

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



Sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Bangkok (Thailand), 3-14 March 2013

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Species trade and conservation issues

SHARKS AND STINGRAYS

1. This document has been prepared by the Animals Committee.*

Background

2. The operational part of Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP15) on *Conservation and management of sharks (Class Chondrichthyes)* provides the context for work on sharks undertaken under the auspices of CITES since the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP15, Doha, 2010):

INSTRUCTS the CITES Secretariat to inform the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) of the concerns of the CITES Parties regarding the significant lack of progress in implementing the International Plan of Action on the Conservation and management of Sharks (IPOA-Sharks), and to urge FAO to take steps to encourage actively relevant States to develop a National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks (NPOA-Sharks);

DIRECTS the Animals Committee to examine information provided by range States on trade and other available relevant data and information, and report their analyses at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

ENCOURAGES Parties to obtain information on implementation of NPOA-Sharks or regional plans, and to report directly on progress to the CITES Secretariat and at future meetings of the Animals Committee;

URGES FAO's Committee on Fisheries (COFI) and Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) to strengthen their efforts to undertake the research, training, data collection, data analysis and shark management plan development outlined by FAO as necessary to implement the IPOA-Sharks;

ENCOURAGES Parties to assist in building financial and technical capacity in developing countries for shark and ray activities under CITES, and for the implementation of the IPOA-Sharks;

URGES Parties that are shark fishing States but that have not yet implemented an NPOA-Sharks, to develop their own NPOAs at the earliest opportunity and take steps to improve research and data collection on both fisheries and trade as a first step towards their Shark Plans, particularly the necessity to improve the collection of catch and trade data at the lowest taxonomic level possible (ideally by species);

* The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat or the United Nations Environment Programme concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.

FURTHER URGES Parties to discuss CITES activities within the appropriate RFMOs of which they are members;

ENCOURAGES Parties to improve data collection, management and conservation measures for shark species, implementing, enhancing and enforcing these actions through domestic, bilateral, RFMOs or other international measures;

DIRECTS the Animals Committee to make species-specific recommendations at meetings of the Conference of the Parties if necessary on improving the conservation status of sharks;

REQUESTS Management Authorities to collaborate with their national Customs authorities to expand their current classification system to allow for the collection of detailed data on shark trade including, where possible, separate categories for processed and unprocessed products, for meat, cartilage, skin and fins, and to distinguish imports, exports and re-exports and between shark fin products that are dried, wet, processed and unprocessed fins. Wherever possible, these data should be species-specific;

INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to monitor discussions within the World Customs Organization regarding the development of a Customs data model, and the inclusion therein of a data field to report trade in sharks at species level, and to issue Notifications to the Parties concerning any significant developments;

ENCOURAGES Parties, in close cooperation with FAO and RFMOs, to undertake or facilitate continued research to improve understanding of the nature of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing concerning sharks, identify the linkages between international trade in shark fins and meat, and IUU fishing;

ENCOURAGES Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental bodies to undertake studies of trade in shark meat, including prices in major fish markets in order to better identify the shark products that are driving IUU fishing; and

DIRECTS the Animals Committee to report progress on shark and ray activities at the meetings of the Conference of the Parties.

3. Furthermore, and recognising the important progress made with the conservation and management of South American freshwater stingrays (family Potamotrygonidae) the Conference of the Parties adopted Decision 15.85 at CoP15 as follows:

Range States of species in the family Potamotrygonidae are encouraged to:

- a) note the findings and conclusions of the freshwater stingrays workshop (document AC24 Doc. 14.2), and increase their efforts to improve data collection on the scale and impact of the threats facing stingray species and populations from collection for ornamental trade, commercial fisheries for food and habitat damage;*
- b) consider implementing or reinforcing national regulations regarding the management and reporting of capture and international trade of freshwater stingrays for all purposes, including commercial fisheries for food and ornamental trade, and standardizing these measures across the region, for example through existing South American intergovernmental bodies; and*
- c) consider the listing of endemic and threatened species of freshwater stingrays (Potamotrygonidae) in CITES Appendix III as needing the cooperation of other Parties in the control of trade.*

