

## **RESOLUTION REGARDING GREENLAND SHARKS**

American Elasmobranch Society  
July 2022  
Spokane, Washington

**WHEREAS** Greenland sharks (*Somniosus microcephalus*) are taken, primarily as incidental catch, in a variety of Northwest Atlantic fisheries;

**WHEREAS** Greenland sharks warrant precautionary conservation based on their unknown population status, exceptionally long lifespan, and associated susceptibility to overfishing;

**WHEREAS** the United States (U.S.) and Canada are Parties to the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO);

**WHEREAS** the NAFO Scientific Council has reviewed the status of the Greenland shark and advised NAFO to prohibit retention and develop measures to minimize bycatch;

**WHEREAS** NAFO's 2018 Greenland shark measure prohibited only directed fishing and Parties' reporting on Greenland shark interactions has been insufficient for further Scientific Council analysis of bycatch mitigation options;

**WHEREAS** the U.S. has proposed that NAFO prohibit Greenland shark retention, in line with scientific advice, but has yet to take similar action for U.S. waters and/or vessels;

**WHEREAS** Canada has prohibited Greenland shark retention through a patchwork of regulations, rather than one clear national ban;

***THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED*** that the American Elasmobranch Society urges the U.S. and Canadian governments to safeguard Greenland sharks by collaborating to secure at the 2022 NAFO annual meeting a prohibition on retention and a renewed focus on fulfilling bycatch mitigation commitments, and to mirror this stance through domestic programs that include broad retention bans.