

RESOLUTION *regarding the*
**INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE
CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS**
European Elasmobranch Association
October 2017
Amsterdam, Netherlands



WHEREAS the European Union (EU) is a Party to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), which holds their annual meeting in November;

WHEREAS scientists have ranked the shortfin mako shark (*Isurus oxyrinchus*) third among 17 elasmobranch species in terms of vulnerability to ICCAT fisheries in a 2012 Ecological Risk Assessment (ERA), and yet no international or EU catch limits are in place;

WHEREAS a new ICCAT population assessment finds North Atlantic shortfin mako sharks are overfished and experiencing overfishing, and reducing catches to zero is associated with a 54% probability of rebuilding the population by 2040;

WHEREAS scientists advise that the most effective immediate measure to stop overfishing and begin rebuilding North Atlantic mako sharks is a ban on retention, and note the potential effectiveness of such a measure based on the species' 70% chance of post-release survival;

WHEREAS prohibiting at-sea removal of shark fins is widely recognized as the best practice for enforcing shark finning bans, and can also facilitate the collection of much-needed, species-specific shark catch data; and

WHEREAS proposals to ban at-sea shark fin removal in ICCAT fisheries have been co-sponsored by 30 out of 51 ICCAT Parties, but have yet to be adopted.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED *that the European Elasmobranch Association urges the European Commission to propose and secure at the 2017 annual ICCAT meeting a prohibition on retention of Atlantic Shortfin Mako Sharks, and a ban on at-sea shark fin removal.*