

NARRATIVE:

Change in Score of the Performance Indicator 2.1.2. for north Atlantic shortfin mako (NA SMA)

OPP: Fishing Organization (Fish Producers Organizations).

SGP: the Spanish General Fisheries Secretariat-Spanish Fisheries Department from the MAPA.

MAPA: the Spanish Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

PI: Performance Indicator.

Subject & Rationale

SUBJECT

Change in the score of the **PI 2.1.2 Management Strategy** for North Atlantic shortfin mako (N.A SMA), primary species in the fishery (Change in policy).

This Performance indicator may be scored now as SG80 following the MSC Fisheries Standard criteria. That is the result of an amount of management measures adopted from 2019 until now, with the recent adoption of a remarkable new Recommendation for the species: the “**Draft recommendation by ICCAT on the conservation of north Atlantic stock of shortfin mako caught in association with ICCAT fisheries (Doc. N.º. PA4-809D / 2021)**” adopted by ICCAT on 23rd November 2021, which marks a real turning point in the species management strategy after years of discussion in ICCAT. It establishes a rebuilding programme starting in 2022 to end overfishing immediately and gradually achieve biomass levels sufficient to support maximum sustainable yield (MSY) by 2070 with a probability of a range of between 60 and 70 % at least. It represents the first step in rebuilding the stock and process to determine future permissible retention.

RATIONALE

After the adoption of a range of measures (Recommendations, explained in detail in the Narrative “Reduction of short fin mako catches -bycatch- in North Atlantic”) it can be stated that at the present *There is a strategy in place that is designed to maintain or to not hinder rebuilding of primary species; and the UoA regularly reviews and implements measures, as appropriate, to minimise the mortality of unwanted catch:*

- *There is a partial strategy in place for the UoA, if necessary, that is expected to maintain or to not hinder rebuilding of the main primary species at/to levels which are highly likely to be above the PRI.*
 - *There is some objective basis for confidence that the measures/ partial strategy will work, based on some information directly about the UoA and/or species involved.*
 - *There is some evidence that the measures/ partial strategy is being implemented successfully.*
 - *There is a high degree of certainty that shark finning is not taking place.*
 - *There is a regular review of the potential effectiveness and practicality of alternative measures to minimise UoA-related mortality of unwanted catch of main primary species and they are implemented as appropriate.*
- There have been established management tools controlling exploitation as well as known reference points in place.*

The measures in place by virtue of ICCAT Recommendation 19-06 already addressed a good part of those requirements, now reinforced and improved thanks to the last **Recommendation in 2021**, which is at least a “partial strategy” comprising a recovery plan and management and additional measures to achieving conservation and management objectives for this stock. It also provides a well-defined time schedule for review, assessment and decision-making process depending on the evolution of the plan over time.

Main items-measures of this Recommendation that meet the requirements for SG80:

- It brings a recovery plan with a first phase as of 2023 and management measures, plus strict additional measures what in practice means no retention.
- It establishes a plan to rebuild the stock to increase the biomass to the RMS levels for which, fishing mortality is reduced almost to zero. The total fishing mortality for North Atlantic shortfin mako shall be no more than 250 tonnes until new SCRS advice is provided to the Commission.

- CPCs shall implement a prohibition on retaining on board, transshipping and landing, whole or in part, North Atlantic shortfin mako caught in association with ICCAT fisheries in 2022 and 2023 as a first step in rebuilding the stock.
- *Any retention permissible shall be allowed only when the fish is dead on haulback and the vessel has an observer or a functioning electronic monitoring system on board to verify the condition of the sharks.
- Regular review of the potential effectiveness and practicality of measures to minimise fishing mortality are already considered, by stock assessment recommendations, recommendations, intersessional meetings SCRS reports, etc.
- In addition, this Recommendation assign the SCR to develop scientific and research activities in order to identifying high concentration areas of North Atlantic shortfin mako and so defining management options for spatial-temporal measures; mitigation measures (inter alia, gear configuration and modification, deployment options).
- Next stock assessments and review of measures effectiveness: stock assessment to be performed by 2024. Further assessments shall be carried out by 2029 and 2034, with a view to evaluate the stock status and trajectory as well as the effectiveness of actions taken pursuant to this recommendation and subsequent amendments to achieve the objectives of the rebuilding programme.
- It provides the process to determine future permissible retention (based on Kobe II strategy matrix).
- Additional measures like instructions to “Safe handling and release” of alive sharks: Minimum standards for safe handling and live release procedures.
- It defines the requirements for reporting on implementation for CPCs as part of improving data collection and information.
- CPCs are strongly encouraged to implement, in accordance with their regulatory procedures, this Recommendation as soon as possible and before the date of its entry into force.

*Further, the Spanish SGP-MAPA is currently applying stricter conditions for retention on board (only two specimens and only if in presence of observers on board/EMS and).

Besides, Spanish fleet **does not make finning**, as established by [REGULATION \(EU\) No 605/2013](#). In fact, the EU was one of the supporters of a draft recommendation for sharks that include, once more, the ban on finning for all CPCs operating in the ICCAT area. Unfortunately, it did not get the support of all CPCs.

Note that one of the aims of FIP Blues is to promote the extension of EU ban on finning to all fleets in ICCAT.

Results/Outcome

Partial Management strategy in place

Actors involved

- ICCAT
- DGMARE-UE
- SGP-MAPA
- FIP Blues OPPs: OPP7LU, OPROMAR, OPNAPA, ORPAGU.

Date

30.11.2021

Documents of proof-Evidences

Past Recommendations:

- [Recommendation 17-08 BYC](#) (Recommendation by ICCAT on the conservation of north atlantic stock of shortfin mako caught in association with ICCAT fisheries).
- [Recommendation 18-06 BYC](#) (Recommendation by ICCAT to replace Recommendation 16-13 on improvement of compliance review of conservation and management measures regarding sharks caught in association with ICCAT fisheries).

Recent key Recommendations:

- [Recommendation 19-06](#) by ICCAT on the conservation of North Atlantic stock of shortfin mako (*Isurus oxyrinchus*) caught in association with ICCAT fisheries.
- **Recommendation by ICCAT 2021** on the conservation of north Atlantic stock of shortfin mako caught in association with ICCAT fisheries (See [Doc. N.º. PA4-809D / 2021](#)).