

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

82ND MEETING

LA JOLLA, CALIFORNIA (USA)
4-8 JULY 2011

PROPOSAL IATTC-82-K-1

SUBMITTED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

IATTC RESOLUTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF HAMMERHEAD SHARKS (FAMILY *SPHYRNIDAE*) CAUGHT IN ASSOCIATION WITH FISHERIES IN THE IATTC CONVENTION AREA

Explanatory Memorandum

The international scientific community points out that the hammerhead species: *Sphyrna lewini* and *Sphyrna zygaena*: (a) is one of the species with the lowest productivity, (b) has been ranked as one of the five species with the highest degree of risk in an ecological risk assessment; (c) has high at vessel survival and constitutes a small portion of the shark catch; (d) it is one of the easiest shark species to identify; and (e) that a significant proportion of the species catch is composed of juveniles, justifying a precautionary approach in their management.

Moreover, the Antigua Convention requires IATTC to adopt conservation measures for species associated with the main targeted stocks, this species being one of them.

Also considering that IATTC has not run stock assessments on sharks so far and that therefore not enough knowledge or data is currently available for this species, it is the necessary to adopt a precautionary approach to its conservation through the prohibition of retaining hammerhead sharks on board of vessels and release them unharmed when possible.

The Inter American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)

CONSIDERING that hammerhead sharks of the family *Sphyrnidae* are caught as by-catch in the IATTC Agreement area;

NOTING that the international scientific community points out that the hammerhead sharks of the species *Sphyrna lewini* and *Sphyrna zygaena* are ranked among the species with the lowest productivity;

CONSIDERING that it is difficult to differentiate between the various species of hammerhead sharks without taking them on board and that such action might jeopardize the survival of the captured individuals;

Agrees to adopt the following Resolution in conformity of Article IX of the IATTC Convention:

1. Contracting Parties, and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties (hereafter referred to as CPCs) shall prohibit retaining onboard, transshipping, landing, storing, selling, or offering for sale any part or whole carcass of hammerhead sharks of the family *Sphyrnidae*, taken in the IATTC area of competence.
2. CPCs shall require vessels flying their flag, to promptly release unharmed, to the extent practicable, hammerhead sharks when brought alongside the vessel.
3. CPCs shall record through their observer programs the number of discards and releases of hammerhead sharks with indication of status (dead or alive) and report it to IATTC
4. This resolution shall enter into force on 1st January 2012.