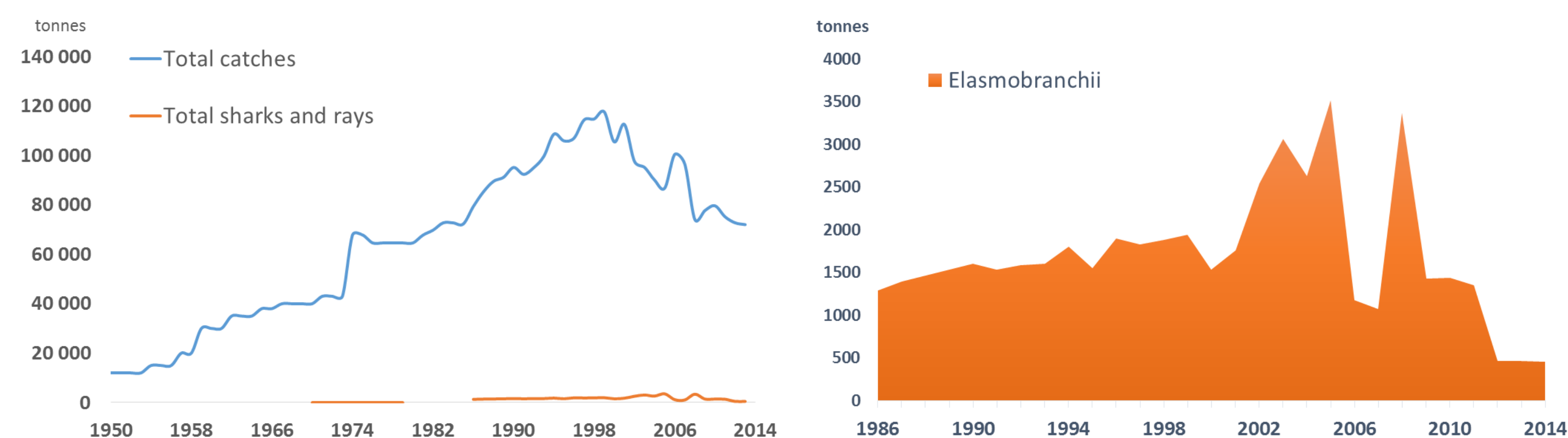




# UNITED ARAB EMIRATES



## 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), fresh or chilled			5	15
Rays and skates (Rajidae), frozen			0	3
Shark fillets nei, frozen			5	9
Shark fins, dried, whether or not salted, etc.	427	13 635	4	24
Shark fins, frozen			6	252
Sharks nei, fresh or chilled	35	159	100	137
Sharks nei, frozen	9	24	21	84
Sharks, fillets, dried, salted or in brine			13	40
<b>Total shark commodities</b>	<b>471</b>	<b>13 818</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>562</b>
<b>Total all marine fisheries commodities</b>	<b>26 814</b>	<b>91 008</b>	<b>123 405</b>	<b>403 152</b>

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

## FISHERIES AND TRADE

	<i>R. typus</i>	<i>Sphyrna spp.</i>	<i>C. longimanus</i> *	<i>Manta spp.*</i>	
FISHING AREAS	National waters				
	International waters				
TYPE OF FISHERIES	Industrial				
	Small-scale				
TARGET	Target				
	By-catch				
	Ecotourism				
COMMERCIAL IMPORTANCE	Domestic market				
	Export (Re-export as defined by CITES)				

\* These species are rare and only occur on the east coast of the UAE.

## MANAGEMENT MEASURES

SPECIES PROHIBITIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prohibition on the fishing of all shark species listed on CITES and occurring in UAE waters which includes all three species of Hammerhead sharks (<i>Sphyrna</i> sp.), both species of Manta rays (<i>Manta</i> sp.), the Oceanic whitetip shark (<i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i>), Sawfishes (<i>Pristidae</i> sp.) and the Whale shark (<i>Rhincodon typus</i>).</li> </ul>
GEAR RESTRICTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Only registered dhows (lansh) allowed to fish for sharks with the number of hooks used per dhow not exceeding 100 per gear; the hooks should be circle hooks and do not exceed 0/14 in size; the hooks should not be stainless steel; and that the fishing gear carries the boat number and Emirate code.</li> <li>Other gear such as trawls, explosives and monofilament nylon nets are banned; gill nets are banned from 1 May to mid-October yearly; and there are strict regulations on the mesh sizes that can be used based on gear.</li> </ul>
SPATIAL AND TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sharks fishing is limited to fishing waters that are at a distance not less than 5 NM from the country's shoreline and 3 NM from the country's islands. Furthermore, the UAE has 11 Marine Protected Areas where fishing is banned or regulated.</li> <li>The fishing of sharks is banned from 1 February till 30 June every year.</li> </ul>
PRODUCT FORM RESTRICTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Federal Law 23 of 1999, on Exploitation, Protection &amp; Development of Living Aquatic Resources in Waters of the UAE, prohibits finning in UAE waters and shark specimens need to be landed as a whole.</li> <li>The fishing of all CITES-listed species is banned. Companies may not export sharks whether fresh, frozen, dried, salted, smoked, canned, or in any form throughout the year.</li> <li>Imported sharks, whether fresh, frozen, dried, salted, smoked, canned or in any other form, may be re-exported provided that the exporter receives a re-export permit from the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment after submitting a series of verification documents.</li> </ul>

## NPOA YES (under development)

### IMPLEMENTING THE APPENDIX II LISTINGS

#### Progress made

- Organization of multiple workshops, in collaboration with the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), aimed at increasing the capacity of various stakeholders (including customs, fisheries, and enforcement officers) in the identification of sharks and their products and combating its illegal trade;
- Production and distribution of a number of brochures, posters and other educational material to increase awareness of CITES-listed shark species in collaboration with IFAW;
- Development of a NPOA for sharks with specific objectives and actions aimed at gaining an understanding of fisheries and trade dynamics.

#### Current limitations

- Limited scientific research on shark and manta rays;
- Challenging in identifying shark products to the species level.

#### Needs

- Improve knowledge of sharks and rays through scientific research.
- Development of identification tools for the quick identification of shark products by non-specialists.