

**WCPFC - CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE FOR SHARKS
IN THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC OCEAN**

Conservation and Management Measure 2006-05



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**CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE FOR SHARKS IN THE
WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC OCEAN**

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The Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean;

In accordance with the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean;

Recognizing the ecological and cultural significance of sharks in the western and central Pacific Ocean (WCPO);

Recalling that the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks calls on FAO members, within the framework of their respective competencies and consistent with international law, to cooperate through regional fisheries organizations with a view to ensuring the sustainability of shark stocks as well as to adopt a National Plan of Action for the conservation and management of sharks;

Recognizing the need to collect data on catch, effort, discards, and trade, as well as information on the biological parameters of many species, as part of shark conservation and management;

Recognizing further that certain species of pelagic sharks, such as basking shark and great white shark, have been listed on Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade and Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

Resolves as follows:

1. Commission Members, Cooperating non-Members, and participating Territories (CCMs) shall implement the FAO International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks.
2. CCMs shall advise the Commission annually on their implementation of the IPOA Sharks, including, as appropriate, results of their assessment of the need for a National Plan of Action and/or the status of their National Plans of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks.
3. National Plans of Action or other relevant policies for sharks should include measures to minimize waste and discards from shark catches and encourage the live release of incidental catches of sharks.
4. Each CCM shall include key shark species, to be identified by the Scientific Committee, in their annual reporting to the Commission of annual catches and catch and fishing effort statistics by gear type, including available historical data, in accordance with the WCPF Convention and agreed reporting procedures;

5. The Commission shall consider appropriate assistance to developing CCMs for the implementation of the IPOA and collection of data on shark catches.

And adopts, in accordance with Articles 5 and 10 of the Convention, that:

6. CCMs shall take measures necessary to require that their fishers fully utilize any retained catches of sharks. Full utilization is defined as retention by the fishing vessel of all parts of the shark excepting head, guts, and skins, to the point of first landing or transshipment;

7. CCMs shall require their vessels to have on board fins that total no more than 5% of the weight of sharks onboard, up to the first point of landing. CCMs that currently do not require fins and carcasses to be offloaded together at the point of first landing shall take the necessary measures to ensure compliance with the 5% ratio through certification, monitoring by an observer, or other appropriate measures. CCMs may alternatively require that their vessels land sharks with fins attached to the carcass or that fins not be landed without the corresponding carcass.

8. The specification of the ratio of fin weight to shark weight described in paragraph 7 above shall be reviewed by the Scientific Committee in 2007 (and occasionally there after) and the Committee will recommend any appropriate revisions to the Commission for its consideration.

9. CCMs shall take measures necessary to require fishing vessels are prohibited from retaining on board, transship, landing, or trade in any fins harvested in contravention of this Conservation and Management Measure;

10. In fisheries for tunas and tuna-like species that are not directed at sharks, CCMs shall take measures to encourage the release of live sharks, that are caught incidentally and are not used for food or other purpose.

11. Nothing in this measure shall prejudice the sovereign rights of coastal States to apply alternative measures for the purpose of exploring, exploiting, conserving and managing sharks, including any national plan of action for the conservation and management of sharks, within areas under their national jurisdiction.

12. CCMs shall advise the Commission annually on the implementation of this conservation measure and any alternative measures adopted under paragraph 11 above.

13. On the basis of advice from the SC, the TCC and the Commission, CCMs shall review the implementation and effectiveness of this measure, and any alternative measures applied under paragraph 11 above, and shall consider the application of additional measures for the management of shark stocks in the Convention Area, as appropriate.

14. CCMs are encouraged to co-operate in the development of stock assessments for key shark species within the Convention Area.

15. This decision shall apply to sharks caught in association with fisheries managed under the WCPF Convention, and to sharks listed in Annex 1 of the 1982 Convention occurring in the Convention Area.

16. At the initial stage this Measure shall apply to vessels greater than 24m overall length.

17. This Measure shall enter into force on 1st January 2008 and in the interim shall be applied as a resolution.