

**ON THE CONSERVATION OF SHARKS  
CAUGHT IN ASSOCIATION WITH FISHERIES MANAGED BY IOTC**

SUBMITTED BY: MALDIVES, BANGLADESH, EUROPEAN UNION, INDONESIA, MADAGASCAR, PAKISTAN, SOMALIA, SOUTH AFRICA

**Explanatory memorandum**

The proposed Resolution pursues the following aims:

1) In order to remove redundancies and inconsistencies within the IOTC's existing CMMs for sharks, and to improve legal certainty, the proposed Resolution merges, improves (in line with current best practices and standards among RFMOs ~~and considering the listing of key shark species in CITES Appendix II<sup>1</sup>~~), and supersedes the following Resolutions:

- Resolution 18/02 *On Management Measures for the Conservation of Blue Shark Caught in Association with IOTC Fisheries*
- Resolution 17/05 *Concerning the Conservation of Sharks Caught in Association with Fisheries Managed by the IOTC*
- Resolution 13/06 *On a Scientific and Management Framework on the Conservation of Shark Species Caught in Association with IOTC Managed Fisheries*
- Resolution 12/09 *On the Conservation of Thresher Sharks (Family Alopiidae) Caught in Association with Fisheries in the IOTC Area of Competence*
- Resolution 13/05 *On the Conservation of Whale Sharks (Rhincodon typus)*

2) This proposal also implements Resolution 16/10 To promote the implementation of IOTC Conservation and Management Measures with respect to CMMs for sharks, pursuant to which the Commission “shall consider streamlining existing CMMs by: a) Abolishing outdated CMMs and incorporating key elements that remain to be fully implemented into a new CMM. b) Combining multiple CMMs into a single CMM with multiple sections relating to a single broad subject area.” Moreover, ~~noting~~ that the legal scrubbing process has stalled (cf. Para. 10 of the Report of the 18th Session of the IOTC Compliance Committee, IOTC–2021–CoC18–R[E]), the proposed Resolution incorporates the non-substantive amendments proposed in the Legal Scrub of IOTC Resolutions and Recommendations to reflect best practices in legal drafting, taking into account comments made by CPCs as well as the Guidance and Recommendations for Preparing IOTC Resolutions and Recommendations (cf. IOTC–2020–WPICMM03\_Rev1). Moreover, the proposed amendments introduce terminology that reflects – with some modifications based on comments from CPCs – language from the proposed IOTC Glossary (cf. IOTC–2020–WPICMM03\_Rev1).

3) The proposed Resolution is structured as follows:

- Definitions (now including the order of *Rhinopristiformes* in the definition of sharks as they belong to the *Elasmobranchii*, which are listed in UNCLOS Annex I, and are subject to shark finning practices)
- Application
- Sharks whose utilisation is prohibited (currently: oceanic whitetip sharks, thresher sharks and whale sharks)
- Utilisation of other sharks (including prohibition of shark finning and trade in shark fins)
- By-catch mitigation (now including a prohibition of wire trace as branch lines or leaders, and branch lines running directly off the longline floats or drop lines, known as shark lines in the long-line fishery; this measure is informed by measures of other RFMOs, including WCPFC CMM 2022-04<sup>2</sup>)
- Species-specific requirements (carry over from the CMMs on oceanic whitetip sharks, thresher sharks and whale

<sup>1</sup> <https://cites.org/eng/prog/shark>.

