COSTA RICA

CAPTURE FISHERIES PRODUCTION

FISH TRADE AND COMMODITIES

Commodity (average 2008–2013)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Export</th>
<th>Import</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tonnnes USD’000</td>
<td>Tonnnes USD’000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shark fins, dried, whether or not salted, etc.</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shark fins, frozen</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shark fins, smoked and in brine but not dried or smoked</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharks, fresh or chilled</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharks, fresh or chilled, no fins</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharks, dried, whether or not salted, but not smoked</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharks, rays, skates, fresh or chilled, no fins</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td>2 140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total all marine fisheries commodities</td>
<td>26 331</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


FISHERIES AND TRADE

FISHING AREAS

National waters
International waters
Semi-industrial
Small-scale

TYPE OF FISHERIES

Target
By-catch
Ecotourism

TARGET

COMMERCIAL IMPORTANCE

Domestic market
Export

MANAGEMENT MEASURES

SPECIES PROHIBITIONS

- Prohibited the capture and commercialization of Oceanic whitetip shark.
- Prohibited targeting and retention of Oceanic whitetip shark (Carcharhinus longimanus) by fisheries regulated by IATTC. Individuals caught to be released alive, to the extent of possibility.

SPATIAL RESTRICTIONS

- According to data available at MPA Global database (www.mpaglobal.org), Costa Rica has designated 26 marine protected areas, covering approximately 5 614 km2 of marine areas (or about 1% of the total area of the EEZ). The National Park of Isla del Coco is one of the largest areas under protection (1 948 km2), covering offshore areas of interest for the conservation of Oceanic sharks.

TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS

- Temporary and permanent closures in parts of the Gulf of Nicoya.

PRODUCT FORM RESTRICTION

- Prohibited finning of sharks. Required landing and transport of sharks with fins attached to the body (No 8436 of 2005).
- Regulation OSPESCA OSP-05-11 of 2011 forbids the finning of sharks, which have to be landed with the fins attached to the body.
- IATTC requires members to fully utilize shark catches and to prohibit finning by applying a 5 percent fin-to-body weight ratio for sharks on board vessels.

PARTICIPATORY RESTRICTIONS

- Access to fishing is restricted by licenses or authorizations.

FISHING CAPACITY

- Ongoing reduction of the semi-industrial shrimp trawling fleet (no further details provided).

OTHER

- Decree No. J5502-MAG-MINA (May 2013), for the “Ordenamiento para el aprovechamiento de atún y especies afines en la Zona Económica Exclusiva del océano Pacífico costarricense”, aimed at sustainable use of tuna and associated fisheries resources.

IMPLEMENTING THE APPENDIX II LISTINGS

Progress made

- At regional level, INCOPESECA contributed to the elaboration and implementation of a standard methodology for controls and data collection at landing sites;
- Improvement of a traceability system for shark and shark products, including: i) collaboration for the implementation of specific commodity codes for the shark species under Appendix II; ii) collaboration with the CITES Secretariat for revision and improvement of the methods for the traceability of the Costa Rica fisheries;
- Organization of a workshop, coordination and technical contribution in making the NDF certificate.

Current limitations

- Coordination between competent authorities in Central American countries (fisheries, environment, trade, customs, etc.) to clarify the procedures and impacts of these listings and establish compliance;
- Detailed knowledge on trade flow of the shark products in Central America.

Needs

- Financial support for the implementation of a program for collecting landings and biological data on shark fisheries products;
- Financial support to implement genetic markers at several stages of the chain of custody;
- Shark tagging programs in coastal areas, especially for newborns and juveniles;
- Training in identification of shark species, including DNA techniques;
- Human and financial resources to establish a better cooperation in the region allowing to share information on sharks listed on CITES (e.g. legal aspects, statistics on captures and trade, registry of exports).

Disclaimer: The information, findings and conclusions in this poster are those provided by the relevant shark experts and CIT in collaboration with FAO.