

EUROPECHE POSITION STATEMENT

Management of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT

Europêche proposes to amend ICCAT's conservation measure concerning the 'Conservation of Sharks caught in Association with Fisheries Managed by ICCAT [Rec. 04-10]' to prohibit shark finning - which is the practice of removing fins from a shark's body with the retention of fins while the body is discarded - and to require that all fins of any shark caught in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT remain naturally attached until the point of first landing.

The above would allow for better species identification of sharks and contribute to the conservation of sharks within the ICCAT area, which is consistent with United Nations General Assembly's (UNGA) resolutions on sustainable fisheries adopted annually since 2007.

European Union fishing companies are the first defenders of fishing activities through good, respectful, legal and sustainable practices in all areas, and that protect our marine environment, which provides sustainable livelihood for coastal communities and the best food and protein to give to the population.

To this end, while the European Union fishing fleet conduct their activity in the ICCAT management area, in compliance with the rules, whereas EU companies are working in with international scientific organizations to improve the collection of data on ICCAT species, EUROPECHE notes with concern the illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing observed from GREENPEACE's vessel ARCTIC SUNRISE.

Recently, GREENPEACE has stolen 30 kilometers of fishing gear in North Atlantic from two Spanish longliners, and declared that seven swordfish, seabreams and barracuda were trapped in the longlines. There is no information whether those catches of ICCAT species were landed or declared.

EUROPECHE strongly denounces this IUU activities and unilateral actions and ask for the support of all CPCs in the defense of all fishing vessels that conduct their activities under the most rigorous control and regulatory ICCAT standards.