

# TOP FISHING COUNTRIES & THE NEW AGREEMENT ON NORTH ATLANTIC SHORTFIN MAKOS

Instead of banning landings of overfished North Atlantic shortfin makos as scientists advised, ICCAT has only taken a first step toward preventing further population decline. If Parties implement the measure, makos brought to the boat alive would need to be carefully released, unless a minimum size limit or discard ban applies. Dead makos could still be landed by boats under 12 meters, as well as by larger vessels under certain conditions for monitoring catch and reporting data. Parties agreed to develop a rebuilding plan starting in 2019.



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SPAIN

## FISHING IMPACT

Ranks 1<sup>st</sup> for estimated catches\*, responsible for nearly half of North Atlantic catch.

## MOST RELEVANT EXCEPTION

Vessels over 12 meters can keep makos only if they are dead and key data are collected through an observer or electronic monitoring system capable of detecting whether the mako is dead or alive.

## WHAT TO WATCH

Spain's fleet is vast and has no limits on makos. Increased observer coverage is greatly needed, but electronic monitoring systems are still being tested for reliability in detecting whether sharks are dead or alive.

## NEXT ACTION

Spain must adhere to limits set by the EU. A ban on retention is still advised. At the very least, the EU should establish mako quotas at the next opportunity (December 2017) to greatly reduce landings.

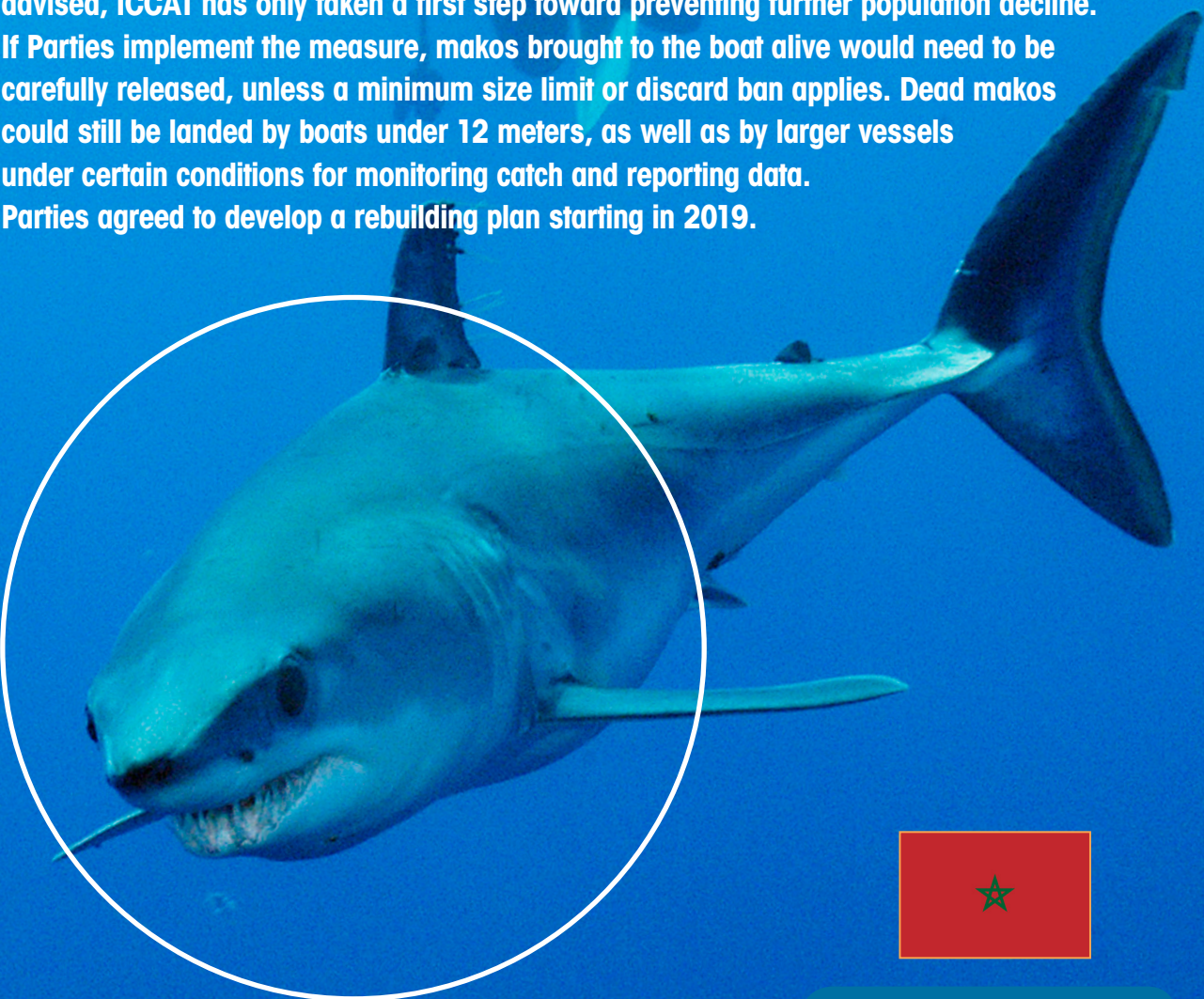
\* based on 2011-2016 estimated catches according to ICCAT.

