

## Statement by Deutsche Stiftung Meeresschutz (DSM) to the Conservation and Management Measures Compliance Committee

The writing is on the wall for sharks but compliance with ICCAT's reporting requirements and adopted Recommendations for sharks remains poor, hindering their effectiveness!

Although ICCAT has been a pioneer among tuna RFMOs in adopting binding recommendations for several shark species over the years, the adopted measures have so far failed delivering on the intended outcome to reduce shark mortality.

Among other reasons this is due to:

- the continued noncompliance of several CPCs with existing reporting requirements for sharks, including reporting of dead discards and live release estimates at species level.
- the lack of implementation of adopted ICCAT Recommendations into national legislation by CPCs.
- the lack of ambition of the Commission and its Committees to follow up on requirements agreed as part of these Recommendations and noncompliance of CPCs with agreed measures, including the provision of research data on mortality reduction and the adherence to quotas.

Only if Task I and Task II data on total mortality (including landings, dead discards, and live releases) are provided in full for all regions of the ICCAT area of competence can stock assessments and stock projections be improved and can managers be informed on required measures to reduce mortality of threatened species and to maintain commercially valuable stocks in the green quadrant of the Kobe plot. And only when adopted provisions are fully implemented and complied with by all CPCs can such measures effectively reduce mortality to sustainable levels.



We especially note that several CPCs, including several main harvesters of blue sharks continue to not record discards.



Rec 2022/11 requests CPCs to report retention of SA shortfin mako on a monthly and discards on an annual basis and foresees exclusion of noncompliant CPCs from future retentions. However, not all have submitted such discard data so far.



Rec 2022/11 allocates quotas for retention allowances to EU, Namibia, Brazil, Japan, Chinese Taipei and South Africa and foresees a repayment schedule in case of excess retention by CPCs until all excess retentions have been repaid. We therefore call to the COC to investigate excess of quotas and enforce the respective repayment schedule for 2025 and 2026.



The prohibition of dead discards by domestic legislation should not be considered as a justification for exempting of a CPC from repaying its excess retention in full in the following years but should trigger the introduction of measures that prevent the commercialization of any retentions in excess of a CPC's quota in case domestic legislation prohibits dead discards similar to existing provisions in Rec 2021/09 for the North Atlantic.

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