

ALPESCAS

Alianza Latinoamericana para la Pesca Sustentable

STATEMENT.

The Latin American Alliance for Sustainable Fisheries and Food Security (ALPESCAS), made up of Latin American Fishing Industry Associations, reiterates its commitment to the conservation and responsible use of marine resources and, in this objective, we promote concrete actions to ensure the sustainability of fisheries and food security in the region.

In this framework, it is noted with concern that the catch of blue shark (*Prionace glauca*) in longline fisheries have historically been underestimated, being treated as bycatch or alternative catch. However, as they coexist in the same environment as target species such as tuna or swordfish, their catch should not be ignored. This approach has led to inadequate fisheries management, which threatens both the blue shark population and the sustainability of other species.

The fact that some countries continue to classify blue sharks as a non-target catch ignores their ecological and economic importance, while the controversial listing of the species in CITES Appendix II, which did not consider the opinion of the FAO Panel of Experts, calls for more stringent management and its current treatment in many countries contrasts with international conservation standards. This dissonance not only compromises the health of blue shark populations and other species, but poses a danger to the integrity of marine ecosystems and diverges from this Commission's principles of transparency.

ALPESCAS, by highlighting the importance of shark fisheries, in particular blue sharks, aims to contribute to an urgent need for management and to ensure more sustainable fisheries for the benefit of present and future generations, and in this order recommends to ICCAT: Adopt an agreement that recognizes the Blue Shark, as a target species and that its management is aligned with conservation and sustainable use strategies, seeking:

- a) Stimulate the generation of the best scientific data to encourage research and better management of these fisheries.
- b) Support policy coherence that strengthens regional and national policies.
- c) To raise awareness among users and society of the natural abundance, importance and importance of this species as a global fishery resource.

ALPESCAS calls on this Commission to assume its historic role as RFMO on the management of Atlantic transnational fishery resources, seeking to influence the balance of measures suggested in other international fora for the management and conservation of ocean resources and the Blue Economy.