STATUS OF DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL PLANS OF ACTION FOR SEABIRDS AND SHARKS, AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FAO GUIDELINES TO REDUCE MARINE TURTLE MORTALITY IN FISHING OPERATIONS

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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, and the implementation of the FAO guidelines to reduce marine turtle mortality in fishing operations, by each CPC.

BACKGROUND

NPOA-Sharks

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).

IOTC Resolution 25/08 adopted in 2025 requires CPCs to implement the FAO International plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks and required CPCs to include their National Plans of Action in their annual Implementation Report.

NPOA-Seabirds

In 1998, member countries of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) developed the International Plan of Action for reducing incidental catch of seabirds in longline fisheries (IPOA–Seabirds; FAO 1998). The IPOA–Seabirds suggests that members develop should conduct an assessment of their longline fisheries to determine if a problem exists with respect to incidental catch of seabirds. If a problem exists, States should adopt a National Plan of Action for reducing the incidental catch of seabirds in longline fisheries.

The original purpose of the FAO NPOA-Seabirds was to address concerns about longline fishing. However, recent information has shown significant concerns about seabird bycatch in several other capture fisheries, especially gillnet fishing. The 2009 FAO Best Practice Technical Guidelines (FAO 2009a), developed to assist in the preparation of NPOA-Seabirds, explicitly includes advice on longline, trawl and gillnet fisheries.

FAO Guidelines to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality in Fishing Operations

At the 26th FAO–COFI Session in March 2005, the *Guidelines to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality in Fishing Operations* (FAO 2009b), were adopted. Following adoption of 'the guidelines', it was recommended that they be implemented by all regional fisheries bodies and management organisations;

Subsequently, the IOTC adopted legally binding text within a Resolution, that all CPCs of the Commission implement 'the guidelines' (in Resolution 09/06 which was superseded by Resolution 12/04).

IOTC Resolution 12/04 *on the conservation of marine turtles* states:

Para. 2. *Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (hereinafter referred to as "CPCs") will implement, as appropriate, the FAO Guidelines.*

Para. 5. *CPCs shall report to the Commission in the annual implementation report, in accordance with Article X of the IOTC Agreement, their progress of implementation of the FAO Guidelines and this Resolution.*

Para. 16. *CPCs are encouraged to support developing countries in their implementation of the FAO Guidelines and this Resolution.*

DISCUSSION

In 2016, *"The SC **NOTED** the differences in the status of turtles and the lack of clarity regarding whether FAO guidelines are being followed and **AGREED** that each CPC would update its status and provide supporting text as justification for review by the SC"* (IOTC-2016-SC19-R, para. 86).

The most recent updated table of progress in implementing NPOA-Sharks, NPOA-Seabirds and the FAO Guidelines to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality in Fishing Operations as reported by CPCs to the Secretariat, is provided in Appendix I.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the Scientific Committee **NOTE** and **CONSIDER** paper IOTC–2026–SC29–06 which details the current status of development and implementation of National Plans of Action for seabirds and sharks, and the implementation of the FAO guidelines to reduce marine turtle mortality in fishing operations, by each CPC, and provides updates where appropriate.

APPENDIX

Appendix I: 2026: Status of development and implementation of National Plans of Action (NPOA) for seabirds and sharks and implementation of the FAO guidelines to reduce marine turtle mortality in fishing operations.

