

Original: English

**DRAFT RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON THE CONSERVATION OF THE SOUTH 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 the SCRS in 2017, and in particular the uncertainty regarding the stock status, the large fluctuations in catch, and the high intrinsic vulnerability of this species;

RECOGNIZING that the SCRS recommends that until the uncertainty regarding the stock status is reduced; catch levels should not exceed the minimum catch in the last five years of the assessment;

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) may authorize their vessels to retain on board, transship or land South Atlantic shortfin mako, provided that:
 - a) The fishing vessel has either an observer or a functioning electronic monitoring system on board;
 - b) The observer collects data on the number of individuals hooked, body length, sex, condition, maturity (whether the individual is pregnant and if so its litter size) and weight of products for each shortfin mako caught as well as fishing effort;
 - c) When shortfin mako is not retained, the number of dead discards and live releases is recorded by the observer or estimated from the records from the electronic monitoring system.
2. A total allowable catch (TAC) of South Atlantic shortfin mako kept onboard, transshipped or landed shall be initially set at 2000 t for the years 2018 and 2019.
3. 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.
4. Any quantities 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 South Atlantic shortfin mako shall be urgently reviewed by the Commission.
5. The data collected by the observer or the electronic monitoring system referred to in paragraph 2 shall be submitted by the CPCs to the SCRS at the latest 90 days before the ICCAT Annual Meeting.
6. In 2019, the SCRS shall conduct a stock assessment for South Atlantic shortfin mako, including projections for the various models considered. Following this stock assessment, the SCRS shall deliver management recommendations to the Commission.
7. 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.