

**24th Special Meeting of the International Commission  
for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)  
Limassol, Cyprus - November 11-18, 2024**

**Statement to Panel 4**

**Adoption of an MSE for North Atlantic Swordfish**

After a much frustrating postponement of the decision in the 2023 annual meeting, Sciaena calls on all CPCs for the adoption of a Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) for the North Atlantic Swordfish (SWO) in this year's meeting, key to ensure the sustainability of the pelagic longline fisheries in the region and to fulfil the SCRS work plan on MSEs. In this regard, Sciaena fully supports proposal PA4\_809 and calls for its adoption.

**Implement and develop strong measures for the conservation of sharks**

Sciaena believes it is crucial that the Commission gives a green light to the development of a Blue shark MSE in 2025, acknowledging the work that has already begun at SCRS.

After strong decisions in the previous years, we urge CPCs to urgently adopt and implement measures to reduce mako mortality, as the results presented by SCRS indicate that mortality hasn't decreased. Sciaena is highly concerned with the continuous inability of CPCs to provide required information and put forward effective measures to reduce Shortfin mako mortality. While other measures aren't proposed, Sciaena calls on the commission to consider banning the use of wire leaders and increasing observer and EM coverage of the concerned fleets in the Atlantic. If it isn't possible to progress in this annual meeting, we support discussion paper PA4\_811 and the suggestion to host a PA4 intersessional in 2025 to identify appropriate measures to reduce mortality.

We also request that the Commission give full effect to REC. 23-12 & Rec. 23-14 on the conservation of Whale Sharks and Mobulidae, following SCRS's recommendation. We therefore support proposal PA4\_804 and call for its adoption.

Sciaena also calls for the adoption of proposal PA4\_806 on fins naturally attached and calls for its adoption with no further delay.

Finally, Sciaena supports proposal PA4-805 for a consolidated shark measure and understands the need to streamline procedures and access to information, but warns against any effort of weakening existing measures, as it would be contrary to ongoing efforts to reduce bycatch of sensitive species.

