

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON SOUTH ATLANTIC
SWORDFISH CATCH LIMITS**

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

CONSCIOUS that the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) indicates that total catches in the South Atlantic stock have been reduced since 1995, as was recommended by the SCRS, although some countries have increased their reported catch levels;

CONSIDERING that the SCRS indicates that the contradictory catch per unit of effort (CPUE) trends from target and by-catch fisheries give no reliable results from the base case production model and therefore reliable estimates of MSY;

CONSCIOUS that the SCRS recommends that catch should remain at about the same level of the past few years;

RECALLING that for South Atlantic swordfish, management based on autonomous quotas have continued for the recent two years and needs to be developed immediately into a catch limit system with sharing arrangement of Total Allowable Catch (TAC), adopted at the 2000 Commission meeting required the Commission to negotiate and adopt a sharing arrangement for the TAC for South Atlantic swordfish at its 2001 meeting;

FURTHER RECALLING that the 2001 Commission meeting adopted the *Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities*;

CONSCIOUS of the desirability of introducing a multi-annual approach in order to conserve the fish stocks effectively as well as permitting a gradual programmed development of the swordfish fisheries of certain Parties;

FURTHER RECALLING the need to apply the *Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities*, adopted by the Commission in 2001, with a view to share in a fairer and equitable manner the South Atlantic swordfish stock;

RECALLING that the application of the new allocation criteria policy must be undertaken on a gradual basis permitting adaptation by all Parties involved in the fisheries and that this recommendation constitutes a major thrust in the introduction of this approach within ICCAT;

RECOGNIZING that this multi-annual approach for the management of the South Atlantic swordfish reflects the thrust of the allocation criteria for the period concerned;

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

1 For 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006, TAC and the catch limits are as follows: (Unit: t)

	2003		2004		2005		2006	
T A C	15,631		15,776		15,956		16,055	
Brazil (1)	4,086	26.14%	4,193	26.58%	4,296	26.92%	4,365	27.19%
European Community	5,950	38.07%	5,850	37.08%	5,850	36.66%	5,780	36.00%
South Africa	890	5.69%	1,009	6.40%	1,070	6.71%	1,140	7.10%
Namibia	890	5.69%	1,009	6.40%	1,070	6.71%	1,140	7.10%
Uruguay	850	5.44%	850	5.39%	850	5.33%	850	5.29%
United States (2)	100	0.64%	100	0.63%	100	0.63%	120	0.75%
Côte d'Ivoire	100	0.64%	100	0.63%	100	0.63%	100	0.62%
China	315	2.02%	315	2.00%	315	1.97%	315	1.96%
Chinese Taipei	925	5.92%	825	5.23%	780	4.89%	720	4.48%
United Kingdom	25	0.16%	25	0.16%	25	0.16%	25	0.16%
Japan (2)	1,500	9.60%	1,500	9.51%	1,500	9.40%	1,500	9.34%

(1) Brazil may harvest up to 200 t of its annual catch limit within the area between 5 degrees North latitude and 15 degrees North latitude.

(2) The Japanese and the U.S. underages in 2000 may be carried over to 2003 in addition to their quotas specified in this table.

- 2 The TAC and the catch limits for 2006 in paragraph 1 shall be reviewed and if necessary, revised based upon the results of stock assessment to be conducted in the 2005 SCRS meeting. Should adjustments to the TAC for 2006 be required following this assessment, the relative shares of the Parties for 2006 shall remain unchanged from those in the current recommendation.
- 3 Japan shall endeavor to limit its total catch of southern swordfish to 8% by weight of its total longline catch in South Atlantic Ocean.
- 4 When the Japanese catch of southern swordfish reaches 1,500 t in one year, the Commission shall consider a different appropriate catch limit for continuation of the bigeye fishery, taking account of the sharp reduction of the Japanese share from that in the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Establishment of Percentage Shares of Total Allowable Catch (TAC) and 1998-2000 Catch Quotas for South Atlantic Swordfish* [97-7].
- 5 Japan shall be allowed to count up to 400 t of its swordfish catch taken from the part of the North Atlantic management area, that is east of 35 degrees W and south of 15 degrees N, against its uncaught South Atlantic swordfish quota.