

RFMO Shark Management Measures and how they can be used to make Legal Acquisition Findings

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CITES (since 1973)

- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (survival...!) of Wild Fauna and Flora.
- Regulates the trade in animals and plants to ensure that it does not threaten the survival of the species.
- Appendix I – Prohibits international trade (including parts and products).
- Appendix II – Control and strict management of international trade (including parts and products).

CITES Appendix II

- The country of export should issue an export permit.
- This permit may only be granted once the following requirements have been met:
 - a) if a **Scientific Authority** from the country of export has determined that the trade **will not be detrimental to the survival of the species**;
 - b) if a **Management Authority** from the country of export has verified that **the specimen has not been obtained in violation of laws in that country** for the protection of its fauna and flora; and
 - c) if a Management Authority from the country of export has verified that any live specimens will be prepared and shipped to minimize any risk of injury, damage to health or cruel treatment.



CITES Appendix II

- In cases of **introduction from the sea**, the countries of introduction, export or import should prior to issuing permits take into account whether the specimen was acquired:
 - i) in a manner consistent with applicable measures under international law for the conservation and management of living marine resources, including those of any other treaty, convention or agreement with conservation and management measures for the marine species in question; and
 - ii) through any illegal, unreported or unregulated (IUU) fishing activity.

← RFMOs

Shark Species in Appendix I of CITES (International Trade is Prohibited)

- No sharks
- All of the sawfish, Pristidae Family, genus *Pristis* and *Anoxypristis*
 - Total of 7 species worldwide
 - Important for their fins and rostra (saw)

Shark Species on Appendix II of CITES

(International trade is only allowed if it doesn't threaten populations)

- Basking shark *Cetorhinus maximus* (2002)
- Whale shark *Rhincodon typus* (2002)
- Great white *Carcharodon carcharias* (2004)
- Porbeagle *Lamna nasus* (2012)
- Oceanic Whitetip *Carcharhinus longimanus* (2012)
- Scalloped hammerhead *Sphyrna lewini* (2012)
- Great hammerhead *Sphyrna mokarran* (2012)
- Smooth hammerhead *Sphyrna zygaena* (2012)



Tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) (OROPs in Spanish)