<sup>2</sup> <https://cmm.wcpfc.int/measure/cmm-2022-04>.

sharks)

- Reporting of catches
- Scientific work and recommendations (this section merges and updates the various provisions mandating scientific work and recommendations from the IOTC Scientific Committee)
- Implementation
- Final provisions

**RESOLUTION 23/XX****ON THE CONSERVATION OF SHARKS CAUGHT IN ASSOCIATION WITH FISHERIES MANAGED BY IOTC**

**Keywords:** sharks, retention ban, full utilisation, naturally attached fins, thresher sharks, oceanic whitetip sharks, whale sharks, blue sharks, bycatch mitigation

**The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC),**

RECOGNISING [Resolution 12/01](#) *On the implementation of the precautionary approach* calls on IOTC Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CPCs) to apply the precautionary approach in accordance with Article 5 of the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement;

CONCERNED by the continued failure of IOTC CPCs to submit complete, accurate and timely catch records for sharks in accordance with existing IOTC Resolutions;

ACKNOWLEDGING the need to improve the collection of species-specific data on catch, discards and trade as a basis for improving the conservation and management of shark stocks and aware that identifying sharks by species is rarely possible when fins have been removed from the carcass;

RECALLING that United Nations General Assembly Resolution on Sustainable Fisheries, adopted annually by consensus, since 2007 (A/RES/62/177, 63/112, 64/72, 65/38, 66/68, 67/79, 68/71, 69/109, 70/75, 71/123, 72/72, 73/125, 74/18, 75/89, 76/71 and 77/118) calls upon States to take immediate and concerted action to improve the implementation of and compliance with existing regional fisheries management organisation (RFMO) or arrangement (RFMA) measures that regulate shark fisheries and incidental catch of sharks, in particular those measures which prohibit or restrict fisheries conducted solely for the purpose of harvesting shark fins, and, where necessary, to consider taking other measures, as appropriate, such as requiring that all sharks be landed with fins naturally attached;

FURTHER RECALLING that the FAO International Plan of Action for Sharks calls on States to encourage full use of dead sharks, to facilitate improved species-specific catch and landings data and monitoring of shark catches and the identification and reporting of species-specific biological and trade data;

AWARE that despite regional agreements on the prohibition of shark finning, shark fins continue to be removed on board and the rest of the shark carcass discarded into the sea;

EMPHASISING the recent recommendations of IOTC and WCPFC Scientific Committees that the use of fin-to-carcass weight ratios is not a verifiable means of ensuring the eradication of shark finning and that it has proven ineffective in terms of implementation, enforcement and monitoring;

OBSERVING the adoption of NEAFC Recommendation 10:2015 *on Conservation of Sharks Caught in Association with Fisheries Managed by the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission*, Article 12 of the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures, and GFCM Recommendation 42/2018/2 *on fisheries management measures for the conservation of sharks and rays in the GFCM area of application*, which establish the fins attached policy as the exclusive option for ensuring the shark finning ban in the NEAFC, NAFO and GFCM fisheries;

COGNISANT of the economic and cultural importance of sharks in the IOTC area of competence, the biological importance of sharks in the marine ecosystem as key predatory species, and the significant vulnerability of many shark species to overfishing due to their biology and to the significant overlap of their spatial distribution with fishing activities;

NOTING the advice of the IOTC Scientific Committee in 2021 that maintaining current catches of blue sharks is likely to result in decreasing biomass and the stock becoming overfished and subject to overfishing in the near future;

FURTHER NOTING the advice of the IOTC Scientific Committee in 2021 that recent studies suggest that longline mortality at haulback of oceanic whitetip sharks is high (50%) in the Indian Ocean, while mortality rates for interactions with other gear types such as purse seines and gillnets may be higher;

FURTHER NOTING the advice of the IOTC Scientific Committee in 2021 that the Commission should take a cautious approach to the conservation of shortfin mako sharks and silky sharks by implementing management actions that reduce fishing mortality;

DEEPLY CONCERNED that many species of the order of *Rhinopristiformes* are categorised as ‘threatened’ by the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, while the fins of these species are highly valued in the global shark fin trade, therefore requiring protection of the order of *Rhinopristiformes* from overexploitation for the fin trade in the same ways as the orders of *Selachimorpha*;

