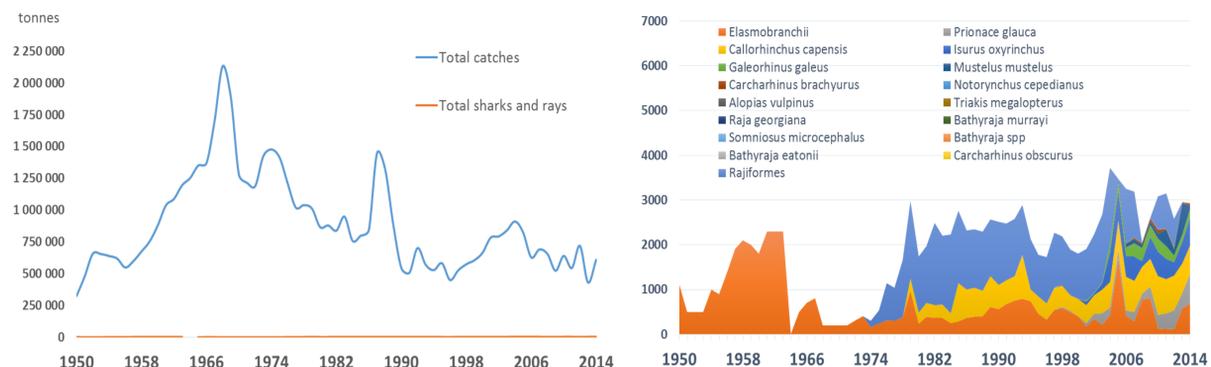




SOUTH AFRICA



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
Rays and skates (Rajidae), frozen	27	73		
Shark fins, dried, whether or not salted, etc.	22	371	10	91
Sharks nei, fresh or chilled	0	4	0	0
Sharks nei, frozen	1 104	3 027	421	259
Total shark commodities	1 153	3 475	431	349
Total all marine fisheries commodities	156 713	537 533	117 511	291 970

Source: FAO Fishstat dataset 'Global commodities production and trade 1976–2013'

FISHERIES AND TRADE

C. longimanus *Sphyrna spp.* *Manta spp.*

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

MANAGEMENT MEASURES

SPECIES PROHIBITIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prohibited species including Great white shark (<i>Carcharodon carcharias</i>), Basking shark (<i>Cetorhinus maximus</i>) and Whale shark (<i>Rhincodon typus</i>), as well as Sawfishes (<i>Pristidae</i>) (RSA 2005). In 2011, retention of the Oceanic whitetip shark (<i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i>), Thresher sharks (<i>Alopias spp.</i>), and Hammerhead sharks (<i>Sphyrna spp.</i>) was prohibited in large pelagic fisheries. In 2012 the retention of Silky shark (<i>Carcharhinus falciformis</i>) was prohibited in large pelagic fisheries due to international concern over stock declines (DAFF 2014b).
GEAR RESTRICTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regulations aimed at limiting chondrichthyan catches, coupled with species-specific permit conditions, currently exist in the following fisheries: demersal shark longline, pelagic longline, recreational line, and beach-seine and gillnet. The use of fish aggregation devices is prohibited in South African waters (RSA 1998). Use of stainless steel hooks is prohibited for the foreign tuna fleet.
PRODUCT FORM RESTRICTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current permit conditions prohibit finning (the removal and retention of shark fins only, with the trunk discarded). Fins may, however, be removed provided the trunks are retained. The total weight of retained fins may not exceed 8% and 13% of the total weight of the trunks for Shortfin mako (<i>Isurus oxyrinchus</i>) and Blue shark (<i>Prionace glauca</i>), respectively (DAFF 2014b). Under the Marine Living Resources Act (MLRA) (Act No. 18 of 1998; RSA 1998), chondrichthyans may not be landed, transported, transhipped or disposed of with their fins removed without a permit.
CAPACITY CONTROL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently, shark landings in the tuna and swordfish fishery are managed according to a precautionary upper catch limit (PUCL) of 2 000 t dressed weight per annum (DAFF 2014b).



IMPLEMENTING THE APPENDIX II LISTINGS

Progress made

- Recognition of shark-directed fisheries in their own right, as well as recognition that a substantial by-catch is taken across a number of fisheries.

Current limitations

- Historically research has focused on the distribution, abundance and movement patterns of large, charismatic, non-harvested species;
- Assessments are dating rapidly and attempts to conduct assessments are complicated by the multi-species nature of shark-directed and by-catch fisheries;
- Some uncertainties regarding species identification.

Needs

- Management framework that encompasses all fisheries documented to catch chondrichthyans ensuring the coordination of management initiatives across fishing sectors;
- Adequate research funding for the assessments of commonly caught species;
- Improve the knowledge on the economics of chondrichthyans fisheries.