



STATUS OF DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL PLANS OF ACTION FOR SEABIRDS AND SHARKS

PREPARED BY: IOTC SECRETARIAT, 7 NOVEMBER 2011

PURPOSE

To provide the Scientific Committee with the opportunity to update and comment on the current status of development and implementation of National Plans of Action for seabirds and sharks by each CPC.

BACKGROUND

In 1999, member countries of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) developed the International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks (IPOA–Sharks; FAO 1999).

The IPOA–Sharks suggests that members develop a National Plan of Action if their vessels conduct targeted fishing for sharks or if they regularly catch sharks in fisheries targeting other species.

The IPOA–Sharks (FAO) 1999) has the objective, “to ensure the conservation and management of sharks and their long-term sustainable use” and prescribes the following aims:

- Ensure that shark catches from directed and non-directed fisheries are sustainable.
- Assess threats to shark populations, determine and protect critical habitats and implement harvesting strategies consistent with the principles of biological sustainability and rational long-term economic use.
- Identify and provide special attention, in particular to vulnerable or threatened shark stocks.
- Improve and develop frameworks for establishing and coordinating effective consultation involving all stakeholders in research, management and educational initiatives within and between States.
- Minimize unutilized incidental catches of sharks.
- Contribute to the protection of biodiversity and ecosystem structure and function.
- Minimize waste and discards from shark catches in accordance with article 7.2.2.(g) of the *Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries* (for example, requiring the retention of sharks from which fins are removed).
- Encourage full use of dead sharks.
- Facilitate improved species-specific catch and landings data and monitoring of shark catches.
- Facilitate the identification and reporting of species-specific biological and trade data.

The IPOA Sharks requires each member nation that take shark in their fisheries to prepare a shark assessment report (SAR) with the aim of identifying conservation, management and any other issues associated with the shark catch. If necessary, these issues can then be addressed in a NPOA–Sharks. The SAR is to be updated regularly to report the status of shark stocks as assessments are made and to identify gaps in knowledge. The NPOA–Sharks requires collection and ongoing synthesis of compatible data at the appropriate resolution, including *inter alia* commercial data and data leading to improved species identification and, eventually, abundance indices.

The shark data collected by IOTC CPCs for trans-boundary, highly migratory and high seas shark stocks should be done through international collaboration and data sharing systems and all shark data should be made available to relevant subregional and regional fisheries organisations, and the FAO (IPOA–Sharks 1999).

DISCUSSION

At its 13th Session in 2010, the Scientific Committee (SC) noted both the recommendation by the WPEB for the Secretariat to develop a table outlining CPC progress in the development and implementation of NPOAs, and the draft table provided to the meeting. At that time, the Secretariat had only been able to obtain updates from a small number of CPCs. Subsequently, the SC recommended:

“.....that the remaining CPCs provide updates on the progress of developing or implementing NPOA-sharks at the WPEB in 2011” (para. 72)

and noted

“.....that 4 CPCs have developed and implemented NPOA-seabirds and that 1 is in the process of finalising its NPOA-seabirds” (para. 100),

In August 2011, the Secretariat circulated the table adopted by the Scientific Committee for comment and updating by each of the 32 CPCs (29 Members and 3 Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties). Comments and updates were received from 20 CPCs prior to the WPEB meeting in October and were incorporated into an updated table for the consideration of the WPEB participants.

Subsequently, the WPEB recommended the following:

*“Noting that the FAO prepared best practice guidelines to reduce the incidental catch of seabirds in capture fisheries in 2009 to support implementation of the IPOA-Seabirds, the WPEB **RECOMMENDED** that CPCs use these guidelines to immediately review bycatch in longline, trawl and gillnet fisheries within their jurisdiction and develop, if appropriate, NPOA-Seabirds for fisheries where seabird bycatch is problematic.”* (para.79)

*“The WPEB **NOTED** the current status of development and implementation of Nation Plans of Action for sharks as provided in Appendix X and **RECOMMENDED** that all CPCs without an NPOA-Sharks expedite the development and implementation of their NPOA-Sharks, and to report progress to the WPEB in 2012, recalling that NPOA-Sharks are a framework that should facilitate estimation of shark catches and development and implementation of appropriate management measures, which should also enhance the collection of bycatch data and compliance with IOTC Resolutions.”* (para.80)

Appendix X mentioned in the above text is provided as an attachment to this paper (Attachment A). Text in **RED** has not been updated due to a lack of a response from CPCs since the previous SC meeting in December 2010.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the Scientific Committee **NOTE** the current status of development and implementation of National Plans of Action for sharks and seabirds, by each CPC.

ATTACHMENT

Attachment A: Status of development and implementation of National Plans of Action for seabirds and sharks

FAO 1999. [The international plan of action for the conservation and management of sharks](#). United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation, Rome.

