

November, 2025

**Sciaena's Opening Statement to Panel 4**  
***29th Regular Meeting of the International Commission***  
***for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)***

Sciaena is thankful for the opportunity to contribute to ICCAT's Panel 4 proceedings and acknowledges the work that the Secretariat, SCRS and the CPCs have made before this meeting. We ask all CPCs to consider the following issues:

**Shortfin mako sharks**

- Regarding Shortfin mako sharks, it is crucial to adopt measures to reduce mortality in both stocks, such as gear modifications (banning wire traces, for example) and spatial-temporal closures. Additionally, for the Southern population, the Commission must adopt catch limits which allow for a fast recovery (10-15 years) with a probability not lower than 60% and welcomes proposal PA4-814, namely the proposal for a retention ban.

**Blue shark MSE**

- Sciaena urges the Commission to maintain the plan to initiate the work regarding the MSE process for Blue shark in 2026, with precautionary management objectives. In that regard, Sciaena supports PA4-813, confident that management procedures for both the Northern and Southern stocks can be adopted no later than 2027.

**Fins Naturally Attached**

- We ask the Commission adopt PA4-807 on mandating "fins naturally attached" to prevent fining with no further delay.

**Other important issues**

- Additionally, Sciaena would like to call on CPCs to adopt PA4\_811 on reducing incidental bycatch of seabirds in ICCAT longline fisheries, and PA4\_812 - on Basking sharks and Great white sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT. The commission should also adopt PA4\_816 on an Exceptional Circumstances Protocol for North Atlantic Swordfish.