Cooperation between CITES and FAO

4. In July 2010, the FAO and CITES Secretariats jointly convened the Workshop to review the application and effectiveness of international regulatory measures for the conservation and sustainable use of Elasmobranchs in Genazzano, Italy (see document AC26 Inf. 6). This workshop was attended by experts from different geographical areas and sectors, including those involved in scientific assessment, fisheries

management, fishing industry; fish trade, monitoring and control; and government administration. The workshop reviewed various types of fishery and trade regulatory measures, and discussed their strengths and weaknesses with regard to implementation and stock recovery as well as their impact on fisheries, livelihood, food security, markets, trade, and government administration.

5. During the 29th session of COFI (Rome, February 2011) the CITES Secretariat stated that the joint workshop held in Genazzano showed that harvest-related measures and trade-related measures could and should be used in tandem, where appropriate, to ensure the successful management of sharks and stingrays.
6. At its 25th meeting (AC25, Geneva, July 2011), the Animals Committee requested that the CITES Secretariat closely collaborate with the FAO Secretariat to develop a questionnaire directed to the 26 major shark fishery States and territories to be used in FAO's first global review of the implementation of IPOA-Sharks. These major shark fishery States and territories each took 1% or more of the global reported shark catches from 2000 to 2009, and together accounted for 84% of global catches during that period.
7. The Working Group on the Conservation and Management of Sharks (Sharks WG) of the CITES Animals Committee helped FAO to develop a questionnaire requesting information from the 26 States and territories on the status of their NPOA Sharks, their shark-related management measures and research, and trade-related reporting. The questionnaire is presented in Annex 1 to this document. Members of the Working Group also assisted FAO in the initial stages of gathering information by pre-filling questionnaires with existing information for 11 of the 26 States and territories, so that these recipients needed to only review the data and provide additional information.
8. Fifteen of the 26 major shark fishery States and territories replied to the questionnaire. The timeline for responses to the FAO questionnaire did not coincide well with the CITES Animals Committee meeting timetable, and so the information was therefore not available for review at the 26th meeting of the Animals Committee (AC26, Geneva, March 2012).
9. The FAO Secretariat presented a Summary of the review of the implementation of the International Plan of Action for the conservation and management of sharks at the 30th session of COFI (Rome, July 2012). This review covered the shark-related measures and activities of the 26 major shark fishing States and territories, plus the various RFMOs in the period 2000 to 2010 and was based on the responses to the questionnaire mentioned above, and other sources of information when no information was supplied. The review showed that 18 (69%) of the major shark fishing States and territories had adopted an NPOA, 5 had plans in preparation, and 3 had not yet implemented the IPOA-Sharks. COFI called for further analysis, including gathering information from market States. COFI also recognized that further actions by States and Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) are needed to be taken for shark conservation and management. The FAO review and questionnaire responses are available from the FAO website. The conclusions and synopsis of FAO's review of the implementation of the IPOA-Sharks are reproduced in Annex 2.
10. In support of the enhanced collaboration between FAO and CITES on shark conservation and management, the Animals Committee recommended at AC26 (Geneva, March 2012) that the CITES Secretariat issue a Notification to the Parties to disseminate FAO's review of IPOA-Sharks as soon as it was published. It also recommended that the CITES Secretariat contact the 26 major shark fishing States and territories that had not replied to the FAO questionnaire or to the CITES Notifications concerning sharks to seek information on their shark fishery and trade, and to make their replies publically available. Furthermore, the Animals Committee asked that the CITES request from FAO the terms of reference for a planned FAO assessment regarding all commercially-exploited aquatic species listed in the CITES Appendices, to make the results of these assessments available to the Parties, and to request FAO to report progress with this issue at CoP16 and at the 27th meeting of the Animals Committee in 2014.