~~NOTING that certain species of sharks, including thresher sharks, whale sharks, oceanic whitetip sharks, mako sharks, all species of the families of *Sphyrnidae* (hammerhead sharks), all species of the family of *Carcharhinidae* (requiem sharks) and three all species of the order *Rhinopristiformes*, have been listed under in Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) as species in which trade must be controlled in order to avoid utilisation incompatible with their survival;~~

ADOPTS, in accordance with paragraph 1 of Article IX of the IOTC Agreement, the following:

#### DEFINITIONS

1. For the purpose of this Resolution:

- a) “CPCs” means Contracting Parties or Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties to the IOTC Agreement.
- b) “Sharks” means all species belonging to the 8 orders of *Selachimorpha* (*Carcharhiniformes*, *Lamniformes*, *Orectolobiformes*, *Heterodontiformes*, *Squaliformes*, *Squatinaformes*, *Hexanchiformes*, and *Pristiophoriformes*) and all species of the order of *Rhinopristiformes*.
- c) “Blue sharks” means the species *Prionace glauca*.
- ~~e)d)~~ “Hammerhead sharks” means all species of the family of *Sphyrnidae*.
- e) “Oceanic whitetip sharks” means the species *Carcharhinus longimanus*.
- f) “Mako sharks” means the species *Isurus oxyrinchus* and *Isurus paucus*.
- ~~d)g)~~ “Silky sharks” means the species *Carcharhinus falciformis*.
- ~~e)h)~~ “Thresher sharks” means all species of the family *Alopiidae*.
- ~~f)i)~~ “Whale sharks” means the species *Rhincodon typus*.
- j) “Full utilisation” means the retention by the vessel of all parts of the shark except head, guts and skin, to the point of first landing.
- ~~e)k)~~ “Shark finning” means removing and retaining all or some of a shark’s fins and discarding its carcass at sea.

#### APPLICATION

2. This Resolution shall apply to all fishing vessels ~~flying the flag of a CPC and on the IOTC Record of Fishing Vessels or authorised to fish for~~ tuna or tuna-like species in the IOTC area of competence and supply and support vessels flying the flag of a CPC. ~~This Resolution shall not apply to vessels owned or operated by a CPC on non-commercial service conducting research on the efficacy of the management measures contained in this Resolution.~~

#### SHARKS WHOSE UTILISATION IS PROHIBITED

3. Subject to paragraph 04, ~~flag~~-CPCs shall take all measures necessary to ensure that their flag vessels do not retain on board, transship, land and, store, ~~sell, display or offer for sale~~ any part or whole carcass of the following sharks:
- a) oceanic whitetip sharks;
  - b) thresher sharks; and
  - c) whale sharks.
4. Scientific observers shall be allowed to collect biological samples (vertebrae, tissues, reproductive tracts, stomachs, skin samples, spiral valves, jaws, whole and skeletonised specimens for taxonomic works and museum collections) from sharks listed in paragraph 3 ~~that are dead at haulback~~, provided that they are dead at haulback and that samples are part of a research project approved by the IOTC Scientific Committee. To obtain the approval, a detailed document outlining the purpose of the work, number and type of samples intended to be collected and the spatio-temporal distribution of the sampling work must be included in the proposal for the research project to be submitted to and approved by the IOTC Scientific Committee. Annual progress of the work and a final report on completion of the research project shall be presented to the IOTC Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch and the IOTC Scientific Committee.
5. ~~Flag~~-CPCs shall take all measures necessary to ensure that their flag recreational and sport fishing vessels release alive all caught sharks listed in paragraph 3, ~~in particular thresher sharks~~.
6. ~~Flag~~-CPCs shall take all measures necessary to ensure that their flag recreational and sport fishing vessels carrying out fishing with high probability of catching sharks listed in paragraph 3, ~~in particular thresher sharks~~, are equipped with instruments suitable to release the animals alive.
7. ~~CPCs shall prohibit the purchase, offer for sale and sale of any part or whole carcass of sharks which have been retained on board, transshipped, landed, stored, sold, displayed or offered for sale in contravention of paragraph 3.~~

#### UTILISATION OF OTHER SHARKS

- 8.7. Without prejudice to paragraph 3, CPCs shall take the necessary measures to ensure that their vessels fully utilise their entire catches of sharks and do not conduct on board shark finning.
- 9.8. Without prejudice to paragraph 3, CPCs shall take the measures necessary to ensure that their vessels do not ~~cut off~~remove any shark fins ~~at sea~~on board and land all sharks with their fins naturally attached to the carcass.

