

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

87TH MEETING

**Lima (Peru)
14-18 July 2014**

PROPOSAL IATTC-87 E-2

SUBMITTED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

**RESOLUTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF SILKY SHARKS
CAUGHT IN ASSOCIATION WITH FISHERIES IN THE IATTC
CONVENTION AREA**

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

The Antigua Convention requires IATTC to adopt conservation measures for species associated with the main targeted stocks.

The European Union is proposing a new Resolution which aims at imposing a retention ban for Silky Sharks (*Carcharhinus falciformis*).

Rationale:

The Scientific Advisory Committee expressed concern about the recent declining trend in catches of silky sharks (*Carcharhinus falciformis*) by purse seiners and that there is clear evidence of declining populations of silky sharks in both the northern and southern stocks. It is therefore critical that precautionary measures be implemented immediately to allow silky sharks populations to rebuild in the EPO.

RESOLUTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF SILKY SHARKS CAUGHT IN ASSOCIATION WITH FISHERIES IN THE IATTC CONVENTION AREA

The Inter American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC),

Considering that many sharks are part of the pelagic ecosystems in the IATTC area, and that tunas and tuna-like species are captured in fisheries targeting sharks;

Recalling that Article VII, paragraph 1 (f) of the Antigua Convention establishes that the Commission shall adopt, as necessary, conservation and management measures and recommendations for species belonging to the same ecosystem and that are affected by fishing for, or dependent on or associated with, the fish stocks covered by the Convention, with a view to maintaining or restoring populations of such species above levels at which their reproduction may become seriously threatened;

Taking due note that the Scientific Advisory Committee expressed concern about the recent declining trend in catches of silky sharks (*Carcharhinus falciformis*) by purse seiners and that there is clear evidence of declining populations of silky sharks in both the northern and southern stocks; and

Recognizing that it is critical that precautionary measures be implemented immediately to allow silky sharks populations to rebuild in the EPO;

Agrees as follows:

1. Members and Cooperating non-Members (CPCs) shall prohibit retaining onboard, transshipping, landing, storing, selling, or offering for sale any part or whole carcass of silky sharks (*Carcharhinus falciformis*) in the fisheries covered by the Antigua Convention.
2. CPCs shall require vessels flying their flag to promptly release unharmed, to the extent practicable, Silky sharks when brought alongside the vessel and to do so in a manner that results in as little harm to the shark as possible..
3. CPCs shall record, inter alia through the observer programs, the number of releases of silky sharks with indication of status (dead or alive) and report it to IATTC.
4. Observers shall be allowed to collect biological samples from silky sharks that are dead on haulback in the EPO, provided that the samples are part of a research project approved by the Scientific Advisory Committee. In order to get approval, a detailed document outlining the purpose of the work, number of samples intended to be collected and the spatio-temporal distribution of the sampling effect must be included in the proposal. Annual progress of the work and a final report on completion will be presented to the Scientific Advisory Committee.
5. CPCs's and the Scientific Advisory Committee shall continue work on bycatch mitigation measures and live release guidelines to avoid the initial catch of this species wherever possible, and maximize the number of incidentally caught individuals that can be released alive.
6. This Resolution shall enter into force on 1st January 2015.