Cooperation between CITES and CMS

11. At AC25 (Geneva, July 2011), the Animals Committee requested that the CITES Secretariat consult and closely collaborate with the Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) on shark issues pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding between the two Secretariats. This cooperation on sharks has increasing relevance because the CMS included two shark species (*Carcharodon carcharias* and *Cetorhinus maximus*) and one ray (*Manta birostris*) on CMS Appendix I, and seven shark species or populations, and one ray on CMS Appendix II. Additionally, a Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Sharks, which has been negotiated since 2007, entered into effect on 1 March 2010 when the required number of signatures (10) had been achieved. The CITES

Secretariat participated in the First Meeting of the Signatories to the MOU on Sharks (Bonn, 24-27 September 2012), where the Conservation plan was adopted.

Implementation of NPOA Sharks and related matters

12. Before the FAO undertook its review of the implementation of IPOA-Sharks in 2012 (see paragraphs 6 to 10 above), CITES had initiated its own enquiries in accordance with the relevant provisions in Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP15). The CITES Secretariat issued Notification to the Parties No. 2010/027 on 24 August 2010, inviting Parties to report on trade in sharks, and to provide information on the implementation of NPOA-Sharks or regional plans, and any other available relevant information on shark species.
13. Responses to Notification No. 2010/027 were received before AC25 (Geneva, July 2011) from the European Union (on behalf of its 27 Member States) and 11 Parties. These responses included those from 12 of the 26 major shark fishing States and territories that were the focus of the later FAO review. Many Parties in the European Union and two other Parties (Colombia and Costa Rica) were not included in the FAO review because they caught less than 1% of the reported global shark catch between 2000 and 2009.
14. At AC25 (Geneva, July 2011), the Animals Committee examined the information provided, and decided to: (a) assist FAO to develop and populate its questionnaire aimed at the 26 major shark fishing States and territories (see paragraphs 6 to 10 above); and (b) request the Secretariat to issue a Notification to the Parties inviting Parties to submit a list of shark species (Class Chondrichthyes) that they believed required additional action to enhance their conservation and management, and to provide information on domestic measures regarding the fishing of and trade in sharks and rays. The Secretariat included this request for information in Notification to the Parties No. 2011/049 of 10 November 2011.
15. Responses to Notification No. 2011/049 were received before AC26 (Geneva, March 2012) from the European Union (on behalf of its 27 Member States) and 13 Parties. Eleven of the 26 main shark fishing States and territories replied to the Notification. Information from many Parties in the European Union, and from six other Parties were not included in the FAO review of the IPOA-Sharks because they caught less than 1% of the global reported shark catch between 2000 and 2009. In this latter group were three Parties that declared that they did not allow shark fishing within their Exclusive Economic Zone, nor trade in sharks or shark products, or allowed trade only with specific permits.
16. At AC26 (Geneva, March 2012) the Animals Committee examined the information provided in response to Notification No. 2011/049. On the basis of the submissions from Parties, the Committee compiled a list of shark species (Class Chondrichthyes) that required additional action to enhance their conservation and management (see Annex to document AC26 WG4 Doc.1). It was recognised Parties had interpreted the request in the Notification in different ways, and that the list should not be construed as containing shark and ray species that Parties believed should be included in the CITES Appendices.
17. At AC26 (Geneva, March 2012), the Animals Committee also recommended that the CITES Secretariat invite Parties that had responded to CITES Notification No. 2011/049, but had omitted to include information on trade in sharks or domestic measures, to do so, and make this information publicly available to the Parties.
18. At AC26 (Geneva, March 2012), the Animals Committee took note of a draft report submitted by the United Kingdom on assessing the intrinsic vulnerability of harvested sharks (see document AC26 Inf. 9), and recommended that the CITES Secretariat bring this to the attention of all Parties when the final version would become available.

Commodity Codes

19. At AC25 (Geneva July, 2011) the Sharks WG recognised the importance of more detailed data on shark products in international trade, because these data would provide a stronger basis for CITES deliberations on shark trade and would also augment sources of information that can assist with shark fisheries monitoring, management, and stock assessments. Chief among these are the use of customs codes for shark fin products that distinguish between dried, wet, processed, and unprocessed fins of different shark species.
20. At AC25 (Geneva July, 2011) the Animals Committee requested the Secretariat to continue to update the Committee on developments related to the inclusion of standards found in the CITES Toolkit on e-permitting with the World Customs Organizations data model, particularly with regard to fulfilment of

Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP15) to report trade in sharks at the species level, where possible, and to report on product codes used for trade in sharks.

