

## **WCC-2012-Rec-145-EN**

### **Ensuring the conservation and management of mako sharks**

ACKNOWLEDGING Recommendation 4.113 *Conserving migratory and oceanic sharks* adopted by the 4<sup>th</sup> IUCN World Conservation Congress (Barcelona, 2008) which encourages, *inter alia*, prompt, coordinated national and regional shark fisheries management and, in particular, science-based and/or precautionary limits on catches of trans-zone, straddling, migratory and oceanic sharks, based on the high percentage of oceanic pelagic sharks listed as Vulnerable on the *IUCN Red List of Threatened Species*;

ACKNOWLEDGING the obligations of the global community, including range States and shark-fishing States, to conserve, protect and manage migratory sharks as underpinned by, *inter alia*, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), the United Nations Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (Fish Stocks Agreement), the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) *International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks* (IPOA-Sharks), and the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI);

NOTING the important ecosystem role played by many shark species, and the significant and continuing mortality of sharks through target fisheries, illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, and in fisheries by-catch;

RECALLING that UNCLOS, the IPOA-Sharks and CMS have all identified the urgent need for collaborative fisheries and conservation management by range States and fishing States of threatened and commercially exploited migratory sharks;

FURTHER RECALLING that the IPOA-Sharks urges States to develop sub-regional or regional shark plans with a view to ensuring the sustainability of shark stocks, and directs States exploiting trans-zone, straddling, highly migratory and high-seas stocks of sharks to strive to ensure effective conservation and management of these stocks;

CONCERNED that conservation measures adopted by Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) since the last IUCN World Conservation Congress have been limited to thresher (*Alopias* spp.), Oceanic Whitetip (*Carcharhinus longimanus*), hammerhead (*Sphyrna* spp.), and Silky Sharks (*Carcharhinus falciformis*), and have yet to control the catch of the most commercially valuable of all oceanic shark species: the Shortfin Mako Shark (*Isurus oxyrinchus*);

STRESSING that Shortfin and Longfin Mako (*Isurus paucus*) are classified as globally Vulnerable on the *IUCN Red List*; that scientists with the International Commission for Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) concluded in 2004 that measures to reduce fishing mortality were necessary to improve the status of the North Atlantic Shortfin Mako Shark population, and will update this assessment in 2012; that an ICCAT Ecological Risk Assessment found both mako species to be among the shark species most vulnerable to overfishing by Atlantic pelagic fisheries; and that the Scientific Committee of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) reported that available evidence indicates considerable risk to Shortfin Mako stock status at current levels of fishing effort;

RECALLING that Shortfin and Longfin Makos were listed on Appendix II of CMS in 2008; and

RECOGNIZING the responsibility of States for the conservation and management of sharks in their waters and in the international waters in which their fleets operate, through national legislation, membership of FAO, and through participation in RFMOs and CMS;

***The World Conservation Congress, at its session in Jeju, Republic of Korea, 6–15 September 2012:***

1. REQUESTS all States that are Members or Cooperating Entities of RFMOs to ensure prompt RFMO and domestic management of fisheries taking migratory sharks, as urged by IUCN in 2008, and, in particular, to adopt an effective suite of science-based conservation measures in order to ensure sustainability, including quantifiable limits on the exploitation of mako sharks;
2. ENCOURAGES all fishing nations and entities, particularly Parties to CMS, to support implementation of the CMS Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the Conservation of Migratory Sharks, including development of regional conservation plans as appropriate for listed species; and
3. ENCOURAGES fishing nations and entities to continue to strive for close coordination between their fisheries and wildlife management authorities on these matters.

Expressing its support for an alternative formulation (referred to as 'Option 2') of operative paragraph 1, which was not approved during voting on this Motion, State Member Japan provided the following statement for the record during the 11th Sitting of the Members' Assembly:

“Japan has been supporting conservation measures for sharks in Regional Fisheries Management Organizations or RFMOs. However, Japan is concerned about this motion because it prejudices the position of State Members at RFMOs. It puts too much emphasis on quantifiable limit on the exploitation of mako sharks as conservation measure. Each RFMO should decide appropriate conservation measures for mako sharks, taking into account various factors, which differ among RFMOs. For example, the stock status of mako sharks, the types of fishing gear catching mako sharks, enforcement capacity of the members are all different among RFMOs. We are concerned that giving too much emphasis on a specific measure will not necessarily contribute to conservation of mako sharks. Therefore, we support Option 2.”