

SHORTFIN MAKO CAUGHT IN ASSOCIATION WITH ICCAT FISHERIES

(Entered into force **3 June 2015**)

CONSIDERING that shortfin mako sharks (*Isurus oxyrinchus*) are caught in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT;

RECALLING Recommendation by ICCAT concerning the Conservation of Sharks Caught in Association with Fisheries Managed by ICCAT [Rec. 04-10], Recommendation by ICCAT to Amend Recommendation [Rec. 04-10] concerning the Conservation of Sharks Caught in Association with Fisheries Managed by ICCAT [Rec. 05-05], Supplement Recommendation by ICCAT concerning Sharks [Rec. 07-06] and Recommendation by ICCAT on Atlantic Shortfin Mako Sharks Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries [Rec. 10-06], including the obligation of CPCs to annually report Task I and Task II data for catches of sharks from all ICCAT fisheries, in accordance with ICCAT data reporting procedures;

ALSO RECALLING that according to Recommendation by ICCAT on Atlantic Shortfin Mako Sharks Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries [Rec. 10-06] and Recommendation by ICCAT on Penalties Applicable in Case of non-Fulfillment of Reporting Obligations [Rec.11-15], CPCs that do not report Task I data, for one or more species (including sharks species) for a given year, shall be prohibited from retaining such species until such data have been received by the ICCAT Secretariat;

NOTING that, following the Shortfin Mako Stock Assessment carried out in June 2012, the SCRS recommended, as a precautionary approach, that the fishing mortality of shortfin mako sharks should not be increased until more reliable stock assessment results are available for both the north and south stocks;

FURTHER NOTING the continued high vulnerability ranking of shortfin mako sharks in the 2008 and 2012 Ecological Risk Assessments, the uncertainty associated to the stock assessment process and the relative low productivity of this species;

FURTHER NOTING that the 2014 management recommendations of the SCRS indicate that precautionary management measures should be considered for sharks stocks where there is the greatest biological vulnerability and conservation concern and that in particular for shortfin mako shark the SCRS has recommended that the catches of this species should not be increased with respect to current levels until more reliable stock assessment results are available for both the northern and southern stocks;

**THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:**

1. CPCs shall improve their catch reporting systems to ensure the reporting of shortfin mako catch and effort data to ICCAT in full accordance with the ICCAT requirements for provision of Task I and Task II catch, effort and size data.
2. CPCs shall include in their annual reports to ICCAT information on the actions they have taken domestically to monitor catches and to conserve and manage shortfin mako sharks.
3. CPCs are encouraged to undertake research that would provide information on key biological/ecological parameters, life-history and behavioural traits, as well as on the identification of potential mating, pupping and nursery grounds of shortfin mako sharks. Such information shall be made available to the SCRS.
4. The SCRS shall endeavour to conduct a stock assessment for shortfin mako sharks by 2016, if the available data permit, and shall evaluate and advise the Commission on appropriate management measures.
5. This Recommendation replaces and repeals Recommendations 05-05 and 06-10 in their entirety.