

**Recommendation on Conservation and Management Measures for Basking Shark
(Cetorhinus Maximus) in the NEAFC Regulatory Area from 2020 to 2023**

The Commission hereby adopts the following Recommendation pursuant to Article 5 of the Convention:

Information available is not sufficient to inform on the current status of the stock of basking shark (*Cetorhinus maximus*) in the Northeast Atlantic. Since 2010, landings have been close to zero. The low productivity and aggregating nature of this species makes it particularly vulnerable to overexploitation. ICES, therefore, have advised that when the precautionary approach is applied, there should be zero catches in each of the years 2020 to 2023.

1. Each Contracting Party shall, for the period 2020 to 2023, prohibit all directed fishing of basking shark (*Cetorhinus maximus*) in the Regulatory Area by vessels flying its flag.
2. Any incidental catches of this resource shall be promptly released unharmed, to the extent possible.
3. Contracting Parties shall submit to ICES all available data on basking shark. This should include fisheries data, with incidental catches being recorded in numbers, and by size and weight (where possible).
4. Contracting Parties are encouraged to take conservation measures with equal effect within waters under their national fisheries jurisdiction.
5. This measure shall remain in force from 1 January 2020 until 31 December 2023. Prior to the expiry of the measure, and on the basis of new scientific advice from ICES, the Commission, with the intention of extending that period, shall review this measure.