

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 180

Expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the policy of the United States at the 17th Regular Meeting of the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas in Murcia, Spain.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 13, 2001

Mr. KERRY (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. HOLLINGS, and Mr. HELMS)
submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the policy of the United States at the 17th Regular Meeting of the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas in Murcia, Spain.

Whereas certain marine species including Atlantic tunas, swordfish, marlins, sailfishes, and pelagic sharks migrate through broad oceanic expanses and traverse the coastal waters of many nations;

Whereas, of these highly migratory species, tuna and swordfish stocks in particular support major fisheries and are among the most highly valued of marine species;

Whereas due to the transboundary nomadic nature of these highly migratory species, effective efforts to conserve and

manage these stocks require international cooperation and coordination;

Whereas the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) was established in 1966 to provide international management of highly migratory species;

Whereas the highly migratory species managed by ICCAT support extremely important commercial and recreational fisheries in the United States which are vital sources of income to United States fishing communities;

Whereas repeated violations of ICCAT conservation quotas and minimum size requirements, circumvention of compliance penalties and other actions have undermined the ability of ICCAT to establish, maintain and enforce conservation and rebuilding plans for overfished species of fish under ICCAT's management authority;

Whereas the latest scientific information suggests there is extensive mixing of bluefin tuna harvested in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean region with bluefin tuna harvested in the western Atlantic;

Whereas the current level of harvest of bluefin tuna harvested in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean is excessive and must be reduced, and that due to mixing, management measures in the east directly affect the west; and

Whereas a failure of ICCAT member nations to enforce quotas, size limits and other conservation measures adversely affects United States commercial and recreational fishermen: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

1 (1) the United States should make full use of
2 all appropriate diplomatic mechanisms, relevant
3 international laws and agreements, and other appropriate
4 mechanisms to ensure ICCAT member compliance
5 with ICCAT conservation measures and
6 quotas, for all species under ICCAT management
7 authority, including bluefin tuna;

8 (2) the United States should press for improved
9 monitoring, recording and reporting of harvesting
10 and compliance information by contracting and non-
11 contracting nations to ICCAT, including systems
12 that will increase transparency of such reporting information,
13 in order to provide the scientific information necessary
14 for effective management of these
15 stocks;

16 (3) the United States should encourage the
17 Commission to identify nations that engage in actions
18 that diminish the effectiveness of the Commission's fishery
19 conservation program, including those engaged in illegal,
20 unreported, or unregulated fishing for these stocks; and

22 (4) the United States should encourage the
23 Commission to adopt recommendations authorizing
24 the use of enforceable measures, including World
25 Trade Organization-consistent trade measures, to

- 1 prevent such nations from taking actions that would
- 2 undermine the effectiveness of conservation and
- 3 management recommendations of the Commission.

