

Recognizing that we are uncertain of the status of the bluefin tuna stock in the western Atlantic,

Taking into account that the SCRS was unable to give any advice on bluefin tuna at the Eight Meeting of the Commission,

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

Recommends that during 1984:

FIRST:

In order to maintain and improve the data necessary to index the abundance of the stock of bluefin tuna in the western Atlantic:

- a) The Contracting Parties whose nationals have been actively fishing for bluefin tuna in the western Atlantic take measures to limit the catch for scientific monitoring in 1984 to 2,660 metric tons (MT);
- b) The catch of 2,660 MT be taken by these Contracting Parties in the same proportions as previously agreed for 1983, and
- c) Further scientific investigations, including the work of the Working Group on Bluefin Tuna that is to meet prior to the next SCRS meeting, be carried out in order that the Fourth Special Regular Meeting in November, 1984, has additional information upon which to base bluefin tuna management measures.

SECOND:

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.

THIRD:

That in recognition of the possible lower level of abundance of small bluefin in recent years, no more than 15 percent in weight of the catch in the western Atlantic may consist of bluefin smaller than 120 cm fork length.

FOURTH:

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

FIFTH:

That the developing bluefin tuna fisheries in the western Atlantic of Brazil and Cuba shall not be subject to the limitation addressed herein.

SIXTH:

That there will be no directed fishery on the bluefin tuna spawning stocks in the western Atlantic in spawning areas such as the Gulf of Mexico.

SEVENTH:

That, notwithstanding the provisions of Article VIII, paragraph 2 of the Convention, with respect to paragraphs (a) and (b) of the First recommendation, the Contracting Parties whose nationals have been actively fishing for bluefin tuna in the western Atlantic take steps to implement this recommendation as soon as possible in accordance with the regulatory procedures of each country.

EIGHTH:

That in the event that the SCRS is not able to provide new scientific advice on the status of the stock of bluefin tuna in the western Atlantic, the Commission will consider, at the Fourth Special Meeting, appropriate management measures, including the continuation of the current management measures, throughout 1985.