

Resolution on large-scale driftnet fishing

(Adopted at the Twenty Third Annual Meeting – 10-13 October 2016)

The Extended Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna,

Recalling that the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution 46/215 calls for a global moratorium on large-scale high seas driftnet fishing;

Noting that a number of vessels continue to engage in high seas driftnet fishing affecting the southern bluefin tuna fishery;

Concerned that any vessel fishing with large-scale driftnets on the high seas in a manner which can reasonably be expected to result in the catching, taking or harvesting of southern bluefin tuna is likely to undermine the effectiveness of CCSBT Conservation and Management Measures;

Agrees in accordance with paragraph 3(b) of Article 8, that

1. The use of large-scale driftnets¹ on the high seas in a manner which can reasonably be expected to result in the catching, taking or harvesting of southern bluefin tuna is prohibited.
2. Members and CNMs shall take all measures necessary to prohibit their fishing vessels from using large-scale driftnets in contravention of operative paragraph 1 of this resolution.
3. Nothing in this resolution shall prevent Members and CNMs from applying more stringent measures to regulate the use of large-scale driftnets.

¹ 'Large-scale driftnets' are defined as gillnets or other nets or a combination of nets that are more than 2.5 kilometres in length whose purpose is to enmesh, entrap, or entangle fish by drifting on the surface of, or in, the water column.