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**DRAFT RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT AMENDING REC. 17-06 FOR AN INTERIM
CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR WESTERN ATLANTIC BLUEFIN TUNA**

(Document submitted by Panel 2 Chair)

RECALLING the Recommendation by ICCAT for an Interim Conservation and Management Plan for Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna [Rec. 17-06], which will expire at the end of 2020;

NOTING the unprecedented situation in 2020 that has resulted in the cancellation of the ICCAT annual meeting and the need to make decisions by correspondence through which it is difficult to have substantive discussion to establish total allowable catch levels and other conservation and management measures;

UNDERSCORING the need to ensure there is no lapse in conservation and management measures for western Atlantic bluefin tuna in 2021 while acknowledging the significant challenges associated with complex decision making by correspondence;

NOTING that the Commission will be able to more fully consider the management of western Atlantic bluefin tuna when it meets in person at its 2021 annual meeting;

[...]
[...]
[...]
[...]

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

The provisions in the *Recommendation by ICCAT for an Interim Conservation and Management Plan for Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna* [Rec. 17-06] shall be extended through 2021 with the exception of its paragraph 17, which shall be replaced with the following:

[...]
[...]
[...]

“17. In 2022, the SCRS will conduct a stock assessment for bluefin tuna for the western Atlantic stock and for the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean stock and provide advice to the Commission on the appropriate management measures, approaches, and strategies, including, *inter alia*, regarding TAC levels for those stocks for future years.”