

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON THE SOUTHERN ALBACORE CATCH LIMITS
FOR 2008, 2009, 2010 AND 2011**

NOTING that the current estimated MSY from the base case of the 2007 stock assessment is 29,900 t and that the replacement yield was estimated at 28,800 t which was a less optimistic view to that given in 2003;

NOTING FURTHER the conclusions of the 2007 Albacore Assessment Meeting, and of the 2007 SCRS Report, that the southern albacore stock is considered to be overfished with the current best estimate of $B_{\text{current}}/B_{\text{MSY}}$ being 0.91 and the current best estimate of $F_{\text{current}}/F_{\text{MSY}}$ being 0.63;

ACKNOWLEDGING that recent total annual catches have been considerably lower than MSY;

RECOGNISING the need to implement measures to improve the southern albacore stock to MSY levels, this being the management objective of ICCAT;

FURTHER RECOGNISING that additional work is needed before sharing arrangements for southern albacore based on the *ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities* [01-25] can be developed and agreed on;

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

1. The annual total catch limit for albacore caught in the Atlantic Ocean South of 5°N shall be set at 29,900 t for 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011, this being the current base lower estimate of the MSY of the stock.
2. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 1, should the total reported albacore catches in 2008, as reported to the 2009 ICCAT meeting, exceed 29,900 t, the TAC for 2009 shall be reduced by the full amount of the 2008 catch in excess of 29,900 t.
3. Should the catches exceed 28,800 t (replacement yield) in any given year until 2011, then the conservation measure pertaining to the southern albacore stock should be reviewed in the year that the catches have been reported with the aim to develop proposals for a sharing arrangement based on the *ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities* [01-25] adopted in 2001.
4. Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities not actively fishing for southern albacore and having caught, on average, less than 100 t of southern albacore per year during 1998-2002 shall be subject to a catch limit of 100 t.
5. Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities not actively fishing for southern albacore and having caught, on average, more than 100 t of southern albacore during 1992-1996, but excluding Japan, shall be subject to an annual catch limit or 110% of their respective average 1992-1996 catches of albacore in the Atlantic Ocean South of 5°N.
6. Japan shall endeavour to limit its total catch of southern albacore to 4% by weight of its total longline bigeye tuna catch in the Atlantic Ocean South of 5°N.
7. No provision shall be made for carry-over of under-harvests made under this sharing arrangement, with the exception of Belize and paragraph 5 countries which are allowed to carry-over a maximum of 150 tons of their underage in 2007 to 2008. Similarly underages in any given year of this conservation measure may be carried over to the following year with carry-overs being non-accumulative.
8. Those Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities fishing actively for southern albacore shall improve their catch reporting systems to ensure the reporting of accurate and validated southern albacore catch and effort data to ICCAT in full accordance with the ICCAT requirements for provision of Task I and Task II catch, effort and size data.

9. All aspects of the southern albacore catch limit and sharing arrangement shall be reviewed and revised at the 2011 ICCAT Commission meeting, taking account of the results of the updated southern albacore stock assessment to be conducted in 2011. This review and revision shall also address any over-harvest made in excess of the 2010 TAC.
10. This Recommendation replaces, in its entirety, the 2004 *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Southern Albacore Catch Limit for 2005, 2006 and 2007* [Rec. 04-04].