

- RECOMMENDATION -
LIFTING OF BET & BFT IMPORT BAN ON ST. VINCENT

TITLE: *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Importation of Bigeye Tuna and Bigeye Tuna Products From St. Vincent and the Grenadines*

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

RECALLING the adoption in 1998 of the *Resolution Concerning the Unreported And Unregulated Catches of Tuna by Large-Scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area* (hereinafter referred to as “the 1998 Resolution”);

RECALLING as well the 1999 decision by the Commission to identify St. Vincent and the Grenadines pursuant to the 1998 Resolution as a country whose large-scale longline vessels have been fishing for tuna and tuna-like species in a manner that diminishes the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures;

NOTING the adoption in 2000 of the *Recommendation by ICCAT regarding Belize, Cambodia, Honduras, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines Pursuant to the 1998 Resolution Concerning the Unreported and Unregulated Catches of Tuna by Large-Scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area*, pursuant to which Contracting Parties took appropriate action to the effect that the import of Atlantic bigeye tuna and its products in any form from St. Vincent and the Grenadines has been prohibited;

RECOGNIZING the significant progress that the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines has recently taken to initiate a broad program of reform to achieve full compliance with ICCAT measures, including reducing substantially the activities of its fishing vessels that were identified as diminishing the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures related to Atlantic bigeye tuna, adopting revised national legislation, and developing and implementing monitoring, control, and surveillance methods to its fleet;

CONCERNED nonetheless that additional steps still remain to be taken for St. Vincent and the Grenadines to address fully the concerns in the 1998 Resolution;

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

1. Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, and Fishing Entities shall lift the import prohibition on Atlantic bigeye tuna and its products from St. Vincent and the Grenadines that was imposed pursuant to the *Recommendation by ICCAT regarding Belize, Cambodia, Honduras, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines Pursuant to the 1998 Resolution Concerning the Unreported and Unregulated Catches of Tuna by Large-Scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area*.
2. The suspension of the import prohibitions imposed under the Recommendation above shall take effect on 1 January 2003, unless the Commission decides, on the basis of documentary evidence, at its 2002 meeting that St. Vincent and the Grenadines has not completed necessary actions to bring its fishing practices for Atlantic bigeye tuna into conformity with ICCAT conservation and management measures.