



**SIX-MONTH PROGRESS REPORT**  
(December 2020-May 2021)

**REVIEW OF THE EVOLUTION OF PERFORMANCE  
INDICATORS (MSC STANDARD) FOR SHORT FIN MAKO**

## Action 2. To address information-data gaps for fishery related species

### Short fin mako (SMA) changes- evolution of performance indicators (MSC standard)

In the 26 Meeting of ICCAT -November 2019- the “Recommendation 19-06 by ICCAT on the conservation of North Atlantic stock of shortfin mako (*Isurus oxyrinchus*) caught in association with ICCAT fisheries” was adopted in order to stop the drop of the species according to the last stock assessment results and SCRS advice. Vessels would promptly release North Atlantic SMA in a manner that causes the least harm, while giving due consideration to the safety of crew members. Some individuals may be retained on board in certain conditions (only the Spanish fleet).

In fact it is a trend initiated in previous years with catch limits largely reduced from 5.276 t in 2017 until the present 288 t in 2021 (auto assumed limit by the EU fleet).

The Commission could not reach a consensus on the annual catch limits for the North Atlantic SMA in 2020. So, the aim for 2021 is to develop a recovery plan as of 2021 and propose additional measures towards achieving conservation and management objectives for this stock. (4. Review of current information on the state of the North Atlantic SMA stock and 2019/2020 catch levels and 5. Consideration of possible measures to achieve conservation of North Atlantic SMA).

That said, after both recommendations entered in force for the very first time in 2020 the following can be said in relation to the evolution of Blue Shark’s Performance Indicators:

Therefore, pending of the resolutions to be taken by ICCAT in 2021, the following can be said in relation to the evolution of these Performance Indicators:

2.1.1 Outcome status (for both North Atlantic and South Atlantic): work in progress, no change yet;

2.1.2 Management Strategy (for both North Atlantic and South Atlantic): work in progress, relevant measures to be taken.

FIP Blues work in progress concerning SMA is also related to the implementation of Actions 2 and 3, that is, we are working on ways to increasing data collection efforts that may collaborate to monitor the status of the stock, including data of discards, increasing observation coverage; mitigation techniques, good practices to improving handling of release individuals; etc.

In this respect, it is worth highlighting the efforts that the Spanish fleet had already reduced its annual catches (40%) in line with its strong commitment with the sustainability of the fishery.

EU – ESP ES-SWO FLEET TASK 1 ICCAT. T1NC	YEAR	Nominal Catches
	2015	1.361,72
	2016	1.574,13
	2017	1.783,54
	2018	1.165,29
	2019	866,22

Source: <https://www.iccat.int/en/accesingdb.html> (Task 1. Web-based application to view nominal catches of Atlantic tunas and tuna-like fish (including sharks), by gear, region and flag in web application [version 12/2020].).

For 2021, the catch limit for the EU fleet has been unilaterally reduced to just 288 t.

([https://ec.europa.eu/oceans-and-fisheries/system/files/2020-12/2020-12-08-non-paper-updates-2020-fishing-opportunities-regulation\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/oceans-and-fisheries/system/files/2020-12/2020-12-08-non-paper-updates-2020-fishing-opportunities-regulation_en.pdf)). This is applicable from 01.01.2021, and exclusively for fish caught under the conditions of Paragraph 2(1) of Recommendation 19-06 (fish dead at haul-back and caught in the presence of an observer on-board), what represents actually an 80% reduction compared to 2015 levels. This is in fact a proof of the efforts made by the industry in accordance with EU aim of “bringing the level of exploitation by its fleets to a level consistent with the objective of ending overfishing and starting the rebuilding of the stock, which is consistent with both the ICCAT Convention

and the EU's Common Fisheries Policy". In addition, Spain introduced an additional measure such as a limit on just two individuals of SMA per trip, which can be landed by each vessel for each fishing tri (still caught dead and in presence of an observer). Again, these measures for European vessels require significant efforts by the operators and administrations involved. Parallel, the EU highlights "this level of responsibility and accountability must in turn be recognised by the other CPCs when deciding on the most suitable management framework for SMA, since the implementation of any measures will concern the EU operators first and foremost".

After the ICCAT 2019 meeting no progress was made to establish catch limits. Therefore, the Panel 4 will meet this year 2021 in order to reaching agreement on North Atlantic SMA, so CPCs are invited to submitted recommendation proposals to be discussed

([https://meetings.iccat.int/index.php/s/BsbDknaXlo8EbsK?path=%2FDocs\\_SPA](https://meetings.iccat.int/index.php/s/BsbDknaXlo8EbsK?path=%2FDocs_SPA) ).

