

RESOLUTION REGARDING EUROPEAN SHARK CONSERVATION

American Elasmobranch Society

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St. Louis, Missouri

WHEREAS eight years after the adoption of the FAO International Plan of Action (IPOA) for the Conservation and Management of Sharks, the European Union has yet to develop a Community Action Plan for Sharks as pledged under the IPOA;

WHEREAS in September 2006 the European Parliament called on the European Commission to strengthen its shark finning ban and develop an EU shark management plan by June 2007;

WHEREAS the EU finning regulation allows shark fins and carcasses to be landed in separate ports under the highest fin-to-carcass in the world, thereby seriously undermining the ban's effectiveness;

WHEREAS shark scientists at a 2006 technical workshop reviewed the available data regarding the EU finning ban and associated shark fisheries, and recommended improving the effectiveness of the finning ban by replacing the ratio with a requirement to land sharks with fins attached;

WHEREAS EU, Canadian, and US vessels often fish the same populations of highly migratory North Atlantic sharks;

WHEREAS EU Member States include major shark fishing nations, contribute significantly to global trade in shark fins, and support fishing vessels that operate all over the world;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the American Elasmobranch Society urges the European Union develop a Community Plan of Action for sharks that includes science-based catch limits and requires that sharks be landed with fins attached.