

**Conservation Measure 04/06 on the Conservation of Sharks
Caught in Association with Fisheries Managed by SEAFO**

The Parties to the SEAFO Convention

RECALLING that the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) International Plan of Action of Sharks calls on States, within the framework of their respective competencies and consistent with international law, to cooperate through regional fisheries organisations 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 (defined as elasmobranchs);

CONSIDERING that many sharks are part of ecosystems in the SEAFO area, and that sharks are captured in fisheries targeting species covered by the SEAFO Convention;

RECOGNISING the need to collect data on catch, effort, discards and trade, as well as information on the biological parameters of many species, in order to conserve and manage sharks;

Have agreed as follows:

1. Each Contracting Party shall annually report data for catches of sharks, in accordance with SEAFO data reporting procedures, including available historical data.
2. Each Contracting Party shall take the necessary measures to require that their fishermen fully utilise their entire catches of sharks. Full utilisation 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.
3. Each Contracting Party shall require their vessels to not have onboard fins that total more than 5 % of the weight of sharks onboard, up to the first point of landing. Contracting Parties 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.
4. The ratio of fin-to-body weight of sharks described in paragraph 3 shall be reviewed by the Scientific Committee and report back to the Commission in 2008 for revision, if necessary.
5. Fishing vessels are prohibited from retaining on board, transshipping or landing any fins harvested in contravention of this conservation measure.
6. In fisheries that are not directed at sharks, Contracting Parties shall encourage the release of live sharks, especially juveniles, to the extent possible, that are caught incidentally and are not used for food and/or subsistence.
7. Each Contracting Party shall, where possible, undertake research to identify ways to make fishing gears more selective (such as the implications of avoiding the use of wire traces).

8. Each Contracting Party shall, where possible, conduct research to identify shark nursery areas.
9. The Commission shall consider appropriate assistance to Developing States, Parties to the Convention, for the collection of data on their shark catches.
10. This resolution applies only to sharks caught in association with fisheries for species covered by the SEAFO Convention.