

Original: English

**RESOLUTION BY ICCAT CONCERNING THE APPLICATION OF
AN ECOSYSTEM APPROACH TO FISHERIES MANAGEMENT
(Adopted by Commission in Plenary 15 November 2015)**

NOTING that provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement reflect certain elements of an ecosystem approach to the conservation and management of marine living resources;

RECALLING that certain aspects of the ICCAT Convention reflect components of an ecosystem approach, particularly with regard to the research activities of ICCAT;

FURTHER RECALLING that ICCAT has taken decisions, such as Rec. [10-06] and Rec. [10-09] that take ecosystem considerations into account;

ACKNOWLEDGING the ongoing work of the Subcommittee on Ecosystems which provides valuable information and advice concerning ecosystem related issues and questions facing the Commission;

DESIRING to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of ICCAT species and in so doing safeguarding the marine ecosystems in which the resources occur;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the discussions taking place within the Convention Amendment Working Group on the incorporation of an ecosystem approach to fisheries management in the proposed amendments to the ICCAT Convention; and

NOTING that this resolution is without prejudice to any discussions or decisions made by the Working Group in this regard;

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

1. When making recommendations pursuant to Article VIII of the Convention, the Commission should apply an ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management,
2. In implementing an ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management, the Commission should, *inter alia*:
 - a) consider the interdependence of stocks and species belonging to the same ecosystem or associated with or dependent upon target stocks;
 - b) consider the impacts of fishing, other relevant human activities, and environmental factors on target stocks, non-target species and species belonging to the same ecosystem or associated with or dependent upon target stocks in the Convention area; and
 - c) minimize negative impacts of fishing activities on the marine ecosystem.