

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT TO AMEND THE *RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT*
ON A *MULTI-YEAR CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAM FOR BIGEYE TUNA***

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

1. The terms of the 2004 *Recommendation by ICCAT on a Multi-Year Conservation and Management Program for Bigeye Tuna* [Rec. 04-01] are extended through 2009.
2. All underages or overages of the annual catch limit of bigeye tuna may be added/to or shall be deducted from the annual catch limit as follows:

<i>Year of catch</i>	<i>Adjustment Year</i>
2008	2009 and/or 2010
2009	2010 and/or 2011

3. The 2,000 t transfer of bigeye tuna catch limit from Japan to China, to be applied in 2009 be authorized.
4. The Commission requests the SCRS to evaluate before the Regular meeting of 2009:
 - the existing port sampling programmes aimed at collecting fishery data for bigeye, yellowfin, and skipjack tuna that are caught by purse seine and baitboat fisheries in the Gulf of Guinea,
 - the closure contained in the proposal from Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire (**Annex 1**), and any alternative closure, taking into account the need to reduce the catch of juvenile fish.

and make appropriate recommendations to improve the sampling programme and the closure so that they are implemented by 2010.

Reference Document Proposal by Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire

Draft Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT to Amend the Multi-Year Conservation and Management Program for Bigeye Tuna

CONSIDERING the recent analysis by the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) which concluded that changes to the Gulf of Guinea time and area closure adopted in the 2004 *Recommendation by ICCAT on a Multi-Year Conservation and Management Program for Bigeye Tuna* [Rec. 04-01] are less effective at protecting small juvenile bigeye (BET) and yellowfin (YFT) tunas (<3.2 kg) than the previous closure specified in the 1999 *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Establishment of a Closed Area/Season for the Use of Fish-Aggregating Devices (FADs)* [Rec. 99-01];

CONCERNED that small juvenile bigeye tuna represent approximately 70 percent of bigeye catches, in number of fish, with a generally increasing trend (SCRS):

NOTING that, in 2005, SCRS identified modifications that would improve the effectiveness of the area/season closure applied to purse seine vessels and baitboats flying a CPC flag;

RECALLING the overfished status of Atlantic bigeye tuna and the 2007 and 2008 SCRS recommendations to reduce the total allowable catches of this species;

OBSERVING the mixed composition of the surface fisheries occurring in the Gulf of Guinea and SCRS recommendations to reduce fishing mortality of small juvenile yellowfin tuna to increase long-term sustainable yield:

RECOGNIZING the contribution that a reduction in the harvest of juvenile tunas in the Gulf of Guinea can contribute to the long-term sustainability of the stocks;

INTENDING to implement measures to substantially reduce the expected catch of small juvenile bigeye and yellowfin tunas (<3.2 kg) from recent levels;

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

1. The terms of the 2004 *Recommendation by ICCAT on a Multi-Year Conservation and Management Plan for Bigeye Tuna* [Rec. 04-01] are extended through December 31, 2010, except as provided for below.
2. Paragraph 8 of the *Recommendation by ICCAT on a Multiyear Conservation and Management Program for Bigeye Tuna* [Rec. 04-01] is replaced by the following:

Purse seine and baitboat vessels flying the flag of CPCs shall be prohibited from fishing around, under, or in association with floating objects, including fish-aggregating devices (FADs), during the time period and in the area specified in paragraph 3(b) of the Draft Supplemental Recommendation to Amend Recommendation 04-01.

- a) Vessels fishing in the area referenced in paragraph 3(b) of the Draft Supplemental Recommendation to Amend Recommendation 04-01 during the period referenced in paragraph 3(a) of the Draft Supplemental Recommendation to Amend Recommendation 04-01 shall retain and report all catches of Atlantic tunas to the Secretariat.
- b) CPCs shall establish domestic procedures to identify and sanction vessels flying their flags that do not comply with the area restrictions. CPCs shall report on their implementation of such procedures and compliance with the restrictions referenced in paragraphs 3(a) and 3(b) of the Draft Supplemental Recommendation to Amend Recommendation 04-01 to the Secretariat by August 1, each year. The Executive Secretary shall report to the Commission on compliance with the aforementioned restrictions in paragraphs 3(a) and 3(b) of the Draft Supplemental Recommendation to Amend Recommendation 04-01 during each annual meeting of the Commission.

