

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
ON THE CONSERVATION OF
MIGRATORY SHARKS**

CMS/Sharks/MOS4/National
Report/Romania
26/01/2023
Original: English

4th Meeting of the Signatories (Sharks MOS4)
Bonn, 28 February – 2 March 2023

Romania National Report

Page number	Item
1 – 8	Completed National Reporting Form

Sharks MOS4: National Reporting Format

(Offline version for endorsement by Signatories)

Purpose: Evaluate the status of how Signatories are meeting the objective of the Memorandum of Understanding: "*to achieve and maintain a favorable conservation status for migratory sharks based on the best available scientific information, taking into account current management and conservation actions, the socio-economic, and other values of these species for the people of the Signatories*" and to report on implementation of the Conservation Plan.

*Compulsory field

Additional instructions are provided in *italics*.

Report submitted by

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Click or tap here to enter text.

Species in your area of national jurisdiction

6. Signatory*
Please select the Signatory you represent
Romania
7. Please open the [excel spreadsheet](#) that you were provided for your country by the Secretariat. Use the spreadsheet to review the status of Annex 1-listed species in your national jurisdiction. Once complete, please email the spreadsheet, along with this word document, to the Secretariat (fenella.wood@cms.int)

Please contact the Secretariat if you have any difficulty accessing the spreadsheet or require additional advice and support to complete the spreadsheet.

- I have downloaded the spreadsheet successfully
 I could not download the spreadsheet

8. Do your vessels catch (landed, transhipped, or discarded) any Annex 1-listed species WITHIN your area of national jurisdiction? *

Yes

No

9. If yes, please report species-specific catch information within your area of national jurisdiction on the **spreadsheet** provided.

Please provide information on species that are caught (landed, transhipped, or discarded).

*Please infill **column F** on the spreadsheet for each species. There is a drop-down list for you to use with the following options: 'taking occurs', 'taking potentially occurs', 'taking does not occur', 'unknown' or 'not applicable'.*

*Please provide any additional information in **column G**, for example links to publicly available reports that may contain relevant data.*

I have added species-specific information to the spreadsheet

Not applicable

In Romania the single species caught is *Squalus acanthias* (picked dogfish), regarding the fishing fleet year after year the activity of active fishing decreased gradually to the point where, in 2015 from 20 vessels with LOA between 24-40 m registered in the 90s, in last years in the Fishing Fleet Register, only one or two vessel were active for a very short period of time. In 2015, the total number of boats/vessels registered was 151, from which only 127 have been active, most of them having LOA of 6 - 12 m (79,53%). In 2016, the number of active vessels was 121, 3 of them being bigger than 24m. Most of them being between 6-12m (94). Were used mainly gillnets and long lines. The fisheries of this small fleet are typically artisanal type as multi-species and multi-gear fisheries, fishermen switching from one gear to another several times throughout the year. In 2017, number of the vessels have been 135, but none aimed at shark fishing. Official statistics of picked dogfish catches landed on ports in 2018 is 0.512 t (512 kg), 2019 is 0.576 t (576 kg), 2020 is 0.880 t (880 kg) and for 2021 is 0.667 t (667 kg). Fishing only as a complementary species, TAC for the year - 13.5 t.

