

RESOLUTION BY ICCAT ON ATLANTIC SHARKS

NOTING that the *International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks* expressly calls upon states to cooperate internationally, including through regional fishery management organizations such as ICCAT;

RECALLING the *Resolution on Cooperation with FAO with Regard to Study on the Status of Sharks and By-catch of Shark Species*, adopted by ICCAT in 1995;

NOTING that a limited number of Contracting Parties have provided catch and effort data including dead discard data for sharks from fishing activities for tuna and tuna-like species in the Convention Area.

RECOGNIZING that based on Commission interests, the SCRS intends to conduct assessments for Atlantic shortfin mako (*Isurus oxyrinchus*) and blue sharks (*Prionace glauca*), and that the quality of these assessments will depend upon the full participation of all parties in data collection efforts;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS RESOLVES THAT:

- 1) The SCRS should conduct assessments for Atlantic shortfin mako and blue sharks in 2004, and hold an interim meeting in 2003, as SCRS considers necessary, to determine needed improvements in data collection;
- 2) All Contracting Parties, Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities should:
 - a) submit catch and effort data, including dead discard estimates, for porbeagle, shortfin mako and blue sharks;
 - b) encourage the release of live sharks, to the extent possible, that are caught incidentally, especially juveniles;
 - c) minimize waste and discards from shark catches in accordance with article 7.2.2.(g) of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (for example, requiring the retention of sharks from which fins are removed);
 - d) voluntarily agree not to increase fishing effort targeting Atlantic porbeagle, shortfin mako and blue sharks until sustainable levels of harvest can be determined through stock assessments.