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**The Pew Charitable Trusts'
Opening Statement to Panel 4
November 2022**

The Pew Charitable Trusts welcomes the opportunity to comment on this year's Panel 4 agenda. While there are many things to address this year, we are optimistic that much of the primary business will proceed smoothly. We urge Panel 4 members to do the following:

Swordfish

- **Adopt Proposal [PA4 808](#) from the United States to extend existing measures for north Atlantic swordfish for one year** – after this year's stock assessment, it is clear that extending the current measures will meet Panel 4's objectives for this population and continue to have a 60% probability of maintaining it in the green zone of the Kobe plot. Additionally, Pew strongly supports the explanatory note from the United States that makes it clear the sponsor and Panel 4 intend to adopt a management procedure (MP) for this population in 2023 to be used for setting a TAC starting in the 2024 fishing year. As such, Panel 4 should also **schedule sufficient intersessional meetings (virtual or in person) throughout 2023 to promote dialogue between managers, scientists, and stakeholders when identifying a final MP.**
- **Adopt new management measures for south Atlantic swordfish, starting with Proposal [PA2 807](#) from the European Union, but edited to improve the likelihood that fisheries targeting this stock remain sustainable** – we agree that current catch levels should not threaten the sustainability of these fisheries, but we believe the proposal should be adjusted to reduce the TAC to 10,000 t rather than only providing for measures that take effect when that level is breached. Given the status of the population, the maximum amount of underage that can be rolled over should be reduced significantly from 20% or eliminated entirely. Finally, the practice of allowing for transfers of fishing opportunities from one stock (northern swordfish) to another (southern swordfish) should be terminated, particularly when one stock is in the red zone of the Kobe plot, as is the case here.

Sharks

- **Support the conservation and sustainable management of sharks in the Atlantic Ocean, including by adopting the strong Proposal [PA4 804](#) from the European Union and the United Kingdom on south Atlantic shortfin mako** – in general, Pew would like to associate itself with the comments made by the Ecology Action Centre in its [opening statement](#) to the Panel.

Other matters

- **Adopt Proposal [PA4 806](#) from the United States and Brazil to provide additional protections for sea turtles caught in association with ICCAT fisheries.**
- **Accurately report – or quantitatively estimate where observer data are unavailable – dead and live discards for all stocks managed by Panel 4, including sharks, sea turtles, billfishes, and swordfish.**
- **Increase observer coverage on longline vessels to ensure that interactions with rare species are sufficiently observed.**