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**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 data collection and reporting related to ICCAT fisheries with a primary focus on bycatch and discards, to strengthen the ability of the SCRS and Commission 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 therefor;
 - b) develop approaches for addressing such data gaps and deficiencies, including, where needed, recommendations for consideration by the Commission.
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 bycatch, 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.