



**HUMANE SOCIETY
INTERNATIONAL**

**HSI Report to the Ninth meeting of the
Ecologically Related Species Working Group
Tokyo, Japan, 27-30 March 2012**

Humane Society International (HSI) is pleased to provide the following report of recent activities. HSI is represented at the CCSBT ERSWG by its Australian office.

HSI has been working both internationally and in Australia on ecologically related species issues. The following is a brief report of our recent activities, from our Australian and US offices:

Internationally

- Strongly advocated at every opportunity for the necessity that line weighting be recognised as the mandatory backbone of ERS mitigation for pelagic longline fisheries.
- participated in ACAP Advisory Committee meeting in August 2011, providing technical input
- participated in artisanal fisheries seabird bycatch mitigation - development of practical solutions and provision of ongoing advice to NGO's working in the region in Ecuador & Peru in August 2011
- participated in Compliance Committee and Extended Commission meetings of CCSBT in October 2011
- Prepared a tuna bycatch compendium of conservation and management measures, a joint NGO initiative to assist tuna RFMO's in managing and addressing bycatch issues, in 2010. This document is kept regularly updated and the June 2011 version has been submitted to the ERSWG (Inf Doc 30).
- Co-led efforts to obtain the passage of the Shark Conservation Act which was signed into U.S. law in January 2012 and mandates that all sharks must be landed with fins naturally attached and that the U.S. should work towards obtaining similar measures abroad.
- Organized and co-hosted a side event with the government of Costa Rica at the UN FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) meeting to present the fins attached method of banning shark finning.
- Instrumental in drafting and obtaining the adoption of a joint resolution with partner NGOs from the Sea Turtle Restoration Project (STRP), Pretoma and the Leatherback Trust for increasing protection for leatherback sea turtles in the Eastern Tropical Pacific where they are critically endangered.
- Participated in the annual meeting of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) and successfully lobbied for the adoption of a ban on retention of oceanic whitetip sharks and mitigation measures for seabirds.
- As the result of our continued efforts which began at our shark finning workshop in Costa Rica in September 2010, Chile's Congress unanimously adopted its first ban on shark finning which requires that sharks are landed with fins attached and Central American countries plus the Dominican Republic agreed by consensus to implement a regional ban on shark finning.
- Played a leadership role in the adoption of legislation to ban the sale and trade in shark fins in Guam, the Marianna Islands, California, Washington, Oregon, and Toronto.
- Successfully lobbied for protection for giant manta rays at a meeting of the UN Convention on Migratory Species in November 2011.



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- Our efforts led to the adoption by the European Commission of strong draft legislative proposal on strengthening the EU's shark finning regulations.

Domestically

- As a member of Australia's threat abatement team HSI has been instrumental in developing seabird mitigation requirements for Australian fisheries.
- Commented on the ongoing reform of federal environmental legislation, the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, relevant particularly as a number of seabird species are impacted by fisheries.
- Commented on a number of fisheries assessments under federal environmental legislation which impact upon ERS.
- Continue to lobby Australian fishing industry and Government for the need to address unacceptably high incidences of albatross mortality in the SE Australian trawl fishery.