

Original: English

**DRAFT RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON BLUE SHARK
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 in accordance with ICCAT data reporting procedures; and Recommendation by ICCAT on the Development of Harvest Control Rules and of Management Strategy Evaluation [Rec. 15-XX];

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,

RECOGNIZING that Atlantic blue sharks (*Prionace glauca*) are caught in large numbers in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT;

CONSIDERING that the 2015 SCRS report states that despite the positive signs of the stock assessment of the North Atlantic stock of blue shark, the level of uncertainty in data inputs and in model structural assumptions was high enough to prevent the SCRS from reaching a consensus on a specific management recommendation.

FURTHER CONSIDERING that the 2015 SCRS report recommends that, given the uncertainty in stock status results for the South Atlantic stock of blue shark recent catch levels (e.g. 2009-2013) should not be increased;

FURTHER NOTING that, according to SCRS advice precautionary management measures should be considered for shark stocks for which there are few data and/or greater uncertainty in assessment results;

FURTHER CONSIDERING that in order to protect and manage blue sharks in a precautionary manner, annual catches on both northern and southern Atlantic stocks of blue sharks, shall not exceed recent catch levels.

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

[...]

1. Each CPC shall ensure that its vessels catching blue shark 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].
2. CPCs shall improve their catch reporting systems to ensure the reporting of accurate blue shark catch, effort and size data to ICCAT in full accordance with the ICCAT requirements for provision of Task I and Task II.

3. 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 blue shark, caught in association with ICCAT fisheries.

[...]

4. CPCs are encouraged to undertake research that would provide information on key biological/ecological parameters, life-history and behaviour of blue shark and report their results to the SCRS.

5. Where possible and after having received guidance from the Commission on management objectives and other inputs as laid down in Rec [15-XX], the SCRS will take into account in the context of the next assessment of blue shark, different options of HCR with the associated limit, target and threshold reference points, including fishing mortality rates (e.g. F_{0.1}, F_{MSY}) which are compatible with the sustainability of the blue shark stocks.

6. If the total annual catches of blue shark exceed 38,084 t for the northern stock or 34,926 t for the Southern stock further measures shall be considered by the Commission.