## Annexes

### Annex XIX.

- Recommendation 19-06 by ICCAT on the conservation of North Atlantic stock of SMA caught in association with ICCAT fisheries.
- MAPA press release (Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, press release on the 2019 ICCAT meeting
- ICCAT CIRCULAR # 1591/2021 Circular ICCAT. Announce of 2021 meeting of Panel 4 to reach an agreement on North Atlantic SMA

19-06

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**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON THE CONSERVATION OF NORTH ATLANTIC STOCK OF SHORTFIN MAKO CAUGHT IN ASSOCIATION WITH ICCAT FISHERIES**

*CONSIDERING* that shortfin mako is caught in association with ICCAT fisheries;

*CONCERNED* by the status of the North Atlantic shortfin mako being overfished and experiencing overfishing;

*RECOGNIZING* that the SCRS recommends that there will be a need for CPCs to strengthen their monitoring and data collection efforts to monitor the future status of this stock, including total estimated dead discards and the estimation of CPUE using observer data;

*KNOWING* that the result of the SCRS indicates that shortfin mako shark catches of 700 t are expected to immediately end overfishing, and catches of 500 t or less are expected to rebuild the stock by 2070;

*COMMITTED* to immediately taking actions to end overfishing of the North Atlantic shortfin mako stock with a high probability, as the first step in the development of a rebuilding plan;

*CONSIDERING* that the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Principles of Decision Making for ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures* (Rec. 11-13) calls for the Commission to immediately adopt management measures, taking into account, *inter alia*, the biology of the stock and SCRS advice, designed to result in a high probability of ending overfishing in as short a period as possible;

*CONSIDERING FURTHER* that Rec. 11-13 calls for the Commission to adopt a plan to rebuild stocks in the red zone of the Kobe plot, taking into account, *inter alia*, the biology of the stock and SCRS advice;

*ACKNOWLEDGING* that according to SCRS studies, the survival rate after release of shortfin mako shark could be up to 77%;

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

1. Contracting Parties, and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (hereafter referred to as CPCs) shall require vessels flying their flag to promptly release North Atlantic shortfin mako in a manner that causes the least harm, while giving due consideration to the safety of crew members.
2. Notwithstanding the provisions in paragraph 1 above, CPCs may authorize their vessels to catch and retain on board, transship or land North Atlantic shortfin mako, provided that:
  - (1) For vessels whose length is greater than 12 m,
    - a) the vessel has either an observer or a functioning electronic monitoring system on board which can identify whether the fish is dead or alive;
    - b) shortfin mako is dead when brought along side for taking on board the vessel;
    - c) the observer collects data on the number of individuals hooked, body length, sex, condition, maturity (whether the individual is pregnant and its litter size) and weight of products for each shortfin mako caught as well as fishing effort; and
    - d) when shortfin mako is not retained, the number of dead discards and live releases shall be recorded by the observer or estimated from the records of the electronic monitoring system.
  - (2) For vessels whose length is equal or smaller than 12 m,
    - a) shortfin mako is dead when brought along side for taking on board the vessel.

