

[03-01]

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

*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 the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) to develop stock rebuilding scenarios to levels that reflect MSY;

*RECALLING* the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Bigeye Tuna Conservation Measures for Fishing Vessels Larger than 24 m Length Overall (LOA)* [98-03] 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 years 1991 and 1992;

*CONSIDERING* that the SCRS recommends that starting in 2004 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 that would allow MSY to be attained;

*TAKING INTO ACCOUNT* the need to consider the deliberations of the Second World Meeting on Bigeye Tuna in Madrid and the BETYP Symposium in March 2004, for the purposes of the management of this stock;

*RECALLING* that in 1999, the Commission adopted the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Establishment of a Closed Area/Season for the Use of Fish-Aggregating Devices (FADs)* [99-01] for the application of a moratorium on FAD fishing, considering that the full application of that Recommendation will reduce the catch of small bigeye;

**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 2004, 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 provisions of paragraph 1 above,
  - a) China shall limit in 2004 its catch of bigeye tuna to 5,000 t, while the number of its vessels registered with the Commission shall not exceed 60 for 2004 and thereafter.
  - b) The Commission shall request Chinese Taipei to limit in 2004 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 2004 and thereafter the number of its fishing vessels fishing for Atlantic bigeye tuna to five (5).
3. The provisions of paragraph 1 shall 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 2004 catch limit for bigeye tuna may be added to/must be subtracted from the 2005 and/or 2006 catch limits for bigeye tuna.
5. The SCRS will conduct an analysis of the effectiveness of the current minimum size recommendations and will advise in 2004 on alternative measures for the protection of juvenile bigeye, taking into account the current moratorium.