

Original: French/English

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

Proposal submitted by Canada, the European Union, Japan, Morocco and the United States

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

CONCERNED by the status of the North Atlantic shortfin mako being overfished and experiencing overfishing;

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 total estimated dead discards and the estimation of CPUE using observer data;

KNOWING that the result of the SCRS indicates that shortfin mako shark catches should be at 1000 t or below to prevent the population from decreasing further and that catches of 500 t or less would stop overfishing and begin to rebuild the stock;

COMMITTED to immediately taking actions to end overfishing of the North Atlantic shortfin mako stock with a high probability, as the first step in the development of a rebuilding plan;

CONSIDERING that the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Principles of Decision Making for ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures* (Rec. 11-13) calls for the Commission to immediately adopt management measures, taking into account, *inter alia*, the biology of the stock and SCRS advice, designed to result in a high probability of ending overfishing in as short a period as possible;

CONSIDERING FURTHER that Rec. 11-13 calls for the Commission to adopt a plan to rebuild stocks in the red zone of the Kobe plot, taking into account, *inter alia*, the biology of the stock and SCRS advice;

ACKNOWLEDGING that according to SCRS studies, the survival rate after release of shortfin mako shark is around 70%;

**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 vessels flying their flag to promptly release North Atlantic shortfin mako in a manner that causes the least harm, while giving due consideration to the safety of crew members.
2. Notwithstanding the provisions in paragraph 1 above, CPCs may authorize their vessels to catch and retain on board, transship or land North Atlantic shortfin mako, provided that:
 - (1) For vessels whose length is greater than 12 m,
 - a) the vessel has either an observer or a functioning electronic monitoring system on board which can identify whether the fish is dead or alive;
 - 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 number of dead discards and live releases shall be recorded by the observer or estimated from the records of the electronic monitoring system.
 - (2) For vessels whose length is equal or smaller than 12 m,
 - a) shortfin mako is dead when brought along side for taking on board the vessel.

3. Notwithstanding the provisions in paragraph 1 above, CPCs may authorize their vessels to catch and retain on board, transship or land North Atlantic shortfin mako provided that:
 - a) shortfin mako is dead when brought along side for taking on board the vessel; and
 - b) the retention of shortfin mako does not exceed the fishing vessel's average shortfin mako landings while an observer is on board and this is verified by mandatory logbooks and landing inspection conducted on the basis of risk assessment.
4. Notwithstanding the provisions in paragraph 1 above, CPCs may authorize their vessels to catch and retain on board, transship or land North Atlantic shortfin mako whether dead or alive, when a CPC's domestic law requires a minimum size of at least 180 cm fork length for males and of at least 210 cm fork length for females.
5. Notwithstanding the provisions in paragraph 1 above, CPCs whose domestic law requires that all dead or dying fish be landed, provided that the fishermen may not draw any profit from such fish, may retain on board and land incidental bycatch of North Atlantic shortfin mako.
6. 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.
7. The measures contained in this recommendation are expected to prevent the population from decreasing further, stop overfishing and begin to rebuild the stock.
8. CPCs that authorize their vessels to catch and retain on board, transship or land North Atlantic shortfin mako in accordance with paragraphs 2 through 5 above shall provide to the Secretariat the amount of North Atlantic shortfin mako caught and retained on board as well as dead discards during the first six months in 2018 by one month prior to the 2018 Commission annual meeting. The Commission at its 2018 annual meeting shall review these figures and decide whether the measures contained in this recommendation shall be modified.
9. CPCs shall also report the number of dead discards and live releases of North Atlantic shortfin mako estimated based on the total fishing effort of their relevant fleets using data collected through observer programs or other relevant data collection programs. CPCs that do not authorize their vessels to catch and retain on board, transship or land North Atlantic shortfin mako in accordance with paragraphs 2 through 5 above 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.
10. In 2019, the SCRS shall review the effectiveness of the measures contained in this recommendation and provide the Commission with additional scientific advice on conservation and management measures for North Atlantic shortfin mako, which shall include:
 - a) an evaluation of whether the measures contained in this recommendation have prevented the population from decreasing further, stopped overfishing and begun to rebuild the stock, and if not the probability of ending overfishing and rebuilding that would be associated with annual catch limits at 100 t increments.
 - b) Kobe II strategy matrix that reflects timeframe(s) for rebuilding of at least two mean generation times; and

In conducting such review and providing advice to the Commission, the SCRS shall take into account:

- a) a spatial/temporal analysis of North Atlantic shortfin mako catches in order to identify areas with high interactions;
- b) available information on growth and size at maturity by sex as well as any biologically important areas (e.g. pupping grounds); and
- c) the effectiveness of the use of circle hooks as a mitigation measure to reduce mortality.

11. This Recommendation expires on 31 December 2019. The Commission, at its 2019 annual meeting, shall develop new management measures for North Atlantic shortfin mako, taking into account the new scientific advice from the SCRS, in order to establish a rebuilding plan with a high probability of avoiding overfishing and rebuilding the stock to B_{MSY} within a timeframe that takes into account the biology of the stock.
12. Notwithstanding the provisions of Article VIII, paragraph 2 of the Convention, CPCs shall implement this recommendation as soon as possible in accordance with their regulatory procedures.