

- RECOMMENDATION -  
LIFTING OF BFT & SWO IMPORT BAN ON HONDURAS

**TITLE: *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Importation of Bluefin Tuna and Swordfish and Their Products From Honduras***  
(Entered into force: **September 21, 2002**)

*RECALLING* the adoption in 1994 of the *Resolution by ICCAT Concerning an Action Plan to Ensure Effectiveness of the Conservation Program for Atlantic Bluefin Tuna*;

*RECALLING* the adoption in 1995 of the *Resolution by ICCAT Concerning an Action Plan to Ensure the effectiveness of the Conservation Program for Atlantic Swordfish*;

*NOTING* the 1995 decision by the Commission to identify Honduras pursuant to the 1994 Bluefin Action Plan, and the 1998 decision by the Commission to identify Honduras pursuant to the 1995 Swordfish Action Plan as a nation whose vessels were fishing for Atlantic bluefin tuna and Atlantic swordfish in a manner that diminishes the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures for those species;

*FURTHER RECALLING* the adoption in 1996 of the *Recommendation by ICCAT regarding Belize and Honduras Pursuant to the 1994 Bluefin Tuna Action Plan Resolution* and the adoption in 1999 of the *Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding Belize and Honduras Pursuant to the 1995 Swordfish Action Plan Resolution*, pursuant to which Contracting Parties took appropriate action to the effect that the import of Atlantic bluefin tuna and Atlantic swordfish and their products in any form from Honduras has been prohibited;

*RECOGNIZING* the significant progress that the Government of Honduras has recently taken to reduce substantially the activities of its fishing vessels that were identified as diminishing the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures related to Atlantic bluefin tuna and Atlantic swordfish;

*HIGHLIGHTING* in this regard recent correspondence from the Government of Honduras that explains specific actions taken, in particular effecting sharp reductions in the number of tuna fishing vessels registered in Honduras;

*WELCOMING* that on January 30, 2000 Honduras became an ICCAT Contracting Party;

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 bluefin tuna and its products that was imposed pursuant to the *Recommendation by ICCAT regarding Belize and Honduras Pursuant to the 1994 Bluefin Tuna Action Plan Resolution*.
2. Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, and Fishing Entities shall also lift the import prohibition on Atlantic swordfish and its products that was imposed pursuant to the *Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding Belize and Honduras Pursuant to the 1995 Swordfish Action Plan Resolution*.
3. Notwithstanding the provisions of Article VIII, paragraph 2, of the Convention, the Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, and Fishing Entities shall implement this recommendation as soon as possible in accordance with the regulatory procedures of each Contracting Party and Cooperating Non-Contracting Party, Entity, and Fishing Entity.