

Original: French

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

(Submitted by Senegal, the Gambia, Canada, Gabon, Panama, Liberia, Guatemala, and Angola)

RECALLING that the Commission adopted management measures for shark species considered vulnerable to overfishing and caught in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT, including the bigeye thresher shark (*Alopias superciliosus*) (Rec. 09-07), oceanic whitetip shark (*Carcharhinus longimanus*) (Rec. 10-07), hammerhead shark (family Sphyrnidae) (Rec. 10-08), silky shark (*Carcharhinus falciformis*) (Rec. 11-08) and porbeagle (*Lamna nasus*) (Rec. 15-06);

RECALLING FURTHER the high vulnerability classification of shortfin mako in the ecological risk assessments carried out by the SCRS in 2008 and 2012, making it vulnerable to overfishing, even at low fishing mortality rates;

NOTING that shortfin mako is caught in association with ICCAT fisheries and that the SCRS has concluded that the North Atlantic stock is overfished and that overfishing continues, while noting that there is an important risk that the South Atlantic stock may follow a similar path;

CONCERNED ALSO about the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species in which shortfin mako has been included in the category of endangered species worldwide, which makes the status of the North Atlantic a particular cause for concern;

RECOGNIZING that the SCRS recommends that CPCs strengthen their monitoring and data collection efforts to monitor the status of these stocks, including total estimated dead discards and the estimation of CPUE using observer data;

RECOGNIZING FURTHER that the SCRS has recommended a non-retention policy for North Atlantic shortfin mako and that catches of South Atlantic shortfin mako do not exceed the minimum catch of the past five years of the assessment (2011-2015), ie. 2,001 t;

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:

North Atlantic shortfin mako shark

1. Contracting Parties, Entities, or Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (hereinafter referred to as "CPCs") shall prohibit retaining onboard, transshipping, landing, storing, selling, or offering for sale part or whole of a North Atlantic shortfin mako carcass caught in any fishery.
2. CPCs shall require vessels flying their flag to promptly release unharmed, to the extent practicable, North Atlantic shortfin mako shark when brought alongside the vessel.

3. Observers shall be authorised to collect non-lethal biological samples from live shortfin mako shark, provided that all reasonable measures are taken to release them causing the least harm possible. In addition, observers shall be authorised to collect biological samples from shortfin mako shark that have been caught in the Convention area and that have died as the fishing gear is lifted, provided that the samples are part of a research programme approved the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS). Annual progress of work and a final report on completion shall be submitted to the SCRS.
4. The prohibition on retention referred to in paragraph 1 shall not apply to CPCs whose domestic law requires that any dead fish be landed, that fishers cannot draw any commercial profit from such fish, and that includes a prohibition against shortfin mako fisheries.
5. In their Annual Reports, CPCs shall inform the Commission of measures taken to implement this Recommendation through laws or national regulations, including monitoring, control and surveillance measures in support of implementation of this recommendation.

South Atlantic shortfin mako shark

6. The annual TAC for subsequent years is 2,001 t.
7. If the total catch of South Atlantic shortfin mako shark exceeds 2,001 t in two consecutive years as from 2021, the Commission shall review the implementation and effectiveness of these measures.

Data reporting

8. CPCs shall record in their observer programmes the number of shortfin mako discarded and released, indicating the status (alive or dead) and report to ICCAT in accordance with the ICCAT data reporting requirements.

Scientific research

9. CPCs shall undertake, to the extent practicable, research on shortfin mako shark in the Convention area in order to identify: potential spawning areas, geographical areas where there are strong interactions with shortfin mako shark (Atlantic population) and, geographical areas where the density of these shark is high. In light of this research, the Commission may, if appropriate, implement closure periods or areas, or other measures. The SCRS shall also carry out research on mitigation measures aimed to further reduce shortfin mako mortality and provide to the Commission, by 2023, updated recommendations on any additional measure, and determine the appropriate time for subsequent stock assessments.