3. Notwithstanding the provisions in paragraph 1 above, CPCs may authorize their vessels to catch and retain on board, transship or land North Atlantic shortfin mako provided that:
  - a) shortfin mako is dead when brought along side for taking on board the vessel; and
  - b) the retention of shortfin mako does not exceed the fishing vessel's average shortfin mako landings while an observer is on board and this is verified by mandatory logbooks and landing inspection conducted on the basis of risk assessment.
4. Notwithstanding the provisions in paragraph 1 above, CPCs may authorize their vessels to catch and retain on board, transship or land North Atlantic shortfin mako whether dead or alive, when a CPC's domestic law requires a minimum size of at least 180 cm fork length for males and of at least 210 cm fork length for females.
5. Notwithstanding the provisions in paragraph 1 above, CPCs whose domestic law requires that all dead or dying fish be landed, provided that the fishermen may not draw any profit from such fish, may retain on board and land incidental by-catch of North Atlantic shortfin mako.
6. The observer is also encouraged to collect biological samples such as muscular tissues (for stock identification), reproductive organ with embryo (for identification of pregnancy cycle and reproductive output) and vertebrae (for estimation of growth curve). The biological samples collected by the observer should be analyzed by CPCs concerned and the result should be submitted to the SCRS by CPCs concerned.
7. CPCs shall endeavour to take further measures than those contained in this recommendation with the aim to stop overfishing and to rebuild the stock.
8. A Panel 4 intersessional meeting shall be convened in 2020 to develop and propose additional measures towards achieving conservation and management objectives for this stock. Panel 4 shall also develop appropriate requests for future work by the SCRS in this regard, as well as mechanisms to ensure the collection and provision of the requisite data by CPCs.
9. CPCs that authorize their vessels to catch and retain on board, transship or land North Atlantic shortfin mako in accordance with paragraphs 2 through 5 above shall provide to the Secretariat the amount of North Atlantic shortfin mako caught and retained on board as well as dead discards and live releases in 2019 one month prior to the 2020 Panel 4 intersessional meeting.
10. CPCs shall also report the number of dead discards and live releases of North Atlantic shortfin mako estimated based on the total fishing effort of their relevant fleets using data collected through observer programs or other relevant data collection programs. CPCs that do not authorize their vessels to catch and retain on board, transship or land North Atlantic shortfin mako in accordance with paragraphs 2 through 5 above shall also record through their observer programs the number of dead discards and live releases of North Atlantic shortfin mako and report it to SCRS.
11. The Commission, at its 2020 annual meeting, shall adopt a new management recommendation for North Atlantic shortfin mako, taking into account the scientific advice from the SCRS and the results of the 2020 Panel 4 intersessional meeting, in order to establish a rebuilding plan with a high probability of avoiding overfishing and rebuilding the stock to  $B_{MSY}$  within a timeframe that takes into account the biology of the stock.
12. Notwithstanding the provisions of Article VIII, paragraph 2 of the Convention, CPCs shall implement this recommendation as soon as possible in accordance with their regulatory procedures.



Hoy, en Palma de Mallorca

## El Ministerio de Agricultura, Pesca y Alimentación valora positivamente los resultados de la 26ª reunión anual de la Comisión Internacional para la Conservación del Atún Atlántico (ICCAT)

- España pone en valor sus esfuerzos en la conservación de tiburones, logrando la regulación de la pesca sostenible de la tintorera y el marrajo dientuso
- Se acuerda reforzar la gestión de túnidos tropicales, especialmente del patudo, introduciendo medidas de recuperación y reducciones de captura en esta pesquería

25 de noviembre de 2019. El Ministerio de Agricultura, Pesca y Alimentación celebra los resultados de la 26ª reunión anual de la Comisión Internacional para la Conservación del Atún Atlántico (ICCAT, en sus siglas en inglés), que ha finalizado hoy en Palma de Mallorca. Una reunión en la que delegados de las 53 partes contratantes de ICCAT, organizaciones de la sociedad civil y entidades cooperantes, han debatido durante ocho días diversas medidas de gestión de las pesquerías de túnidos y especies afines en el ámbito de su competencia.

España ha puesto en valor sus esfuerzos en la conservación de tiburones, logrando la regulación de la pesca sostenible de la tintorera y el marrajo dientuso, y se ha acordado reforzar la gestión de túnidos tropicales, especialmente del patudo, introduciendo medidas de recuperación y reducciones de captura en esa especie. El ministro de Agricultura, Pesca y Alimentación en funciones, Luis Planas, ha valorado positivamente los resultados de la negociación.

Nota de prensa





La reunión anual ha adoptado un nuevo texto del Convenio de este organismo internacional. Con ello se moderniza el Convenio y se alinea con los de otras organizaciones regionales de ordenación pesquera de todo el mundo. El nuevo texto incluye la regulación de las pesquerías de tiburones pelágicos migratorios en el ámbito ICCAT y consolida el enfoque de ecosistema para la gestión de las pesquerías.

ICCAT ha finalizado con éxito su 26 reunión anual al haber adoptado compromisos en relación al atún patudo para su conservación, que no pudieron ser alcanzados en la edición anterior por falta de consenso.

Además, las medidas adoptadas tanto para los túnidos tropicales, como para la tintorera y el marrajo dientuso recogen todas las expectativas presentadas por España para garantizar la rentabilidad económica y social del sector preservando la sostenibilidad y conservación de todas las pesquerías que gestiona ICCAT

## PATUDO Y TÚNIDOS TROPICALES

ICCAT ha acordado modificar la regulación para la gestión de los túnidos tropicales vigente desde 2016, con una nueva medida para la recuperación de la pesquería de patudo del Atlántico, que se encuentra en situación de sobreexplotación.

Actualmente tan sólo 7 Partes Contratantes de ICCAT tienen asignadas cuotas y el resto no tiene limitaciones de capturas, motivo por el que el Total Admisible de Capturas (TAC) de patudo ha venido superándose sistemáticamente en los últimos años por la entrada de nuevas flotas.

