

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT
ON BIGEYE TUNA CONSERVATION MEASURES**

(Entered into force: **June 3, 2003**)

RECALLING that in 1997 the Commission urged parties to reduce catches of bigeye tuna to levels below maximum sustainable yield (MSY);

RECOGNIZING that in 1998 the Commission requested that the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) develop stock rebuilding scenarios to levels that support MSY;

RECALLING the 1998 *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Bigeye Tuna Conservation Measures for Fishing Vessels Larger than 24 Meters Length Overall (LOA)* limiting the number of fishing vessels, which will fish for bigeye tuna in the Convention Area, to the average number of its fishing vessels actually having fished for bigeye tuna in the Convention Area for the two years of 1991 and 1992;

CONSIDERING that the objective of the Convention is to maintain the stocks at levels which would permit MSY, and that the SCRS estimates that MSY is between 79,000 t and 105,000 t;

FURTHER CONSIDERING that the SCRS recommends that, starting in 2003, the level of total catch in the Atlantic be maintained at the 2001 catch level, in order to restore the biomass of bigeye tuna to a level which would allow MSY to be attained;

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

- 1 Each Contracting Party and Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity shall, in 2003, limit their catch of Atlantic bigeye tuna to the average catch of Atlantic bigeye tuna taken by all their vessels in 1991 and 1992.
- 2 Notwithstanding the paragraph above,
 - a China shall limit, in 2003, its catch of bigeye tuna to 5,000 t, while the overall number of its vessels registered with the Commission be frozen at 60 for 2003 and thereafter, unless the Commission decides otherwise.
 - b The Commission shall request Chinese Taipei to limit, in 2003, its catch of Atlantic bigeye tuna to 16,500 t and the number of its fishing vessels fishing for Atlantic bigeye tuna to 125.
 - c The Commission shall request the Philippines to limit, in 2003 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 t.
- 4 Underages/overages of the 2003 catch limit for bigeye tuna may be added to/must be subtracted from the 2004 and/or 2005 catch limits for bigeye tuna.