

**Recommendation on Conservation and Management Measures for Basking Shark  
(*Cetorhinus Maximus*) in the NEAFC Convention Area for 2016 to 2019**

As proposed by the European Union, the Commission hereby adopts the following Recommendation pursuant to Articles 5 and 6 of the Convention:

ICES report that there is no new information available to inform on the current status of the stock of basking shark (*Cetorhinus maximus*) in the North-East Atlantic. It is at present not targeted in any commercial fisheries. Landings in the last decade have been close to zero and data available do not allow the current stock status to be evaluated. The low productivity and aggregating nature of this species makes it particularly vulnerable to over-exploitation. ICES therefore advise that when the precautionary approach is applied, no targeted fisheries should be permitted and by-catch should be minimised. ICES have therefore advised a zero TAC for the entire ICES area for the period 2016 to 2019.

Pursuant to Article 5 and 6 of the Convention on Future Multilateral Cooperation in the North-East Atlantic Fisheries, no directed fishery for basking shark shall be undertaken in the Convention Area for the period 2016 to 2019.

Contracting Parties are urged to make all available data on basking shark available to ICES for further evaluation of the state of the resource. This should include fisheries data, with incidental catches being recorded in numbers, and by size and weight (where possible).

This measure shall remain in force from 1 January 2016 until 31 December 2019. Prior to its expiry, and on the basis of new scientific advice from ICES, the Commission, with the intention of extending that period, shall review this measure.

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