

(Transmitted to Contracting Parties: **December 19, 2003**)

RECALLING that the Commission adopted the *Resolution by ICCAT on Atlantic Sharks* [01-11] at the 2001 meeting;

AFFIRMING the Commission's support for the initiative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on conservation and management of sharks while noting with concern that only a small number of countries have implemented the 1999 FAO International Plan of Action (IPOA) for the Conservation and Management of Sharks;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the United Nations is considering calling upon States, FAO and sub-regional or regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements to implement fully the 1999 FAO IPOA for the Conservation and Management of Sharks, as a matter of priority, *inter alia*, through conducting assessments of shark stocks and developing and implementing National Plans of Action (NPOA);

CONCERNED that an extensive shark fishery is reported to be conducted in the Caribbean Sea and elsewhere in the Atlantic by a large number of shark fishing vessels, including those slightly smaller than 24 m length overall, about which the Commission has little information;

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

Each Contracting Party and Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity take the following actions:

- 1 Provide the Working Group of the Sub-Committee on By-catch scheduled to meet in 2004 with the information on their shark catches, effort by gear type, landings and trade of shark products.
- 2 Fully implement a NPOA in accordance with the FAO IPOA for the Conservation and Management of Sharks adopted by FAO.