

Original: English

**UK STATEMENT ON SHORTFIN MAKO (PANEL 4 - PA4-806)**

In 2019 the SCRS reported that the overfished North Atlantic shortfin mako stock is subject to continued overfishing and a substantial reduction in fishing mortality is needed to begin rebuilding. Noting this advice, which reflects that the status of the stock is very poor, the UK was extremely disappointed that a strong measure was not agreed at the 2019 annual meeting.

Recommendation 19-06 states that '[t]he Commission, at its 2020 annual meeting, shall adopt a new management recommendation for North Atlantic shortfin mako, taking into account the scientific advice from the SCRS and the results of the 2020 Panel 4 intersessional meeting, in order to establish a rebuilding plan with a high probability of avoiding overfishing and rebuilding the stock to BMSY within a timeframe that takes into account the biology of the stock.'

Despite the extraordinary circumstances, ICCAT's priority business continues and we now have an opportunity for Parties to align with the SCRS advice and adopt much needed strong measures for shortfin mako management. Noting that the SCRS reiterates its advice to the Commission from 2019, the UK considers that a retention ban with no exemptions is the most appropriate course of action.

The UK is therefore in support of the proposal on North Atlantic shortfin mako submitted by Canada and Senegal (Ref. PA4-806: DRAFT RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC SHORTFIN MAKO CAUGHT IN ASSOCIATION WITH ICCAT FISHERIES) and wishes to become a co-sponsor of that proposal.