

Original: English

**DRAFT RESOLUTION BY ICCAT FOR A  
TECHICAL WORKING GROUP ON DATA IMPROVEMENT**

*Proposal by the United States*

*RECOGNIZING* that collection and submission to ICCAT of accurate and complete fishery data, including on bycatch and discards, is important for the scientific and regulatory work of ICCAT;

*EXPRESSING* concern that data, including on bycatch and discards, from some ICCAT fisheries are incomplete or missing, or of poor quality for a variety of reasons;

*RECALLING* the data collection goal included in the 2015-2020 SCRS Science Strategic Plan and desiring to support SCRS efforts to achieve the objectives of that goal;

*STRESSING* the need to improve the collection of fishery data to reduce uncertainty in stock assessments and enhance evaluations of the impact of ICCAT fisheries on bycatch species and to support the development of effective conservation and management measures by the Commission;

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

1. Within the overall structure of the Standing Working Group to Enhance the Dialogue Between Fisheries Scientists and Managers (SWGSM), a Technical Working Group is established with the aim of improving and simplifying data collection and reporting related to ICCAT fisheries with a primary focus on bycatch and discards, to strengthen the ability of the SCRS, the Commission, and the Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (CPCs), to carry out their respective responsibilities.
2. The Working Group will:
  - a) review data gaps and other deficiencies in the quality or quantity of bycatch, discard, and, as appropriate, other data for ICCAT fisheries and the reasons therefore;
  - b) develop approaches for addressing such data gaps and deficiencies and strengthening the collection and reporting to ICCAT of high quality fisheries data by CPCs, including, where needed, recommendations for consideration by the Commission; and
  - c) develop approaches for simplifying data collection and building the capacity of CPCs, where needed, to carry out these objectives.
3. To inform the work specified in paragraph 2 above, the SCRS, with assistance from the ICCAT Secretariat, will provide, prior to the first Technical Working Group meeting, relevant information on by-catch, discards, and, if appropriate, other data needs, including information on any ongoing or planned work to address these needs and/or any recommendations for addressing them.
4. Scientists and managers from all CPCs are strongly encouraged to participate in the Technical Working Group. Relevant SCRS officers should also attend its meetings.
5. The Technical Working Group may elect its own chair or, if appropriate, co-chairs and will hold its first meeting in 2016, if possible, in conjunction with an intersessional SCRS or Commission related meeting to facilitate the broadest possible participation.