CCSBT

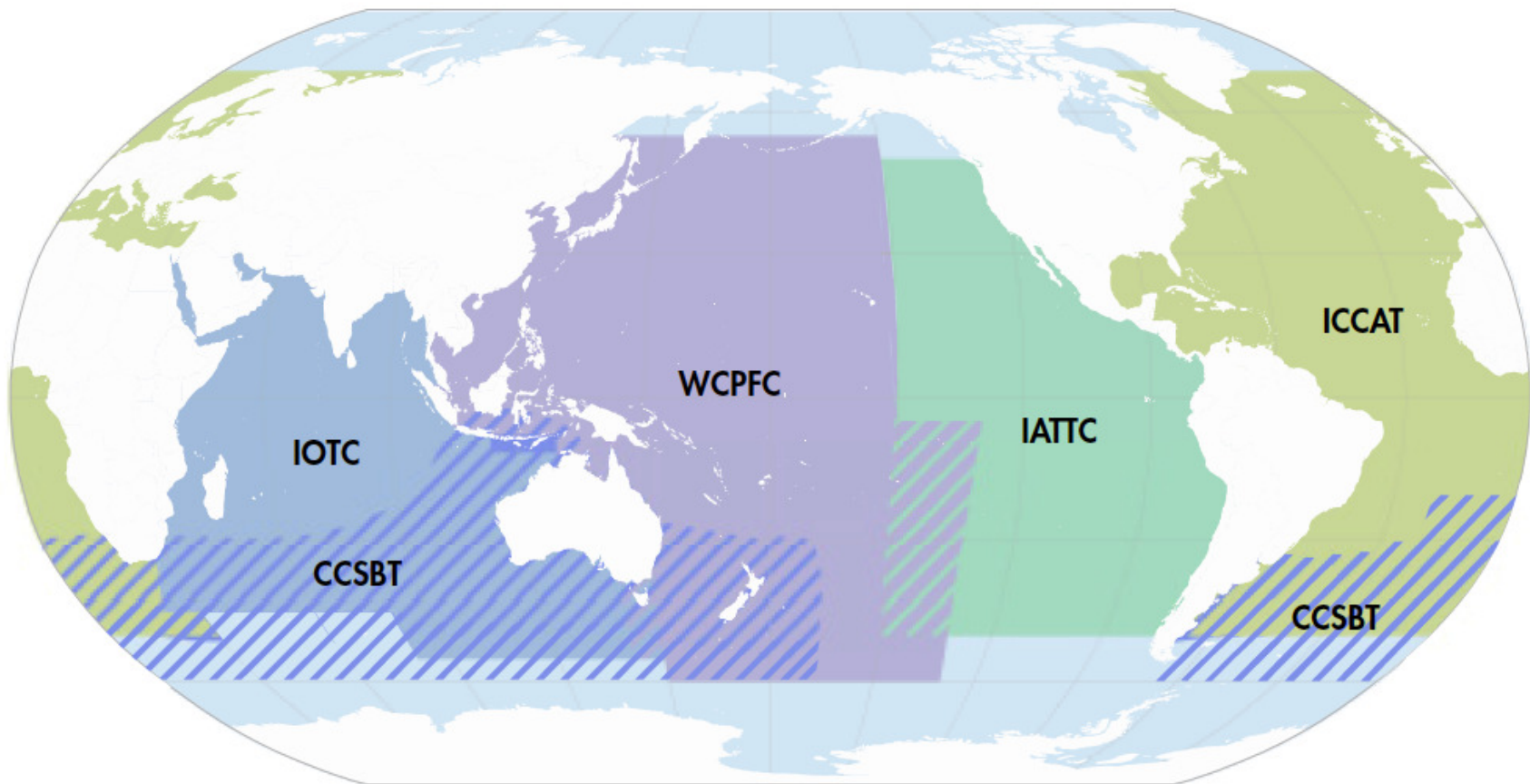
IATTC

ICCAT

IOTC

WCPFC

Tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) (OROPs in Spanish)



Language prohibiting fishing of shark species for most of the RFMOs

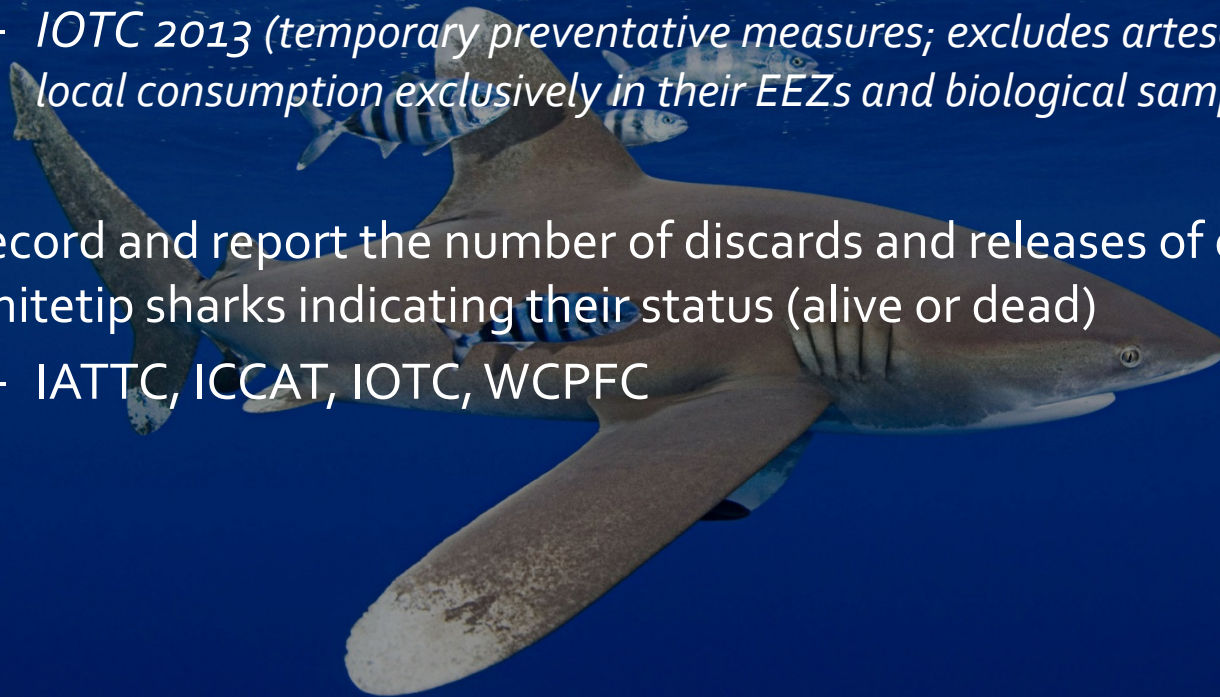
- The contracting Parties and collaborating non-contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities will prohibit retaining onboard, transshipping, landing, storing, selling or offering for sale any shark part or whole carcass

