



New Zealand Recommendations for Shark Species for Consideration under ERS and Bycatch Action Plan

As a result of discussions at Ecologically Related Species Working Group (ERSWG) 15¹, Members committed to developing a list of non-target shark species to be covered by the Ecologically Related Species and Bycatch Action Plan². Members were to provide this information to the Secretariat in time for consideration at the 2025 meeting of the Ecologically Related Species Technical Working Group (ERSTech).

New Zealand's (NZ) recommended list of shark species to be included under the Bycatch Action Plan is presented in Table 1. This list is based on those shark species most commonly caught by the NZ domestic fleet, as well as globally. While there are many other shark species caught in fishing operations targeting SBT, the species in Table 1 make up the vast majority of shark bycatch, and New Zealand considers that the Bycatch Action Plan should focus where the greatest benefits can be realised. Noting that bycatch of many shark species is managed under other RFMOs whose fleets have a greater impact, and that CCSBT's ERS Resolution aligns its ERS management with those of other RFMOs, New Zealand considers that the Bycatch Action Plan should focus on those species most impacted by fleets targeting SBT. Monitoring trends in bycatch of these key species will enable CCSBT to identify changes in catch trends, and provide the opportunity to respond and ensure that SBT fisheries do not impose a significant adverse impact on these species in line with the overall objective of the Bycatch Action Plan.

¹ [Report of The Fifteenth Meeting of the Ecologically Related Species Working Group](#)

² [Draft Ecologically Related Species and Bycatch Action Plan](#)

Table 1. Shark species proposed by New Zealand for inclusion in the Ecologically Related Species and Bycatch Action Plan.

Common name	Species name	Caught by NZ vessels (Y/N)?	CCSBT-relevant (Y/N) ³ ?	Covered by WCPFC CMM2024-05 (Y/N)?	Notes
Blue shark	<i>Prionace glauca</i>	Y	N	Y	Common bycatch species, caught in high numbers
Shortfin mako shark	<i>Isurus paucus</i>	Y	Y	Y	Common bycatch species, caught in moderate numbers, possible decline in nominal CPUE in NZ, higher risk in most recent NZ shark risk assessment
Porbeagle	<i>Lamna nasus</i>	Y	Y	Y	Common bycatch species, caught in moderate numbers, higher risk in most recent NZ shark risk assessment
Thresher shark	<i>Alopias vulpinus</i>	Y	Y	Y	Common bycatch species, higher risk in two most recent NZ shark risk assessments, Threatened – Vulnerable (IUCN), Data Deficient in NZ Threat Classification System (NZTCS)

³ Based on the list of shark identified as impacted by SBT fisheries under Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species and the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Sharks