8bis. Notwithstanding paragraph 8, in 2024, 2025 and 2026, CPCs may take alternative measures as listed below to ensure that individual shark carcasses and their corresponding fins can be easily identified on board the vessel at any time:

- (1) Each individual shark carcass and its corresponding fins are stored in the same bag, which should preferably be biodegradable;
- (2) Each individual shark carcass is bound to the corresponding fins using rope or wire;
- (3) Identical and uniquely numbered tags are attached to each shark carcass and its corresponding fins in a manner that inspectors can easily identify the matching of the carcass and fins at any time. Both the carcasses and fins shall be stored on board in the same hold. Notwithstanding this requirement, a CPC may allow its fishing vessels to store the carcasses and corresponding fins in different holds if the fishing vessel maintains a record or logbook that shows where the tagged fins and correspondingly tagged carcasses are stored, in a manner that they are easily identified by inspectors.

8ter. At its Session in 2025, the IOTC Scientific Committee shall review the measures contained in paragraphs 8 and

8bis with respect to their ability to ensure the identification of caught shark species, reduction of mortality of vulnerable shark species including those listed in paragraph 3, prevention of the practice of shark finning, full utilization of caught sharks and effective monitoring of compliance with this Resolution. Based on this review, the IOTC Scientific Committee shall provide advice to the Commission on potential improvements or alternative management options to strengthen these measures. At its Session in 2025~~6~~, the Commission shall review the measures contained in paragraphs 8 and 8bis, taking into account the advice of the IOTC Scientific Committee.

~~10.9.~~ Without prejudice to paragraph 3, ~~flag~~-CPCs shall take the measures necessary to ensure that their ~~flag~~ vessels do not retain on board, transship, or land any shark fin which is not naturally attached to the shark carcass.

~~11.10.~~ Without prejudice to paragraph 3, in order to facilitate on board storage, including for the purposes of draining blood to avoid ammonisation, shark fins may be partially sliced through and folded against the shark carcass. However, shark fins shall remain attached to a substantial part of the shark, not just ~~to~~ some vertebrae, allowing the shark to be easily identified to the species level, and shall not be removed from the carcass until the first point of landing.

~~12.~~ ~~CPCs shall prohibit the purchase, offer for sale and sale of shark fins which have been removed on board, retained on board, transshipped, or landed in contravention of this Resolution.~~

#### BYCATCH MITIGATION

~~13.11.~~ Starting on 1 January 2025, ~~flag~~-CPCs shall ensure that their ~~flag~~ long-line vessels do ~~not use or carry:~~

a) ~~use or carry~~ wire trace as branch lines or leaders; ~~and/or~~

b) ~~use~~ branch lines running directly off the longline floats or drop lines, known as shark lines. See Annex I for a schematic diagram of a shark line.

~~11bis.~~ The implementation of the measures contained in paragraph 11 shall be on a vessel by vessel or CPC basis. Each CPC shall submit its choice of implementation to the IOTC Executive Secretary by 1 January 2024, and thereafter by 1 January of each year if the CPC desires to change its selected option for that year. The IOTC Executive Secretary shall notify all CPCs of new or changed choices of implementation.

~~11ter.~~ At its Session in 2024, the IOTC Scientific Committee shall review the measure contained in paragraph 11 with respect to its ability to achieve an effective reduction of bycatch of sharks ~~listed in paragraph 3~~ and provide advice to the Commission on potential improvements or alternative management options for wire trace as branch lines or leaders and shark lines. At its Session in 2025~~6~~, the Commission shall review the measure contained in paragraph 11, taking into account the advice of the IOTC Scientific Committee.

