

# 2021: Make Or Break for Makos

## A Call on the International Commission for Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) to Protect North Atlantic Shortfin Mako Sharks Before It's Too Late



The depletion of endangered North Atlantic shortfin makos is among the world's most glaring yet solvable shark conservation crises. This exceptionally valuable, vulnerable population is headed for collapse as Atlantic fishing nations allow serious overfishing to continue. Hope for rebuilding within fifty years erodes with each management delay.

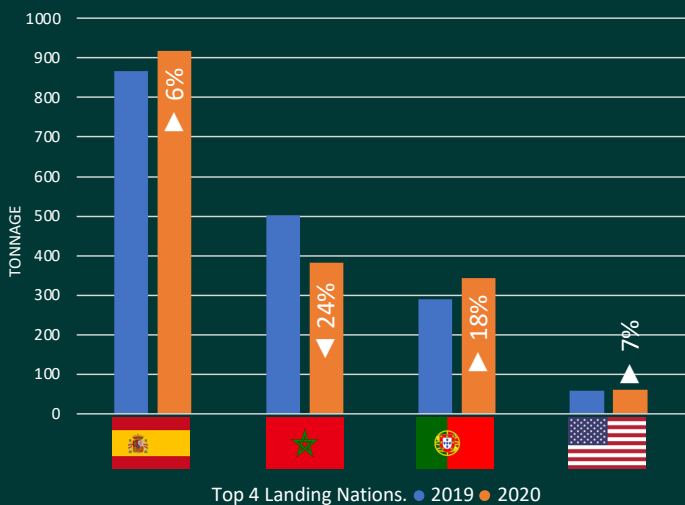
ICCAT has stalled the necessary mako protections for many years. Watered down half-measures and exceptions have proved grossly inadequate for halting overexploitation. In fact, North Atlantic landings by top mako fishing countries *increased* from 2019 to 2020.

ICCAT Parties have what they need to reverse dangerous population decline: clear scientific advice, a new mandate to conserve sharks, the capacity to enforce a simple ban, time for dedicated deliberations, and encouragement from conservationists around the world.



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Support among governments is growing for finally imposing what scientists call the most effective immediate measure to stem decline: a prohibition on retention, without exceptions. Yet time is running out to mitigate long-term negative consequences and avoid irreparable damage for this slow growing population, the associated ecosystem, and myriad stakeholders.



The Shark League urges ICCAT Parties to at last adopt scientists' repeated advice for a complete North Atlantic shortfin mako retention ban as the centerpiece of a new measure to rebuild the population by 2070.

Please end the delays, follow the science, and protect mako sharks.

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