

Original: English

**DRAFT RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON
SHORTFIN MAKO CAUGHT IN ASSOCIATION WITH ICCAT FISHERIES**

(Proposal by the European Union)

CONSIDERING that shortfin mako sharks (*Isurus oxyrinchus*) are caught in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT;

RECALLING Recommendation by ICCAT concerning the Conservation of Sharks Caught in Association with Fisheries Managed by ICCAT [Rec. 04-10], Recommendation by ICCAT to Amend Recommendation [Rec. 04-10] concerning the Conservation of Sharks Caught in Association with Fisheries Managed by ICCAT [Rec. 05-05], Supplement Recommendation by ICCAT concerning Sharks [Rec. 07-06] and Recommendation by ICCAT on Atlantic Shortfin Mako Sharks Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries [Rec. 10-06], including the obligation of CPCs to annually report Task I and Task II data for catches of sharks from all ICCAT fisheries, in accordance with ICCAT data reporting procedures;

ALSO RECALLING that according to Recommendation by ICCAT on Atlantic Shortfin Mako Sharks Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries [Rec. 10-06] and Recommendation by ICCAT on Penalties Applicable for Non Fulfilment of Reporting Obligations [Rec. 11-15], CPCs that do not report Task I data, for one or more species (including sharks species) for a given year, shall be prohibited from retaining such species until such data have been received by the ICCAT Secretariat;

NOTING that, following the shortfin mako stock assessment carried out in June 2012, the SCRS recommended, as a precautionary approach, that the fishing mortality of shortfin mako sharks should not be increased until more reliable stock assessment results are available for both the north and south stocks;

FURTHER NOTING the continued high vulnerability ranking of shortfin mako sharks in the 2008 and 2012 Ecological Risk Assessments, the uncertainty associated to the stock assessment process and the relative low productivity of this species;

FURTHER NOTING that the 2014 management recommendations of the SCRS indicate that precautionary management measures should be considered for sharks stocks where there is the greatest biological vulnerability and conservation concern and that in particular for shortfin mako shark the SCRS has recommended that the catches of this species should not be increased with respect to current levels (e.g. 2009-2013) until more reliable stock assessment results are available for both the northern and southern stocks;

CONSIDERING that Recommendation by ICCAT on Shortfin Mako Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries [Rec. 14-06] does not sufficiently address such management recommendations;

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 implement multi-annual measures to ensure the conservation of the stocks of North and South Atlantic shortfin mako shark in line with ICCAT's Convention objective.

Catch limits for Shortfin Mako Sharks

2. The total allowable catches for shortfin mako sharks (*Isurus oxyrinchus*) caught in association with ICCAT fisheries in the ICCAT Convention area for 2016 and subsequent years are set at 4,037 metric tons for the North Atlantic shortfin mako stock and 2,511 metric tons for the South Atlantic shortfin mako stock.
3. If the total catches for any of the shortfin mako stocks exceed in any year the TAC in paragraph 2, the Commission shall review these measures.

Recording, reporting and use of the catch information

4. Each CPC shall ensure that its vessels fishing for shortfin mako in association with ICCAT fisheries in the Convention area record their catch in accordance with the requirements set out in the Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Recording of Catch by Fishing Vessels in the ICCAT Convention Area [Rec. 03-13].
5. CPCs shall improve their catch reporting systems to ensure the reporting of accurate and validated shortfin mako catch and effort data to ICCAT in full accordance with the ICCAT requirements for provision of Task I and Task II catch, effort and size data.
6. CPCs shall include in their Annual Reports to ICCAT information on the actions they have taken domestically to monitor catches and to conserve and manage shortfin mako sharks.

Research

7. CPCs are encouraged to undertake research that would provide information on key biological/ecological parameters, life-history and behavioural traits, as well as on the identification of potential mating, pupping and nursery grounds of shortfin mako sharks. Such information shall be made available to the SCRS.
8. The SCRS shall conduct a stock assessment for shortfin mako sharks at the latest by 2017, and in the light of its results shall provide, if possible, options of HCR with the associated limit, target and threshold reference points for the management of this species in the ICCAT Convention area.
9. This Recommendation replaces and repeals Recommendation 14-06.