~~14.12.~~ ~~Flag~~-CPCs shall take all measures necessary to ensure that their ~~flag~~ vessels promptly release, to the extent practicable, sharks listed in paragraph 3 if recognised ~~on the line~~ before bringing them on board the vessel or when brought along side to ensure safe identification.

~~13.~~ Without prejudice to paragraph 3, in fisheries in which sharks are unwanted species, CPCs shall take all measures necessary to ensure, to the extent possible, ~~that their vessels the release of live sharks alive,~~ especially juveniles and pregnant sharks that are caught incidentally and are not used ~~on-on~~ board for food and/or subsistence.

~~14.~~ ~~With the aim to reduce post-release mortality, when a shark is released, the branch line shall be cut as close to the mouth / hook as possible while ensuring the safety of the crew.~~

~~15.~~ CPCs shall take all measures necessary to ensure that fishers are aware of and use identification guides (e.g.,

IOTC Shark and Ray Identification in Indian Ocean Fisheries<sup>3</sup>) and guidelines on the safe release of sharks which shall be developed by the IOTC Scientific Committee by 31 December 2024 and subsequently submitted to the Commission for consideration and adoption at its 2025 Session.

#### *SPECIES-SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS FOR BLUE SHARKS*

16. Based on the review and the results of the ~~next latest~~ stock assessment, updated reported catch information by each CPC and taking into account the IOTC Scientific Committee's advice, the Commission shall consider, at its ~~2021-2024~~ meeting, the adoption of specific conservation and management measures for blue sharks, which could include ~~the catch limits~~ for each CPC to be decided taking into account the most recent reported catch information or further bycatch mitigation ~~measures such as a ban on wire trace/shark line for blue shark as appropriate.~~

#### *SPECIES-SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS FOR WHALE SHARKS*

17. ~~Flag~~-CPCs shall take all measures necessary to ensure that their flag vessels do not intentionally set a purse seine net around a whale shark if it is sighted prior to the commencement of the set.
18. ~~Flag~~-CPCs shall take all measures necessary to ensure that, if a whale shark is unintentionally encircled in a purse seine net, the master of the vessel takes all reasonable steps to ensure its safe release, while taking into consideration the safety of the crew. These steps shall follow the best practice guidelines for the safe release and handling of encircled whale sharks to be developed by the IOTC Scientific Committee by 31 December 2024 and subsequently submitted to the Commission for consideration and adoption at its 2025 Session.
19. ~~Flag~~-CPCs shall take all measures necessary to ensure that, if a flag purse seine vessel unintentionally encircles a whale shark in a purse seine net or fishing vessels using other gear types have an interaction with a whale shark in association with their fishing activity, the master of the vessel reports the incident to the relevant authority of the flag State, with the following information:
- i) the number of individuals;
  - ii) a short description of the interaction, including details of how and why the interaction occurred;
  - iii) the location of the interaction;
  - iv) the steps taken to ensure safe release; and
  - v) an assessment of the life status of the animal on release, including whether the whale shark was released alive but subsequently died.

#### *REPORTING ~~REQUIREMENTS OF CATCHES~~*

~~20.~~ Flag-CPCs shall ensure that all interactions with sharks related to paragraphs 3, 5, 12 and 19 are duly recorded through logbooks and, when an observer is on board, through observer reports. Flag-CPCs shall submit this information to the IOTC Executive Secretary by 30 June of the following year and according to the timelines specified in Resolution 15/02 Mandatory Statistical Reporting Requirements for IOTC Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-contracting Parties (CPCs) (or any superseding Resolution). CPCs shall additionally report any instances in which whale sharks have been encircled by the purse seine nets of their flagged vessels in their annual Implementation Report.

