

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT
ON ATLANTIC SHORTFIN MAKO
SHARKS CAUGHT IN ASSOCIATION WITH ICCAT FISHERIES**

CONSIDERING that Atlantic shortfin mako sharks (*Isurus oxyrinchus*) are caught in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that the 2008 ICCAT Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) stock assessment indicated North Atlantic shortfin mako stock was depleted to about 50 percent of biomass estimated for the 1950s, and some model outcomes indicated that the stock biomass was near or below the level that would support MSY and current harvest levels are above F_{MSY} ;

RECALLING Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Conservation of Sharks Caught in Association with Fisheries Managed by ICCAT [Rec. 04-10], Recommendation by ICCAT to Amend Recommendation [Rec. 04-10] Concerning the Conservation of Sharks Caught in Association with Fisheries Managed by ICCAT [Rec. 05-05], and the Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Sharks [Rec. 07-06], including the obligation of CPCs to annually report Task I and Task II data for catches of sharks, in accordance with ICCAT data reporting procedures;

ALSO RECALLING the need to improve species-specific Task I and Task II data for sharks, as recommended by SCRS;

RECOGNIZING the continuing obligation to reduce mortality of North Atlantic shortfin mako sharks under Recommendations 05-05 and 07-06;

NOTING that the 2008 ecological risk assessment conducted by the SCRS concluded that the shortfin mako shark has low biological productivity, making it susceptible to overfishing even at low levels of fishing mortality;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. CPCs shall include information in their 2012 Annual Reports on actions taken to implement Recommendations 04-10, 05-05, and 07-06, in particular the steps taken to improve their Task I and Task II data collection for direct and incidental catches;
2. Actions taken by CPCs, as described in paragraph 1, shall be reviewed annually by ICCAT's Compliance Committee, beginning in 2012;
3. CPCs that do not report Task I data for Atlantic shortfin mako sharks, in accordance with SCRS data reporting requirements, shall be prohibited from retaining this species, beginning in 2013 until such data have been received by the ICCAT Secretariat;
4. The SCRS shall conduct a stock assessment for shortfin mako sharks in 2012 and advise the Commission on:
 - a) the annual catch levels of shortfin mako that would support MSY;
 - b) other appropriate conservation measures for shortfin mako sharks, taking into account species identification difficulties;
5. The SCRS shall complete its shark identification guide and circulate it to CPCs before the 2011 Commission meeting.