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**GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION FOR THE
MEDITERRANEAN**

Twenty-ninth Session

Rome, Italy, 21-25 February 2005

**ICCAT RECOMMENDATIONS OF RELEVANCE FOR THE
MEDITERRANEAN**

04-05 BFT**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT CONCERNING THE WESTERN ATLANTIC BLUEFIN TUNA REBUILDING PROGRAM AND THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR BLUEFIN TUNA IN THE EASTERN ATLANTIC AND MEDITERRANEAN**

NOTING that the 2002 amendment to the 1998 *Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Rebuilding*

Program for Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna [Rec. 98-07] established a quota sharing arrangement for the United States, Japan, and Canada only through 2004,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that the next assessment of Atlantic bluefin tuna was scheduled for 2004 in the 2002 *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning a Multi-year Conservation and Management Plan for Bluefin in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean* [Rec. 02-08],

CONSIDERING the on-going work of the Working Group to Develop Integrated and Coordinated Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Management Strategies,

DESIRING to align stock management discussions with new scientific advice and, in the meantime, to extend for one year existing management measures which support the western Atlantic bluefin tuna rebuilding program,

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

1 The provisions of the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Conservation of Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna* [Rec. 02-07], which amend the *Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Rebuilding Program for Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna* [Rec. 98-07], be extended through 2006.

2 All other operative paragraphs of Recommendation 98-07 as amended by Recommendation 02-07 remain unchanged.

3 The 3rd Meeting of the Working Group to Develop Integrated and Coordinated Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Management Strategies take place in April 2005 in Japan. Its primary objective will be to develop a range of future alternative management approaches which will be submitted to the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) for its opinion. The Commission will review at its 2005 Meeting the SCRS Report, notably on the feasibility and implications of those alternative management approaches.

4 In 2006, the SCRS will conduct the stock assessment for bluefin tuna for the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean and western Atlantic and provide advice to the Commission on the appropriate management measures, *inter alia*, on total allowable catch levels for those stocks for future years. This provision amends paragraph 6 of Recommendation 02-08.

5 At its 2006 meeting, the Commission will consider the distribution of the total allowable catch among Contracting Parties in the western Atlantic and make any necessary changes for future management periods.

04-06 BFT**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON BLUEFIN TUNA FARMING**

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the increasing development of bluefin tuna farming activities, especially in the Mediterranean;

RECALLING the conclusions of 6th *Ad Hoc* GFCM/ICCAT Joint Working Group Meeting on Stocks of Large Pelagic Fishes in the Mediterranean Sea relative to the effects of the bluefin tuna farming and on the solutions that could be studied to regulate this activity;

CONSIDERING the advice of the 2001 Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) on effects of bluefin tuna farming in the Mediterranean on the collection of data and consequently on stock assessment procedures;

DESIRING to gradually implement effective management measures that permit the development of bluefin tuna farming in a responsible and sustainable manner in relation to the management of bluefin tuna;

NOTING the potential advantages of the use of underwater video monitoring in estimating the number of fish,

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

1 Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (hereafter referred to as CPCs) whose flag vessels fish or transfer quantities of bluefin tuna to cages for farming shall undertake the necessary measures:

a to require that the captains of vessels carrying out transfer operations of bluefin tuna for caging maintain vessel logs and report the quantities transferred and the number of fish as well as the date, place of harvest and name of the vessel and of the company responsible for the caging.

b to require the reporting of the total amount of the transfers of bluefin tuna for fattening and farming, carried out by their flag vessels, and include this information in the Task I data.

c to set up and maintain a list of their flag vessels that fish for, provide or transport bluefin tuna for farming purposes (name of the vessel, flag, license number, gear type), i.e., fishing boat, transport vessel, vessels with pools, etc.

2 The CPCs under whose jurisdiction the farms for bluefin tuna are located in the Convention area shall adopt the necessary measures to:

a ensure that a caging declaration is presented by the operator in accordance with the ICCAT format in

the attached Annex, on each fishing or transport vessel that participated in the transfer of tuna to cages for fattening, including the quantities of bluefin tuna destined for farming. This declaration shall include information relative to the quantities (in t) of fish transferred to the cages, the number of fish, the date, the place, the location of the harvest, the name of the vessel, as well as its flag and license number;

b ensure that the tuna farms and the national scientific institutes obtain data as specified in the following paragraph on the size composition of the fish caught as well as the date, time and area of catch and the fishing method used, in order to improve statistics for stock assessment purposes ;

To this end, establish a sampling program for the estimation of the numbers-at-size of the bluefin tuna caught which requires notably that size sampling at cages must be done on one sample (=

100 specimens) for every 100 t. of live fish. Size sample will be collected during harvesting¹ at the farm,