Linkages between international trade in shark fins, meat and illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing

21. At its 24th meeting (Geneva, March 2009), the Animals Committee discussed documents AC24 Doc.14.3 and AC24 Inf. 2, submitted by Australia and prepared by TRAFFIC. These documents concluded, *inter alia*, that the key impediment to better understanding and quantification of the catch of and trade in sharks and the relationship with IUU fishing is a lack of species-specific data on shark catch (landings and discards) and trade, and the difficulty of reconciling available catch, production, and trade data. The Committee agreed that IUU fishing was an important issue and that improved data and tracking of products was required, thereby reinforcing conclusions already reached concerning commodity codes and the implementation of the IPOA-Sharks. FAO's review of the implementation of IPOA-Sharks (see paragraphs 6 to 10 above) confirmed that IUU fishing posed a significant threat to vulnerable sharks. FAO saw it as a positive sign that most (70%) of the 26 major 26 shark fishing States and territories had taken steps to combat IUU fishing, either by signing the 2009 Port State Measures Agreement (46%), or by adopting an NPOA IUU or similar plan (23%).

South American Freshwater Stingrays

22. The Animals Committee did not receive any information on the implementation of Decision 15.85 (CoP15, Doha, 2010), but noted that none of the freshwater stingrays (Potamotrygonidae) have been listed in CITES Appendix III since 2010.

Recommendations

DRAFT DECISIONS OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

23. Arising from its work on the conservation and management of sharks since CoP15 (Doha 2010), the Animal Committee recommends that the Conference of the Parties considers the adoption of two draft Decisions, as well as a number of amendments to Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP15).

24. Recognizing that it is difficult for Parties to avoid importing illegally obtained shark products if they are unaware of the domestic legislation and regulations of other Parties, or of measures adopted by Regional Fisheries Management Organisations, and hence to enable importing Parties, where applicable, to assist exporting Parties with the enforcement of their laws, and to assist the Animals Committee to inform the Parties as required under Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev CoP15) the following draft decision is proposed:

Directed to the Secretariat

16.xx The Secretariat shall:

- i) issue a Notification to Parties requesting Parties to summarise their domestic laws and regulations that prohibit the landing or trade of shark species and products, and provide copies of or links to these instruments; in order for the Secretariat to make this information available on the CITES website; and
- ii) collaborate with the FAO Secretariat in the development of a single, regularly updated, source summarising current Regional Fisheries Management Organisation measures for shark conservation and management, with information on species, fisheries, Members and Contracting Parties, and the geographical areas covered and excluded.

25. Recalling the CITES/CMS Joint Work Plan, the following decision is proposed:

Directed to the Parties

16.xx Parties are encouraged to engage with the work of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), as appropriate, particularly for shark species listed in the relevant Appendices to CITES and CMS, recognising that CMS Parties are required to strive towards strictly protecting species listed in Appendix I to CMS, including by prohibiting the taking of these species, and to

implement other measures through the Migratory Sharks Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Sharks.

26. The Animal Committee proposes several minor amendments to three operative paragraphs of Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP15) as follows (new text is underlined; deleted text is shown in strikethrough):

Operative paragraph 2

DIRECTS the Animals Committee to examine new information provided by range States on trade and other available relevant data and information, and report their analyses at ~~the 16th~~ meetings of the Conference of the Parties;

Operative paragraph 6

URGES Parties that are shark fishing States but that have not yet implemented an NPOA-Sharks, to develop their own NPOAs at the earliest opportunity and take steps to improve research and data collection on both fisheries and trade as a first step towards their Shark Plans, particularly the necessity to improve the collection of catch and trade data at the lowest taxonomic level possible (ideally by species), and to report these data to the relevant national, regional and international authorities;

