

#12b

Swordfish and Sharks Species Working Group

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Current ICCAT measures:

[Rec 17-02](#): North Atlantic swordfish management measure

[Rec 17-03](#): South Atlantic swordfish management measure

[Rec 17-08](#): North Atlantic shortfin mako shark management measure

Excerpts from 2017 SCRS Report relevant to BAYS

http://iccat.int/Documents/Meetings/Docs/2017_SCRS_REP_ENG.pdf

<u>Report page</u>	<u>Content</u>
156-178	SCRS swordfish info
215-244	SCRS shark species info
276-281	SCRS recommendations to the Commission that have financial implications
353-356	SCRS Sharks Research and Data Collection Programme Report
451-454	SCRS swordfish workplan
455	SCRS shark workplan

Other relevant documents:

[PA4-802: 2017 Fins Attached Proposal from USA et al.](#) (not adopted)

Swordfish and Sharks Species Working Group Agenda

1. Introductions

2. Recreational fisheries

- A. What should be the scope of ICCAT's engagement on recreational fisheries issues?
 - i. From a U.S. perspective, what benefits has or could ICCAT provide on recreational issues? What specific outcomes would U.S. stakeholders like to see from ICCAT engagement on recreational issues?
 - ii. What are the potential obstacles/objections and/or risks associated with ICCAT engagement in recreational fisheries issues? How might these be addressed?
 - iii. What method(s)/approach(es) can/should be taken to best achieve any identified outcomes and who may be like-minded partners in other ICCAT members?
 - 1. What role should ICCAT's Working Group on Sport and Recreational Fisheries play, if any? Would the terms of reference for the working group need to be revised?
 - 2. Are there other methods/approaches that should be considered?

SHARKS

3. Status of shark stocks and update on relevant SCRS activities

- A. Shortfin mako
- B. Porbeagle
- C. Blue shark

4. Management Strategy Evaluation and Harvest Control Rules - Sharks

- A. Management objectives
- B. Performance indicators
- C. Other issues and next steps
 - i. Ranking exercise

5. Shark Conservation and Management

- A. Actions at the 2017 ICCAT meeting
 - i. Measures adopted
 - ii. Measures proposed but not adopted
- B. Other relevant conservation and management measures already in force
- C. Review of [relevant 2017 Shark SWG conservation and management recommendations](#)
- D. Consideration and development of 2018 conservation and management recommendations, including relevant matters from agenda items 3 and 4 above

6. Shark Research and Data Collection

- A. Research needs identified by the SCRS
- B. Recent research (domestic and international)
- C. Review of relevant 2017 SWG research and data collection recommendations
- D. Consideration and development of 2018 research and data collection recommendations, including any relevant matters from agenda items 3 and 4 above.

SWORDFISH

7. Status of swordfish stocks and update on relevant SCRS activities

8. Management Strategy Evaluation and Harvest Control Rules - Swordfish

- A. Management objectives
- B. Performance indicators
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9. Swordfish Conservation and Management

- A. Actions at the 2017 ICCAT meeting
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10. Swordfish Research and Data Collection

- A. Research needs identified by the SCRS
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11. Other Business

12. Adoption of the report and adjournment

2017 SWO/SHK SWG Recommendations

Sharks

Conservation and Management Recommendations

The United States should:

- Promote a proposal for shortfin makos that is consistent with 2017 scientific advice, while maintaining flexibility for small harvester nations.
- Continue to pursue an ICCAT recommendation to require a fins-naturally-attached measure, and make a concerted effort well in advance of the annual meeting to add co-sponsors to the proposal.
- Continue to actively engage in Compliance Committee deliberations, taking into consideration the reports submitted by Contracting Parties under Recommendation 16-13, with a view to
 - improve clarity and eliminate ambiguity in CPCs' annual reports;
 - evaluate compliance with data reporting obligations for sharks and take appropriate action;
 - and ensure full implementation of existing recommendations by all CPCs.

Research and Monitoring Recommendations

- Noting the ambiguity in the SCRS shark stock assessment advice to-date, the United States should enhance efforts to gain clear and actionable shark management advice from SCRS, particularly with respect to shortfin mako sharks.
- For shark species lacking an assessment, request that the SCRS continue to develop objective criteria for proxies and benchmarks that would detect relative trends in abundance. For example, these tools could be used to evaluate the status of currently prohibited species.
- Improve data collection for sharks and promote data collection in other countries, with a focus on data-deficient pelagic species, such as common thresher sharks, which are frequently taken in ICCAT fisheries.
- Research should continue on post-release mortality, with a focus on species for which retention is prohibited by ICCAT (to help evaluate the efficacy of existing management measures).

Swordfish

Conservation and Management Recommendations

- Seek a rollover, particularly in light of the expected near-term progress on the development of a harvest control rule and application of management strategy evaluation.
- If a TAC reduction is needed in light of the assessment results, maintain the allocation key so that quota reductions are proportional.
- If necessary, the United States should only consider temporary quota transfers with conditions requiring other countries to use the same best fishing practices mandated in this country (e.g., bycatch mitigation measures).

Research and Monitoring Recommendations

- In general, research and monitoring investments should be designed to address the greatest sources of uncertainty in the stock assessment (e.g., catch data; CPUE; abundance indices).

- The United States should encourage and support efforts by all CPCs to improve catch reporting, including dead discards and catch-at size, in line with data reporting requirements.
- NOAA should support research on broad-scale movements and population structure of North Atlantic swordfish using (and sharing) electronic and other tagging technologies.