RESOLUTION BY ICCAT TO COMPLETE THE STANDARDIZATION
OF THE PRESENTATION OF SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION IN THE SCRS ANNUAL REPORT

RECOGNIZING that, in response to ICCAT Resolution 11-14, the presentation of scientific information in the Standing Committee for Research and Statistics (SCRS) annual report and inter-sessional meeting reports have significantly improved.

NOTING, however, that the standardization of information included in the SCRS reports with respect to the quality and reliability of input data and projections of stock status can be further enhanced;

RECALLING the recommendation of the Kobe II Workshop of Experts to Share Best Practices on the Provision of Scientific Advice that the Executive Summaries of scientific reports should be standardized to the extent possible;

RECALLING that the Kobe III Workshop of Experts on Science recognized that substantial uncertainties still remain in the assessments and recommended that the Scientific Committees and Bodies of the t-RFMOs develop research activities to better quantify the whole uncertainty and understand how uncertainty is reflected in the risk assessment inherent in the Kobe II Strategy Matrix;

CONSIDERING the utility of distinguishing, where possible, between the inherent variability in natural system (*i.e.* life history parameters) which is unavoidable, and the uncertainty related to the quality of the state of knowledge of the system and of the fishery data, which could potentially be reduced through improvements to the available data and/or the models applied;

FURTHER NOTING that the SCRS, as part of its 2015-2020 Strategic Plan for Science, will develop specific formats to provide scientific advice in line with the needs of the Commission.

FINALLY STRESSING that the best way to tackle uncertainties related to fisheries data consists for CPCs in complying with their fundamental obligations of reporting basic catch and effort statistics, including reliable Task I and Task II data, in a due time to ensure their availability to the SCRS.

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

1) The SCRS should clearly identify sources of variability and uncertainty and clearly explain how this variability and uncertainty affect the stock assessment results and the interpretation of the Kobe II Strategy Matrices.

2) The SCRS should further standardize the presentation of information included in its reports.

3) Therefore, in addition to the minimum elements required by Resolution 11-14, the SCRS may further score the quality of the fisheries data and related to the knowledge of the species (e.g. biological parameters, fishery distribution patterns historical data, selectivity) used as inputs to stock assessments. Qualitative scores on input data and assumptions may be detailed and should summarize the state of knowledge of the different inputs and report on:

   a) the quality, the reliability and, where relevant, the representativeness of input data and information, such as, but not limited to, (i) fisheries statistics and fisheries indicators (e.g. catch and effort, catch-at-size and catch-at-age matrices by sex and, when applicable, fisheries dependent indices of abundance), (ii) biological information (e.g. growth parameters, natural mortality, maturity and fecundity, migrations patterns and stock structure, fisheries independent indices of abundance) and (iii) complementary information (*i.e.* consistencies among available abundance indices, influence of the environmental factors on the dynamic of the stock, changes in fishing effort distribution, selectivity and fishing power, changes in target species),

b) limitations of the assessment models used with respect to the type and the quality of the input data,

c) potential biases in the assessment results associated with uncertainties of the input data.

4) For the purpose of paragraphs 2 and 3, the SCRS may consider a specific table or any other alternate format to be included in its annual report in association to the Kobe plot in order to summarize the information required in this resolution.

5) In cases where the SCRS utilizes different modeling approaches and/or scenarios (*i.e.*, sensitivity runs or alternative hypotheses) to characterize uncertainty in stock assessments, the SCRS should clearly identify what it considers as the most defensible or the most likely scenario (*i.e.*, 'base case') and provide the rationale for its decision. In cases where these different approaches and/or scenarios would finally be considered as equally plausible, this model or structural uncertainty should be accounted for in the calculation of the stock assessment parameters.