

ICCAT 2020  
Joint NGO Statement.  
Panel 4, Round 2

Project AWARE - with support from Ecology Action Centre, Shark Trust, Shark League for the Atlantic and Mediterranean, The Ocean Foundation, Defenders of Wildlife, Humane Society International, Wildlife Conservation Society, The Pew Charitable Trusts, WildAid, Submon, Shark Foundation, Sciaena, Dutch Elasmobranch Society, Shark Project, iSea, Marine and Environmental Research Lab (Cyprus), International Seafood Sustainability Foundation; International Pole and Line Federation, David Suzuki Foundation, Earthworm Foundation, German Elasmobranch Society (D.E.G.), Sea Shepherd Legal, WildTrust, and the European Elasmobranch Association - is alarmed that Parties have not yet reached consensus on urgently needed protections for Endangered shortfin mako populations, despite prioritizing this issue as the only shark conservation action of the 2020 virtual negotiations. We appreciate, however, the recent clarification from the Panel 4 Chair that the matter is not yet closed.

We remain grateful to Canada, Senegal, and the UK for their continued shark conservation leadership and efforts to secure science-based mako protections through PA4-806. This joint proposal is the only one of the three that includes the core of the SCRS shortfin mako advice: a complete North Atlantic retention ban and a 2001t South Atlantic TAC. We note that 14 other countries cosponsored or endorsed the same proposal last year. **We call on those nations and all ICCAT Parties to use the current correspondence period to clearly state on-the-record their strong support for immediate adoption of PA4-806.**

We remind Parties that COVID-19 has not stopped mako overfishing. This concerning matter is the only shark issue on the ICCAT 2020 docket with several weeks remaining for negotiation and progress. The SCRS advice is straightforward. Action has been overdue for years. Further delays only exacerbate the risk for stock collapses that are irreparable in our lifetimes. **We urge all Parties to accept the science and recommit to changing course for mako sharks by adopting PA4-806 this year.**

