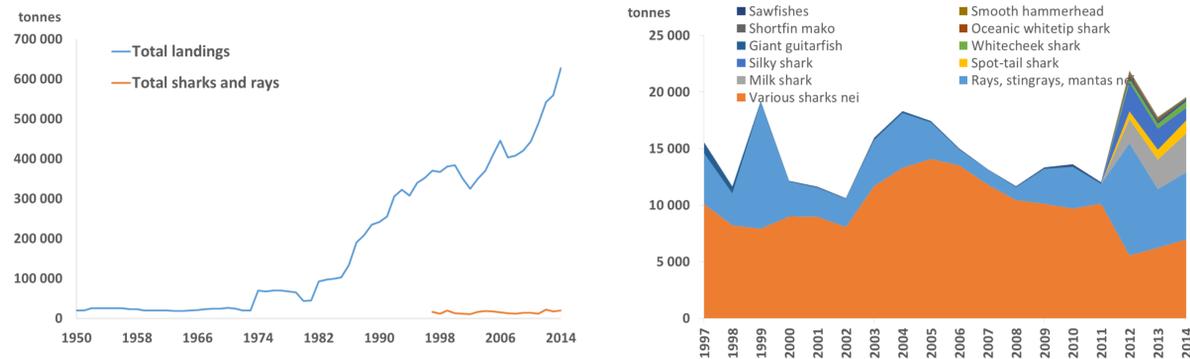




ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN



CAPTURE FISHERIES PRODUCTION



Source: FAO Fishstat dataset 'Global capture production (1950–2014)'

FISH TRADE AND COMMODITIES

Commodity (average 2008–2013)	Export		Import	
	Tonnes	USD'000	Tonnes	USD'000
Shark fins, dried, whether or not salted, etc.	12.5	365.0		
Sharks nei, frozen			382.2	345.2
Total shark commodities	12.5	365	382	345
Total all marine fisheries commodities	48279	190362	46894	65376

Source: FAO Fishstat dataset 'Global commodities production and trade (1976–2014). The reliability of the official data of export of shark product is doubtful as the fins are illegally exported (Mr Valinassab, personal comment)

FISHERIES AND TRADE

		<i>C. longimanus</i>	<i>Sphyrna spp.</i>
FISHING AREAS	National waters		
	International waters		
TYPE OF FISHERIES	Industrial		
	Small-scale		
TARGET	Target		
	By-catch		
	Ecotourism		
COMMERCIAL IMPORTANCE	Domestic market		
	Export		

MANAGEMENT MEASURES

SPECIES PROHIBITIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full banning of target shark fisheries. Oceanic whitetip shark (<i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i>) not to be retained and to be released unharmed, to the extent practicable, when caught in association to IOTC regulated fisheries (Resolution IOTC 2013). Shark caught by purse seiners and industrial trawlers should be immediately released live at sea to the extent possible.
TEMPORAL RESTRICTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fish bottom trawlers open 135 days per year in the Oman Sea. Shrimp bottom trawlers open 45 days per year in each province (Bushar, Hormozgan, Khozistan). Fishery is closed if CPUE falls below a certain level.
SPATIAL RESTRICTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bottom trawlers banned in the Persian Gulf since 1993. Some marine near shore habitats (such as lagoons, seagrass, tidal flats and estuaries) protected through the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance.
GEAR RESTRICTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fish bottom trawlers prohibited in the Persian Gulf since 1993.
PRODUCT FORM RESTRICTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prohibited finning (law in effect since 2003). As Contracting Party to IOTC, required to apply a 5% fin-to-body weight ratio for sharks on board vessels up to the first point of landing.
CAPACITY RESTRICTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing buy-back program reduced number of trawlers from 69 to 31.
PARTICIPATORY RESTRICTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Required licensing for fishing operation.



IMPLEMENTING THE APPENDIX II LISTINGS

Progress made

- The lists of sharks included in Appendix II has been distributed to fisheries unions and cooperatives;
- IOTC Shark Identification Cards translated in Persian;
- Identification guides available in the country and good capacity by fishery scientists to identify shark species.

Current limitations

- Lack of knowledge of best practice in safe release of sharks;
- Some difficulties by fishers to identify sharks at species level.

Needs

- Implementation of methodologies to decrease the shark by-catch;
- Best practice and trainings for the safe release of sharks.
- Increase the knowledge of shark biology and ecology in Iranian waters;
- Involvement of fishery cooperatives in the conservation of shark populations.