

Original: English

DRAFT RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON THE CONSERVATION OF NORTH ATLANTIC STOCK OF SHORTFIN MAKO CAUGHT IN ASSOCIATION WITH ICCAT FISHERIES

Proposal Submitted by Japan

CONSIDERING that shortfin mako is caught in association with ICCAT fisheries;

CONCERNED that there is a 90% probability of the North Atlantic shortfin mako being overfished and experiencing overfishing;

RECOGNIZING that the SCRS recommends that the constant annual catch for this stock should be reduced to 500 t or less in order to stop overfishing and start rebuilding;

ALSO RECOGNIZING that the SCRS recommends that there will be a need for CPCs to strengthen their monitoring and data collection efforts to monitor the future status of this stock, including but not limited to total estimated dead discards and the estimation of CPUE using observer data;

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

1. Contracting Parties, and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (hereafter referred to as CPCs) shall require fishing vessels flying their flag and operating in ICCAT managed fisheries to release all North Atlantic shortfin mako whether dead or alive, and prohibit retaining on board, transshipping, or landing any part or whole carcass of shortfin mako.
2. CPCs shall require vessels flying their flag to promptly release North Atlantic shortfin mako unharmed, giving due consideration to the safety of crew members.
3. Notwithstanding the provisions in paragraph 1 and 2 above, CPCs may authorize their vessels to catch and retain on board, transship or land North Atlantic shortfin mako, provided that:
 - a) the vessel has an observer on board;
 - b) shortfin mako is dead when brought along side for taking on board the vessel;
 - c) the observer collects data on the number of individuals hooked, body length, sex, condition, maturity (whether the individual is pregnant and its litter size) and weight of products for each shortfin mako caught as well as fishing effort; and
 - d) when shortfin mako is not retained, the observer shall record the number of dead discards and live releases respectively.
4. The data collected by the observer prescribed in paragraph 3 above shall be submitted by CPCs concerned to SCRS within 60 days after landing.
5. The observer is also encouraged to collect biological samples such as muscular tissues (for stock identification), reproductive organ with embryo (for identification of pregnancy cycle and reproductive output) and vertebrae (for estimation of growth curve). The biological samples collected by the observer should be analyzed by CPCs concerned and the result should be submitted to the SCRS by CPCs concerned.
6. The total annual catch of North Atlantic shortfin mako in accordance with paragraph 3 above shall be no more than 500 t. The 500 t shall be allocated among the following CPCs:

Total	500 t

7. CPCs other than those mentioned in paragraph 3 and 5 shall also record through their observer programs the number of dead discards and live releases of North Atlantic shortfin mako and report it to SCRS.

8. In 2022, the SCRS shall conduct a stock assessment on North Atlantic shortfin mako and review the effectiveness of each measure contained in paragraph 1 to 5. Upon such assessment and review, the SCRS shall send management recommendation for the stock to the Commission.
9. This Recommendation shall expire on December 31, 2022. The Commission, at its 2022 annual meeting, shall develop new management measures for North Atlantic shortfin mako, taking into account the recommendation from the SCRS.