

Original: English

**DRAFT RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON THE CONSERVATION OF
PORBEAGLE SHARK CAUGHT IN ASSOCIATION WITH ICCAT FISHERIES**

(Proposed by Canada)

RECALLING that the Commission adopted the *Resolution by ICCAT on Atlantic Sharks* [Res. 01-11], the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Conservation of Sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT* [Rec. 04-10], the *Recommendation of ICCAT to amend the Recommendation 04-10 on the Conservation of Sharks caught in association with the fisheries managed by ICCAT* [Rec. 05-05], the *Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT concerning Sharks* [Rec. 07-06], the *Resolution by ICCAT on Porbeagle Shark (Lamna nasus)* [Res. 08-08], and the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Compliance with Existing Management Measures on shark Conservation and Management* [Rec. 12-05];

RECALLING that the 2009 ICCAT shark stock assessment meeting concluded that there is a single stock of porbeagle shark in the northeast Atlantic and adjacent waters, a single stock in the northwest Atlantic, and two different regions of distribution in the South Atlantic;

CONSIDERING that the report of 2015 meeting of the Standing Committee for Research and Statistics (SCRS) estimates that the biomass of northwest Atlantic and northeast Atlantic porbeagle shark is depleted to well below B_{MSY} , but recent fishing mortality is below F_{MSY} ;

NOTING the intention of the SCRS to undertake, in partnership with International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, a joint stock assessment of northwest and northeast Atlantic porbeagle shark in 2019;

FURTHER NOTING that porbeagle shark is currently not subject to targeted fishing in the ICCAT Convention Area but is captured as by-catch in some ICCAT fisheries;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that in 2014, porbeagle shark was added to Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the 2015 SCRS advice recommended that porbeagle shark retrieved alive should be released alive, and all catches be reported;

FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING that the 2015 SCRS advice also recommended that porbeagle fishing mortality should be kept to levels in line with scientific advice and with catches not exceeding the current level.

**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 their vessels participating in ICCAT fisheries to promptly release unharmed, to the extent possible, any incidental catches of porbeagle shark.
2. CPCs shall ensure the collection and submission of Task I and Task II data for porbeagle shark in accordance with ICCAT data reporting requirements. The number of releases of porbeagle shark caught in association with ICCAT fisheries shall be recorded and reported to ICCAT in accordance with ICCAT data reporting requirements.

3. In the event that by-catch increases beyond recent levels, the Commission will consider additional measures on a stock by stock basis, taking into account the overall trend in biomass.
4. This measure will be reviewed and amended, as necessary, following the next stock assessment of porbeagle shark.