RFMO Management Measures for Porbeagle Shark *Lamna nasus*

- ICCAT:
 - 2007: All parties should adopt necessary measures to reduce fishing mortality for porbeagle sharks (*Lamna nasus*) and shortfin mako (*Isurus oxyrinchus*)
 - 2007: The SCRS will do a stock assessment or a comprehensive assessment of the information available for a stock assessment for porbeagle shark (*Lamna nasus*) by 2009

RFMO Management Measures for oceanic whitetip sharks *Carcharhinus longimanus*

- The Parties prohibit fishing of oceanic whitetip sharks (*Carcharhinus longimanus*)
 - ICCAT 2010
 - IATTC 2011
 - WCPFC 2011
 - IOTC 2013 (temporary preventative measures; excludes artesanal fisheries for local consumption exclusively in their EEZs and biological sampling)
- Record and report the number of discards and releases of oceanic whitetip sharks indicating their status (alive or dead)
 - IATTC, ICCAT, IOTC, WCPFC



RFMO Management Measures for hammerhead sharks *Sphyrna*

- ICCAT 2010
 - The Parties prohibit fishing of hammerhead sharks, genre *Sphyrna* (except *S. tiburo*) in ICCAT fisheries and that those captured are released quickly and unharmed
 - There are exceptions for developing countries for local consumption, but they should submit data to ICCAT to the extent possible, their should endeavor not to increase coastal catches of hammerhead sharks and to guarantees that these catches are not internationally traded.
 - Record and report the number of discards and releases of hammerhead sharks with an indication of their status (alive or dead)

What does this all mean?

- That no specimen or part of *Carcharhinus longimanus* caught while fishing for tuna should be traded internationally (this covers almost 99% of the catches)
- That no specimen or part of *Sphyrna lewini*, *S. mokarran*, *S. zygaena*, *S. gilberti*, *S. tudes*, *S. media.*, or *S. couardi* caught in ICCAT fisheries should be can be taken from the sea by any country (except developing countries) and cannot be traded internationally

CMS

Convention on Migratory Species

- Appendix I
 - *Cetorhinus maximus*
 - *Carcharodon carcharias*
 - *Manta birostris*
- Appendix II
 - *Rhincodon typus*
 - *Cetorhinus maximus*
 - *Carcharodon carcharias*
 - *Isurus oxyrinchus*
 - *Isurus paucus*
 - *Lamna nasus*
 - *Squalus acanthias* (Northern Hemisphere populations)
 - *Manta birostris*

Other Shark Management Measures by IATTC

- Vessels should, to the extent possible, **release oceanic whitetip sharks *Carcharhinus longimanus*** when brought alongside the boat and note discards as alive or dead .
- Vessels **cannot have onboard fins that weigh more than 5% of the weight of the sharks.** Vessels are prohibited from retaining onboard, transshipping or landing fins obtained in contravention of this Resolution .
- All Parties should present annually **data** to the IATTC Secretariat on catches, efforts by gear, landings and trade **of sharks by species**, to the extent possible.
- In non-directed fisheries , **the live release of sharks is encouraged, especially for juveniles**, and fishers should develop techniques for releasing sharks quickly and safely .
- Catches **of sharks should be utilized in their entirety** (all the parts should be utilized except the head, the guts and the skin) .

