

Date 30-Jan-2018

Circular # 026

Series: 2018

Category RFMO

CONSERVATION OF NORTH ATLANTIC STOCK OF SHORTFIN MAKO SHARK

This circular is about	Conservation measures for the North Atlantic Stock of Shortfin Mako caught in association with ICCAT Fisheries
This circular replaces	
The action needed is	To ensure that all parties are fully aware of the measures for the conservation of Shortfin Mako Shark in the ICCAT Convention area.
It is intended for	All Ship Owners, Deputy Registrars and Resident Agents
For more information	Direct any inquiries about this circular to the Director of the High Seas Fisheries of the Belize High Seas Fisheries Unit, Ministry of Finance
Reference	Issued in accordance with Part VIII, Section 50 (1)(c) of the High Seas Fishing Act, 2013. ICCAT Recommendation 17-08

BACKGROUND:

North Atlantic Shortfin Mako caught in association with ICCAT fisheries is being overfished and experiencing overfishing. The ICCAT SCRS committee recommends that contracting parties of ICCAT strengthen their monitoring and data collection efforts to ensure the future status of the stock, including total estimated dead discards.

MANAGEMENT MEASURES

1. All vessels targeting North Atlantic Shortfin Mako sharks or which are caught in association with other fisheries shall promptly release their catches in a manner that causes the least harm, while giving due consideration to the safety of crew members.

2. Notwithstanding the provision in paragraph 1, a vessel may be authorized to catch and retain on board, tranship or land North Atlantic Shortfin Mako provided the following:

1. For vessels whose length is greater than 12m

- a. The vessel has an observer or a functioning electronic monitoring system on board which can identify whether the fish is dead or alive;
- b. Shortfin Mako is dead when brought along side for taking on board the vessel;
- c. The observer collects data on the number of individuals hooked, body, length, sex, condition, maturity (whether the individual is pregnant or its litter size) and weight of products for each shortfin mako caught as well as fishing effort; and
- d. When shortfin mako is not retained, the number of dead discards and live releases shall be recorded by the observer or estimated from the records of the electronic monitoring system.

2. For vessels whose length is equal or smaller than 12m

- a. Shortfin Mako is dead when brought along side for taking on board the vessel

3. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 1 above, a vessel may also be authorized to catch and retain on board, transship or land North Atlantic Shortfin Mako provided that:

- a. Shortfin is dead when brought along side for taking on board the vessel; and
- b. The retention of shortfin mako does not exceed the fishing vessel's average shortfin mako landings while an observer is on board and this is verified by mandatory logbooks and landing inspection conducted on the basis of risk assessment.

Prior authorization must be obtained from this Administration to carry out any fishing activities which entails the catching, retaining on board, landing or transshipment of Atlantic Shortfin Mako Sharks.

APPLICABILITY

This circular applies to all Belize Flagged fishing vessels, that fishes in the ICCAT Convention Area.

MAINTENANCE

Ship owners must ensure that this Fishing Vessel Circular is acknowledged and adhered to.

COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

Failure to comply with any Circular shall result in disciplinary actions taken in accordance with Belize's Sanction Regulations S.I.32 of 2014.

IMPLEMENTATION

This Circular shall be implemented forthwith and shall remain in effect until further notice.

Issued by



VALARIE LANZA

Director of High Seas Fisheries

