

Original: French

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

(Submitted by Senegal and The Gambia)

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;

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 this stock, 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;

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 all shortfin mako to be released, dead or alive, and shall prohibit retaining onboard, transshipping, landing or storing, selling or offering for sale part or whole of a shortfin mako carcass that has been caught in the Convention area.
2. CPCs shall require vessels flying their flag to promptly release unharmed, to the extent practicable, shortfin mako when taken on board the vessel.
3. 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.

4. Observers shall be authorised to collect biological samples from shortfin mako that have been caught in the Convention area and have died as the fishing gear was lifted, provided that these samples are part of an SCRS approved research programme. Annual progress of work and a final report on completion shall be submitted to the SCRS.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. CPCs shall undertake, to the extent practicable, research on shortfin mako in the Convention area so as to identify hotspots and potential spawning areas. On the basis of this research, the Commission shall review the closure periods and areas and other measures, as required.
8. The SCRS shall carry out a shortfin mako stock assessment by 2022 and shall determine mitigation measures to further reduce shortfin mako mortality, recommending additional measures to the Commission by 2022.