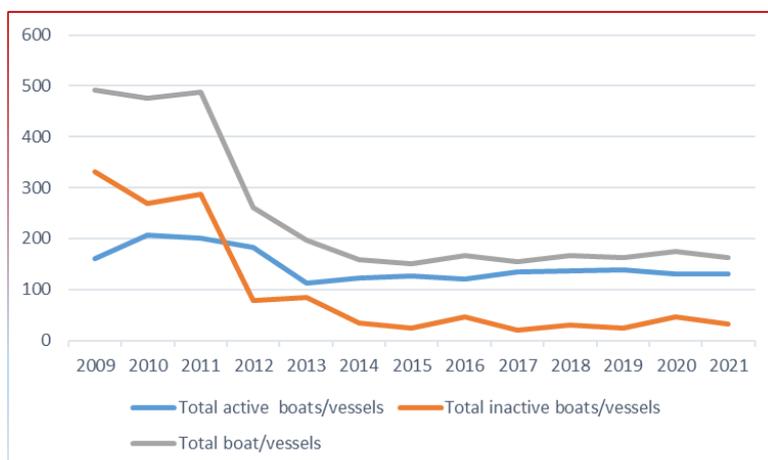


Fig. 1 Number of the active and passive fishing vessels in Romania

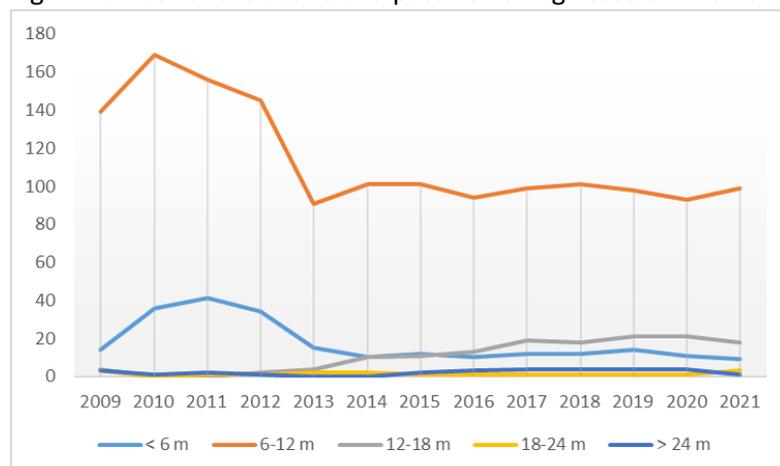


Fig. 2 Number of the active fishing vessels on length classes in Romania

Table 1 Number of fishing gillnets for dogfish in the Romanian area

Vessel length (m)	Number of gillnets for dogfish in 2011	Number of gillnets for dogfish in 2012	Number of gillnets for dogfish in 2013	Number of gillnets for dogfish in 2014	Number of gillnets for dogfish in 2015	Number of gillnets for dogfish in 2016
< 6 m	10	-	-	2	-	-
6-12 m	205	110	-	10	55	60
12-18m	-	-	-	-	115	78
18-24 m	50	50	-	20	-	-
24-40 m	-	-	25	-	-	-
Total	265	160	25	32	170	138

Since 2017, Romania does not have a fishery targeting dogfish, is caught only like bycatch. In the following table is presented the Romanian CPUE in commercial fishing.

10. Do your vessels catch (landed, transhipped, or discarded) any Annex 1-listed species OUTSIDE of your area of national jurisdiction? *

- Yes
 No

11. If yes, please report species-specific catch information outside of your area of national jurisdiction on the **spreadsheet** provided.

Please provide information on species that are caught (landed, transhipped, or discarded).

Please infill **column H** on the spreadsheet for each species. There is a drop-down list for you to use with the following options: 'taking occurs', 'taking potentially occurs', 'taking does not occur', 'unknown' or 'not applicable'.

Please provide any additional information in **column I**, for example links to publicly available reports that may contain relevant data.

- I have added species-specific information to the spreadsheet
 Not applicable

Management and conservation measures

12. Are any Annex 1-listed species protected or have a managed fishery? *

- Yes
 No

13. If yes, please include details of protection measures or managed fisheries for each species in the **spreadsheet** provided.

These could include national, supranational regulations or the implementation of Regional Fisheries Body measures.

Please infill **column J** on the spreadsheet for each species.

- I have added species-specific information to the spreadsheet
 Not applicable

Recommendation GFCM/39/2015/4 on management measures for piked dogfish in the Black Sea

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (hereafter the "GFCM"),
 RECALLING that the objectives of the Agreement establishing the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean are to ensure the conservation and sustainable use, at the biological, social, economic and environmental level, of living marine resources in the area of application; RECALLING the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development of 2002 and in particular its plan of implementation; REAFFIRMING the principles of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (hereafter the "FAO") and recalling the precautionary and ecosystem approach to fishery management;

RECALLING Recommendation GFCM/36/2012/3 on fisheries management measures for the conservation of sharks and rays in the GFCM area, including the Black Sea;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that, for piked dogfish in GSA 29 the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) has concluded in its 17th session of 2015 that the stock of piked dogfish is chronically depleted and considered as a priority the setting of measures to implement a recovery plan; RECOGNIZING that fishing operations shall be consistent with the sustainable exploitation and conservation of the fish species caught;

AIMING to provide a series of management measures for the recovery of the depleted stock of piked dogfish ADOPTS in conformity with the applicable relevant provisions of the GFCM

Agreement that:

PART I

General objectives, scope and definitions

General objectives

1. Management measures for fisheries exploiting piked dogfish and/or having piked dogfish as significant by-catch in GFCM GSA 29 "Black Sea" shall be developed, in line with the precautionary approach, with a view to providing high long-term yields consistent with the maximum sustainable yield (hereafter "MSY") and to guaranteeing a low risk of stocks collapse while ensuring sustainable and relatively stable fisheries.
2. The conservation objective shall be to achieve fishing mortality at MSY level no later than 2020.
3. The GFCM Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties (hereafter the "CPCs") whose vessels have been actively fishing, directly or indirectly, piked dogfish in GSA 29 agree to implement common measures for the achievement of the objectives of this recommendation.

Scope

4. The CPCs shall adopt appropriate measures to ensure that GFCM has the necessary data to study and evaluate the level of catches of piked dogfish in the Black Sea.