LITERATURE CITED

FAO 1998. International Plan of Action for Reducing Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries. United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation, Rome. http://www.fao.org/fishery/ipoa-seabirds/en

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FAO 2009a. FAO. Fishing operations. 2. Best practices to reduce incidental catch of seabirds in capture fisheries. FAO Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries. No. 1, Suppl. 2. Rome, FAO. 2009. 49p. http://www.fao.org/docrep/012/i1145e/i1145e00.pdf

FAO 2009b. The guidelines to reduce sea turtle mortality in fishing operation. United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation, Rome. http://www.fao.org/docrep/012/i0725e/i0725e00.htm

APPENDIX I

2026: STATUS OF DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL PLANS OF ACTION (NPOA) FOR SEABIRDS AND SHARKS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FAO GUIDELINES TO REDUCE MARINE TURTLE MORTALITY IN FISHING OPERATIONS

CPC	Sharks	Date of Implementation	Seabirds	Date of implementation	Marine turtles	Date of implementation	Comments
MEMBERS							
Australia		1st: April 2004 2nd: July 2012 3rd: 2021 4th: August 2024		1st: 1998 2nd: 2006 3rd: 2014 NPOA in 2018.		2003	**Sharks:** 3rd NPOA-Sharks (Shark-plan 3) was released in 2021 replacing the previous Shark-plan 2. Australia produced a revised NPOA for the conservation and management of sharks (Revised Shark-plan 2) in 2024. **Seabirds:** Has implemented a Threat Abatement Plan [TAP] for the Incidental Catch (or Bycatch) of Seabirds During Oceanic Longline Fishing Operations since 1998. The present TAP took effect from 2014 and largely fulfilled the role of an NPOA in terms of longline fisheries. http://www.antarctica.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0017/21509/Threat-Abatement-Plan-2014.pdf. In 2018 Australia finalised an NPOA to address the potential risk posed to seabirds by other fishing methods, including longline fishing in state and territory waters, which are not covered by the current threat abatement plan. This NPOA is currently being reviewed. **Marine turtles:** Australia's current marine turtle bycatch management and mitigation measures fulfil Australia's obligations under the FAO-Sea turtles Guidelines.
Bangladesh			n.a.				**Sharks:** Bangladesh has finalised a NPOA for shark and rays which will be in place for 2023-2027. The Wildlife Conservation and Security Act introduced in 2012 lays out rules on requirements for hunting wild animals. It includes provisions for the protection of sharks and rays including the species for which there are active IOTC CMMs (hammerhead, blue, mako, silky, oceanic whitetip, thresher and whale sharks, and mobulid rays). **Seabirds:** Bangladesh currently does not have a NPOA for seabirds. The Wildlife Conservation and Security Act introduced in 2012 lays out rules on permits required to hunt wild animals and includes provisions for the protection of seabirds. Bangladesh does not have any flagged purse seine or longline vessels so do not consider there to be any problems with seabird interactions in their fisheries. **Marine turtles:** Bangladesh currently have no information on their implementation of FAO guidelines on sea turtles. The Wildlife Conservation and Security Act