Other Shark Management Measures by IATTC

- Parties are encouraged, where possible, to conduct **research** for making gear more selective, identifying breeding areas, determining survival rates of released sharks and defining areas/times where species are more likely to be caught.
- Parties should create and implement a **National Plan of Action for Sharks**.
- Parties should seek scientific advice on the stock status of key shark species and propose a research plan for global evaluation of these populations.

ICCAT Shark Resolutions 1995

1. That FAO initiate a program to collect on a global scale biological and commercial data on shark species and coordinate these activities with RFMOs
2. That Contracting Parties to ICCAT provide FAO with information and financial assistance
3. That the RFMOs cooperate with FAO to provide information and advice as needed

ICCAT Shark Resolutions 2003

All Parties should:

1. Provide information on shark catches, effort by gear, landings and trade data on products derived from sharks.
2. Fully implement a NPOA under the IPOA for the Conservation and Management of Sharks adopted by the FAO.

ICCAT Shark Resolutions 2004

All Parties:

- Should annually report shark data including historical data
- Require that fishermen use the whole shark
- Require that shark fins onboard vessels should not weigh more than 5% of the weight of the bodies (finning ban: fins may be removed)
- Urge to the extent possible that fishermen release alive sharks caught incidentally that will not be utilized, especially the juveniles
- Conduct research where possible to increase the selectivity of fishing gear and to identify shark nurseries

ICCAT Shark Resolutions

2005

- All Parties should take measures to reduce mortality of shortfin mako (*Isurus oxyrinchus*) in the North Atlantic

2007

- All Parties should adopt necessary measures to reduce the fishing mortality of porbeagle sharks (*Lamna nasus*) and shortfin makos (*Isurus oxyrinchus*)
- The SCRS should do a stock assessment or a comprehensive assessment of the information available for a stock assessment for porbeagle sharks (*Lamna nasus*) by 2009

ICCAT Shark Resolutions

2009

All Parties:

- Prohibit fishing for bigeye thresher (*Alopias superciliosus*) only small scale coastal fisheries in Mexico are given a quota of fewer than 110 individuals.
- Require that vessels promptly release unharmed bigeye thresher sharks
- No directed fishing of thresher sharks *Alopias* spp.
- Record and report data on all species of thresher sharks

ICCAT Shark Resolutions

2011

All Parties:

- Prohibit the fishing of silky sharks (*Carcharhinus falciformis*) in ICCAT fisheries and should release them alive or dead (coastal fisheries in developing countries for local consumption are exempt but should submit data to ICCAT).
- Require that vessels release silky sharks promptly and unharmed.
- Record and report data on silky sharks in coastal fisheries
- Report the number of discards and releases of silky sharks indicating their status (alive or dead) and submit this to ICCAT.
- Endeavor not to increase coastal catches of silky sharks and ensure that such catches are not traded internationally.
- Those that do not report data by species of shark should submit by July 2012 a plan to improve their data collection on a species level for consideration by ICCAT

ICCAT Shark Resolutions

2011

- Parties shall report annually on **implementation of obligations in communication materials** for all ICCAT fisheries, **which includes shark species** caught in association with ICCAT fisheries, in particular, on the steps they have taken to **improve the collection of Task I and Task II data** on catches of target and bycatch species.
- It will be prohibited for CPCs that do not report Task I data, including zero catches, for one or more species for a given year and in accordance with the reporting requirements of the SCRS, to retain these species for the year following the non-reporting or incomplete reporting year and until the ICCAT Secretariat receives this data

