200 MT, and that catches at that level should be sustainable;

NOTING FURTHER that established southern albacore catch limits have not been exceeded since establishment of the 1998 *Recommendation on Revision, Implementation and Sharing of the Southern Albacore Catch Limit*;

RECOGNIZING that the establishment of a long-term sharing arrangement should be negotiated now that the ICCAT Working Group on Allocation Criteria has developed criteria for the allocation of fishing possibilities, but that further time is required to evaluate options for implementing these criteria;

ACKNOWLEDGING that problems have been experienced in reporting albacore catches under the 1998, 1999 and 2000 sharing and monitoring arrangement, and recognizing the need to improve such reporting;

DESIRING to continue to implement effective measures to limit catches of southern albacore to sustainable levels;

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

1. The total catch limit for albacore caught in the Atlantic Ocean South of 5° N be set at 29,200 MT for 2002, that being the estimated replacement yield of the stock.
2. For the purpose of this recommendation, Brazil, Namibia, South Africa and Chinese-Taipei be considered to be Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities fishing actively for southern albacore, as contemplated in the 1997 southern albacore catch limit recommendation. All other Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities shall be considered to be not actively fishing for southern albacore, whether taking albacore as a target species or by-catch.
3. The catch limit for southern albacore caught by those Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities fishing actively for southern albacore be set at 27,500 MT for 2002.
4. Those Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities referred to in paragraph 2 above implement effective systems to ensure correct reporting of their respective cumulative southern albacore catches to the ICCAT Secretariat within two months of those catches having been made.
5. The ICCAT Secretariat notify all those Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities referred to in paragraph 2 above when a total cumulative catch level of 22,000 MT is reached, this being 80% of their catch limit of 27,500 MT.
6. Those Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities referred to in paragraph 2 above immediately initiate multi-lateral discussions when the 22,000 MT warning catch level is reached, in order to decide on steps to be taken to prevent total catches by those countries, entities or fishing entities from exceeding the catch limit of 27,500 MT.
7. Those Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities referred to in paragraph 2 above immediately implement measures to stop fishing for southern albacore when the established catch limit of 27,500 MT is reached, so as to ensure that that limit is not exceeded.

8. Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities not fishing actively for southern albacore (as designated in paragraph 2 above), and having caught on average less than 100 MT of southern albacore per year during 1992-1996, be subject to an annual southern albacore catch limit of 100 MT.
9. Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities not fishing actively for southern albacore (as designated in paragraph 2 above), whether taking albacore as a target species or by-catch, and having caught on average more than 100 MT of southern albacore per year during 1992-1996, but excluding Japan, be subject to an annual southern albacore catch limit of 110% of their respective average 1992-1996 catches of albacore in the Atlantic Ocean South of 5°N.
10. Japan endeavor to limit its total catch of southern albacore to 4% by weight of its total longline bigeye tuna catch in the Atlantic Ocean South of 5°N.
11. No provision shall be made for carry-over of any under-harvests made under this sharing arrangement.
12. The southern albacore catch limit, monitoring and other management measures be reviewed, and revised as necessary, at the 2002 Commission meeting.
13. This Recommendation replace, in their entirety, the 1998 *Recommendation on Revision, Implementation and Sharing of the Southern Albacore Catch Limit*, the 1999 *Recommendation by ICCAT to Extend the Southern Albacore Management Arrangement and to Improve Monitoring* and the 2000 *Recommendation by ICCAT on Revision and Sharing of the Southern Albacore Catch Limit*.