

Original: English

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

(New proposal, previously discussed as PA4-805C/2019, but not adopted)

(Submitted by Canada, Senegal and United Kingdom)

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), porbeagle (*Lamna nasus*) (Rec. 15-06) and the North Atlantic shortfin mako (*Isurus oxyrinchus*) stock (Rec. 19-06);

RECALLING FURTHER the ecological risk assessments carried out by the SCRS in 2008 and 2012 indicate that shortfin mako ranks third in the vulnerability table;

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 a high risk that the South Atlantic stock may follow a similar path;

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, without any exceptions, for North Atlantic shortfin mako and that catches of South Atlantic shortfin mako do not exceed the minimum catch level of the past five years of the assessment (2011-2015), i.e. 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 is approximately 70%;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF
ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

North Atlantic shortfin mako

1. Contracting Parties, or Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (hereinafter referred to as "CPCs") shall prohibit retaining onboard, transshipping, or landing part or whole of a North Atlantic shortfin mako caught in any of the fisheries managed by ICCAT.
2. CPCs shall require vessels flying their flag to promptly release unharmed, to the extent practicable, all North Atlantic shortfin mako when brought alongside the vessel.
3. Collection of biological samples during commercial fishing operations shall comply with the *Recommendation by ICCAT on biological sampling of prohibited shark species by scientific observers* (Rec. 13-10).

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 provided that these regulations as well as the amount of landed shortfin mako will be reported in its Shark Implementation Check Sheet, as required by Recommendation 18-06 or any successor, including any future revisions thereto.
5. In their Shark Implementation Check Sheets, 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

6. The annual TAC for 2021 and subsequent years is 2,001 t for South Atlantic shortfin mako and shall remain in place until it is revised based on scientific advice.
7. If the total catch of South Atlantic shortfin mako exceeds 2,001 t in two consecutive years from 2022 onwards, 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. CPCs shall also continue to complete and submit the ICCAT Shark Implementation Check Sheet.

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 (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 2024, updated recommendations on any additional measures, and determine the appropriate time for the next stock assessment.
10. This recommendation repeals and replaces the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the conservation of North Atlantic stock of shortfin mako caught in association with ICCAT fisheries* (Rec. 19-06).