							introduced in 2012 lays out rules on requirements for hunting wild animals and includes provisions for the protection of marine turtles. A Marine Fisheries Rules act was finalised in 2023 which requires the use of turtle excluder devices onboard shrimp trawlers. The act also requires live release of marine turtles for all gear and the mandatory use of circle hooks for hook and line fishing.
China		–		–			**Sharks:** China is currently considering developing an NPOA for sharks. Regulations relating to the conservation of sharks managed by RFMOs have been updated. Targeted distant water fisheries for sharks and rays are prohibited and vessels must avoid or reduce catching of sharks. Sharks (species not under a retention ban) caught as bycatch shall be fully utilised and finning is prohibited. Longliners are prohibited from using shark lines and wire tracers. **Seabirds:** China is currently considering developing an NPOA for seabirds. Regulations relating to the conservation of seabirds managed by RFMOs have been updated. Vessels operating in the area south of 25ºS shall use two mitigation measures from: tori lines, night setting and weighted branch lines. They may also use hook-shielding devices to replace the above three measures. **Marine turtles:** Regulations relating to the conservation of turtles managed by RFMOs has been updated. All longlines shall use circle hooks whenever possible. Longline vessels are encouraged to use finfish as bait, not squid.
–Taiwan,China		1st: May 2006 2nd: May 2012		1st: May 2006 2nd: Jul 2014			**Sharks:** No revision currently planned. **Seabirds:** No revision currently planned. **Marine turtles:** Wildlife Protection Act introduced in 2013, Protected Wildlife shall not be disturbed, abused, hunted, killed, traded, exhibited, displayed, owned, imported, exported, raised or bred, unless under special circumstances recognized in this or related legislation. *Cheloniidae spp*., *Caretta Caretta*, *Chelonia mydas*, *Eretmochelys imbricata, Lepidochelys olivacea* and *Dermochelys coriacea* are listed into List of Protected Species. Domestic Fisheries Management Regulation on Far Sea Fisheries request all fishing vessels must carry line cutters, de-hookers and hauling nets in order to facilitate the appropriate handling and prompt release of marine turtles caught or entangled.
Comoros		–		–			**Sharks:** No NPOA has been developed. Shark fishing is prohibited but measures are difficult to enforce due to the artisanal nature of the fisheries. A campaign to raise awareness of measures is being implemented to improve compliance. Shark catches and size frequency data are submitted to IOTC **Seabirds:** No NPOA has been developed. There is no fleet in operation south of 25 degrees south and no long-line fleet. The main fishery is artisanal operating within 24 miles of the coast where there is low risk of interactions with seabirds. **Marine turtles:** According to the Comoros Fisheries Code Article 78, fishing, capture, possession and marketing of turtle and marine mammals or of protected aquatic

							organisms is strictly forbidden in accordance with national legislation in force and International Conventions applicable to the Comoros.
European Union		5 Feb 2009		16-Nov-2012		2007	Regulation n°2021-47 of 9th of July 2021 legislating tuna and tuna-like species fisheries includes marine species protection measures, especially in its Annex 2, aiming to reduce the impact on marine turtles, sea birds and sharks. **Sharks:** Approved on 05-Feb-2009 and it is currently being implemented. **Seabirds:** The EU adopted on Friday 16 November 2012 an Action Plan to address the problem of incidental catches of seabirds in fishing gears. A specific national plan of action has been published for Albatrosses which runs from 2018-2027. **Marine turtles**: European Union Council Regulation (EC) No 520/2007 of 7 May 2007 lay down technical measures for the conservation of marine turtles including articles and provisions to reduce marine turtle bycatch. The regulation urges Member States to do their utmost to reduce the impact of fishing on sea turtles, in particular by applying the measures provided for in paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of the resolution.
France (territories)		2009		2009, 2011		2015	**Sharks:** NPOA for sharks was approved on 05-Feb-2009. No vessel on the RAV and no coastal fisheries active in 2025. Under decree n° 2021-47 of 6 July 2021, confirmation of recording of by-catch and accidental catches, in particular catches of sharks, rays, sea turtles, birds and marine mammals, relating to each of the fishing operations carried out. **Seabirds:** NPOA for seabirds was implemented in 2009 and 2011. 2009 for Barrau's petrel and 2019 for Amsterdam albatross which will be in force from 2018-2027. **Marine turtles:** Implemented in 2015 for the five species of marine turtles that are present in the southwest Indian Ocean for the period 2015-2020. This is still being applied and currently being revised and will be published in 2025.
India							**Sharks:** India published their NPOA sharks in 2024. **Seabirds:** India has determined that seabird interactions are not a problem for their fleets. However, a formal evaluation has not yet taken place which the WPEB and SC require. **Marine turtles:** India published an action plan for marine turtles in 2021 titled "National Marine Turtle Action Plan".
Indonesia		2016		–			**Sharks:** Indonesia first drafted a NPOA in 2010 then later developed a revised NPOA for sharks and rays for the period 2016-2020. Indonesia has also established a national plan of action for whale sharks from 2021-2025 through Ministerial Decree No. 16 of 2021. Indonesia plans to review the NPOA for sharks in 2025. **Seabirds:** An NPOA for seabirds was finalized in 2016 **Marine turtles:** Indonesia has established an NPOA for Marine Turtles in 2022 and

