

August 6, 1975

Office of the White House Press Secretary

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has signed H. R. 5522 -- Atlantic Tunas Convention Act of 1975 -- which provides implementing authority for the United States to carry out its responsibilities under the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas.

The Convention was signed at Rio de Janeiro on May 14, 1966 and entered into force on March 21, 1969. Thirteen countries in addition to the United States are currently parties to the Convention including Canada, France, Japan, Korea, Brazil, Cuba, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Morocco, Portugal, Senegal, South Africa and Spain.

• Major provisions of the bill:

- Authorize the President to appoint up to three Commissioners to serve as U. S. delegates to the Commission;
- Authorize the U. S. Commissioners to appoint an advisory committee of from 5 to 20 members;
- Authorize the United States to enter into international agreements with other countries parties to the Convention relating to mutual enforcement procedures;
- Require promulgation of regulations to prohibit imports of certain fish, subject to regulation under the Convention;
- Provide for the assessment of civil penalties for violations of the Act and regulations issued thereunder, and
- Provide for cooperation of Federal agencies with scientific and other programs of the Commission.

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