Other Shark Management Measures by IOTC

- All Parties should **prohibit** their vessels from **intentionally setting a purse seine net around a whale shark (*Rhincodon typus*)** in the IOTC area of competence, if it is sighted before the start of the set.
- In the event that **a whale shark is accidentally encircled** in the purse seine net, the captain of the vessel should:
 - a) take reasonable measures for **its safe release**, following best practices for safe release and handling of whale sharks as per the IOTC Scientific Committee.
 - b) **Report the incident to the appropriate authority** from the flag state, including the following information:
 - i. The number of individuals ;
 - ii. A short description of the interaction, including details on how and why the interaction occurred;
 - iii. The location of the encirclement;
 - iv. The methods used to ensure safe release;
 - v. An evaluation of the released animal, including if the whale shark was released alive but later died

Other Shark Management Measures by IOTC

- Parties that use other types of gear for fishing tuna and tuna-like species **associated with a whale shark should report all interactions** with whale sharks to the relevant authority of the flag state including all pertinent information.
- All Parties should adopt designs for **fish aggregating devices taht reduce incidents of entanglement**.
- All Parties **should notify IOTC of any instances where whale sharks are encircled by purse seine nets** on their vessels.
- The Commission **shall determine the shark species that should be subject to IOTC Conservation and Management Measures, including prohibition** in accordance with the advice of the IOTC Scientific Committee
- The Parties, to the extent possible, will do **research on oceanic sharks** with the goal of identifying **breeding areas**. Based on this research, Particies should consider other measures, as appropriate.

Other Shark Management Measures by IOTC

- Vessels are **prohibited** from retaining onboard, transshipping, landing, storing, sale or offer for sale part of whole carcasses of **thresher sharks of all species from the family Alopiidae** (2010)
- Vessels should, when possible, **release these species** when brought alongside the vessels and record discards as alive or dead.
- Vessels **should not have on board fins that weigh more than 5% of the weight of the rest of the sharks**, and it is prohibited to retain onboard, transship or land fins obtained in contravention of this Resolution .
- All Parties should report annually the data for shark catches, at the species level, if possible .

Other Shark Management Measures by IOTC

- In non-direct fisheries, it is encouraged that sharks are released alive, especially juveniles and pregnant females .
- When caught, sharks should be utilized in their entirety (all the parts should be used except the head, the guts and the skin).
- Whenever possible, Parties should conduct research to make gear more selective (such as avoiding wire traces) and identify nursery areas.
- Parties should seek scientific advice on stock assessment on stock status of key shark species and propose a research plan and timeline for a comprehensive assessment of those stocks.

Other Shark Management Measures by WCPFC

- Vessels cannot have on board fins that weigh more than 5% of the weight of the sharks. It is also forbidden to retain onboard, transship or land any fins obtained in contravention with the Conservation and Management Measure.
- All Parties should submit annual data to the Commission on the following key shark species : blue, silky, oceanic whitetip, mako, thresher, porbeagle and hammerheads . The data should include catches and fishing effort by gear and indicate which sharks were retained and discarded.

Other Shark Management Measures by WCPFC

- In **non-directed fisheries** , it is recommended to **release sharks alive**.
- Catches of **sharks should be utilized fully**(all the parts should be utilized except the head, guts and skin) .
- Parties should support research for preventing catches of unwanted sharks.
- Parties should **create and implement an International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks** (IPOA - Shark) .
- National Plans of Action or other relevant policies for sharks should include **measures for minimizing waste and discards of sharks and encourage the live release of bycaught sharks**.
- The Scientific Committee will advise on the status of the populations of these key species and propose a research plan for assessing the status of these populations.

Shark Management Measures by CCSBT

- While fishing in areas covered by ICCAT, IATTC and WCPFC, vessels should comply with the measures of these RFMOs.
- Vessels should gather and report data on sharks.
- Implement the International Plan of Action for Sharks (IPOA-Sharks)

Thank you!