

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON COMPLIANCE WITH
EXISTING MEASURES ON SHARK CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT**

RECALLING that ICCAT has put in place recommendations that prohibit the retention of shark species identified as at risk due to the impact of fisheries within the ICCAT Convention area: bigeye thresher (09-07), oceanic whitetip (10-07), hammerhead (10-08), silky sharks (11-08).

NOTING that these shark recommendations have now been in place for up to three years, and that contrary to other species explicitly covered by the Convention, there are no extensive records of compliance by Contracting Parties, non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities (CPCs) on shark recommendations.

RECALLING the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Conservation of sharks Caught in Association with Fisheries Managed by ICCAT* [Rec. 04-10] that highlights the need for action and co-operation for the proper conservation and management of sharks in the ICCAT convention area and that establishes the obligation to annually report Task 1 and Task 2 data for catches of sharks, in accordance with ICCAT data reporting procedures.

FURTHER RECALLING the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Penalties Applicable in Case of non-Fulfilment of Reporting Obligations* [Rec. 11-15] that establishes the obligation of CPCs to include information in their Annual Reports on actions taken to implement their reporting obligations for all ICCAT fisheries, including shark species caught in association with ICCAT fisheries;

RECOGNIZING the need to follow the precautionary approach at all times when dealing with shark management and conservation, given sharks inherent vulnerability to overexploitation;

NOTING that the 30th Session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, which met in July 2012, stated that: *The Committee recognized that further actions by States and RFMOs need to be taken for shark conservation and management;*

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

All CPCs submit to the ICCAT Secretariat, in advance of the 2013 annual meeting, details of their implementation of and compliance with shark conservation and management measures [Recs. 04-10, 07-06, 09-07, 10-08, 10-07, 11-08 and 11-15].