

No. 9587

MULTILATERAL

International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (with Final Act and Resolution adopted by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries). Done at Rio de Janeiro on 14 May 1966

Authentic texts : English, French and Spanish.

Registered by the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations on 20 May 1969.

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Convention internationale pour la conservation des thonidés de l'Atlantique (avec Acte final et Résolution adoptés par la Conférence de plénipotentiaires). Faite à Rio de Janeiro le 14 mai 1966

Textes authentiques : anglais, français et espagnol.

Enregistrée par l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture le 20 mai 1969.

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION¹ FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS

Preamble

The Governments whose duly authorized representatives have subscribed hereto, considering their mutual interest in the populations of tuna and tuna-like fishes found in the Atlantic Ocean, and desiring to co-operate in maintaining the populations of these fishes at levels which will permit the maximum sustainable catch for food and other purposes, resolve to conclude a Convention for the conservation of the resources of tuna and tuna-like fishes of the Atlantic Ocean, and to that end agree as follows:

Article I

The area to which this Convention shall apply, hereinafter referred to as the "Convention area", shall be all waters of the Atlantic Ocean, including the adjacent Seas.

Article II

Nothing in this Convention shall be considered as affecting the rights, claims or views of any Contracting Party in regard to the limits of territorial waters or the extent of jurisdiction over fisheries under international law.

Article III

1. The Contracting Parties hereby agree to establish and maintain a Commission to be known as the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, hereinafter referred to as "the Commission", which shall carry out the objectives set forth in this Convention.

¹ The Convention was prepared and opened for signature by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas which met at Rio de Janeiro from 2 to 14 May 1966. For the texts of the Final Act and resolution adopted by the Conference, see pp. 86 and 88 of this volume.

The Convention came into force on 21 March 1969 in accordance with paragraph 3 of article XIV, upon the deposit with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations of the instruments of ratification or adherence (a) by the Governments of the following seven States:

<i>State</i>	<i>Date of deposit</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Date of deposit</i>
United States of America	18 May 1967	Ghana	17 April 1968 <i>a</i>
Japan	24 August 1967	Canada	20 August 1968 <i>a</i>
South Africa	17 October 1967 <i>a</i>	France	7 November 1968 <i>a</i>
		Spain	21 March 1969

It came into force subsequently in respect of Brazil on 1 April 1969 upon deposit of its instrument of ratification.

2. Each of the Contracting Parties shall be represented on the Commission by not more than three Delegates. Such Delegates may be assisted by experts and advisors.

3. Except as may otherwise be provided in this Convention, decisions of the Commission shall be taken by a majority of the Contracting Parties, each Contracting Party having one vote. Two-thirds of the Contracting Parties shall constitute a quorum.

4. The Commission shall hold a regular meeting once every two years. A special meeting may be called at any time at the request of a majority of the Contracting Parties or by decision of the Council as constituted in Article V.

5. At its first meeting, and thereafter at each regular meeting, the Commission shall elect from among its Members a Chairman, a first Vice-Chairman and a second Vice-Chairman who shall not be re-elected for more than one term.

6. The meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies shall be public unless the Commission otherwise decides.

7. The official languages of the Commission shall be English, French and Spanish.

8. The Commission shall have authority to adopt such rules of procedure and financial regulations as are necessary to carry out its functions.

9. The Commission shall submit a report to the Contracting Parties every two years on its work and findings and shall also inform any Contracting Party, whenever requested, on any matter relating to the objectives of the Convention.

Article IV

1. In order to carry out the objectives of this Convention the Commission shall be responsible for the study of the populations of tuna and tuna-like fishes (the Scombriformes with the exception of the families Trichiuridae and Gempylidae and the genus *Scomber*) and such other species of fishes exploited in tuna fishing in the Convention area as are not under investigation by another international fishery organization. Such study shall include research on the abundance, biometry and ecology of the fishes; the oceanography of their environment; and the effects of natural and human factors upon their abundance. The Commission, in carrying out these responsibilities shall, insofar as feasible, utilise the technical and scientific services of, and information from, official agencies of the Contracting Parties and their political subdivisions and may, when desirable, utilise the available services and information of any public or private institution, organization or individual, and may undertake within the limits of its budget independent

research to supplement the research work being done by governments, national institutions or other international organizations.

2. The carrying out of the provisions in paragraph 1 of this Article shall include :

- (a) collecting and analysing statistical information relating to the current conditions and trends of the tuna fishery resources of the Convention area ;
- (b) studying and appraising information concerning measures and methods to ensure maintenance of the populations of tuna and tuna-like fishes in the Convention area at levels which will permit the maximum sustainable catch and which will ensure the effective exploitation of these fishes in a manner consistent with this catch ;
- (c) recommending studies and investigations to the Contracting Parties ;
- (d) publishing and otherwise disseminating reports of its findings and statistical, biological and other scientific information relative to the tuna fisheries of the Convention area.

Article V

1. There is established within the Commission a Council which shall consist of the Chairman and the Vice-Chairmen of the Commission together with the representatives of not less than four and not more than eight Contracting Parties. The Contracting Parties represented on the Council shall be elected at each regular meeting of the Commission. However, if at any time the number of the Contracting Parties exceeds forty, the Commission may elect an additional two Contracting Parties to be represented on the Council. The Contracting Parties of which the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen are nationals shall not be elected to the Council. In elections to the Council the Commission shall give due consideration to the geographic, tuna fishing and tuna processing interests of the Contracting Parties, as well as to the equal right of the Contracting Parties to be represented on the Council.

2. The Council shall perform such functions as are assigned to it by this Convention or are designated by the Commission, and shall meet at least once in the interim between regular meetings of the Commission. Between meetings of the Commission the Council shall make necessary decisions on the duties to be carried out by the staff and shall issue necessary instructions to the Executive Secretary. Decisions of the Council shall be made in accordance with rules to be established by the Commission.

Article VI

To carry out the objectives of this Convention the Commission may establish Panels on the basis of species, group of species, or of geographic areas. Each Panel in such case :

- (a) shall be responsible for keeping under review the species, group of species, or geographic area under its purview, and for collecting scientific and other information relating thereto ;
- (b) may propose to the Commission, upon the basis of scientific investigations, recommendations for joint action by the Contracting Parties ;
- (c) may recommend to the Commission studies and investigations necessary for obtaining information relating to its species, group of species, or geographic area, as well as the co-ordination of programmes of investigation by the Contracting Parties.

Article VII

The Commission shall appoint an Executive Secretary who shall serve at the pleasure of the Commission. The Executive Secretary, subject to such rules and procedures as may be determined by the Commission, shall have authority with respect to the selection and administration of the staff of the Commission. He shall also perform, *inter alia*, the following functions as the Commission may prescribe :

- (a) co-ordinating the programmes of investigation by the Contracting Parties ;
- (b) preparing budget estimates for review by the Commission ;
- (c) authorising the disbursement of funds in accordance with the Commission's budget ;
- (d) accounting for the funds of the Commission ;
- (e) arranging for co-operation with the organizations referred to in Article XI of this Convention ;
- (f) preparing the collection and analysis of data necessary to accomplish the purposes of the Convention particularly those data relating to the current and maximum sustainable catch of tuna stocks ;
- (g) preparing for approval by the Commission scientific, administrative and other reports of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies.

Article VIII

1. (a) The Commission may, on the basis of scientific evidence, make recommendations designed to maintain the populations of tuna and tuna-like