

Original: French

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

Proposal submitted by the Kingdom of Morocco

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 indicating that shortfin mako shark catches should be at 1000 t or below to prevent the population from decreasing further;

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 unharmed, 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:
 - a) the vessel has an observer on board of vessels with a length overall greater than 15 m;
 - 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.
3. The data collected by the observer prescribed in paragraph 2 above shall be submitted by CPCs concerned to SCRS within 90 days after landing.
4. 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.
5. CPCs shall take the necessary measures to prohibit catching and landing of female shortfin mako shark.
6. CPCs shall take the necessary measures to prohibit fishing of shortfin mako shark from 1 April to 30 June each year.
7. The total annual catch of North Atlantic shortfin mako in accordance with paragraph 3 above shall be no more than 1,500 t in 2018. This TAC will be lowered to 1,000 t in 2019.
8. An ICCAT working group shall be established in early 2018 for the following purposes:
 - a) Establish a fair and equitable allocation scheme for the TAC of North Atlantic shortfin mako shark.

- b) Establish a CPC quota for 2018 and 2019;
- c) Establish the mechanism for managing this TAC.

The working group shall, in the context of establishing the allocation key, use transparent and objective criteria, including those of an environmental, social and economic nature and it shall, in particular, take into account the *Resolution by ICCAT on criteria for the allocation of fishing possibilities* [Res. 15-13].

- 9. CPCs other than those mentioned in paragraph 2 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 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 this stock to the Commission.
- 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 recommendations which will be made by the SCRS.