El nuevo régimen adoptado en ICCAT, aplicable en 2020 y 2021, se basa en la reducción del límite de capturas de patudo, una asignación de cuotas a todas las partes interesadas y medidas para reducir la mortalidad de





juveniles. Se fija un TAC de 62.500 toneladas para 2020 y de 61.500 toneladas en 2021.

Se establece una veda a la pesca sobre dispositivos de concentración de peces (DCP), de dos meses en 2020 y de 3 meses en 2021. En número máximo de DCP activos por buque no superará los 350 en 2020 ni 300 en 2021.

La asignación de cuotas a las partes contratantes, modalidades para la congelación de la flota y medidas de control se negociarán en una reunión *ad hoc*, que se celebrará en el primer trimestre de 2020.

La asignación de cuotas se realizará mediante la reducción de las cuotas actuales o los niveles de capturas históricos de cada parte contratante, en un porcentaje que será del 21% para países desarrollados, del 17% para países costeros en desarrollo con altos niveles de capturas y del 10% para países en desarrollo con bajo nivel de capturas. La recomendación incluye una referencia al trato diferenciado para flotas artesanales de pequeña escala en la implementación de esta medida. España trabajará en el periodo entre sesiones para que ICCAT reconozca las especificidades de la pesquería de patudo en las islas Canarias.

### TINTORERA O TIBURÓN AZUL

En esta reunión anual se han adoptado sendas recomendaciones para la gestión de la tintorera en el Atlántico Norte y Atlántico Sur, respectivamente. Ambas pesquerías se encuentran en buen estado de conservación y explotados a niveles sostenibles. La nueva medida para el Atlántico Norte introduce límites para las partes contratantes interesadas en esta pesquería, asignado a la UE 32.538 toneladas de un TAC de 39.102 toneladas.

Para la pesquería del Atlántico Sur se establece por primera vez un TAC de 28.923 toneladas, que se aplicará globalmente, sin asignar a nivel de partes contratantes.







España es el principal país en términos de esta captura en todo el Atlántico. Las medidas acordadas garantizan el mantenimiento de capturas de estos stocks en uno de los niveles más sostenibles de las pesquerías reguladas por ICCAT.

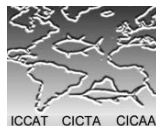
### **MARRAJO DIENTUSO**

Como respuesta a la situación de sobreexplotación del marrajo dientuso en el Atlántico norte, se han debatido varias propuestas para acabar con la sobrepesca y permitir la recuperación del stock. De forma transitoria para 2018 y 2019 se ha aplicado una recomendación que obliga a la liberación de ejemplares vivos y permite únicamente la retención de ejemplares muertos, con un programa de observadores a bordo.

La flota española ha realizado un importante esfuerzo en aplicar la medida vigente, logrando una reducción drástica de capturas. Estos esfuerzos se han puesto en valor por parte de la delegación española, que ha logrado que ICCAT prorrogue la medida por un año más y permita su oportuna valoración en el periodo entre sesiones, que tendrá lugar en España en una fecha y ciudad por determinar, con vistas adoptar una medida de conservación a largo plazo en la próxima reunión anual.



INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE  
CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS



COMMISSION INTERNATIONALE POUR LA  
CONSERVATION DES THONIDES DE L'ATLANTIQUE

COMISIÓN INTERNACIONAL PARA LA  
CONSERVACIÓN DEL ATÚN ATLÁNTICO

Madrid, 10 March 2021

## ICCAT CIRCULAR # 1591/2021

### SUBJECT: TENTATIVE AGENDA AND INTERSESSIONAL WORKPLAN FOR PANEL 4

Please find attached the Tentative Agenda and intersessional workplan received from the Chair of Panel 4. Given the importance of reaching **agreement on North Atlantic shortfin mako** this year, all CPCs are encouraged to engage in bilateral and multilateral consultations in advance of the meeting.

Draft proposals should be submitted to the Secretariat no later than **14 May 2021**. All documents will be published in an ownCloud folder at <https://meetings.iccat.int/index.php/s/BsbDknaXlo8EbsK>. Access to this folder will be made available through the ICCAT web site <https://www.iccat.int/en/Meetings.html> as soon as documents become available.

I should like to take this opportunity to also remind all CPCs that the Task 1 data for North Atlantic shortfin mako for 2020 should be submitted no later than **4 June 2021**.