ICCAT = International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas.



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MOROCCO

## FISHING IMPACT

Ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> for estimated catches\* which are rising and have more than doubled since 2011.

## MOST RELEVANT EXCEPTION

Fishermen on vessels under 12 meters can only keep shortfin makos if they are already dead when brought to the boat.

## WHAT TO WATCH

Landings could decline, but Morocco's extensive small boat fleet lacks observers and can still do considerable damage to the already overfished population.

## NEXT ACTION

A ban on retention is still advised. At the very least, a national quota that substantially reduces landings should be immediately established.

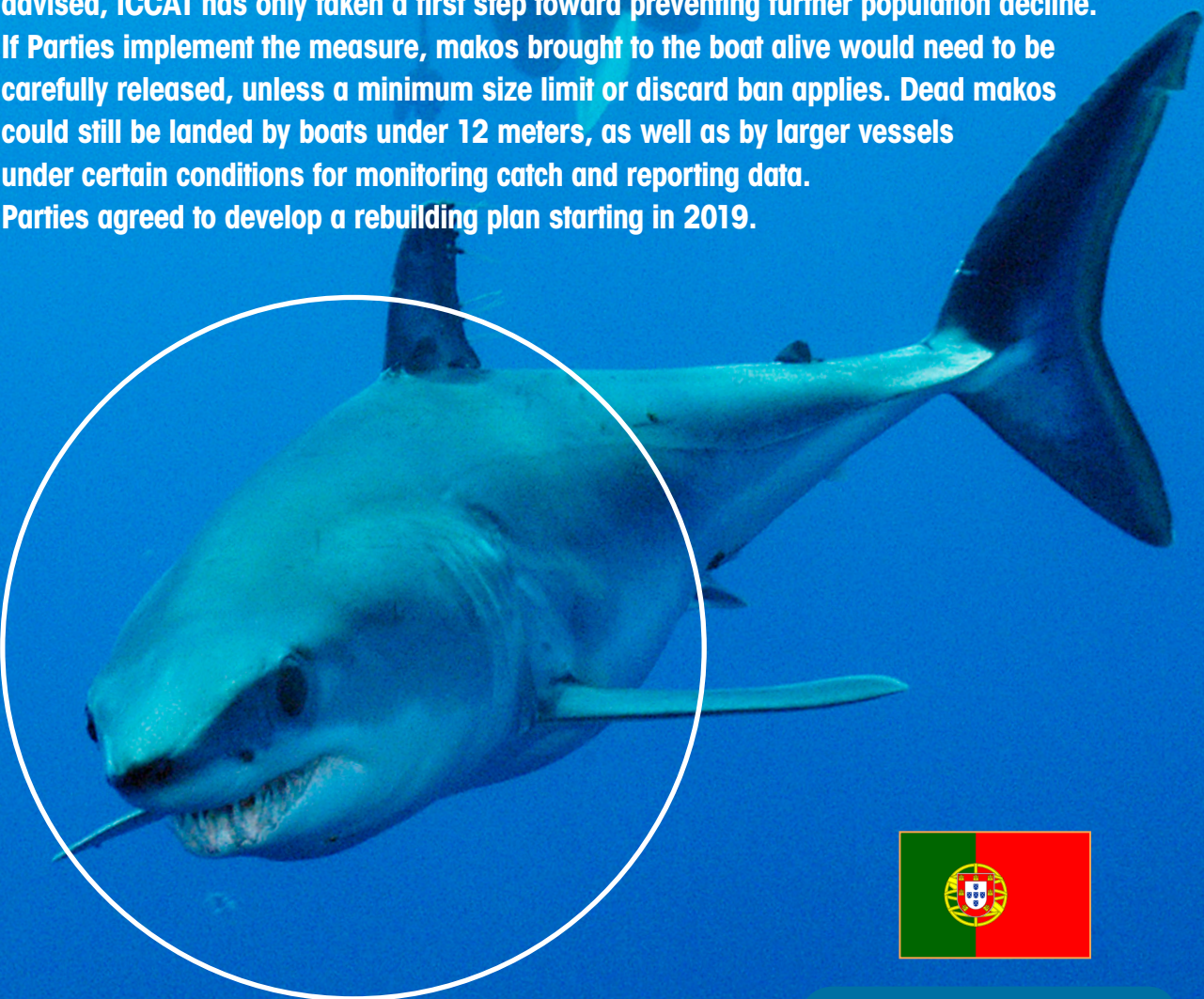
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PORTUGAL