Operative paragraph 8

ENCOURAGES Parties to improve data collection, data reporting, management and conservation measures for shark species, implementing, enhancing and enforcing these actions through domestic, bilateral, RFMOs or other international measures;

COMMENTS FROM THE SECRETARIAT

- A. The Secretariat recommends the Decision 15.85, referred to in paragraphs 3 and 22 of the present document, be deleted and that if any part must be retained for a long term, it be transferred to Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP15) on *Conservation and management of sharks*.
- B. With regard to the draft decision in paragraph 24, the Secretariat recommends that it be adopted with the following amendments (text to be deleted is ~~crossed out~~; proposed new text is underlined):

Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall:

- i) issue a Notification to Parties requesting that they Parties provide to the Secretariat a summary of ~~to summarise~~ their domestic laws and regulations that prohibit or regulate the landing of sharks or trade in ~~of~~ shark specimens~~species and products~~, together with ~~and provide~~ copies of or links to these instruments; in order for the Secretariat to make this information available on the CITES website; and
- ii) collaborate with the FAO Secretariat in the development of a single, regularly updated, source summarising current Regional Fisheries Management Organization measures for shark conservation and management, with information on species, fisheries, Members and Contracting Parties, and the geographical areas covered and excluded.
- C. The Secretariat recommends adoption of the draft decision in paragraph 25 of the present document and adoption of the amendments to Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP15), as proposed in paragraph 26.

QUESTIONNAIRE ON THE STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF FAO IPOA-SHARKS
FOR THE 26 MAJOR SHARK FISHING MEMBER STATES AND ENTITIES

Please provide a brief response (less than 200 words) to the questions below which correspond to the aims set out in Section 22 of the IPOA Sharks.

Measures

- **Ensure that shark catches from directed and non-directed fisheries are sustainable.**
 - **Improve and develop frameworks for establishing and coordinating effective consultation involving all stakeholders in research, management and educational initiatives within and between states.**
1. Do you have national measures directed towards this goal (e.g a NPOA-Shark, any other law/regulation relevant for shark conservation and management) ? If so, please summarize these measures and the status of implementation and, if applicable, any review.
 2. Are you a member of any Regional Fishery Management Organizations (RFMOs) that have adopted measures for the conservation and management of sharks? If so, please summarize your implementation of or any difficulties with these measures.
 3. Have you signed or ratified the Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing? What is the status of implementation of the agreement?
 4. With regard to fisheries enforcement activities, describe the problems that you are observing.
- **Identify and provide special attention, in particular to vulnerable or threatened shark stocks**
5. What measures do you have in place to reduce or eliminate take, mortality and/or trade of vulnerable or threatened shark species?
- **Minimize the unutilised incidental catches of sharks.**
 - **Minimize waste and discards from shark catches, in accordance with Article VII.2.2(g) of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (for example, requiring the retention of sharks from which fins are removed).**
 - **Encourage full use of dead sharks.**
6. Have you taken any measures and regulations towards these goals? If so, please summarize. What is the status of implementation?
 7. Do you regulate shark finning (i.e., the removal and retention of fins from the shark and the discard at sea of the remainder of the carcass, live or dead)? If so, how?

Assessment

- **Assess threats to shark populations, determine and protect critical habitats and implement harvesting strategies consistent with the principles of biological sustainability and rational long-term economic use.**
 - **Contribute to the protection of biodiversity and ecosystem structure and function.**
8. What data collection and research measures have you undertaken towards these goals?

Reporting

- **Facilitate improved species-specific catch and landings data and monitoring of shark catches.**
 - **Facilitate the identification and reporting of species-specific biological and trade data.**
9. To what extent do you require species-specific data reporting and monitoring of catches, landings, and trade of sharks? Please specify which taxa (family, genus, or species) of sharks are reported.
 10. Please specify which product codes are used for the trade of sharks.