							this will be reviewed in 2025. Indonesia has also been implementing Ministerial Regulations 12/2012 and 30/2012 regarding capture fishing business on high seas to reduce turtle bycatch. Indonesia is also cooperating with Coral Triangle countries including Malaysia, the Philippines, the Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, and Timor Leste through Coral Triangle Initiatives on Coral Reefs, Fish, and Food Security (CTI CFF) platform to protect threatened migratory species, including marine turtles. The CTI CFF is now developing a regional plan of action (RPOA) 2020-2030 and areas of critical habitats, such as migratory corridors, nesting beaches, and Inter-nesting and feeding areas, have been identified.
Iran, Islamic Republic of		–		–		_	**Sharks:** A NPOA for sharks and rays has been developed and is currently under review. Iran has implemented a nationwide ban on the targeted fishing and retention of sharks which has been formally communicated to all fishing operations, fishermen and fishing cooperatives. **Seabirds:** I.R. Iran determined that seabird interactions are not a problem for their fleet as they consist of gillnet vessels only. i.e. no longline vessels. The nets are set between 1-2m below the surface of the water and no bycatch of oceanic seabirds has been reported to date. **Marine turtles:** An Action Plan for the conservation of sea turtles has been fully developed and is now awaiting translation into English for submission to the Secretariat.
Japan		2012 2016, 2023		2012, 2016			**Sharks:** NPOA–Shark assessment implementation report submitted to COFI in July 2012 has since been revised in 2016 and again in 2023. **Seabirds:** NPOA–Seabird implementation report submitted to COFI in July 2012 (Revised in 2016). **Marine turtles:** All Japanese fleets fully implement Resolution 12/04.
Kenya		2023	n.a.	–			**Sharks:** A National Plan of Action for sharks was finalised in 2023. This document shall put in place a framework to ensure the conservation and management of sharks and their long-term sustainable use in Kenya. **Seabirds:** Kenya does not have any flagged longline vessels on its registry. There is no evidence of any gear seabird interaction with the current fishing fleet. Kenya has prepared a NPOA for seabirds which is in the process of being reviewed by relevant stakeholders. **Marine turtles:** The Kenyan fisheries law prohibits retention and landing of turtles caught incidentally in fishing operations. Public awareness efforts are conducted for artisanal gillnet and artisanal longline fishing fleets on the mitigations measures that enhance marine turtle conservation. Kenya has prepared a NPOA for marine turtles which is in the process of being reviewed by relevant stakeholders.
Korea, Republic of		08-Aug-11		2019		_	**Sharks:** NPOA sharks is currently being implemented.

							Seabirds: NPOA seabirds was submitted to FAO in 2019. **Marine turtles:** All Rep. of Korea vessels fully implement Res 12/04.
Madagascar		2022		–			**Sharks:** Madagascar developed a NPOA for sharks in 2022 which is valid from 2022-2026. **Seabirds:** Development on a NPOA for seabirds 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. **Marine turtles:** There is zero capture of marine turtle recorded in logbooks. All longliners use circle hooks. This has been confirmed by onboard observers and port samplers.
Malaysia		2008 2014 2024		–		2008	**Sharks:** A revised NPOA-sharks was published in 2024 and will be in place for 2024-2030. **Seabirds:** A NPOA for seabirds is yet to be developed **Marine turtles:** A NPOA For Conservation and Management of Sea Turtles had been published in 2008. A revision will be published in 2017.
Maldives, Republic of		Apr 2015	n.a.	–			**Sharks:** NPOA Sharks was finalised in 2015 with the assistance of Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BoBLME) Project. On 14th July 2019 the Government of Maldives officially announced the cessation of the Maldives long line fishery in Maldives EEZ and High Seas so consider the NPOA for sharks to now be unnecessary. **Seabirds:** Maldives is in the final stages of developing an action plan on seabird nesting sites. Article 12 of IPOA states that if a 'problem exists' CPCs adopt an NPOA. IOTC Resolution 05/09 suggests CPCs to report on seabirds to the IOTC Scientific Committee if the issue is appropriate'. Maldives considers that seabird entanglement and bycatch is not an issue in Maldives fisheries especially with the cessation of the Maldives long line fishery in 2019. **Marine turtles:** Standards of code and conduct for managing sea turtles have been developed by the Environmental Protection Agency in the drafted national sea turtle management plan under the protected species regulation. Longline regulation has provisions to reduce marine turtle bycatch. The regulation urges longline vessels to have dehookers for removal of hook and a line cutter on board, to release the caught marine turtles as prescribed in Resolution 12/04.
Mauritius		2016					**Sharks:** The NPOA-sharks has been implemented since 2015 at the national level; it focuses on actions needed to exercise influence on foreign fishing through the IOTC process and licence conditions, as well as improving the national legislation and the skills and data handling systems available for managing sharks.

