

MEDIA ADVISORY



Imperiled Mako Sharks Get Spotlight at UN Wildlife Conference

Conservationists Urge CMS Parties to Heed Scientists' Advice for Atlantic Fishing Ban

What: Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) Conference of Parties Shark Conservation Side Event.

Who: Expert representatives from Shark Advocates International and Project AWARE will review the plight of Atlantic makos sharks (listed on CMS Appendix II in 2008) and encourage support for a science-based fishing ban by the International Commission for Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT).

When: Tuesday, October 24, 2017, 13:45.

Where: Manila, Philippine International Conference Center, Room 6.

Why it's important: Shortfin mako sharks -- among the most valuable and vulnerable animals taken in high seas fisheries -- are worse off now than when they were listed under CMS nearly a decade ago. With the Appendix II listing, CMS Parties pledged to cooperate toward regional conservation of mako sharks, yet most countries still do not even limit catch. A new population assessment reveals that North Atlantic shortfin makos are headed for collapse, prompting scientists to recommend that ICCAT adopt a regional ban on mako retention at the annual meeting November 14 -22. The 30 CMS Parties that are also members of ICCAT have an urgent responsibility to stop mako overfishing, in line with new ICCAT scientific advice and CMS commitments made in 2008.

Contact: Sophie Hulme, telephone: +44 7973712869, email: sophie@communicationsinc.co.uk

Notes to editors:

Shark Advocates International and Project AWARE have joined forces with Shark Trust and Ecology Action Centre to form the Shark League for the Atlantic and Mediterranean: www.sharkleague.org

Shark League representatives are working this week to encourage commitments to an Atlantic mako ban from CMS Parties that are also members of ICCAT, specifically: Albania, Algeria, Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, the European Union, France (with respect to St. Pierre and Miquelon), Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Liberia, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Philippines, Sao Tomé & Príncipe, Senegal, South Africa, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, United Kingdom (with respect to Overseas Territories), and Uruguay.