1 For fish farmed more than one year, other additional sampling methods should be established.

following the ICCAT methodology for reporting Task II. The sampling should be conducted during any harvesting, covering all cages. Data must be transmitted to ICCAT, by 31 July for the sampling conducted the previous year.

c ensure the reporting of the quantities of bluefin tuna placed in cages and of estimates of the growth and mortality while in captivity and of the amounts sold (in t);

d set up and maintain a registry of the farming facilities under their jurisdiction;

e each CPC referred to in this paragraph shall nominate a single authority responsible for coordinating the collection and verification of information on caging activities and for reporting to and cooperating with the CPC whose flag vessels have fished the caged tuna.

This single authority shall submit, to the CPCs whose flag vessels have fished the caged tuna, a copy of each caging declaration referred to in paragraph 2 a, within one week after the completion of the transfer operation of bluefin tuna into cages.

3 CPCs mentioned in paragraphs 1 and 2 shall take the appropriate measures to verify the accuracy of the information received and shall cooperate to ensure that quantities caged are consistent with the reported catches (logbook) amount of each fishing vessel.

4 The CPCs that export farmed bluefin tuna products shall ensure that the description of these products includes "Farming" in the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document (BTSD) or the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Re-exportation Certificate (refer to the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Amendment of the Forms of the ICCAT Bluefin/Bigeye/Swordfish Statistical Documents* [Rec. 03-19]).

5 The CPCs shall transmit, each year, to the Executive Secretary, prior to 31 August:

? the list of flag vessels provided for in paragraph 1 c),

? the results of the program referred to in paragraph 2 b),

? the quantities of bluefin tuna caged during the previous year,

? the quantities marketed during the previous year.

6 The CPCs mentioned in this recommendation as well as the Contracting Parties that import bluefin tuna shall cooperate, particularly through the exchange of information.

7 The Commission shall request non-Contracting Parties that farm bluefin tuna in the Convention area to cooperate in the implementation of this recommendation.

8 Based on the information referred to in paragraph 4, on the BTSD reports and the Task I data, the Commission shall review the effectiveness of these measures.

9

a The Commission shall establish and maintain an ICCAT record of farming facilities authorized to operate for farming of bluefin tuna caught in the Convention area (hereafter referred to as FFBs). For the purposes of this Recommendation, FFBs not entered into the record are deemed not to be authorized to operate for farming of bluefin tuna caught in the Convention area.

b Each CPC under whose jurisdiction FFBs are located shall submit electronically, where possible, to the ICCAT Executive Secretary by 31 August 2004 the list of its FFBs that are authorized to operate for farming of bluefin tuna. This list shall include the following information:

? name of the FFB, register number,

? names and addresses of owner (s) and operator (s),

? location,

? farming capacity (in t)

c Each CPC shall notify the Executive Secretary, after the establishment of the ICCAT record of FFBs, of any addition to, any deletion from and/or any modification of the ICCAT record of FFBs at any time such changes occur.

d The ICCAT Executive Secretary shall maintain the ICCAT record of FFBs, and take any measure to ensure publicity of the record through electronic means, including placing it on the ICCAT website, in a manner consistent with confidentiality requirements noted by CPCs.

e The CPCs under whose jurisdiction FFBs are located shall take the necessary measures to ensure that their FFBs comply with the relevant ICCAT measures.

f To ensure the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures pertaining to bluefin tuna:

i CPCs under whose jurisdiction FFBs are located shall validate Bluefin Tuna Statistical Documents only for the farms on the ICCAT record of FFBs,

ii CPCs shall require farmed bluefin tuna, when imported into their territory to be accompanied by statistical documents validated for FFBs on the ICCAT record of FFBs and,

iii CPCs importing farmed bluefin tuna and the States that authorize the FFB shall cooperate to ensure that statistical documents are not forged or do not contain misinformation.

10 The SCRS shall undertake trials to identify growth rates including weight gains during the fattening or penning period.

11 This recommendation replaces the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Bluefin Tuna Farming* [Rec. 03-09].

ICCAT DECLARATION ON CAGING

<i>Vessel name</i>	<i>Flag</i>	<i>Registration number</i>	<i>Date of catch</i>	<i>Place of catch</i>	<i>Date of caging</i>	<i>Quantity placed in cage (kg)</i>	<i>Number of fish placed in cage for fattening</i>	<i>Fattening facility*</i>

* Facility authorized to operate for fattening of bluefin tuna caught in the Convention area.