							Seabirds: Mauritius does not have national vessels operating beyond 25°S. However, fishing companies have been requested to implement all mitigation measures as provided in the IOTC Resolutions. There are currently no plans to develop a NPOA for seabirds. **Marine turtles:** Marine turtles are protected by the national law. Fishing companies have been **requested** to carry line cutters and de-hookers in order to facilitate the appropriate handling and prompt release of marine turtles caught or entangled. There are currently no plans to develop a NPOA for marine turtles.
Mozambique		–		–			**Sharks**: Mozambique developed and approved a NPOA for sharks in 2025. This is just in the final stages of being published. **Seabirds**: Mozambique is regularly briefing the Masters of their fishing vessels on the mandatory requirement to report any seabird interaction with longliner fleet. **Marine turtles**: see above.
Oman, Sultanate of							**Sharks:** Oman is still developing a NPOA for sharks. A public consultation process is ongoing to establish a proper national plan, in line with FAO guidelines. **Seabirds:** Not yet initiated. **Marine turtles:** The law does not allow the catch of sea turtles, and the fishermen are requested to release any hooked or entangled turtle. The longline fleet are required to carry out the line cutters and de-hookers.
Pakistan							**Sharks:** Pakistan is in the process of consultation with stakeholders for the formulation of NPOA for sharks with the assistance of FAO. The NPOA will be completed in due course of time after the complete consultation with stake holders. in the mean time Pakistan has enforced the measures suggested in FAO in its statues IPOA. Pakistan vide S.R.O 752(I)2025 dated February 11th, 2025 notified conservation measures for marine biodiversity including all species of sharks occurring in IOTC area of competence. **Seabirds:** Pakistan considers that seabird interactions are not a problem for the Pakistani fishing fleet as the tuna fishing operations do not include longline vessels. **Marine turtles:** Pakistan has already framed Regulations regarding the prohibition of catching and retaining marine turtles. As regards to the reduction of marine turtle bycatch by gillnetters; presently Marine Fisheries Department (MFD) in collaboration with International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Pakistan, is undertaking an assessment. Stakeholder Coordination Committee Meeting was conducted on 10th September 2014. The "Turtle Assessment Report (TAR)" will be finalized by February 2015 and necessary guidelines / action plan will be finalized by June 2015. As per clause-5 (c) of Pakistan Fish Inspection & Quality Control Act, 1997, "Aquatic turtles, tortoises, snakes, mammals including dugongs, dolphins, porpoises and whales etc" are totally forbidden for export and domestic