Further information on the format, meeting arrangements and registration will be circulated in due course.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

*Executive Secretary*



Camille Jean Pierre Manel

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– **Members of Panel 4**

– **Cooperating Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities**

**Attachment:** Letter from the Chair of Panel 4.  
Tentative Agenda and Workplan.

Dear Colleagues

In accordance with the instructions of the Commission Chair in his letter of 15 February 2021 (ICCAT Circular 959/21; document PLE-147), please find attached a workplan for Panel 4 for the coming intersessional period, as well as the tentative Agenda for the intersessional meeting.

It is essential that we reach an agreement on North Atlantic shortfin mako this year, and I would therefore strongly urge all CPCs to engage in bilateral and multilateral consultations in advance of the meeting to try to resolve differences or to reach a compromise position. This is especially important as the possibility of an in-person meeting is still unclear, and we may have to meet virtually.

In order to ensure a smooth and transparent process, I would also ask all of you to respect the deadlines in the workplan. Any CPCs wishing to make position statements are welcome to do so but should ensure that these are in accordance with the deadlines and the guidelines which will be issued by the Secretariat nearer to the meeting time. Similarly, if submitting any information other than draft proposals for circulation to Panel 4 members, please be as concise as possible.

I should like to assure you that I, in my capacity as Panel 4 Chair, will be available to assist you as much as I can in this process.

I look forward to working with you all and to coming to constructive conclusion in July.

Yours sincerely,

Chair of Panel 4

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fabio Hazin', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

**Fabio** Hazin

**TENTATIVE AGENDA**  
**INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF PANEL 4**  
*(6-8 July 2020)*

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of Agenda and meeting arrangements
4. Review of current information on the state of the North Atlantic Shortfin Mako stock and 2019/2020 catch levels
5. Consideration of possible measures to achieve conservation of North Atlantic shortfin mako
6. Consideration of any additional mechanisms required to ensure the collection and provision of data
7. Development of appropriate requests for future work by the SCRS
8. Review of progress on northern swordfish MSE process
9. Consideration of criteria for granting exemptions to the submission of shark and billfish check sheets, including frequency of exemptions
10. Other matters
  - 10.1 Possible use of Ecosystem Report Card by Panel 4
11. Adoption of report and adjournment

**SUGGESTED SCHEDULE OF PREPARATORY WORK FOR PANEL 4**

Agenda item / date		Deadline										
		April	May			June					July	
		April	14 May	21 May	31 May	4 June	11 June	15 June	22 June	29 June	2 July	6 to 8 July
<b>registration/ meeting</b>										Final date for registration		Meeting
4	<i>Review of current information on the state of the North Atlantic Shortfin Mako stock and 2019 /2020 catch levels</i>					2020 Data to be submitted by all CPCs				2019 and 2020 data to be uploaded on cloud		
5	<i>Measures to achieve conservation of North Atlantic shortfin mako</i>	CPCs encouraged to make bilateral and multilateral contacts regarding main points of divergence.	First drafts of proposed Recommendations to be submitted	Draft Recommendations to be posted in three languages	Deadline for first round of comments on Draft proposals	Revised proposals (version A) to be posted	Deadline for second round of comments on Draft proposals	Revised (B version) proposals to be posted		Deadline for last round of pre-meeting comments on Draft proposals	Final drafts (version C) to be posted for discussion during meeting	
6	<i>Additional mechanisms required to ensure the collection and provision of data</i>	CPCs encouraged to make bilateral and multilateral contacts regarding main points of divergence.	May be included in proposals under 4 above									

7	<i>Requests for future work by the SCRS</i>	CPCs encouraged to make bilateral and multilateral contacts regarding main points of divergence	May be included in proposals under item 4 above								Additional requests to the SCRS on the basis of available reports/ data should be submitted in writing for discussion at meeting	
8	<i>Progress on Northern Swordfish MSE process</i>							SWO rapporteur/SCRS Chair to submit extract of report on update of N-SWO MSE	N-SWO MSE extract to be posted in three languages	Questions to SCRS should be submitted in writing for clarification during meeting		

9	<i>Criteria for granting exemptions to the submission of shark and billfish check sheets, including frequency of exemptions</i>		First drafts of proposals to be submitted	Draft proposal to be posted in 3 languages	Deadline for first round of comments on Draft criteria	Revised criteria (version A) to be posted	Deadline for second round of comments on Draft criteria	Revised criteria (version B) to be posted				
10	<i>Possible use of Ecosystem Report Card by Panel 4</i>					SCRS paper to be posted on the work carried out on the Ecosystem Report Card	Deadline for comments/questions on the SCRS Ecosystem Report Card			Clarifications from the SCRS to the questions (if any) to be posted		