

RESOLUTION BY ICCAT ON THE DEADLINES AND PROCEDURES FOR DATA SUBMISSION

(Transmitted to Contracting Parties: **February 22, 2002**)

GIVEN that Article IX of The Convention states that the Contracting Parties agree to furnish, on the request of the Commission, any available statistical, biological and other scientific information the Commission may need for the purposes of this Convention;

ALSO GIVEN that Rule 13 of the Rules of Procedure states that the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics shall develop and recommend to the Commission such policies and procedures in the collection, compilation, analysis and dissemination of fishery statistics as may be necessary to ensure that the Commission has available at all times complete, current and equivalent statistics on fishery activities in the Convention Area;

RECOGNIZING that the Format Adopted by the Commission for Annual National Reports* to be Submitted to ICCAT established by this Commission in 1995 states that National Reports* should be submitted to the ICCAT Secretariat at least one month before the start of the annual or Regular or Special Commission meeting. Where the meeting of SCRS is held some time before the Commission meeting, such reports should be submitted at the start of the SCRS meeting. The exact submission dates should be annually determined by the Secretariat;

ALSO GIVEN that the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Application of Three Compliance Recommendations* adopted at the 1998 Commission meeting states that each Contracting Party shall include in its national report* a completed "ICCAT Reporting Table;"

EMPHASIZING that the SCRS continues to recommend that the Commission ensure that the ICCAT Secretariat be provided with reliable data in a timely manner on catch, effort, size in the format requested, and on as fine a scale as possible. These obligations are considered a minimum standard as they are clearly stated in the ICCAT Convention, FAO's Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, as well as the UN Implementation Agreement;

NOTING that in 2001, the SCRS recommended that the deadline for the submission of Task I data be revised to 31 July concurrent with the deadline for Task II statistics;

AND ALSO NOTING that the 1996 SCRS recommended that all data changes be formally reported and justified.

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

- 1 All Task I and Task II data should be submitted annually to the Secretariat by 31 July the following year, as recommended by the SCRS. In case where the final statistics cannot be submitted by that date, at least preliminary statistics should be provided. Exceptions may be in years when early assessment meetings are held, in which case Task I and Task II for those particular species being addressed should be submitted two weeks prior to the start of the meeting or as specified in the meeting announcement.
- 2 National Reports¹, and therefore ICCAT Reporting Tables (for use by the Compliance Committee), should be submitted to the ICCAT Secretariat at least one month before the start of the annual or Regular or Special Commission meeting. Where the meeting of SCRS is held some time before the Commission meeting, the sections on the *National Fisheries Information* and *Research and Statistics* (Parts 1 and 2 of the National Report) * should be submitted at the start of the SCRS meeting. The exact submission dates should be annually determined by the Secretariat.
- 3 All revisions of historical scientific data should be formally reported and duly justified. In the case of Task I and II data, these reports should be made on forms provided by the Secretariat and reviewed by the SCRS. The SCRS will advise the Secretariat if revisions are then accepted for scientific use.

¹ Note from the Secretariat: Based on a Commission decision in 2004, these reports are now called *Annual Reports*. Please see the *Revised Guidelines for the Preparation of Annual Reports* [Ref. 12-13]. Paragraph 2 should be read in the light of the modifications required by the aforementioned Guidelines.