

**Draft Recommendation by ICCAT concerning the conservation
of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT**

(proposal submitted by the United States, Belize, France (on behalf of Saint-Pierre and Miquelon), Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, South Africa, and the United Kingdom)

RECALLING that the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) International Plan of Action for Conservation and Management of Sharks calls on States to cooperate through regional fisheries organizations to ensure the sustainability of shark stocks;

ALSO RECALLING that the FAO International Plan of Action for Conservation and Management of Sharks calls on States to facilitate improved species-specific catch and landings data and monitoring of shark catches;

CONSCIOUS that the use of fin-to-carcass-weight ratios is not an adequate means of ensuring that sharks are not finned;

RECOGNIZING the need to improve the collection of species-specific data on catch, effort, and discards as a basis for improving the conservation and management of shark stocks;

AWARE that identifying sharks by species is rarely possible when the fins have been removed from the carcasses;

FURTHER AWARE of the species of oceanic, pelagic, and highly migratory elasmobranchs, listed in Rec. 19-01, that are currently understood to be ICCAT species as defined under the amendments to the Convention contained within the Protocol adopted in November 2019;

FURTHER RECALLING that United Nations General Assembly, adopted consensus Resolutions every year from 2007 through 2022 (62/177, 63/112, 64/72, 65/38, 66/68, 67/79, 68/71, 69/109, 70/75, 71/123, 72/72, 73/125, 74/18, 75/89, 76/71, and 77/242), calling upon States to take immediate and concerted action to improve the implementation of and compliance with existing regional fisheries management organization or arrangement and national measures that regulate shark fisheries and incidental catch of sharks, in particular those measures which prohibit or restrict fisheries conducted solely for the purpose of harvesting shark fins, and, where necessary, to consider taking other measures, as appropriate, such as requiring that all sharks be landed with each fin naturally attached;

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

1. Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (CPCs) shall annually report Task 1 (nominal catches including dead and live discards) and Task 2 (catch and effort, and size) data for sharks, in accordance with ICCAT data reporting procedures. In addition, CPCs should report any historical Task 1 and Task 2 data that have not yet been submitted to ICCAT.
2. CPCs shall prohibit the removal of shark fins at sea and require that all sharks be landed with their fins naturally attached (fully or partially) through the point of first landing of the shark.
3. CPCs shall prohibit vessels from retaining on board, transshipping, or landing shark fins harvested in contravention of this Recommendation.
4. In fisheries that are not directed at sharks, CPCs shall encourage the release of live sharks unharmed, to the extent practicable, that are caught incidentally and are not used for food and/or subsistence.

5. CPCs shall, where possible, undertake research to identify ways to make fishing gear more selective for the protection of sharks and provide relevant information on these efforts to the SCRS.
6. CPCs shall, where possible, conduct research on key biological and ecological parameters, life history, behavioural traits and migration patterns, as well as on the identification of potential mating, pupping, and nursery grounds of key shark species in the Convention area and provide the results of such research to the SCRS.
7. The Commission shall consider appropriate assistance to developing CPCs for the collection of data on their shark catches.
8. This Recommendation applies only to sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT.
9. This Recommendation replaces *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Conservation of Sharks Caught in Association with Fisheries Managed by ICCAT* (Rec. 04-10).