~~20-21.~~ CPCs shall report data for catches of all sharks, ~~in particular of blue sharks~~, no later than 30 June of the following year, in accordance with IOTC data reporting requirements and procedures in [Resolution 15/02 Mandatory statistical requirements for IOTC Members and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties \(CPC's\)](#) (or any superseding ~~resolution~~[Resolution](#)), including all available historical data, estimates and status of discards (dead or alive) and size frequencies.

~~21-22.~~ The Commission, on advice from the IOTC Scientific Committee, shall develop and consider for adoption at

<sup>3</sup> <https://iotc.org/science/species-identification-cards>.

its 2025 annual Session mechanisms to encourage CPCs to comply with their reporting requirements on sharks, notably on the most vulnerable shark species as identified by the IOTC Scientific Committee.

22-23. The Commission shall consider appropriate assistance to developing CPCs for the identification of sharks and the collection of data on their shark catches and assist in reporting of those.

23-24. CPCs shall include in their national Annual Reports to the IOTC Scientific Committee information on the actions they have taken domestically to monitor catches.

#### **EXEMPTIONS FOR ARTISANAL FISHING VESSELS**

24bis. Coastal CPCs may exempt their artisanal fishing vessels operating exclusively in their territorial sea, archipelagic waters and Exclusive Economic Zone from the application of paragraphs 3, 11, 12 and 20 if they catch sharks for purposes of subsistence and local consumption. Each coastal CPC shall notify ~~its~~ ~~their~~ decision to use the exemption to the IOTC Executive Secretary by 31 March 2024. The decision to use the exemption will remain active until the coastal CPC withdraws it. The IOTC Executive Secretary shall notify all CPCs of these exemptions.

#### *NATIONAL ACTION PLANS*

24-25. CPCs ~~shall~~ should implement the FAO International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks (IPOA Sharks).<sup>4</sup>

25-26. CPCs ~~shall~~ should include their National Plans of Action under the IPOA Sharks in their annual Implementation Report.

#### *SCIENTIFIC WORK AND RECOMMENDATIONS*

26-27. The IOTC Scientific Committee shall request that the IOTC Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch continue its work on identifying and monitoring the status of sharks until such time as comprehensive assessments are possible for all relevant sharks, including those listed in paragraph 3 and silky sharks, hammerhead sharks and mako sharks. The IOTC Scientific Committee shall establish terms of reference ~~to~~ establish for a long term-project on sharks in the IOTC area of competence to be considered by the ~~29<sup>th</sup>~~ 29<sup>th</sup> ~~Session of the Commission at its Session in 2025~~, with the aim to ensure the collection of data required for performing reliable stock assessments for key shark species, including those listed in paragraph 3 and silky sharks, hammerhead sharks and mako sharks. The project will include:

- a) the identification of data gaps for key shark species in IOTC;
- b) the collection of relevant data, including through direct contacts with CPC national administrations, research institutes and stakeholders;
- c) any other activity that could contribute to improving the collection of data required for performing stock assessments of key shark species in IOTC;
- d) the development and further improvement of shark identification guides for relevant shark species to provide a better overview on the compliance status of CPCs and thereby assist CPCs to comply with their reporting obligations. The IOTC Executive Secretary shall make these shark identification guides available on the IOTC website and distribute them among CPCs in regular intervals.

CPCs are encouraged to contribute financially to the implementation of the project.

27-28. CPCs with reported catches and landings of sharks shall undertake research to:

- a) identify ways to make fishing gears more selective and reduce the mortality of incidentally caught

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.fao.org/ipoa-sharks/tools/en/>.

sharks, in particular those listed in paragraph 3;

- b) improve knowledge on key biological/ecological parameters, life-history, behavioral traits, migration patterns, and post-release survival of key shark species, including those listed in those listed in paragraph 3 and silky sharks, hammerhead sharks and mako sharks;
- b)c) ~~for purposes of facilitate~~ capacity building of CPCs in shark species identification to improve data reporting at species level;
- e)d) identify key shark mating, pupping and nursery areas, including those listed in paragraph 3 and silky sharks, hammerhead sharks and mako sharks; and
- d)e) improve handling practices for live sharks to maximise post-release survival.

