

Original: English

DRAFT RESOLUTION BY ICCAT ON THE SARGASSO SEA

(Proposal by Canada, European Union, South Africa, UK (OTs) and the United States)

RECALLING the *Resolution by ICCAT on Pelagic Sargassum* [Res. 05-11] which called upon the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) to examine available and accessible information and data on the status of pelagic *Sargassum* and its ecological importance to tuna and tuna-like species;

ALSO RECALLING the *Resolution by ICCAT on the Sargasso Sea* [Res. 12-12] which called upon the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) to examine the available data and information concerning the Sargasso Sea and its ecological importance to tuna and tuna-like species and ecologically associated species;

RECOGNISING that a report on the findings of this work was presented to the Commission this year;

ALSO RECOGNIZING that the SCRS, in its 2015 report, noted that the Sargasso Sea is an important and unique ecosystem for some ICCAT species, and that in 2013 the SCRS had noted the basic biological and ecological data provided for this region offers a useful foundation for adopting the Sargasso Sea as a basis for a case study in implementing the Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management (EBFM) approach within ICCAT;

NOTING that the United Nations Agreement on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks calls for the protection of biodiversity in the marine environment and refers to the need to take ecosystem considerations into account;

FURTHER NOTING that the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) has already incorporated ecosystem considerations into fisheries management;

**THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS RESOLVES THAT:**

1. The SCRS will continue to examine the available data and information concerning the Sargasso Sea and its ecological importance to tuna and tuna-like species and ecologically associated species.
2. The SCRS will report back to the Commission with additional findings and advice in 2017.