

# 14th Annual Meeting of the European Elasmobranch Association

10-12 November 2010

Galway, Ireland



## RESOLUTION REGARDING US POSITIONS AT REGIONAL FISHERY MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATIONS

**Whereas** the European Union is a Party to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) and the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO);

**Whereas** Parties to ICCAT and NAFO may consider limiting catches of elasmobranch species at their next annual meetings (November 2010 and September 2011, respectively);

**Whereas** the NAFO Scientific Council has advised a significant reduction in the NAFO total allowable catch (TAC) for skate based on the status of thorny skate (*Amblyraja radiata*);

**Whereas** International Council for Exploration of the Sea (ICES) and Canadian scientists have reported serious declines in North Atlantic porbeagle (*Lamna nasus*) biomass, and European scientists have recently reported that porbeagles occupy and traverse regions of high fishing activity in international waters, underlining the need for coordinated management;

**Whereas** the European Union (EU) porbeagle TAC has been cut to zero and European fishing vessels are forbidden from taking porbeagle from international waters, based on ICES advice;

**Whereas** ICCAT scientists have concluded that North Atlantic shortfin mako sharks (*Isurus oxyrinchus*) are likely overfished and a reduction in fishing mortality on this population is necessary to improve this status; and

**Whereas** ICCAT Parties have adopted a binding recommendation to reduce fishing mortality on North Atlantic shortfin mako and porbeagle sharks that fails to mandate fishing limits;

**Therefore be it resolved** that the European Elasmobranch Association urges the European Commission to propose a prohibition on retaining porbeagle sharks as well as science-based limits on shortfin mako shark catches at next week's annual ICCAT meeting, and a skate TAC in line with levels advised by the NAFO Scientific Council at the 2011 annual NAFO meeting.

Adopted by the EEA Annual General Meeting