18-03 **BFT**

RESOLUTION BY ICCAT ON DEVELOPMENT OF INITIAL MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES FOR EASTERN AND WESTERN BLUEFIN TUNA

RECALLING that one of the main goals of the SCRS Science Strategic Plan 2015-2020 is to evaluate precautionary management reference points and robust harvest control rules (HCRs) through management strategy evaluations (MSE);

ANTICIPATING the transition to using management procedures, which the Commission has recommended for bluefin tuna and other priority stocks to manage fisheries more effectively in the face of identified uncertainties, consistent with the Convention and the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Principles of Decision Making for ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures* (Rec. 11-13);

CONSIDERING that the Commission intends to complete an MSE for Atlantic bluefin tuna by 2020;

UNDERSTANDING that conceptual objectives are high-level aspirational objectives that verbalize a desired generic goal without including any specifics on a measurable target or timeframe for achievement, while operational objectives are more refined and more specific about measurable targets and the associated likelihood of achieving those targets over determined timeframes. Operational objectives are the key foundational component of any MSE;

SEEKING to advance the development of management procedures, as agreed by the Commission pursuant to the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Development of Harvest Control Rules and of Management Strategy Evaluation* (Rec. 15-07);

NOTING ICCAT's need to commit to developing operational management objectives for bluefin tuna in 2019;

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

1. Management objectives should be established for Atlantic bluefin tuna. Operational objectives are to be based on the Convention's objective: to maintain populations at levels that will support maximum sustainable catch (usually referred to as MSY).

2. Panel 2 should undertake, preferably during a 2019 intersessional meeting of Panel 2, the development of initial operational management objectives for each stock of bluefin tuna. To facilitate this development, the following candidate management objectives should be considered:

    a) Stock Status

        a. The stock should have a greater than [___]% probability of occurring in the green quadrant of the Kobe matrix;

    b) Safety

        a. There should be a less than [___]% probability of the stock falling below B_{LIM} (to be defined);

    c) Yield

        a. Maximize overall catch levels; and

    d) Stability

        a. Any increase or decrease in TAC between management periods should be less than [___]%.

3. In developing initial operational management objectives, the candidate management objectives in paragraph 2 may be rejected, modified, or supplemented, as appropriate. Further, the Panel will need to consider the inclusion of timeframes. Additionally, the quantitative elements within each candidate management objective may be different between the western and eastern Atlantic bluefin tuna stocks.

4. Panel 2 will provide its recommendations for initial management objectives to the Bluefin Tuna MSE Technical Modelling Group and the SCRS Bluefin Tuna Species Group for review and consider any SCRS input before forwarding objectives to the Commission for consideration at its 2019 annual meeting.

5. This resolution will be repealed upon adoption of final operational management objectives for Atlantic bluefin tuna by the Commission.