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**AQUATIC RESOURCES AUTHORITY OF PANAMA**



**TECHNICAL NOTICES**

**N° 064-2023**

**FOR:** ICCAT Operational Catch Fleet

**ON  
BEHALF:** Directorate of Technical Cooperation and International Fisheries Affairs

**SUBJECT:** Compliance with ICCAT Recommendations 21-09 and 22-11, on the Conservation of North Atlantic and South Atlantic Stock of Shortfin Mako caught in the ICCAT Convention Area.

**DATE:** September 18, 2023

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The Aquatic Resources Authority of Panama (ARAP), informs to Shipowners, Operators, Captains and Resident Agents, the management measures for **North Atlantic shortfin mako shark (Rec. ICCAT 21-09)** and **South Atlantic shortfin mako shark (Rec. ICCAT 22-11)**, considered vulnerable shark species to overfishing in ICCAT fisheries.

That both recommendations aim to take the first step in developing a program to rebuild and conserve stock levels of these species; based on the 2017 and 2019 SCRS assessments concluded that there is a 90% probability that the **North Atlantic shortfin mako shark stock** is overfished and being overfished, and that for the **South Atlantic shortfin mako shark** precautionary management measures should be considered.

Based on the above, Panama **prohibits** its fishing vessels from **retaining on board, transshipping and landing, in whole or in part, North Atlantic and South Atlantic shortfin mako sharks** caught in association with ICCAT fisheries.

That in accordance with paragraph 9 of both recommendations, on the safe handling and release of North Atlantic / **South Atlantic** shortfin mako shark, it establishes the following:

“9. Upon entry into force of this Recommendation, CPCs shall require vessels flying their flag to implement, while giving due consideration to the safety of the crew, the minimum standards for safe handling and release procedures of North Atlantic / **South Atlantic** shortfin mako shark, as provided under Annex 2 of this Recommendation, in order to promptly release unharmed, to the extent practicable, and to improve survivability of live North Atlantic / **South Atlantic** shortfin mako shark when brought alongside the vessel. Revisions to Annex 2 may be considered by the Commission as new information from the SCRS becomes available.”

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### ✓ Important and Mandatory

- All Panamanian flagged fishing vessels shall comply with the minimum standards for safe handling and release procedures for North Atlantic and South Atlantic shortfin mako sharks, as established in Annex 2 of each recommendation attached to this circular.
- Panamanian fishing vessels, which involve catch of this species during their activity, shall have the obligation to release these species and record in the fishing logbooks the daily information of the catches, including their release (live species) or discards (dead species), complying with the recommendations established in Annex 2.

Non-compliance will be subject to the application of the regulations in force and established by this Authority in sanctioning matters.

**Attachments:** ICCAT Recommendations: 21-09 / 22-11  
- Annex 2.

*For more information about this Technical Notices, please contact:*

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Autoridad de los Recursos Acuáticos de Panamá