## FISHING IMPACT

Ranks 3<sup>rd</sup> in estimated catches\*.

## MOST RELEVANT EXCEPTION

Vessels over 12 meters can keep makos only if they are dead and key data are collected through an observer or electronic monitoring system capable of detecting whether the mako is dead or alive.

## WHAT TO WATCH

Portugal's fleet is vast, and has no limits on makos. Increased observer coverage is needed, but electronic monitoring systems are still being tested for reliability in detecting whether sharks are dead or alive. A dramatic reduction in reported mako landings coupled with a dramatic increase in blue shark take has yet to be explained.

## NEXT ACTION

Portugal must adhere to limits set by the EU. A ban on retention is still advised. At the very least, the EU should establish mako quotas at the next opportunity (December 2017) to greatly reduce landings.

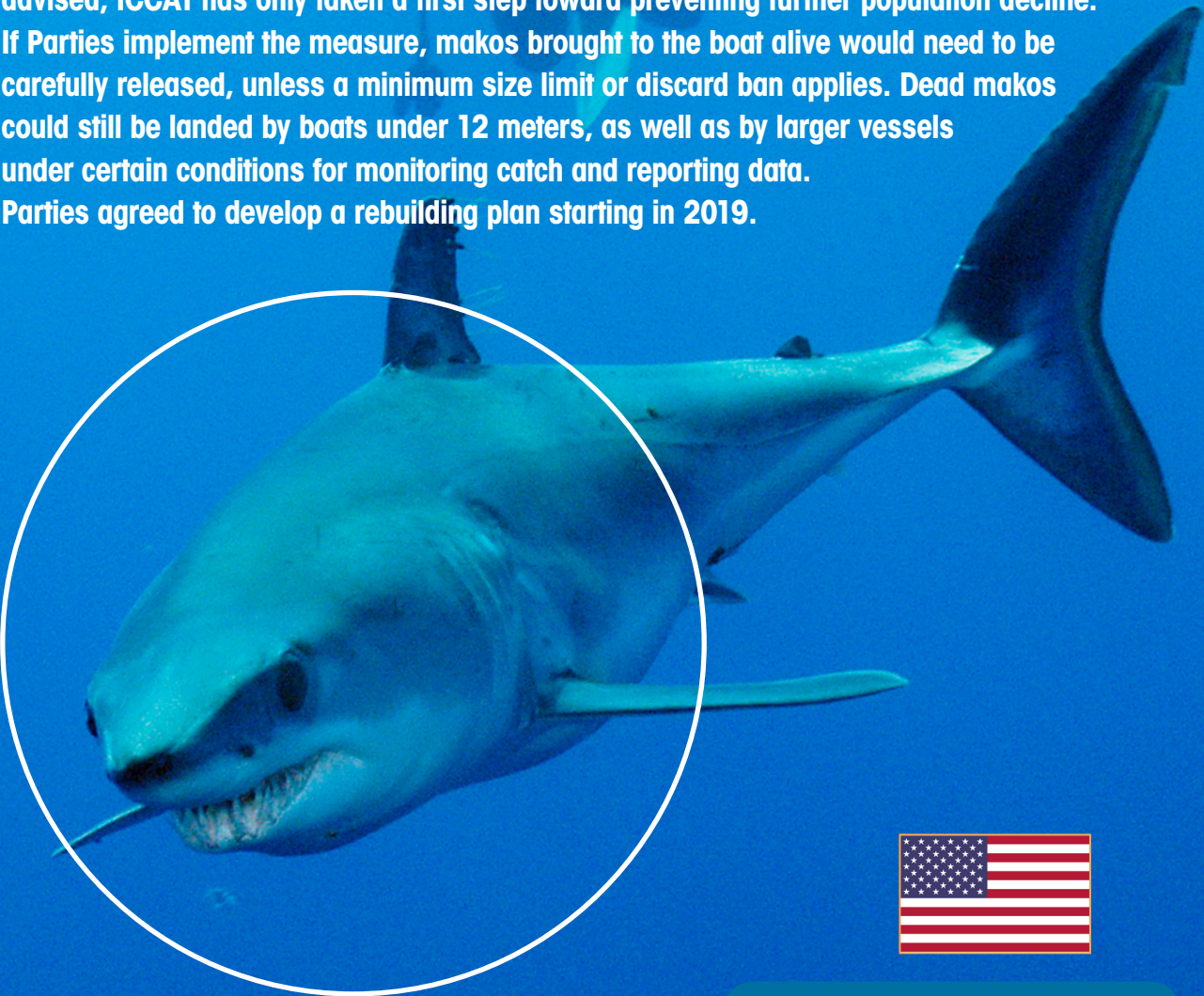
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UNITED STATES

