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**AQUATIC RESOURCES AUTHORITY OF PANAMA**



**TECHNICAL NOTICES**

**N° 077-2024**

**FOR:** ICCAT Operational Catch Fleet

**ON  
BEHALF:** Office of International Technical Cooperation.

**SUBJECT:** Compliance with ICCAT Recommendations 23-10 and 23-11, on Management Measures for the Conservation of North Atlantic and South Atlantic Blue Sharks captured in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT.

**DATE:** January 25, 2023

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The Aquatic Resources Authority of Panama (ARAP), communicates to the Ship-owners, Operators, Masters and Resident Agents, the management and conservation measures for the **North Atlantic Blue Shark (Rec. ICCAT 23-10) and the South Atlantic Blue Shark (Rec. ICCAT 23-11)**, considering that the stock of this species is managed sustainably with the advice of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) of ICCAT.

That both recommendations have the objective of ensuring the conservation and sustainable management of the **blue shark (*Prionace Glauca*)** stock in the Atlantic Ocean, for which catch limits and restrictions have been established based on the catches made in the last 10 years for the North Atlantic stock (ATN) and it is recommended to maintain or decrease the catches for the South Atlantic stock (ATS), by the Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (CPCs).

Based on the above, **fishing vessels may not retain, keep on board or land Atlantic Blue Sharks, without the Authority having issued an authorization for the capture of this species.**

To opt for the catch authorization, according to the STOCK, for the North Atlantic and/or South Atlantic Blue Shark, the user must request, through a memorial addressed to the Office of International Technical Cooperation, during the period from November 1st to December 1st of each year, where it will communicate the general information of the vessel and the request for authorization to catch the Atlantic blue shark (*Prionace Glauca*), according to the North Atlantic Stock and/or the South Atlantic Stock.

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**Transitory:** For 2024, the ship-owner or resident agent of each vessel shall have until March 15 to make the request for authorization of catch per stock. The Authority shall assign before April 15, the catch limits to each vessel. Catches made by each vessel since January 1, 2024 will be deducted from the total catch limits allocated for that year.

The Authority, through the Office of International Technical Cooperation, shall assign catch limits per vessel, in accordance with the total catch limit established in Table 2, considering the requests for authorization made in the period indicated in Table 1. The Office of International Technical Cooperation shall communicate to the resident agent and ship-owner, as well as the General Directorate of Inspection, Surveillance and Control, the General Directorate of Research and Development and the General Directorate of Management and Integrated Management, the limits assigned to each vessel.

**Table 1.** Dates of authorization request periods:

<b>Date of authorization request</b>	<b>Allocation per vessel</b>
<b>Transitory</b> - until March 15, 2024.	Catch 2024
November 1 to December 1, 2024	Catch 2025
November 1 to December 1, 2024	Catch 2026

**Table 2.** Total annual catch limits 2024 for North Atlantic and South Atlantic blue shark:

<b>Specie</b>	<b>Catch Limit 2024</b>
<i>North Atlantic blue shark</i>	<i>437 tons</i>
<i>South Atlantic blue shark</i>	<i>1 ton</i>
The catch limit for 2025 and future years will be set according to ICCAT recommendations.	

For each fishing trip, vessels must record their catches in logbooks and landing reports. When the vessel reaches its assigned limit, it must suspend the retention and landing of Atlantic blue sharks (ATN and ATS), and make all reasonable efforts to ensure that the specimens caught are released unharmed and as soon as possible, so it must record in the fishing logbook, indicating the status of the specimens at the time of release (alive or dead).

**✓ Important and Mandatory**

All authorized Panamanian flag fishing vessels shall comply with the limits assigned according to the stock and the monitoring mechanisms established to ensure compliance with the conservation and management measures of the species for the North Atlantic and South Atlantic blue shark.

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**All Panamanian flag vessels, which involve the capture of this species during their activity, will have the obligation to register in the fishing logbook, set by set, the catches, as well as the discards or live and dead releases in compliance with these regulations. They will also have to comply with the delivery of all documents required by the Authority for catch and landing reports.**

Non-compliance will be subject to the application of the regulations in force and established by this Authority in sanctioning matters, as established by Law No. 204 of March 18, 2021.

**Attachments:** ICCAT Recommendations: 23-10 / 23-11.

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

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