Definitions

5. For the purposes of this recommendation the following definitions shall apply:

- "Black Sea" means the GFCM geographical subarea n° 29 as defined in Resolution GFCM/33/2009/2;
- "Piked dogfish" (synonym: spiny dogfish) means fishes pertaining to the species *Squalus acanthias*;
- "Bottom-set gillnet" means any net, made up of a single piece of net, held vertically in the water by floats and weights fixed, or capable of being fixed, by any means to the bottom of the sea and maintaining the gear in place, either close to the bottom or floating in the water column;
- "Trawl nets" means nets which are actively towed by the main boat engine and consisting of a cone- or pyramid-shaped body (as trawl body), closed at the back by a cod-end and which can extend at the opening by the wings or can be mounted on a rigid frame. Horizontal opening is either obtained by otter boards or provided by a beam or frame of variable shape and size. Such nets can be towed either on the bottom (bottom trawl net) or in mid-water (pelagic trawl net);
- "Fisheries restricted area" means a geographically-defined sea area in which all or certain fishing activities are temporarily or permanently banned or restricted, in order to improve the exploitation and conservation of living aquatic resources or the protection of marine ecosystems.

PART II

Management measures

Section 1: Restrictions to catch piked dogfish

6. Specimens of piked dogfish smaller than 90 cm shall not be retained on board, transhipped, landed, stored, sold nor displayed or offered to sale. When accidentally

caught, such specimens of piked dogfish shall be promptly released unharmed and alive, to the extent possible.

7. Without prejudice to the provisions foreseen in paragraph 6, and when a system to avoid discards and the obligation to land all catches have been established by a CPC, the master of the fishing vessel shall not be allowed to discard those catches, and shall therefore land the fish caught independently of the size of the fish caught, in line with the provisions stipulated by such CPC. All quantities landed shall be recorded and shall not be displayed, offered for sale nor used for human consumption.

8. CPCs implementing a landing obligation scheme shall notify its content and characteristics to the GFCM Secretariat, prior to the subsequent GFCM annual session, with a view to informing the other Parties.

Section 2: Fisheries restricted areas (FRAs) and seasons

9. The CPCs shall establish a database of fisheries restricted areas and closed seasons containing detailed information on regulations in place in all riparian States.

10. In addition to the restrictions established by Recommendation GFCM 36/2012/3 regarding the reduction of coastal trawl net fishing to enhance the protection of coastal sharks, a minimum target on the percentage of fishing grounds to be covered by protective measures should be identified by each CPC .

14. Are there any regulations concerning Annex 1-listed species currently in the process of being proposed or implemented? *

Yes

No

15. If yes, please include details of the proposed or in the process of implementation in the **spreadsheet** provided.

*Please infill **column K** on the spreadsheet for each species.*

I have added species-specific information to the spreadsheet

Not applicable

In accordance with the National Order regarding the establishment of periods and areas of fishing prohibition, as well as areas of protection of living aquatic resources in 2022 issued by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Ministry of the Environment:

a) by exception to the provisions of art. 1 paragraph (1), piked dogfish fishing, its possession and marketing, in the period from March 15 to April 15 inclusive and in the period from October 15 to November 30 inclusive;

b) retention of pregnant female sharks on board, throughout the year.

16. Have you established other conservation measures for Annex 1-listed species in your area of national jurisdiction? *

- Yes
 No

17. If yes, please include details of the conservation measures in the **spreadsheet** provided.

These could include activities including research, capacity building, training, habitat conservation, etc.

*Please infill **column L** on the spreadsheet for each species.*

- I have added species-specific information to the spreadsheet
 Not applicable

Cooperation

18. Are you cooperating with other Signatories on the implementation of the Sharks MOU and its Conservation Plan? *

Please provide details of the cooperation.

We are cooperating with Black sea countries, mainly with Bulgaria, Turkey and Georgia.

19. Have you identified the need, or do you have a request for cooperation with other Signatories or Cooperating Partners to implement the Conservation Plan within your country/region? For example a relevant Regional Fisheries Body. *

Please describe.

With all Black sea countries in the future.

Capacity and materials

20. What capacity needs have you identified in your country? Please provide details. *

This could include, but not limited to, training, equipment, materials, funding, data collection etc.

Training of experts in tagging of sharks, age determination because the data regarding assessment of dogfish status are very low and in order to use models for population analyses this data are missing. Also the dedicated surveys for dogfish are very important.

21. What regional (or national) identification guides, and safe handling and release guidelines do you use? *

Please provide citation and internet link. If national guides can be made available to other Signatories, please email them as a PDF to fenella.wood@cms.int.

We use guidelines elaborated by GFCM, Medits.

22. Please send any documents related to the conservation and management of Annex 1-listed species that should be included in the Info Hub (<https://www.cms.int/sharks/en/sharks-mou-infohub>) to fenella.wood@cms.int.

- Relevant documents for the Info Hub have been emailed to the Secretariat
- Not Applicable