

**DRAFT RESOLUTION BY ICCAT ON ICCAT CONTRIBUTION IN THE
CONSERVATION OF MARINE BIODIVERSITY**

(Submitted by the Commission Chair)

IN VIEW of the ongoing process of adoption of the new International legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) on the conservation and sustainable use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ);

AWARE of the upcoming adoption by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) of a new objective to protect 30% of the oceans by 2030;

NOTING that a number of multilateral environmental agreements are dealing with issues related to the protection of marine biodiversity, such as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), etc.;

CONSIDERING that the interlinks between the protection of marine biodiversity and the conservation and management of fisheries around the world, and that many tuna RFMOs' mandates cover also the protection of marine biodiversity in line with UNCLOS and United Nations Fish Stock Agreement (UNFSA);

CONSIDERING that ICCAT, as well as other regional fisheries organizations, have the scientific knowledge and the technical expertise related to the marine pelagic ecosystem and of the fishing activities that take place therein, and considering that such knowledge and expertise could be usefully shared for a sound, science-based implementation of the above international Conventions;

CONSIDERING the crucial role that tuna fisheries can play in achieving several United Nations Millennium objectives, such as eliminate hunger and poverty, conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, etc.;

THEREFORE, considering that the achievement of biodiversity conservation objectives should be made compatible with the conduct of sustainable tuna fisheries, and that cooperation between fisheries and environmental conservation would be beneficial for all.

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

1. CPCs and the ICCAT Secretariat follow up closely the adoption of the above international conventions on the protection of marine biodiversity and the final objectives established, as well as the decisions on practical ways to ensure their implementation, including the role to be played by regional fisheries organizations in the context of their respective mandates.
2. The Chair, in coordination with the ICCAT Secretariat, should prepare, in consultation with interested CPCs, a plan on compiling ideas and suggestions on how ICCAT, in the context of its mandate, can further contribute to global efforts for the protection of marine biodiversity, including through collaboration with relevant conventions and multilateral environmental agreements, in particular in terms of the provision of scientific advice, work priorities, and any other relevant questions, to ensure ICCAT can maintain its leading role in the constellation of international instruments aiming at the conservation of marine biodiversity.
3. The Chair, in close cooperation with the Secretariat, should prepare such a Working Paper for discussion at the 2023 annual meeting of the Commission.