ATTACHMENT A
PROGRESS ON THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF NPOAS FOR SHARKS AND SEABIRDS

CPC	Sharks	Date of Implementation	Seabirds	Date of implementation	Comments
MEMBERS					
Australia		14-Apr-2004		2006	Sharks: 2 nd NPOA-Sharks due to be released by end of 2011. Seabirds: Threat Abatement Plan (longline fishery only) in review. No Plan for purse seine or other gears.
Belize					Sharks: No information received by the Secretariat. Seabirds: No information received by the Secretariat.
China		–		–	Sharks: Development has not begun. Seabirds: Development has not begun.
–Taiwan,China		May 2006		May 2006	Sharks: No revision currently planned. Seabirds: No revision currently planned.
Comoros		–		–	Sharks: Development has not begun. Seabirds: Development has not begun.
Eritrea					Sharks: No information received by the Secretariat. Seabirds: No information received by the Secretariat.
European Union		5 Feb 2009		–	Sharks: Approved on 05-Feb-2009 and it is currently being implemented. Seabirds: Currently being finalised for adoption in the last quarter of 2011.
France (territories)					Sharks: Approved on 05-Feb-2009 but not yet implemented. Seabirds: No information received by the Secretariat.
Guinea					Sharks: No information received by the Secretariat. Seabirds: No information received by the Secretariat.
India					Sharks: Currently being drafted with the assistance of BOBP-IGO Seabirds: No information received by the Secretariat.
Indonesia		–		–	Sharks: NPOA guidelines developed and released for public comment among stakeholders in 2010 (funded by ACIAR Australia—DGCF). Training to occur in 2011, including data collection for sharks based on forms of statistical data to national standards (by DGCF (supported by ACIAR Australia). Implementation expected late 2011/early 2012. Seabirds: Development has not begun.
Iran, Islamic Republic of		–		–	Sharks: Have communicated to all fishing cooperatives the IOTC resolutions on sharks. Have in place a ban on the retention of live sharks. Seabirds: I.R. Iran determined that seabird interactions are not a problem for their fleet as they consist of gillnet vessels only.
Japan		03-Dec-2009		03-Dec-2009	Sharks: NPOA–Shark assessment report submitted to COFI in Jan. 2011 Seabirds: NPOA–Seabird implementation report submitted to COFI in Jan. 2011.
Kenya					Sharks: Development has not begun. Scheduled for development in 2012. Sharks are considered a target species by Kenya.

					Seabirds: Development has not begun. Scheduled for development in 2012. Kenya has a single longliner targeting swordfish and no seabird interactions have been reported to date.
Korea, Republic of		–		–	Sharks: Approved on 18/08/2011 but not yet implemented. Seabirds: Early stages of development.
Madagascar		–		–	Sharks: Development has not begun. Seabirds: Development has not begun. Note: A fisheries monitoring system is in place in order to ensure compliance by vessels with the IOTC's shark and seabird conservation and management measures.
Malaysia		2006			Sharks: No update received by the Secretariat. Seabirds: No information received by the Secretariat.
Maldives, Republic of					Sharks: NPOA has been formulated and will be discussed with stakeholders in November 2011. Shark fishing was banned on 15 th March 2010 based on scientific advice. The Government has spent ~US\$5 million on a gear buyback scheme from Maldivian fishers. Seabirds: Development has not begun.
Mauritius					Sharks: Currently being drafted. Seabirds: Drafting will commence upon completion of NPOA–Sharks. In the meantime fishing companies have been requested to implement all mitigation measures as provided in the IOTC Resolutions.
Oman, Sultanate of					Sharks: No information received by the Secretariat. Seabirds: No information received by the Secretariat.
Pakistan					Sharks: No information received by the Secretariat. Seabirds: No information received by the Secretariat.
Philippines		Sept. 2009		–	Sharks: Under periodic review. Shark catches for 2010 provided to the Secretariat. Seabirds: Development has not begun. No seabird interactions recorded.
Seychelles, Republic of		Apr-2007		–	Sharks: NPOA-sharks to be reviewed in 2012. Seabirds: Development has not begun.
Sierra Leone					Sharks: No information received by the Secretariat. Seabirds: No information received by the Secretariat.
Sri Lanka					Sharks: No information received by the Secretariat. Seabirds: No information received by the Secretariat.
Sudan					Sharks: No information received by the Secretariat. Seabirds: No information received by the Secretariat.
Tanzania, United Republic of		–		–	Sharks: Initial discussions have commenced. Seabirds: Initial discussions have commenced. Note: Terms and conditions related to protected sharks and seabirds contained within fishing licenses.
Thailand		23-Nov-2005		–	Sharks: No revision currently planned. Seabirds: Development has not begun.
United Kingdom		–		–	Chagos waters are a MPA closed to fishing except recreational fishing around Diego Garcia. Section 7 (10) (e) of the Fisheries (Conservation and Management) Ordinance refers to recreational fishing and requires sharks to be released alive.
Vanuatu					Sharks: No information received by the Secretariat. Seabirds: No information received by the Secretariat.
COOPERATING NON-CONTRACTING PARTIES					

Mozambique		–		–	Sharks: Development has not begun. Seabirds: Development has not begun.
Senegal		25-Sept-2006		–	Sharks: The Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission supported the development of a NPOA-sharks for Senegal in 2005. Other activities conducted include the organization of consultations with industry, the investigation of shark biology and social -economics of shark fisheries). The NPOA is currently being revised. Consideration is being made to the inclusion of minimum mesh size, minimum shark size, and a ban on shark finning. Seabirds: The need for a NPOA-seabirds has not yet been assessed.
South Africa, Republic of		–		2008	Sharks: Currently being drafted. Seabirds: Not currently under review.

Colour key	
NPOA Completed	
Drafting being finalised	
Drafting commenced	
Not begun	