

ICCAT 2020
WWF Statement
Panel 4, Round #2

WWF is following with high concern the ongoing consultations on protections measures for Endangered shortfin mako populations in the Atlantic.

Although three proposals have been submitted for consideration this year, no consensus has been reached by CPCs on any of the texts in discussion to date.

The status quo and a rollover of the existing measures will be in no way addressing the dire state of the stock, resulting in further exposing the North Atlantic stock to the risk of collapse.

The scientific advice is clear indicating the ban of retention for the North Atlantic stock and a TAC for the Southern stock, to be the most effective measures to be urgently adopted.

WWF strongly calls for the adoption of an ambitious mitigation plan that aims at achieving a zero retention policy, while introducing additional measures including improved data collection, area/time-based management, technical measures on fishing gears, safe handling and best practices for the release of live specimens and verification means as crucial tools to mitigate bycatch, reduce mortality and increase post-release survival.

We therefore urge CPCs to make a further effort to overcome divergences and make the best use of time to agree on conservation measures that can end overfishing and start the rebuilding of shortfin mako sharks' populations.