

23rd September 2021

Mr Matthias Leonhard Maier
Team leader, CITES & EU Wildlife Trade Policy
Directorate General for the Environment
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Dear Mr. Leonhard Maier:

On behalf of the Shark League member organizations, I write to request a copy of the European Union's Non-Detriment Finding (NDF) for mako sharks (*Isurus spp.*). This document was presumably prepared many months ago in accordance with the 2019 listing of these two highly threatened species under Appendix II of the Convention for International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

You will recall that the European Union (EU) was a cosponsor of the successful proposal to list shortfin and longfin makos under CITES. We are pleased that the Commission's Scientific Review Group (SRG) subsequently reviewed the resulting obligations with respect to regional species status, established a mako-specific working group, and issued an opinion directing an end to EU landings and trade from the exceptionally depleted North Atlantic population. We have welcomed the ensuing domestic shortfin mako bans implemented by Spain and Portugal, especially as the magnitude of mako landings from these two countries makes the EU the world's top mako "producer."

We understand that the SRG's "negative opinion" on North Atlantic shortfin makos resulted in an official EU "negative NDF" for this population, but it appears that this document has not yet been made publicly available.

We stress that North Atlantic shortfin makos make up one of the world's most imperiled shark populations – one that continues to be overfished while international fisheries management delays drag on. In the interest of informing associated debates and ensuring transparency on matters of great interest to civil society, we urge you to immediately release these findings.

Thank you for your consideration. My colleagues and I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ali Hood".

Ali Hood
Director of Conservation
Shark Trust

The Shark Trust is a UK charity working to safeguard sharks through positive change. Shark Advocates International is a project of The Ocean Foundation dedicated to securing science-based policies for sharks and rays. PADI AWARE Foundation is a publicly funded non-profit organization that drives local action for global ocean conservation. Ecology Action Centre promotes sustainable, ocean-based livelihoods, and marine conservation in Canada and internationally. With support from the Shark Conservation Fund, these groups formed the [Shark League](#) to advance science-based regional policies.