3. Paragraph 9 of the Recommendation 04-01 is replaced by the following:

The time period and area referred to in paragraph 8 of Recommendation 04-01 are the following:

- a) The time period is from 1 November of one year to 31 January of the following year.
- b) The area is defined as:
 - Southern limit: parallel 4° South latitude
 - Northern limit: parallel 5° North latitude
 - Western limit: meridian 20° West longitude
 - Eastern limit: the African Coast.
- c) The Commission requests that the SCRS analyze all relevant data and recommend for consideration by the Commission at the 2010 annual meeting, a more effective restricted area that would reduce the relative proportion of small juvenile bigeye tuna and yellowfin caught, prevent growth overfishing, and increase the long-term sustainable yield.

4. Paragraph 10 of Recommendation 04-01 is replaced by the following:

The prohibition in paragraphs 8 and 9 of Recommendation 04-01 includes:

- Prohibition on launching any floating objects, with or without buoys;
- Prohibition on fishing around, under, or in association with artificial objects, including vessels;
- Prohibition on fishing around, under, or in association with natural objects;
- Prohibition on towing floating objects outside the area identified in paragraph 2 of Recommendation 04-01.

5. Paragraph 11 of Recommendation 04-01 is replaced by the following:

The Commission requests the SCRS to analyze in 2011, the efficacy of the area restrictions in paragraphs 3(a) and 3(b) of the Draft Supplemental Recommendation to Amend Recommendation 04-01 in reducing catches of small juvenile bigeye and yellowfin fishes and the impacts of these area restrictions on these affected fish stocks.

6. Paragraph 15 of Recommendation 04-01 is revised as follows to add a new paragraph:

CPCs shall ensure that all purse seine and longline vessels and not less than 50 percent of all baitboats affected by the measure have an observer on board vessels engaged in fishing activities on trips taking place during the period referred to in paragraph 3(b) of the Draft Supplemental Recommendation to Amend Recommendation 04-01, who shall observe the respect of the measure. The biological data collected on the fleet as a whole by these observers shall be provided to the SCRS for the purpose of carrying out analyses identified in paragraph 4 of Recommendation 04-01.

- a) Observers shall undertake robust data collection on all aspects of the total catch (including by-catch such as sea turtles, marine mammals, seabirds, etc.), which, at a minimum, includes size, biological samples to determine age, and catch per unit of effort information by species.
- b) The observers should possess the following skills in order to discharge their duties:
 - Sufficient experience to identify species and gear
 - Knowledge of the ICCAT conservation measures
 - Ability to carry out elementary scientific tasks, e.g., collecting samples, as requested and observe and record accurately,
 - Knowledge of the language of the flag of the vessel observed.

7. Paragraph 16 of Recommendation 04-01 is replaced by the following:

The Commission requests the SCRS to develop by 2010 a port sampling plan aimed at collecting fishery data for bigeye, yellowfin, and skipjack tunas that are caught in the vicinity of the restricted area referred to in paragraphs 3(a) and 3(b) of the Draft Supplemental Recommendation to Amend Recommendation 04-01. Beginning in 2011, the port sampling program shall be implemented in all ports receiving such catches from

fishing vessels. Data and information collected from the program shall be reported to the Secretariat each year beginning in 2012, describing, at a minimum, the following by country of landing and quarter: species composition, landings by species, length composition, and weights. Biological samples suitable for determining life history should be collected as practicable.

8. Paragraph 17 is added:

The Commission requests the SCRS to conduct an assessment of bigeye tuna in the year 2010 and every four years thereafter.

9. This Recommendation amends Recommendation [04-01].