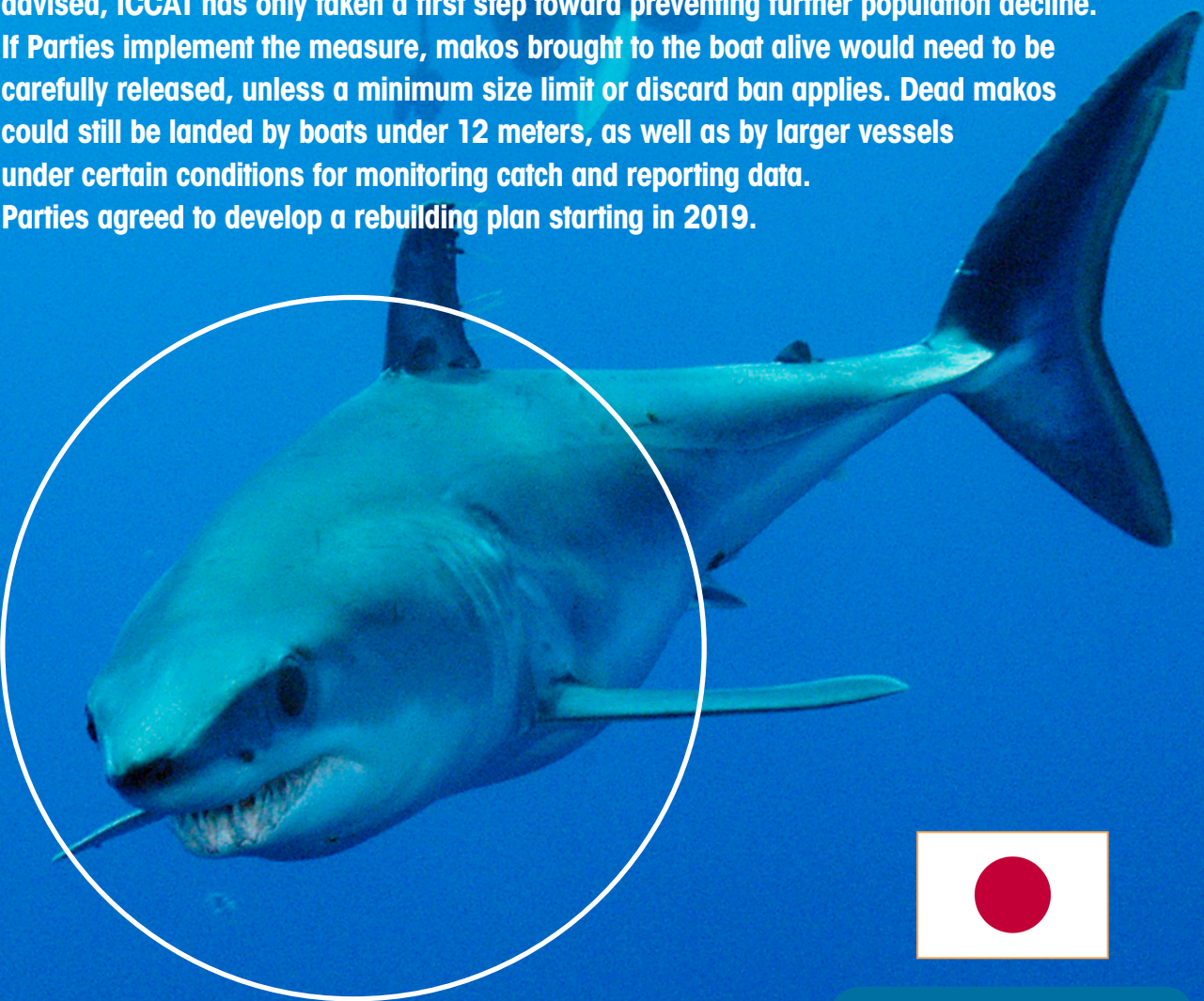
FISHING IMPACT	Ranks 4 <sup>th</sup> in estimated catches* and takes makos in both commercial and recreational fisheries.
MOST RELEVANT EXCEPTION	Anglers can keep makos (dead or alive) if a minimum size (associated with reproductive maturity) applies to the fishery. Dead makos can be taken in US commercial fisheries because they meet new standards for observers and catch monitoring.
WHAT TO WATCH	The US is the only ICCAT Party with North Atlantic mako limits. New measures are expected to reduce the number of dead fish by 84% and 70% in Atlantic recreational and commercial fisheries, respectively.
NEXT ACTION	A ban on retention is still advised. At the very least, government needs to immediately stop suggesting Atlantic mako as sustainable seafood, and should impose a size limit of at least 210cm for anglers and a reduced commercial quota through emergency procedures.

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JAPAN

## FISHING IMPACT

Ranks 5<sup>th</sup> for estimated catches\*.

## MOST RELEVANT EXCEPTION

Vessels over 12 meters can keep only dead makos, provided an observer or electronic monitoring system is on board.

## WHAT TO WATCH

Japan has a vast and wide-ranging fleet. Increased observer coverage is greatly needed, but electronic monitoring systems are still being tested for reliability in detecting whether sharks are dead or alive.

## NEXT ACTION

A ban on retention is still advised. At the very least, a national quota that substantially reduces landings should be immediately established.

