

– RESOLUTION –
ON COOPERATION WITH FAO WITH REGARD
TO STUDY ON THE STATUS OF STOCKS AND BY-CATCH OF SHARK SPECIES

Resolution adopted by the Commission at its Fourteenth Regular Meeting (Madrid, November, 1995). Report for Biennial Period, 1994-95, Part II. Officially transmitted to the Contracting Parties: December 21, 1995.

NOTING that more than 350 shark species inhabit both the pelagic areas and coastal areas, and that information on stock sizes, biological parameters, by-catch levels and effects of by-catch is insufficient;

NOTING that some shark species are incidentally caught in tuna fisheries;

FURTHER NOTING that, at present, sharks are not generally subject to specific conservation and management measures by international or regional/sub-regional fishery organizations;

RECOGNIZING the work of the Study Group on Elasmobranch Fishes of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES);

RECOGNIZING that the Ninth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), (Fort Lauderdale, Florida - November 7 to 18, 1994), adopted a Resolution on the "Status of International Trade in Shark Species";

AFFIRMING that the Sub-Committee on By-catches of the ICCAT Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) is presently assembling relevant information and identifying those species which should be studied by ICCAT;

ALSO, CONSIDERING that cooperation on research and analysis on a global basis is fundamentally essential to elucidate on the overall nature of this problem and actions to be taken concerning shark species;

Therefore,

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

1. That FAO be the focal point in which to initiate a program to collect, on a global scale, the necessary biological data, including stock abundance and the magnitude of by-catch, and trade data on shark species, and to serve a coordination function among regional or sub-regional fisheries management organizations for said activities;
2. That the Contracting Parties of ICCAT provide FAO with the information, and financial assistance where possible, to conduct the work required; and
3. That international or regional/sub-regional fisheries management organizations cooperate with FAO in providing the necessary information and advice in response to the requests made, including the aforementioned CITES Resolution.