

21 June, 2019



As members of the Shark League, a coalition dedicated to science-based conservation of sharks and rays, we write regarding national reporting obligations for the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT).

As you are likely aware, sharks' relatively low reproductive rates leave them inherently vulnerable to overfishing. We are concerned that the lack of timely, detailed reporting of national shark catches and management has been a significant hindrance to ICCAT's assessment and conservation of shark populations. To improve these processes, we urge your government to ensure the timely submission of the following information to the ICCAT Secretariat, as required:

- **shark catch data (discards as well as landings) by July 31;**
- **domestic observer program status by July 31; and**
- **an updated Shark Implementation Check Sheet by September 15th.**

In particular, to aid in this year's crucial evaluation of ICCAT's current measure for overfished North Atlantic shortfin mako sharks (*Isurus oxyrinchus*) (Rec 17-08), please ensure that details regarding domestic mako restrictions and their implementation are included along with mako catch data.

Thank you for your attention and assistance.

Sincerely,

Sonja Fordham

Shannon Arnold

Alison Hood

Ian Campbell



The Shark Trust is a UK charity working to safeguard the future of sharks through positive change. Shark Advocates International is a project of The Ocean Foundation dedicated to securing science-based policies for sharks and rays. Focused on sharks in peril and marine debris, Project AWARE is a growing movement of scuba divers protecting the ocean planet – one dive at a time. Ecology Action Centre promotes sustainable, ocean-based livelihoods, and marine conservation in Atlantic Canada. Contact: info@sharkleague.org