

Online Reporting Technology Working Group (WG-ORT)
(*Ad hoc* group to address redundancy in reporting requirements)

Interim Report

Background

The elimination of redundant requirements is one of the main long-term tasks stated in the Terms of Reference of the Online Reporting Technology Working Group (WG-ORT) (*Recommendation by ICCAT to continue the development of an Integrated Online Reporting System* (Rec. 21-20), paragraph 2b). At the 2024 WG-ORT intersessional meeting, the WG agreed to form an *ad hoc* group to address redundancy in reporting requirements. Following the guidance in the [WG-ORT meeting report](#), the WG Chair contacted WG-ORT members to solicit interest to participate in the *ad hoc* group. Circular #05966/2024 was also sent to Head delegates, other primary CPC contacts, and WG-ORT members to further advertise this opportunity.

The following CPCs responded to the solicitations and joined the *ad hoc* group: Canada, the European Union, Japan, Sierra Leone, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Other CPCs are welcome to join the group and should alert the Chair (bryan.keller@noaa.gov) if interested. In addition to the aforementioned CPCs, the Secretariat, the Integrated Online Management System (IOMS) team, and Coordinator of the Subcommittee on Statistics (SC-STATS), Panel 4, and the Compliance Committee (COC) were also included in the *ad hoc* group.

In addition to reducing redundancy in reporting requirements, another intersessional task called for by the WG-ORT was for the Chair to "communicate with the Chairs of Panel 4 and COC on WG-ORT request for Panel 4 to modify and simplify the Billfish and Shark Check Sheets." To make progress on both reducing redundancy in reporting requirements and simplifying the check sheets, the *ad hoc* group, in consultation with the Secretariat and the Chairs of Panel 4 and COC, developed a project to identify redundancy in ICCAT's Recommendation on sharks with a goal of providing guidance on how to streamline certain reporting requirements and thereby simplify the Check Sheets as a result.

The *ad hoc* group reviewed the reporting requirements for the ICCAT Recommendations related to sharks via a correspondence process and identified redundancies across these measures, as described below.

Review of ICCAT Recommendations related to sharks

The *ad hoc* group reviewed the following shark measures: [Rec. 04-10](#), [Rec. 07-06](#), [Rec. 09-07](#), [Rec. 10-07](#), [Rec. 10-08](#), [Rec. 11-08](#), [Rec. 13-10](#), [Rec. 15-06](#), [Rec. 18-06](#), [Rec. 21-09](#), [Rec. 21-11](#) (should be repealed by [Rec. 23-11](#)), [Rec. 22-11](#), [Rec. 23-10](#), [Rec. 23-11](#), [Rec. 23-12](#),** and [Rec. 23-14](#).* See the [Annex](#) for the diagramming exercise used to identify redundancies in these measures. We note that the high level summaries illustrated in the [Annex](#) are not meant to be exhaustive summaries for each paragraph of the referenced measures, but instead a high-level summary to identify redundancies.

Given the complexities associated with the Recommendations on the North and South Atlantic stocks of blue sharks and shortfin mako, the *ad hoc* group primarily examined redundancies in the other measures.

The *ad hoc* group identified numerous redundancies, although often pertaining to different species, across Recommendations [07-06](#), [09-07](#), [10-07](#), [10-08](#), [11-08](#), [15-06](#), [23-12](#), and [23-14](#). Specifically, most Recommendations had paragraphs related to the following:

- Species (or family level) prohibitions;
- Requirements to report on Task 1 and 2 data, implementation of the measure, and scientific research;
- Prompt release of unharmed sharks;
- Prioritization for species-based research.

* Not yet active.

Other reporting requirements often repeated across measures include capacity building, certain exemptions for developing coastal CPCs (with conditions), and penalties for non-reporting. Outside of the species-level measures described above, the *ad hoc* group noted [Rec. 04-10](#), [Rec. 07-06](#), and [Rec. 13-10](#), shared some similar paragraphs on reporting and scientific research.

In an effort to reduce redundancies in reporting requirements, the *ad hoc* group therefore recommends that **Panel 4 could consider consolidating shark reporting requirements for Recommendations 09-07, 10-07, 10-08, 11-08, 15-06, 23-12,* and 23-14.*** In addition, the general provisions on sharks presented in Recommendations [04-10](#), [07-06](#), and [13-10](#) could also be incorporated. The *ad hoc* group notes that consolidation of ICCAT Recommendations and Resolutions related to sharks could serve to streamline the Shark Check Sheets (*Recommendation by ICCAT to replace Recommendation 16-13 on improvement of compliance review of conservation and management measures regarding sharks caught in association with ICCAT fisheries* ([Rec. 18-06](#))) while maintaining the underlying reporting requirements. If the Commission adopts a new Recommendation to consolidate the above measures, the *ad hoc* group could work with the Secretariat to make the necessary updates to the Shark Check Sheet template. At that stage, the *ad hoc* group could develop similar recommendations to streamline the Billfish Check Sheet. In accordance with the WG-ORT workplan, simplification of the Check Sheets could enable their inclusion in IOMS.