

PREAMBLE: Considering that the SCRS Report shows a decrease in the abundance of the Atlantic bluefin stock,

Realizing that an alarming decrease is observed in the abundance of this species in the western Atlantic, whether or not the one- or two-stock hypothesis is used,

Bearing in mind the SCRS recommendation on the need to reduce the western Atlantic bluefin catch to the minimum level acceptable to the aims of scientific supervision,

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT)

Recommends:

FIRST:

That the Contracting Parties take measures to prohibit the capture of bluefin tuna for a period of two years in the western Atlantic Ocean, as defined on the attached map (Addendum 1), except under conditions to be agreed upon by the Contracting Parties whose nationals have been actively fishing for bluefin tuna in the western Atlantic; such conditions to be based on the requirement to index the abundance of the stock.

SECOND:

That the Contracting Parties whose nationals have been actively fishing for bluefin tuna in the western Atlantic

- a) Consult and conclude such consultations prior to February 15, 1982, in order to develop the conditions under which fishing by their nationals will be carried out. Until such conditions are developed, directed and incidental catches shall be limited to an annual level of 800 MT to enable ongoing scientific studies to be continued.
- b) Exchange information amongst themselves on catches on a frequent basis, and report such information annually to ICCAT.

THIRD:

That the annual level of catch be adjusted in the western Atlantic on the basis of the scientific evidence produced by the SCRS, to insure the stabilization or increase of the stock.

FOURTH:

That the adoption of the above measures concerning the western Atlantic must not imply any modification in the ICCAT recommendation adopted in 1975 concerning a minimum weight of 6.4 kg adopted for the entire Atlantic and fishing mortality limited to recent levels in the eastern Atlantic; this latter measure being extended until a new decision is made by ICCAT.

FIFTH:

That the Contracting Parties take measures to prohibit any transfer of fishing effort from the western Atlantic to the eastern Atlantic in order to thus avoid increasing fishing mortality of bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic.

SIXTH:

That, with respect to the FIRST and SECOND recommendations, the Contracting Parties whose nationals have been actively fishing for bluefin tuna in the western Atlantic may agree to implement this recommendation at an earlier date, notwithstanding the provisions of Article VIII, paragraph 2 of the Convention.

Addendum 1