04-07 BFT**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON BLUEFIN TUNA SIZE LIMIT**

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the concerns expressed by the SCRS on the continued high level of undersized catches of bluefin tuna,

CONSCIOUS of the need to contribute to the objectives of the *Recommendation by ICCAT to Develop a Plan Aimed at Reducing the Catches of Juvenile Bluefin Tuna in the Mediterranean* [Rec. 02-09] to reduce the catches of under-sized bluefin tuna,

IN ORDER to ensure adequate enforcement and monitoring of the minimum size of bluefin tuna in the East Atlantic and the Mediterranean Sea,

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

1 Contracting Parties and Co-operating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (CPCs) shall take the necessary measures to prohibit the catch, the retaining on board, landing and/or transshipment of any bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) weighing less than 10 kg in the Mediterranean Sea.

2 In the East Atlantic and the Mediterranean Sea, CPCs shall take the necessary measures to prohibit the catch, the retaining on board, the landing, the transshipment and the sale of any bluefin tuna under the minimum applicable size. No tolerance shall be granted.

3 The second and third sub-paragraphs of operative paragraph 9 of the *Recommendation by ICCAT*

Concerning a Multi-year Conservation and Management Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean [Rec. 02-08], as well as the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning a Limit on Bluefin Tuna Size and Fishing Mortality* [Rec. 74-01] and the *Recommendation by ICCAT on a Supplemental Management Measure Concerning Age Zero Bluefin Tuna* [Rec. 97-02], are repealed.

04-10 BYC**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT CONCERNING THE CONSERVATION OF SHARKS
CAUGHT IN ASSOCIATION WITH FISHERIES MANAGED BY ICCAT**

RECALLING that the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) International Plan of Action for Sharks calls on States, within the framework of their respective competencies and consistent with international law, to cooperate through regional fisheries organizations with a view to ensuring the sustainability of shark stocks as well as to adopt a National Plan of Action for the conservation and management of sharks;

CONSIDERING that many sharks are part of pelagic ecosystems in the Convention area, and that tunas and tuna-like species are captured in fisheries targeting sharks;

RECOGNIZING the need to collect data on catch, effort, discards, and trade, as well as information on the biological parameters of many species, in order to conserve and manage sharks;

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

1 Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (CPCs) shall annually report Task I and Task II data for catches of sharks, in accordance with ICCAT data reporting procedures, including available historical data.

2 CPCs shall take the necessary measures to require that their fishermen fully utilize their entire catches of sharks. Full utilization is defined as retention by the fishing vessel of all parts of the shark excepting head, guts and skins, to the point of first landing.

3 CPCs shall require their vessels to not have onboard fins that total more than 5% of the weight of sharks onboard, up to the first point of landing. CPCs that currently do not require fins and carcasses to be offloaded together at the point of first landing shall take the necessary measures to ensure compliance with the 5% ratio through certification, monitoring by an observer, or other appropriate measures.

4 The ratio of fin -to-body weight of sharks described in paragraph 3 shall be reviewed by the SCRS and reported back to the Commission in 2005 for revision, if necessary.

5 Fishing vessels are prohibited from retaining on board, transshipping or landing any fins harvested in contravention of this Recommendation.

6 In fisheries that are not directed at sharks, CPCs shall encourage the release of live sharks, especially juveniles, to the extent possible, that are caught incidentally and are not used for food and/or subsistence.

7 In 2005, the SCRS shall review the assessment of shortfin mako sharks (*Isurus oxyrinchus*) and recommend management alternatives for consideration by the Commission, and reassess blue shark (*Prionaca glauca*) and shortfin mako no later than 2007.

8 CPCs shall, where possible, undertake research to identify ways to make fishing gears more selective.

9 CPCs shall, where possible, conduct research to identify shark nursery areas.

10 The Commission shall consider appropriate assistance to developing CPCs for the collection of data on their shark catches.

11 This recommendation applies only to sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT.

04-12 GEN**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT TO ADOPT MEASURES CONCERNING SPORT AND RECREATIONAL FISHING ACTIVITIES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA**

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the need to regulate sport and recreational fishing activities to ensure that these activities do not undermine sustainable exploitation of the stocks, notably the bluefin tuna stock, in the Mediterranean Sea,

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

- 1 Contracting Parties, Entities, and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (hereafter named CPCs) shall take the measures necessary to forbid the use within the framework of sport and recreational fishing of towed nets, encircling nets, seine sliding, dredgers, gill nets, trammel net and longline to fish for tuna and tuna-like species, notably bluefin tuna, in the Mediterranean Sea.
- 2 The CPCs shall ensure that catches of tuna and tuna-like species carried out in the Mediterranean Sea from sport and recreational fishing are not marketed.
- 3 The CPCs shall take the necessary measures so that catch data from sport and recreational fishing are collected and transmitted to the SCRS.