



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON THE CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY SHARKS CMS/Sharks/MOS2/Doc.11.2

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San José, Costa Rica, 15-19 February 2016
Agenda Item 11

STRATEGY FOR COOPERATION WITH REGIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATIONS, REGIONAL SEAS CONVENTIONS AND FISHERIES-RELATED ORGANIZATIONS

(Prepared by the Secretariat)

1. As acknowledged in the MOU, the collaboration with Regional Seas Conventions (RSCs), Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) and other organizations relevant to fisheries have a necessary and critical complementary role in achieving the objectives of the Sharks MOU and the Conservation Plan.
2. As further acknowledged in paragraph 6, the cooperation among governments, and engagement with the fisheries industry, FAO, RFMOs and RSCs are required for successful shark conservation and management.
3. Accordingly, the Sharks MOU and CMS Secretariat have worked in close collaboration with IOTC to strengthen collaboration by organizing a capacity building workshop in Oman. Three experts, including the Chair of the Advisory Committee of the Sharks MOU, provided expert training to support the creation and implementation of observer schemes in the region.
4. In addition, the CMS Secretariat prepared a draft MOU between the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) and CMS to support efforts to minimize the impact of fisheries on species listed on Appendix I and II, also covering sharks listed on Annex 1 of the Sharks MOU. The draft MOU with the IOTC also incorporates comments from the Advisory Committee of the Sharks MOU, expressing full support for the cooperation. The draft was presented to the IOTC Commission at its 19th session (S19) in April, 2015. It was recommended that the MOU should be considered at the 20th session of the Commission (S20) and that the MOU was in the interests of IOTC. The CMS Secretariat presented the draft MOU with IOTC to the 44th Meeting of the CMS Standing Committee in October, 2015. The revised document included a number of suggested amendments proposed by Japan through IOTC (CMS/Sharks/MOS2/Inf.16). The Standing Committee agreed to place the reference to sharks and rays in square brackets and await the outcome of the Meeting of Signatories to the Sharks MOU (MOS2) and to reject Japan's suggestion of adding a reference to sustainable use. There being no other comments, the draft was adopted as amended for onward transmission to the IOTC for their consideration.

5. A good example of a successful cooperation and coordination of activities relating to Fisheries Management Organizations has been achieved by the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP). A Seabird Bycatch Working Group (SBWG) was established to advise the Agreement and undertake actions that will assist in the assessment, mitigation and reduction of negative interactions between fishing operations and albatrosses and petrels. Subsequently, a framework for the development of seabird conservation measures within the tuna RFMOs was adopted and the priority actions were identified.

6. The Secretariat proposes the following actions to be considered and discussed by the MOS:

- a) To adopt a framework for the development of shark conservation measures within the RSCs, RFMOs and other relevant fisheries organizations.
- b) To establish a Bycatch Working Group (refer to CMS/Sharks/MOS2/Doc.9.1) under the supervision and guidance of the AC, to develop a RFMO Engagement Strategy with the main objective to mitigate and reduce negative impacts of fisheries on sharks. The Strategy will take into account already established partnerships and MOUs with relevant fisheries organizations and will also identify priority actions and priority species related to each RSC and RFMO.
- c) To define the activities of the Sharks MOU and decide on how it should be represented at relevant international meetings. The Secretariat requires the support of Signatories to enable Secretariat staff members, AC members or experts to attend RFMO meetings on behalf of the MOU to maximize the effect of their participation and their input on issues relevant to the Sharks MOU and the Conservation Plan.
- d) Signatories are encouraged to provide resources for the Secretariat to focus on fisheries related activities, participate in relevant international meetings and implement joint activities with cooperating partners.

7. The document will also be discussed at AC1, immediately prior to the MOS. The recommendations of the AC are presented in CMS/Sharks/MOS2/Doc.13.2.

Action requested:

The Meeting of the Signatories is invited to:

- a) Consider the actions proposed by the Secretariat;
- b) Consider the recommendations of the Advisory Committee (CMS/Sharks/MOS2/Doc.13.2);
- c) Provide advice to the Secretariat on a way forward.