COFI/2012/3 Add 1/Rev.1

June 2012

	منظمة الأغذية والزراعة للأمم المتحدة	联合国 粮食及 农业组织	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture	Продовольственная и сельскохозяйственная организация Объединённых Наций	Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura
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COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

Thirtieth Session

Rome, Italy, 9-13 July 2012

Summary of the Review on the Implementation of the International Plan of Action (IPOA) for the Conservation and Management of Sharks

Executive Summary

The FAO International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks (IPOA-Sharks) was adopted in 1999. The IPOA encourages shark fishing nations to develop national plans of actions to conserve sharks by 2001. In 2011, COFI requested FAO to prepare a report on the implementation of the 1999 FAO International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks (IPOA-Sharks) by FAO Member States, and the challenges Members faced when implementing the instrument. This document provides a summary of the comprehensive review by FAO of the shark-related measures and activities by the top shark-fishing nations, entities and Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs).

The Committee is invited to:

- note the progress made on the implementation of IPOA-Sharks and provide further guidance on the issues raised in the review.

1. The 1999 FAO International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks (IPOA-Sharks) encourages shark fishing nations to develop National Plans of Actions (NPOAs) for sharks by 2001. At its twenty-ninth session in 2011 the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) requested the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department to prepare a report on the implementation of the IPOA Sharks by FAO Member States, and the challenges Members faced when implementing the instrument. The results of these findings are described in the FAO Circular C1076¹ and summarized in the present document.

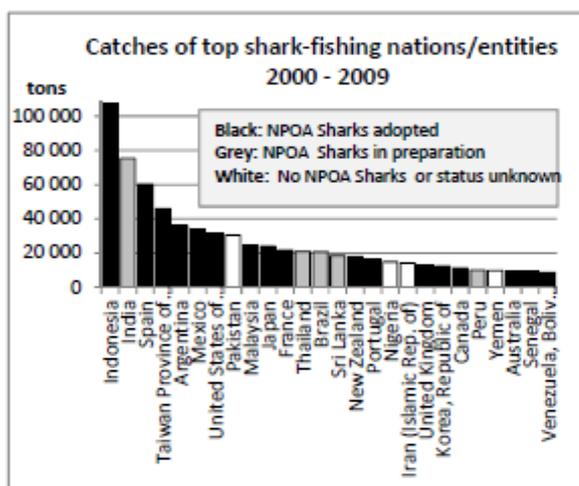
2. The Review concentrates on 26 nations and entities each of which contributed with at least one percent to the global reported shark catches from 2000 to 2009 (together amounting to about 84% of global catches during this period). These countries received a comprehensive questionnaire requesting information on the status of their NPOA Sharks, their shark-related management measures and research, and related subjects. About two thirds of the countries replied² and their responses were considered in the review; for the remaining countries other sources of information were used.

3. 17 (65%) of the top shark-fishing nations have adopted a NPOA Sharks and 5 of the remainder have already developed a sharks plan which is awaiting formal adoption or are in the process of doing so. Four (15%) countries, however, have not yet implemented the IPOA Sharks.

4. Many of the 26 countries or entities have shark measures in place. A shark finning regulation³ has been adopted by 15⁴ and another two intend to introduce such a regulation in the near future⁵. Nine States do not regulate shark finning in their Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ); however, as members of RFMOs they have to comply with regional finning regulations for high seas fisheries.

Moreover, Indonesia, India, Malaysia, Japan and Peru encourage the full utilization of shark bodies through awareness-building and educational programs.

5. Apart from finning regulations, 19 (73%) of the top shark-fishing nations or entities have adopted specific conservation measures for sharks⁶ and another two are in the process of developing such measures⁷. The type and extent of measures applied varies considerably among countries; they include licenses and permits, technical measures, TACs and quotas, reporting and research requirements as well as monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) schemes. Furthermore, the majority of the 26 nations and entities aim at creating public awareness for shark issues and at educating fishers on the necessity to conserve shark resources.



¹ Made available to COFI as an Advanced Copy.

² Argentina, Australia, Canada, EU (for Spain, France, Portugal and UK), India, Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Korea, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Senegal, USA, Sri Lanka.

