

14th Annual Meeting of the European Elasmobranch Association

10-12 November 2010

Galway, Ireland



RESOLUTION REGARDING DEEP-SEA SHARK CATCHES

Whereas deep-sea sharks are among the most biologically vulnerable elasmobranch species;

Whereas the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has classified Northeast Atlantic populations of leafscale gulper shark (*Centrophorus squamosus*) and Portuguese dogfish (*Centroscymnus coelolepis*) as Endangered and the region's population of gulper shark (*Centrophorus granulosus*) as Critically Endangered due to overfishing;

Whereas the Council of European Union (EU) Fisheries Ministers will soon decide on the 2011 and 2012 Total Allowable Catches (TACs) for deep-sea sharks;

Whereas the European Commission has proposed to set 2011 and 2012 TACs for deep-sea shark species at zero with no bycatch allowance, consistent with advice from the International Council for Exploration of the Sea (ICES), and to add four species (frilled shark *Chlamydoselachus anguineus*, six-gill shark *Hexanchus griseus*, sailfin roughshark *Oxynotus paradoxus* and knifetooth dogfish *Scymnodon ringens*) to the list of deep sea sharks regulated under this TAC;

Whereas the lowfin gulper shark (*Centrophorus lusitanicus*) is not included on the European Commission's list of deepwater sharks and is therefore unregulated;

Whereas the lowfin gulper shark is commonly confused with and taken in the same fisheries as the gulper shark, and deepsea sharks labelled as lowfin gulper sharks continue to be landed, particularly in Portugal;

Whereas the lowfin gulper shark's limited range, large size, and extremely low fecundity (one pup every two years) suggest that the species is as if not more biologically vulnerable to depletion than other *Centrophorus* species;

Therefore be it resolved that the European Elasmobranch Association urges the European Council of Fisheries Ministers to adopt the European Commission's proposal to set deep-sea shark TACs at zero with no bycatch allowance, and urges the European Commission to work with EU Fisheries Ministers to ensure this protection is extended to include lowfin gulper sharks.

Adopted by the EEA Annual General Meeting