

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT
ON THE CONSERVATION OF OCEANIC WHITETIP SHARK CAUGHT
IN ASSOCIATION WITH FISHERIES IN THE ICCAT CONVENTION AREA**

CONSIDERING that oceanic whitetip sharks (*Carcharhinus longimanus*) are caught as by-catch in the ICCAT Convention area,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that (a) the oceanic whitetip shark has been ranked as one of the five species with the highest degree of risk in an ecological risk assessment; (b) it has high at-vessel survival and constitutes a small portion of the shark catch; (c) it is one of the easiest shark species to identify; and (d) that a significant proportion of the species catch is composed of juveniles,

FURTHER CONSIDERING that SCRS recommends adoption of a minimum size of 200 cm total length to protect juveniles,

RECOGNIZING that such minimum size regulation may cause enforcement difficulties,

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE
CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNA (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. Contracting Parties, and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (hereafter referred to as CPCs) shall prohibit retaining onboard, transshipping, landing, storing, selling, or offering for sale any part or whole carcass of oceanic whitetip sharks in any fishery.
2. CPCs shall record through their observer programs the number of discards and releases of oceanic whitetip sharks with indication of status (dead or alive) and report it to ICCAT.