CPCs shall make the results of any such research available to the IOTC Scientific Committee and the IOTC Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch.

~~28-29.~~ The IOTC Scientific Committee shall review annually the information reported by CPCs pursuant to this Resolution and the results of the research project pursuant to paragraph 27. On this basis, the IOTC Scientific Committee shall, as appropriate and on an annual basis, provide recommendations to the Commission on ways to strengthen the conservation and management of sharks within IOTC, including:

- a) prohibition of utilisation of other sharks under paragraph 3 of this Resolution as appropriate;
- b) measures to improve the conservation of sharks whose utilisation is prohibited under paragraph 3, including mitigation measures to reduce the mortality of sharks, improving selectivity of fishing gears, spatial/temporal closures or minimum conservation sizes;
- c) measures to improve the conservation and management of sharks whose utilisation is not prohibited,
- d) options for candidate limit, threshold and target reference points for the conservation and management of sharks caught for commercial purposes, such as blue sharks;
- e) catch limits for each CPC for sharks caught for commercial purposes, such as blue sharks;
- f) spatial/temporal closures or minimum conservation sizes;
- g) bycatch mitigation measures, including improvements of fishing gear selectivity and technical measures on-board to reduce bycatch mortality and increase post-release survival rates such as double conveyor belts for the release of incidentally caught shark in purse seine fisheries ~~to increase the probability of survival for discarded sharks~~;
- h) options to reduce post-release mortality sharks to be included in Resolution 15/01 *On the Recording of Catch and Effort Data by Fishing Vessels in the IOTC Area of Competence* (or any superseding Resolution) as species whose catch must be recorded.

~~29-30.~~ In providing its recommendations pursuant to paragraph ~~29~~~~2932~~, the IOTC Scientific Committee shall take into account, *inter alia*, the following:

- a) full stock assessments on sharks, stock assessments and in the absence of more robust scientific information, Ecological Risk Assessments (ERAs) by fishing gears, using the best available scientific data/information;
- b) trend of fishing effort by fishing gear on each shark species;
- c) effectiveness of conservation and management measures for ~~certain-those~~ fishing gears posing a high risk of incidental catches or other harmful impacts on sharks;
- d) priority in sharks with high risk, ~~particularly those listed in Appendices I or II of CITES~~;
- e) review of the practical implementation of the retention ban in paragraph 3;
- f) feasibility of the implementation of the retention ban in paragraph 3, including identification of shark species;
- g) impact and bias of conservation and management measures of sharks on fishing operations and shark data/information collected and reported by CPCs; and
- h) Resolution 12/01 *On the Implementation of the Precautionary Approach*.

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*FINAL PROVISIONS*

~~30.31.~~ ~~With the exception of paragraphs 30 to 33, which shall enter into force immediately, t~~This Resolution shall enter into force on 1 January 2024.

~~31.32.~~ This Resolution supersedes Resolution 18/02 *On Management Measures for the Conservation of Blue Shark Caught in Association with IOTC Fisheries*, Resolution 17/05 *Concerning the Conservation of Sharks Caught in Association with Fisheries Managed by the IOTC*, Resolution 13/05 *On the Conservation of Whale Sharks (Rhincodon typus)*, Resolution 13/06 *On a Scientific and Management Framework on the Conservation of Shark Species Caught in Association with IOTC Managed Fisheries*, and Resolution 12/09 *On the Conservation of Thresher Sharks (Family Alopiidae) Caught in Association with Fisheries in the IOTC Area of Competence*.

ANNEX I: SCHEMATIC DIAGRAM OF A SHARK LINE

*LONGLINE*