							consumption. Pakistan is also in the process of drafting a NPOA for cetaceans.
Philippines		Sept. 2009 2017		–			**Sharks:** A first NPOA sharks was published in 2009. A second was published in 2017 and was meant to be in place from 2017-2022. Several regulatory and management measures have since been adopted to strengthen the conservation and management of sharks and related species. These include Fisheries Administrative Order No. 272, Series of 2023, providing rules and regulations for the conservation and management of sharks for Philippine-flagged fishing vessels, as well as Fisheries Administrative Order No. 208-1, Series of 2024, providing additional regulatory measures relevant to the conservation and management of sharks and rays. In addition, the Philippines has formulated the Shark, Ray, and Chimaera Conservation and Fisheries Management Framework as part of the preparation for the development/update of the next NPOA-Sharks. The framework provides a national basis for strengthening and coordinating conservation, management, monitoring, enforcement, research, capacity-building, and socio-economic measures for sharks, rays, and chimaeras. **Seabirds and Marine Turtles:** Seabirds and marine turtles are primarily under the jurisdiction of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). However, both are also covered by relevant fisheries regulations. In particular, Department of Agriculture Administrative Order No. 10, Series of 2015, the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 10654, provides under Section 32 that distant-water fishing vessels shall comply with the monitoring, control, and surveillance requirements, conservation and management measures, and fishing access conditions of the Department, the relevant RFMO, or other coastal States.
Seychelles, Republic of		Apr-2007 2016		–			**Sharks:** Seychelles developed and is implementing a NPOA for Sharks for years 2016-2020 which was extended for 2025. Seychelles are working to review the previous NPOA for sharks, the review process will begin in mid 2026. **Seabirds:** SFA is working to develop an NPOA for seabirds. Phase one, which addressed the biology, ecology, and population of seabirds potentially impacted by the Seychelles longline fleet, has been completed. Phase two will assess the potential impacts of the fleet on vulnerable seabirds and recommend mitigation measures and is scheduled for 2027. The NPOA is being developed specifically to address marine turtle bycatch and mortality associated with fisheries. **Marine turtles:** The development of a NPOA for turtles has been started by a consultant. The consultancy is ongoing and is currently at the stakeholder consultation stage. The NPOA is being developed specifically to address marine turtle bycatch and mortality associated with fisheries.
Somalia							**Sharks:** Somalia is currently revising its fisheries legislation (current one being from 1985) and has completed the necessary steps for required for the consultative

							process to begin in order to develop these NPOAs. **Seabirds:** See above. **Marine turtles:** The Somali national fisheries law and legislation was reviewed and approved in 2014. This includes Articles on the protection of marine turtles. Further review of the National Law is underway to harmonize this with IOTC Resolutions and is expected to be presented to the new parliament for endorsement in 2017.
South Africa, Republic of		2013 2022		2008			**Sharks**: The NPOA-sharks was first approved and published in 2013. A revised version of the document was finalised in 2022 following extensive review including input from the research community and affected stakeholders. **Seabirds**: The NPOA seabirds was published in August 2008 and fully implemented. An updated NPOA has been drafted and is now awaiting approval. **Marine turtles**: All FAO guidelines to reduce marine turtle mortality have been inserted into permit conditions. A report from 2019 on the implementation of FAO guidelines to reduce marine turtle mortality has been provided to the IOTC. Bycatch in South African fisheries is considered to be very low. The South African permit conditions for the large pelagic longline fishery prohibits landing of turtles. All interactions with turtles are recorded, by species, within logbooks and in observer reports, including data on release condition. Vessels are required to carry a de-hooker on board and instructions on turtle handling and release in line with the FAO guidelines are included in the South African Large Pelagic permit conditions. All turtle interactions in respective areas of competence are reported to the respective RFMOs. Recent South African led studies on impact of marine debris on turtles have been published in the scientific literature (Ryan et al. 2016). Marine turtle nesting sites in South Africa are protected by coastal MPAs since 1963.
Sri Lanka		2013 2018					**Sharks:** The first NPOA-sharks was finalized in 2013 then revised in 2018 which was valid until 2022. A new version was developed in 2025 and is now awaiting stakeholder inputs. Shark data collection is done through logbooks and a large pelagic data collection programme. NARA has started to collect fisheries and biological data on blue, silky and scalloped hammerhead sharks. **Seabirds:** Sri Lanka has determined that seabird interactions are not a problem for their fleets. However, a formal review has not yet been provided to the WPEB and SC for approval. **Marine turtles:** Implementation of the FAO Guideline to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality in Fishing Operation in 2015 was submitted to IOTC in January 2016. Marine turtles are legally protected in Sri Lanka. Longliner vessels are required to have dehookers for removal of hooks and a line cutter on board, to release the caught marine turtles. Gillnets longer than 2.5 km are now prohibited in domestic legislation. Reporting of bycatch has made legally mandatory and facilitated via logbooks.
Sudan							**Sharks:** No information received by the Secretariat.

