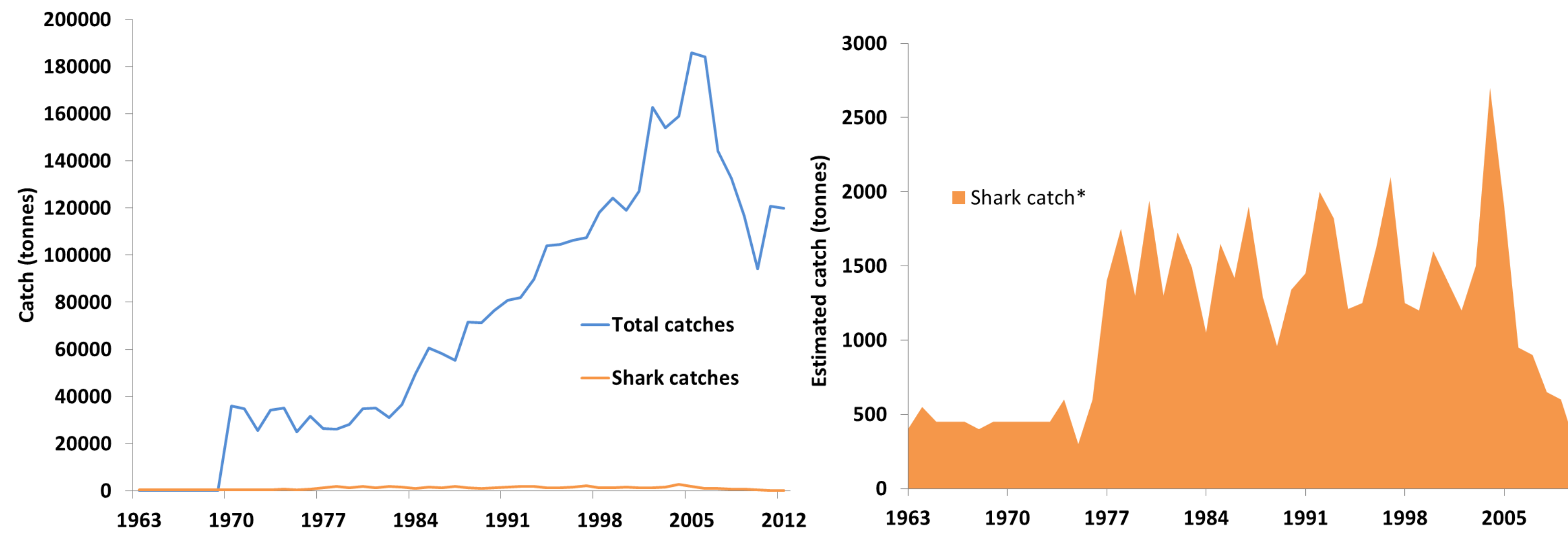




MALDIVES



CAPTURE FISHERIES PRODUCTION



Source: data from Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture of Maldives.

*Estimated shark catch based on exports (fin and oil). No data, average for 1963-73

FISH TRADE AND COMMODITIES

Commodity (average 2005-2010)	Export		Import
	Tonnes	USD'000	
Shark fins, dried, unsalted	9	159	Shark fishery ban prohibits fishing, extracting, capturing and harming of any shark species from the entire EEZ of the Maldives. Albeit there is no explicit ban on trade, import and export of shark products, due to the fishing ban on sharks, shark products cannot be exported. Since the fishing ban, all exports of shark products have ceased. However, there is a market for "imported shark souvenirs" such as shark jaws. For rays and skates there are no imports, and an export ban has been imposed on all species of rays and skates since 1995.
Shark fins dried, salted	0	0	
Shark fins, frozen	7	12	
Sharks nei, frozen	14	5	
Sharks, dried, salted or in brine	198	140	
Total	231 (0,34%)	341 (0,35%)	
Total all marine fisheries commodities	68,853	96,622	

Source: data from Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture of Maldives.



FISHERIES AND TRADE

C. longimanus *Sphyrna sp.*

FISHING AREAS	TYPE OF FISHERIES	TARGET	COMMERCIAL IMPORTANCE
National waters	Commercial	Target	Domestic market
International waters	Small-scale	By-catch	Export
	Recreational		

MANAGEMENT MEASURES

SPECIES PROHIBITIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ban on fishing, extracting, capturing and harming of any shark species from the entire EEZ of the Maldives effective from March 2010. Fishery ban on sharks also prohibits the retaining of any shark bycatch, and in cases where retained/landed, it shall be declared to a fisheries officer, fisheries enforcement officer or to the assigned fisheries observer for confiscation. Prohibited exports of rays and skates products (1995). Ban on fishing, extracting, capturing and harming of rays and skates from the Maldives effective from June 2014. 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 13/06 2013).
GEAR RESTRICTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To minimize shark bycatch in the tuna longline fishery, the regulation has set the minimum depth of the mainline to be deployed at or below 60m.
PRODUCT FORM RESTRICTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In cases where shark bycatch is landed, all fins shall be attached and all landed catch shall be declared to a fisheries officer, fisheries enforcement officer or to the assigned fisheries observer for confiscation.
PARTICIPATORY RESTRICTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For the tuna longlining, allowed only from 100nm to the limit of EEZ, licenses shall be obtained from the Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture.
LIMITS TO FISHING CAPACITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newly introduced quota system for tuna longlining vessels, quota decided by Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture.

IMPLEMENTING THE APPENDIX II LISTINGS

Progress made

- CITES law drafted;
- CITES permits being issued;
- Customs data maintained and monitored;
- Six training sessions held for custom officers;
- Participated in the Capacity Building workshop on CITES Appendix II listings of Sharks and Manta Ray Species, 26-28 Aug 2014, Chennai, India;
- Proposal to add Silky Shark to Appendix II at COP17.

Current limitations

- No mechanism in place to verify the exports of shark souvenirs are from imported ones;
- Lack of trained personnel and training materials;
- Lack of coordination between inter-government agencies.

Needs

- Produce user friendly (simple/low-cost/fast) and reliable identification tools for CITES-listed shark species and their products to enable timely procedures by customs and enforcement officers;
- Train customs officials and all other actors in the supply chain in the use of shark identification tools;
- Strengthen regional co-operation amongst stakeholders.