

**Recommendation 4: 2012**

**THE NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC FISHERIES COMMISSION AT ITS ANNUAL MEETING IN NOVEMBER 2011 ADOPTED, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 5 OF THE CONVENTION ON FUTURE MULTILATERAL COOPERATION IN NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC FISHERIES, A RECOMMENDATION FOR CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR BASKING SHARK (*CETORHINUS MAXIMUS*) IN THE NEAFC CONVENTION AREA FROM 2012 TO 2014**

The status of the stock of basking shark (*Cetorhinus maximus*) in the North-East Atlantic is not well known, and it is at present not targeted in any commercial fisheries.

ICES report that information is poor. Trends in landings and anecdotal information suggest that abundance remains significantly reduced. ICES advise a zero TAC for the entire ICES area in 2012. However, there is no information from fishery independent sources on abundance levels, and no catch per unit effort data available to form a basis for evaluation.

As an interim measure, pursuant to Article 5 and 6 of the Convention on Future Multilateral Cooperation in the North-East Atlantic Fisheries, Contracting Parties have agreed that no directed fishery for basking shark shall be undertaken in the Convention Area from 2012 to 2014.

Contracting Parties are urged to make all available data on basking shark, including fisheries data, available to ICES for further evaluation of the state of the resource.