

Original: English

**DRAFT RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON PORBEAGLE  
CAUGHT IN ASSOCIATION WITH ICCAT FISHERIES**

*(Proposal by the European Union)*

*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], including the obligation of CPCs to annually report Task I & II data for sharks;

*FURTHER RECALLING* that the Commission has adopted management measures for shark species considered vulnerable to overfishing and caught in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT, including bigeye thresher sharks (*Alopias superciliosus*) [Rec. 09-07], oceanic whitetip sharks (*Carcharhinus longimanus*) [Rec. 10-07], hammerhead sharks (family *Sphyrnidae*) [Rec. 10-08] and silky sharks (*Carcharhinus falciformis*) [Rec. 11-08];

*NOTING* that in 2009, SCRS attempted an assessment of the four porbeagle stocks in the Atlantic Ocean (northwest, northeast, southwest and southeast) and concluded that data for southern hemisphere porbeagle stocks were too limited to provide a robust indication on the status of the stocks and allow definition of sustainable harvest levels, whereas recovery of the northern hemisphere stocks to  $B_{MSY}$  under no fishing mortality could take from 15 to 34 years for the northeast Atlantic stock and from 20 to 60 years for the northwest Atlantic stock (depending on the stock and model considered);

*FURTHER NOTING* that the 2008 and 2012 Ecological Risk Assessments undertaken by the SCRS concluded that porbeagle (*Lamna nasus*) was among the most vulnerable shark species which makes it more susceptible to overfishing even at low fishing mortality levels;

*FURTHER NOTING* that ICES advice for the northeast Atlantic stock in 2015 recommended on the basis of the precautionary approach that no fishing for porbeagle should be permitted and that landings of porbeagle should not be allowed;

*ACKNOWLEDGING* that the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) adopted Recommendation [2015-7] on Conservation and Management Measures for Porbeagle in the NEAFC Regulatory Area and agreed that no directed fishery for porbeagle shall be undertaken in the Regulatory Area until end 2015;

*FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING* that the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) has adopted Recommendation GFCM/36/2012/3 prohibiting to retain on board, transship, landing, transfer, storage, selling or displaying or offering for sale porbeagle specimens caught in the Mediterranean;

*FURTHER NOTING* that, according to SCRS advice precautionary management measures should be considered for shark stocks where there is the greatest biological vulnerability and conservation concern and for which there are few data and/or greater uncertainty in assessment results.

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 prohibit, retaining onboard, transshipping, landing, storing, selling, or offering for sale any part or whole carcass of porbeagle sharks (*Lamna nasus*) in ICCAT associated fisheries.
2. CPCs shall require vessels flying their flag to promptly release unharmed, to the extent practicable, porbeagle sharks when brought alive alongside for taking on board the vessel.
3. CPCs shall ensure the collection and submission of Task I and Task II data for porbeagle sharks in accordance with ICCAT data reporting requirements. The number of discards and releases of porbeagle sharks shall be recorded with indication of status (dead or alive) and reported to ICCAT in accordance with ICCAT data reporting requirements.
4. CPCs are encouraged to implement the research recommendations of the joint 2009 ICCAT-ICES inter-sessional meeting. In particular, CPCs are encouraged to implement research and monitoring projects at regional (stock) level, in the Convention area, in order to close gaps on key biological data for porbeagle and identify areas of high abundance of important life-history stages (e.g. mating, pupping and nursery grounds). SCRS should continue joint work with ICES Working Group on Elasmobranch Fishes.
5. The prohibition in paragraph 1 shall apply until such time as sustainable levels of harvest can be determined and adopted by the Commission, for different porbeagle sharks stocks, on the basis of the advice provided by SCRS or other recognized scientific organizations and once areas known to have high abundance of important life-history stages of this species have been identified.
6. The prohibition in paragraph 1 does not apply to CPCs whose domestic legislation requires that all dead fish be landed, that the fishermen cannot draw any commercial profit from such fish and that includes a prohibition against porbeagle shark fisheries.
7. This recommendation might be reviewed after the next stock assessment of porbeagle shark stocks that will be performed by the SCRS or other recognized scientific organizations.