25 November 2010

Mr. Eskil Erlandsson
Minister for Agriculture
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Affairs
Fredsgatan 8
103 33 Stockholm
Sweden

Dear Minister Erlandsson:

We are writing with regard to the November Council of Ministers meeting to request your support for setting 2011 and 2012 Total Allowable Catch (TAC) limits for *all* deep-sea sharks at zero.

Deep-sea sharks are among the slowest growing and depleted species of all European fishes. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) classifies European populations of leafscale gulper shark *(Centrophorus squamosus)* and Portuguese dogfish *(Centroscymnus coelolepis)* as Endangered and the gulper shark *(Centrophorus granulosus)* population as Critically Endangered.

We strongly support the European Commission's proposal to set 2011 and 2012 TACs for deep-sea sharks at zero with no bycatch allowance, consistent with advice from the International Council for Exploration of the Sea, and to add four species (frilled shark *Chlamydoselachus anguineus,* six-gill shark *Hexanchus griseus,* sailfin roughshark *Oxynotus paradoxus* and knifetooth dogfish *Scymnodon ringens)* to the list of deep-sea sharks regulated under these TACs.

In addition, we urge inclusion of the lowfin gulper shark (*Centrophorus lusitanicus*) in the list of regulated deep-sea sharks. This species is commonly confused and caught along with the gulper shark, and deep-sea sharks labelled as lowfin gulper sharks continue to be landed, particularly in Portugal. The IUCN warns that lowfin gulper shark's limited range, large size, and extremely low fecundity (one pup every two years) may make the species as if not more vulnerable to depletion than other *Centrophorus* species. Its protection is clearly warranted and increasingly urgent.

Thank you for your consideration. We eagerly await the outcome of the meeting.

Sincerely,

Sonja Fordham
President
Shark Advocates International

Sandrine Polti
Policy Advisor
Shark Alliance