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Modifications to Shark Bycatch Reporting

Recognizing the vulnerability of sharks (all species of sharks, skates, rays, and chimaeras of the Class *Chondrichthyes*, as defined in the FAO International Plan of Action (IPOA) for Sharks) to overfishing, and also recognizing the need to improve the shark bycatch reporting provisions in NAFO's Conservation and Enforcement Measures (CEMs) to obtain species specific shark bycatch information, the United States offers the following proposal to amend Article 27, paragraph 1(f).

Article 27, paragraph 1(f):

Add underlined text to existing paragraph 1(f) as follows:

f) The total quantity of species reported under a), b), c), d) and e) for which the total live weight by species is less than ~~one ton~~ 100 kg may be reported under the 3 alpha code "MZZ" (marine fish not specified), except in the case of sharks. All sharks shall be reported at the species level under their corresponding 3 alpha code, to the extent possible. When species specific reporting is not possible, shark species shall be recorded as either large sharks (SHX) or dogfishes (DGX), as appropriate and in accordance with the 3-alpha codes presented in Annex II.