

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR OF PANEL 4 – CLOSURE OF DISCUSSIONS
(Circular #8244/20)

Dear PA4 Members,

As we finalize the PA4 rounds of correspondence, I would like to share with you my understanding on where we are. Four proposals had been put forward to Panel 4 for consideration.

The Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation 19-03 by ICCAT for the conservation of North Atlantic swordfish was adopted by consensus.

Three proposals relating to shortfin mako were tabled, but unfortunately, there were irreconcilable divergence of views that prevented consensus from being reached. Considering this situation, at this juncture, we have no choice but to postpone any new decision on this stock until 2021, when, hopefully, we will be able to host a physical meeting. With this objective, a tentative date for a physical meeting of Panel 4 was already scheduled to take place from 12-15 July 2021, provided, of course, that sanitary conditions by then will allow. From now to then, as I have stated in my in my previous messages, once again I would like to take this opportunity to exhort all CPCs interested in the matter to work closely together diligently to bridge the present gap of views, so that when we meet we will hopefully be in a better position to arrive at a consensus decision. Meanwhile, the provisions of Rec. 19-06 remain in force for 2021.

With this letter, the work of PA4 is now considered closed. A summary report for PA4 to be adopted during the Round #3 of correspondence by the “Plenary” will be circulated shortly.

Thank you very much for your commitment and efforts.



Fábio Hazin
PA4 Chair