Thresher shark species belong to family Alopiidae. The management of fisheries includes community participation (Fisheries & Aquatic Resources amended Act No.35 of 2013).

DFAR is in the process of amending the Regulation on high seas fisheries, provisioning fishing vessels to have by-catch mitigation devices such as line cutters. Currently it is stated as a requirement in the high seas fishing operation licence.

FISHERIES AND TRADE

TOTAL CAPTURE FISHERIES PRODUCTION

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

FISH TRADE AND COMMODITIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commodity (average 2008–2013)</th>
<th>Export</th>
<th>Import</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tonnes</td>
<td>USD’000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shark fins, dried, whether or not salted, etc.</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>1 389</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharks nei, fresh or chilled</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharks nei, frozen</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total shark commodities</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>1 394</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total all marine fisheries commodities</td>
<td>20 665</td>
<td>197 905</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

MANAGEMENT MEASURES

- Thresher shark species belong to family Alopiidae not to be retained and to be released unharmed, to the extent practicable, when caught (Prohibition of catching Thresher Shark Regulation 2012).
- Required landing of fins attached to body.
- Prohibited finning in fisheries regulated by IOTC. Required to apply a 5% fin-to-body weight ratio for sharks on board vessels up to the first point of landing (Landing of Fish (species of shark and skates) Regulation, 2001).
- Only fishers in possession of a valid licence issued under the Fishing Operations Regulations of 1996 (published in Gazette Extraordinary No. 948/25 of 7 November, 1996) may land fish belonging to the species of sharks or skates, moreover those vessels have to be registered under the Department of Fisheries & Aquatic Resources (DFAR).
- The management of fisheries includes community participation (Fisheries & Aquatic Resources amended Act No.35 of 2013).

IMPLEMENTING THE APPENDIX II LISTINGS

- Regulation has been drafted and submitted to consolidate the prohibition of fishing vulnerable shark species (including Oceanic whitetip shark) caught by high seas fishing vessels and the introduction of an export permit system for all shark species.

- Difficulty in the identification of the shark species from their fins;
- Lack of funding for research and management of sharks and rays;
- Lack of knowledge of behavior, biology, migratory patterns etc. of shark resources.

- Provide researchers with the opportunities through national, regional and international training, of building their research capabilities on shark fisheries;
- Increase the awareness of fishers on the importance of conservation and management of sharks.