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#### STATEMENT FROM CANADA TO PANEL 4 – ROUND 2

Canada would like to thank the Chair of Panel 4 for his work to try to find common ground between the various proposals submitted this year to support the conservation of North Atlantic Shortfin Mako sharks (nSMA). We would also like to thank the co-sponsors of PA4-806 – Senegal, the United Kingdom, Chinese Taipei, and Gabon – for their support as well as other CPCs and the many observer organizations who made statements to Panel 4 in support of a retention ban on nSMA.

Canada continues to support a policy of non-retention for this species in ICCAT, taking into account the advice of the Standing Committee Research and Statistics (SCRS) that the exceptions in Rec. 17-08 that allow for the retention of some caught shortfin mako will not permit the recovery of the northern stock by 2070 (SCRS Annual Report 2019). Domestically we have enacted a ban on retention of shortfin mako in our ICCAT longline fisheries.

We agree with other CPCs, including the proponents of the other SMA proposals for 2020, that a retention ban alone will not reduce mortality enough to allow the stock to recover. We would certainly support the Commission and the SCRS exploring other best practices like time and area closures, gear modifications, and improved handling practices in order to reduce bycatch and improve post-release survival. Nevertheless, these measures are not a substitute for a ban on retention, and will take time to research and implement.

Canada also appreciates the Chair's suggestion that if consensus cannot be achieved here, interested CPCs could work together between now and the proposed intersessional meeting of Panel 4 in July 2021 to make progress on areas of agreement. We are prepared to work with other CPCs on complementary measures between now and July, and look forward to arriving at the intersessional meeting having made progress beyond our current situation.