³ These consist either in a shark finning ban (i.e. all sharks have to be landed with their fins naturally attached) or a prohibition to dump finned carcasses at sea and a fin-to-body ratio for landed sharks.

⁴ EU (for Spain, France, Portugal and UK), Taiwan Province of China, Argentina, Mexico, USA, Brazil, Sri Lanka, New Zealand, Nigeria, Canada, Yemen and Australia.

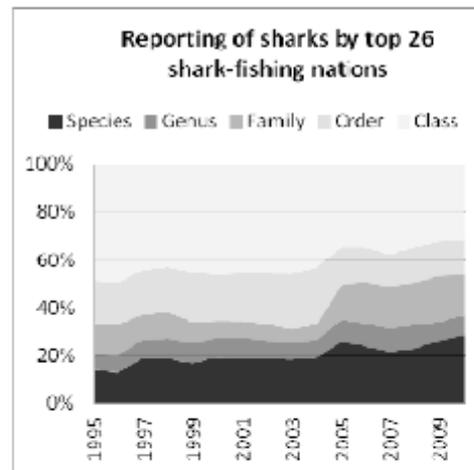
⁵ Senegal and Venezuela

⁶ India, Spain, Taiwan Province of China, Argentina, Mexico, USA, Malaysia, Japan, France, Thailand, Brazil, New Zealand, Portugal, Islamic Republic of Iran, UK, Republic of Korea, Canada, Peru, and Australia.

⁷ Senegal and Venezuela

6. Data collection and research on sharks also varies considerably. Some countries have made enormous efforts to improve the scientific and fishery information on sharks up to regular stock assessments for commercial elasmobranchs. On the other hand, many countries suffer from a lack of scientific and fishery data and this is an important hindrance for sound shark management. In many countries there is a need for more shark experts, better coordination between research institutions and additional funding.

7. Overall, the reporting of shark catches to FAO has improved over the last decade. Shark catches reported at species level doubled since 1995 from 14% to 29% in 2010. Still, our analysis shows a pronounced disparity in the reporting details among the top 26 shark-fishing nations or entities. While in recent years eleven (42%) of the top 26 shark-fishing nations or entities are reporting most or at least about half of their shark catches at genus and species levels⁸, an equal number of them are still reporting most or all of their shark catches at highly aggregated levels (order or class). Four countries (16%) report mainly at family level; it is worth mentioning that among these Indonesia and Senegal have made noticeable efforts to improve their reporting of shark catches during the last decade. Reporting is still hampered by a lack of taxonomists or trained scientists and officers for the monitoring and assessment of sharks as well as by poor accessibility or lack of basic shark identification tools⁹. A number of respondents reported on recent efforts to improve the shark identification in their waters such as production of identification guides and relevant training, e.g. Indonesia, Mexico, USA, Malaysia, European Union, Peru, and Senegal.



8. All except one of the top 26 shark or entities-fishing nations are members of at least one Regional Fisheries Management Body, in particular tuna bodies, of which most have shark regulations in place, e.g. shark finning measures, catch and gear regulations, prohibited species, area closures, reporting requirements and research programmes. This means that in most areas covered by RFMOs¹⁰ there are internationally binding shark regulations for high seas fisheries in place.

9. Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing poses a significant threat to vulnerable sharks. Therefore it is a positive sign that most (70%) of the top 26 shark-fishing nations or entities have taken steps to fight IUU fishing, either by signing the 2009 Port State Measures Agreement (46%)¹¹ or at least by adopting an NPOA IUU or similar plan (23%)¹². Nonetheless, in quite a few countries the effective implementation of MCS schemes is problematic, often because of a lack of human and financial resources. Five (20%) of the top 26 shark-fishing nations or entities have neither adopted an NPOA Sharks nor signed the Port State Measures Agreement nor implemented an NPOA IUU¹³. However, two of these have adopted shark finning regulations (Nigeria and Yemen) and India is in the process of adopting an NPOA Sharks.