							Seabirds: No information received by the Secretariat. **Marine turtles:** No information received by the Secretariat.
Tanzania, United Republic of		2025		–		2024	**Sharks:** A NPOA was developed and finalised in 2025 and will be in place for 2026-2035. **Seabirds:** NPOA for seabirds is being finalised. Note: Terms and conditions related to protected sharks and seabirds contained within fishing licenses. **Marine turtles:** A NPOA for turtles was developed in 2024. Sea turtles are protected by law. However, as there is a national turtle and Dugong conservation committee that oversee all issues related to sea turtles and dugongs. There is no information so far with regards to interaction between sea turtles and long line fishery.
Thailand		2020		–			**Sharks:** An updated NPOA Sharks has been developed for the years 2020-2024 and has been submitted to the Secretariat and FAO. There is a new NPOA for sharks going through an internal reviewing process. **Seabirds:** The NPOA for seabirds has been finalised and submitted to the Secretariat. Thailand has the Notification of the Department of Fisheries on Requirement and Regulations of Fishing Vessels Operating Outside Thai Water in IOTC Area of Competence (IOTC) B.E. 2565 (2022), Clause 18 and 21 include requirements for line-cutters and dehookers to be carried for releasing marine animals and for any fishing vessel operating south of 25°S to follow the measures for mitigating capture of seabirds. **Marine turtles:** Thailand reports on progress of the implementation of FAO guidelines on turtles in their National Report to IOTC. Regulations on Fishing Vessels operating outside Thai waters in the IOTC area of competence contains clauses relating to the conservation of marine turtles including: Clause 14 prohibiting purse seines from setting around cetaceans, marine turtles or whale sharks; Clause 18 requiring the release and recording of incidental bycatch of sensitive species including marine turtles; Clause 19 requiring that any bycaught marine turtles that are not healthy should be cared for until it is ready to be released.
United Kingdom	n.a.	–	n.a.	–		–	British Indian Ocean Territory (Chagos Archipelago) waters are a Marine Protected Area closed to fishing except recreational fishing in the 3nm territorial waters around Diego Garcia. Separate NPOAs have not been developed within this context. **Sharks/Seabirds:** For sharks, UK is the 24th signatory to the Convention on Migratory Species 'Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Sharks' which extends the agreement to UK Overseas Territories including the British Indian Ocean Territory; Section 7 (10) (e) of the *Fisheries (Conservation and Management) Ordinance* refers to recreational fishing and requires sharks to be released alive. No seabirds are caught in the recreational fishery. **Marine turtles:** No marine turtles are captured in the recreational fishery. A

							monitoring programme is taking place to assess the marine turtle population in UK (OT). In August 2022 the UK Government published the Bycatch Mitigation Initiative which applies to metropolitan UK waters but includes commitments to work with the international community to contribute to the understanding, reduction and elimination of bycatch globally, including by advocating for effective measures through RFMOs.
Yemen							**Sharks:** No information received by the Secretariat. **Seabirds:** No information received by the Secretariat. **Marine turtles:** No information received by the Secretariat.

Colour key	
Completed	
Drafting being finalised	
Drafting commenced	
Not begun	