

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

Proposal Submitted by the European Union

ACKNOWLEDGING the outcome of the stock assessment conducted by SCRS in 2017, which indicates that there is a 90% probability of the stock of 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 the stock;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the uncertainties associated with the stock assessment and the fact that stock projections could only be performed for one of the models considered by SCRS;

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;

NOTING that the collection of the information required for the monitoring of the stock is contingent to the maintaining of some level of fishing activity,

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION
OF ATLANTIC TUNA (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 caught alive.
2. CPCs may authorize their vessels to catch and retain on board, transship or land North Atlantic shortfin mako, provided that:
 - a) The fish are dead when brought along side for taking on board the vessel;
 - b) The fishing vessel has either an observer or a functioning electronic monitoring system on board;
 - 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;
 - d) when shortfin mako is not retained, the number of dead discards and live releases are recorded by the observer or estimated from the records from the electronic monitoring system.
3. A total allowable catch (TAC) of North Atlantic shortfin mako kept onboard, transshipped or landed shall be initially set at 500 t for the years 2018 and 2019.
4. CPCs shall provide monthly catch reports to the ICCAT Secretariat, indicating the quantities caught, discarded live, discarded dead and kept onboard. Once the total quantities caught are within 90% of the TAC referred to under Paragraph 3, the Secretariat shall immediately inform all CPCs, who shall consider measures to prevent the occurrence of additional catches.
5. Any quantities of North Atlantic shortfin mako caught in excess of the TAC in a given year shall be deducted from the TAC the following year. If the TAC is exceeded for two out of three consecutive years, the management measures for North Atlantic shortfin mako shall be urgently reviewed by the Commission, and consideration shall be given to set the TAC zero for the following year.

6. The data collected by the observer or the electronic monitoring system referred to in paragraph 2 shall be submitted by the CPCs to SCRS at the latest 90 days before the ICCAT Annual Meeting.
7. In 2019, the SCRS shall conduct a stock assessment for North Atlantic shortfin mako, including projections for the various models considered. Following this stock assessment, the SCRS shall deliver management recommendations to the Commission.
8. This Recommendation shall be subject to revision by the Commission in 2019. In the context of this review in 2019, and in order to facilitate the management of the TAC, referred to under paragraph 3 of this Recommendation, the Commission shall aim to establish a scheme of allocation of fishing opportunities between the concerned CPCs.