

**RESOLUTION BY ICCAT FOR A DATA WORKSHOP**

*RECOGNIZING* that collection and submission of accurate fishery data such as basic catch, effort and size frequency data by time and area to ICCAT for the species covered by the Convention is indispensable for better scientific work including stock assessments which provide the basis for proper conservation and management measures adopted by ICCAT;

*EXPRESSING* concern that the quality of such fishery data continues to deteriorate for some fisheries and for some fisheries relevant data have never been available to the Commission;

*RECOGNIZING* the urgent need for the Commission to collect adequate fishery data in a timely manner to conduct better stock assessments;

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

1. An *ad hoc* joint Workshop of ICCAT scientists and managers be convened in 2003, perhaps in conjunction with another inter-sessional meeting, with the view to improving collection and provision of data related to fishing, including farming, of the species covered by the Commission by Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities and other non-Contracting Parties.
2. The Workshop should:
  - a) review data deficiencies for each species under the purview of ICCAT,
  - b) consider the credibility of catch data and the utility of using trade data collected under the Statistical Document Programs; and
  - c) develop recommendations to improve collection and reporting of catch data adequate to conduct or improve the work of SCRS, PWG, and the Compliance Committee.
3. All Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities and the Commission Chairman, SCRS Chairman, Compliance Committee Chairman, SCRS Species Group Rapporteurs, and Chair of the Sub-Committee on Statistics should be invited to participate. Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities are encouraged to include scientists and managers on their delegations.
4. The ICCAT Secretariat should provide technical and administrative support for the Workshop.