⁸ Argentina, Australia, Canada, France, Islamic Republic of Iran, Peru, Portugal, Spain, New Zealand, United Kingdom and USA

⁹ In this context, it should be noted that FAO (through the FishFinder Programme) has produced numerous global, regional and national identification guides that are available online. The global catalogue of sharks is currently in the process of being updated. A regional catalogue and pocket guide of North Atlantic Sharks will become available later this year and a guide to deep-water sharks in the Indian Ocean is in its initial preparatory stages

¹⁰ Except CCSBT that encourages shark conservation but has not yet adopted any binding measures

¹¹ Indonesia, EU (for Spain, France, Portugal and UK), USA, Brazil, Sri Lanka (ratified), New Zealand, Canada, Peru, and Australia

¹² NPOA-IUU: Argentina, Mexico, Japan, Thailand, and Republic of Korea. India has a national MCS plan

¹³ India, Pakistan, Nigeria, Islamic Republic of Iran, Yemen

**SUMMARY INFORMATION RELATED TO SHARKS CONSERVATION MEASURES
OF TOP SHARK-FISHING NATIONS (2012)**

	IPOA Sharks	Shark Fin Regulations in EEZ	RFMO	Port State Measures Agreement
Indonesia	2010	No	CCSBT, IOTC	Signed
India*	Under development	No	CCAMLR, IOTC	NPOA MCS
Spain**	2009 (EU)	Yes	ICCAT, IOTC, WCPFC, IATTC, CCSBT, NEAFC, NAFO, NASCO, SIOFA, SPRFMO, CCAMLR, GFCM, CCBSP, SEAFO	Signed (EU)
Taiwan Province of China	2006	Yes	CCSBT	No
Argentina*	2009	Yes	CCAMLR, CTMFM	IPOA-IUU
Mexico*	2004	Yes	ICCAT, IATTC	NPOA MCS
United States of America*	2001	Yes	CCAMLR, IATTC, ICCAT, NAFO, WCPFC	Signed
Pakistan, Islam Rep of	No	No	IOTC, APFIC	No
Malaysia*	2006	No	IOTC	No
Japan*	2001 (2009)	No	CCAMLR, CCSBT, GFCM, IATTC, ICCAT, IOTC, NAFO, WCPFC, SEAFO	NPOA IUU
France**	2009 (EU)	Yes	ICCAT, IOTC, WCPFC, IATTC, CCSBT, NEAFC, NAFO, NASCO, SIOFA, SPRFMO, CCAMLR, GFCM, CCBSP, SEAFO	Signed (EU)
Thailand	Draft	No	IOTC	NPOA IUU
Brazil	Draft	Yes	CCAMLR, ICCAT	Signed
Sri Lanka*	Under development	Yes	IOTC	Ratified
New Zealand*	2008 (2012)	Yes	CCAMLR, CCSBT, WCPFC, APFIC	Signed
Portugal**	2009 (EU)	Yes	ICCAT, IOTC, WCPFC, IATTC, CCSBT, NEAFC, NAFO, NASCO, SIOFA, SPRFMO, CCAMLR, GFCM, CCBSP, SEAFO	Signed (EU)
Nigeria	No	Yes	ICCAT, CEEAC	No
Iran, Islam Rep of*	No	No	IOTC	No
United Kingdom**	2004 and 2009 (EU)	Yes	ICCAT, IOTC, WCPFC, IATTC, CCSBT, NEAFC, NAFO, NASCO, SIOFA, SPRFMO, CCAMLR, GFCM, CCBSP, SEAFO	Signed (EU)
Korea, Rep of*	2011	No	WCPFC, ICCAT, IATTC, IOTC, CCSBT, SEAFO	NPOA IUU
Canada*	2007	Yes	IATTC, ICATT, NAFO, WCPFC	Signed
Peru*	Draft	No	IATTC	Signed
Yemen	No	Yes		No
Australia*	2004	Yes	CCAMLR, CCSBT, IOTC, WCPFC	Signed
Senegal*	2005	In preparation	ICCAT	No
Venezuela, Boliv Rep of	2006	In preparation	IATTC, ICCAT	No

* Responded to questionnaire / ** Response to questionnaire received from EU