

103^D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 169

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express the sense of the Congress that the United States should seek compliance by all countries with the conservation and management recommendations and agreements adopted for Atlantic bluefin tuna and other highly migratory species by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, and for other purposes.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Whereas Atlantic bluefin tuna are a valuable commercial and recreational fishery of the United States;

Whereas many countries, including the United States, fish for Atlantic bluefin tuna and other highly migratory species in the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea;

Whereas the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (hereinafter referred to as the “Commission”), is the international entity established to adopt recommendations and develop international agreements for the conservation and management of Atlantic bluefin tuna and other highly migratory species in the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea;

Whereas in the last 25 years Atlantic bluefin tuna stocks have declined from historic levels;

Whereas, for management purposes, the Commission has adopted a working hypothesis of 2 stocks of Atlantic bluefin tuna: a western stock found in the Atlantic Ocean west of 45 degrees west longitude (hereinafter referred to as the “45 degree line”), and an eastern stock found in the Atlantic Ocean east of the 45 degree line and in the Mediterranean Sea;

Whereas the existing scientific evidence is inconclusive with respect to the working hypothesis of 2 stocks, the extent

to which each of the hypothesized stocks migrates across the 45 degree line is unknown, and the 45 degree line is considered to be arbitrary;

Whereas the Commission adopted conservation and management recommendations in 1974 to ensure the recovery and sustainability of all Atlantic bluefin tuna throughout the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea;

Whereas, in recent years, the Commission has adopted additional, more restrictive conservation and management recommendations for Atlantic bluefin tuna, for countries that fish for Atlantic bluefin tuna west of the 45 degree line;

Whereas the United States and other countries that are members of the Commission and that fish west of the 45 degree line have implemented all conservation and management recommendations for Atlantic bluefin tuna adopted by the Commission that apply west of the 45 degree line;

Whereas many other countries that are members of the Commission do not comply with conservation and management recommendations for Atlantic bluefin tuna adopted by the Commission that apply east of the 45 degree line and in the Mediterranean Sea;

Whereas this continuing failure to comply east of the 45 degree line and in the Mediterranean Sea by countries that are members of the Commission will undermine the recovery of Atlantic bluefin tuna stocks;

Whereas recent large increases in the catch of Atlantic bluefin tuna within 100 miles east of the 45 degree line by countries that are members of the Commission could be having a negative impact on the recovery of Atlantic

bluefin tuna and probably do not comply with recommendations of the Commission; and

Whereas countries that are not members of the Commission are having a negative impact on the recovery of Atlantic bluefin tuna stocks by fishing throughout the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea without regard for conservation and management recommendations adopted by the Commission: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of the Congress that—

3 (1) the United States and the International
4 Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas
5 (hereinafter referred to as the “Commission”)
6 should continue to promote the conservation and
7 management of highly migratory species, including
8 Atlantic bluefin tuna, throughout the Atlantic Ocean
9 and the Mediterranean Sea;

10 (2) the United States should obtain commit-
11 ments through the Commission, from all countries
12 that are signatories to the International Convention
13 for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas and that are
14 not in compliance with all of the conservation and
15 management recommendations and agreements for
16 Atlantic bluefin tuna and other highly migratory
17 species that have been adopted by the Commission,
18 that those countries will immediately comply with
19 those recommendations and agreements;

1 (3) the United States should continue to en-
2 courage all other countries that fish for Atlantic
3 bluefin tuna or other highly migratory species in the
4 Atlantic Ocean or the Mediterranean Sea to comply
5 with the conservation and management recommenda-
6 tions and agreements adopted for those species by
7 the Commission;

8 (4) if a country fishes in the Atlantic Ocean or
9 the Mediterranean Sea for Atlantic bluefin tuna or
10 another highly migratory species without complying
11 with the conservation and management recommenda-
12 tions and agreements adopted by the Commission
13 for that species, such fishing will be considered by
14 the Congress to diminish the effectiveness of an
15 international fishery conservation program, and as
16 such will be considered by the Congress to be certifi-
17 able under section 8(a)(1) of the Fishermen's Pro-
18 tective Act of 1967 (22 U.S.C. 1978(a)(1));

19 (5) the United States should encourage coun-
20 tries that have significant markets for Atlantic
21 bluefin tuna to prohibit the importation of that spe-
22 cies from other countries that fish for that species
23 without regard for the conservation and manage-
24 ment recommendations and agreements adopted by
25 the Commission;

1 (6) the United States should continue to ex-
2 plore, through the Commission, the appropriateness
3 of working hypotheses of the Commission that stocks
4 of highly migratory species in the Atlantic Ocean
5 can be delineated by lines of latitude or longitude,
6 including specifically that there are 2 stocks of At-
7 lantic bluefin tuna delineated by the line 45 degrees
8 west longitude; and

9 (7) the United States should seek, through the
10 Commission, an agreement to ensure that if the
11 Commission uses any line to divide the stock of At-
12 lantic bluefin tuna for management purposes and
13 adopts for that stock any conservation and manage-
14 ment recommendation or agreement for one side of
15 the line that is more restrictive than the conserva-
16 tion and management recommendations and agree-
17 ments adopted by the Commission for that stock for
18 the other side of the line, then any fishing for Atlan-
19 tic bluefin tuna within 10 degrees of the line shall

1 be conducted in compliance with that more restric-
2 tive recommendation or agreement.

Passed the House of Representatives November 2,
1993.

Attest:

Clerk.