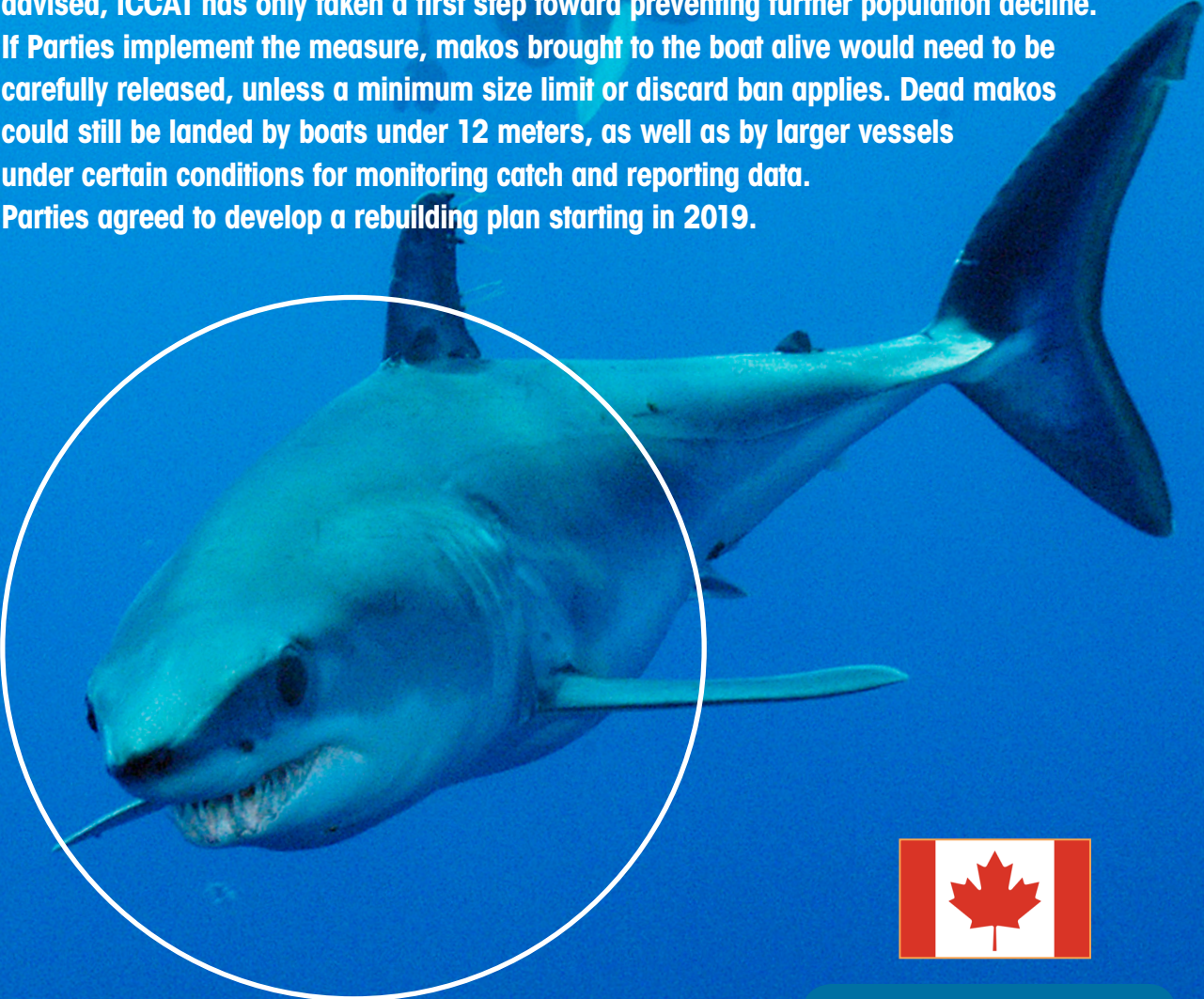
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CANADA

## FISHING IMPACT

Ranks 6<sup>th</sup> for estimated catches\*.

## MOST RELEVANT EXCEPTION

Vessels can only keep makos if they are dead and catches stay below recent average.

## WHAT TO WATCH

Landings might decline, depending on fishing practices. Observer coverage this measure relies on to set average catch only covers 5-10% of boats, and electronic monitoring systems are still being tested for reliability in detecting whether sharks are dead or alive.

## NEXT ACTION

A ban on retention is still advised. At the very least, government must immediately amend fishery license conditions to bring changes into effect, increase observer coverage, and ensure landings are significantly reduced.

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