

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES  
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA

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Eighth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties

Kyoto (Japan), 2 to 13 March 1992

Interpretation and Implementation of the Convention

IMPROVEMENT IN CONSERVATION EFFORTS FOR ATLANTIC BLUEFIN TUNA

The attached draft resolution has been prepared and is submitted by the delegations of Canada, Japan, Morocco and the United States of America.

DRAFT RESOLUTION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Improvement in Conservation Efforts for  
Atlantic Bluefin Tuna

NOTING with concern the reduced level of Atlantic bluefin tuna, particularly the western Atlantic population;

RECOGNIZING that the Conference of the Parties has competence to act where any species, including a marine species, subject to international trade is threatened with extinction;

RECOGNIZING that Article XV, paragraph 2(b), of the Convention requires the Secretariat, upon receiving a proposal to amend the appendices regarding a marine species, to consult intergovernmental bodies having a function in relation to that species;

RECOGNIZING also the importance of further scientific research and the need for any future actions to be based on the outcome of such scientific research;

RECOGNIZING further that the International Commission for Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) is responsible for managing Atlantic tunas, including bluefin tuna, with the goal of restoring and maintaining populations at levels that produce maximum sustainable yield;

NOTING ICCAT's response to the Secretary General that the Atlantic bluefin tuna can be managed effectively by ICCAT;

NOTING further that ICCAT has initiated intensified scientific research and various conservation measures for Atlantic bluefin tuna, including reduction of quotas; has taken steps towards formulation of a specific long-term recovery plan; and has begun plans to monitor international trade of Atlantic bluefin tuna and to address fishing outside the framework of ICCAT;

NOTING that ICCAT will meet in special session at the end of May 1992 to consider further reduction of the quotas to 50 percent of the 1991 level, and to allow for a more rapid rebuilding of the western Atlantic population;

RECOGNIZING the initiative of the Government of Sweden for bringing the current status of the Atlantic bluefin tuna to the attention of the Parties;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

URGES strongly that ICCAT continues its initiatives, with particular emphasis on quota reductions, to restore and maintain Atlantic bluefin tuna populations, underlining the importance of monitoring international trade and restricting commerce, in a manner consistent with international obligations, of Atlantic bluefin tuna taken contrary to the conservation programme of ICCAT;

URGES ICCAT to continue to improve its data collection and research programmes to enhance the understanding of the status of the populations;

CALLS ON all nations fishing for Atlantic bluefin tuna to co-operate with ICCAT in its research and management programmes, in recognition that the co-operation of all those involved in the fishery is important to the effective management and conservation of that fishery, including those not currently members of ICCAT; and

REQUESTS ICCAT to keep CITES informed fully on the status of the bluefin populations and on related conservation initiatives, including presenting this information to the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.