

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT CONCERNING
THE IMPORTATION OF ATLANTIC BLUEFIN TUNA,
ATLANTIC SWORDFISH, AND ATLANTIC BIGEYE TUNA
AND THEIR PRODUCTS FROM BELIZE**

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* (hereinafter referred to as the Bluefin Tuna Action Plan), the adoption in 1995 of the *Resolution by ICCAT Concerning an Action Plan to Ensure the Effectiveness of the Conservation Program for Atlantic Swordfish* (hereinafter referred to as the Atlantic Swordfish Action Plan), and 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 as the decisions by the Commission to identify Belize in 1995 pursuant to the Bluefin Tuna Action Plan, in 1998 pursuant to the Atlantic Swordfish Action Plan, and in 1999 pursuant to the 1998 Resolution;

NOTING the adoption in 1996 of the *Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding Belize and Honduras Pursuant to the 1994 Bluefin Tuna Action Plan Resolution*, the adoption in 1998 of the *Recommendation by ICCAT regarding Belize and Honduras Pursuant to the 1995 Swordfish Action Plan Resolution*, and 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 bluefin tuna, Atlantic swordfish, and Atlantic bigeye tuna, respectively, from Belize has been prohibited;

RECOGNIZING the significant progress that the Government of Belize has recently taken to initiate a broad program of reform to achieve full compliance with ICCAT measures, including deleting a substantial number of vessels from its register that were identified as diminishing the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures, adopting revised national legislation, and developing and implementing licensing, monitoring, control, and surveillance methods to its fleet;

CONCERNED nonetheless that additional steps still remain to be taken for Belize to address fully the concerns in the above-mentioned resolutions;

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

1. Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities shall lift the import prohibition on Atlantic bluefin tuna and its products from Belize 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 or Fishing Entities shall lift the import prohibition on Atlantic swordfish and its products from Belize that was imposed pursuant to the *Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding Belize and Honduras Pursuant to the 1995 Swordfish Action Plan Resolution*.
3. Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities shall lift the import prohibition on Atlantic bigeye tuna and its products from Belize 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*.
4. The suspension of the import prohibitions imposed under the Recommendations above shall take effect on 1 January 2004, unless the Commission decides, on the basis of documentary evidence, at its 2003 meeting that Belize has not completed necessary actions to bring its fishing practices for Atlantic bluefin tuna, Atlantic swordfish, and Atlantic bigeye tuna into conformity with ICCAT conservation and management measures.