



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

CMS/Sharks/MOS4/National
Report/United Kingdom
02/02/2023
Original: English

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

United Kingdom National Report

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Sharks MOS4: National Reporting Format (Offline version)

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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If contributions were submitted by multiple entities
Click or tap here to enter text.

Species in your area of national jurisdiction

6. Signatory*
Please select the Signatory you represent
United Kingdom
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

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

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

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 or NGOs on the implementation of the Sharks MOU and its Conservation Plan? *

Please provide details of the cooperation.

Owing to the migratory nature of many elasmobranchs effective management can rarely be achieved by any one country alone. As a priority, therefore, Defra work collaboratively with devolved administrations, International and EU partners, as well as NGOs to protect and sustainably manage elasmobranch stocks. At the national level, we have, and will continue to take action where it will deliver real benefits.

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.

The United Kingdom works closely with Regional Fisheries Management Organisations to implement the Conservation Plan and our agenda for shark conservation more broadly. We also work closely with Parties in multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) such as CITES.

20. Have you identified any barriers preventing cooperation and partnership to implement the Sharks MOU and its Conservation Plan? *

Please describe.

No

Capacity and materials

21. 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.

NA

22. 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.

NA

23. 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

Species		Status of species in your area of national jurisdiction according to IUCN	Status of species in your area of national jurisdiction	Species that your vessels catch WITHIN your area of national jurisdiction ¹	Any supporting documentation for catches within your area of national jurisdiction	Species that your flag vessels catch OUTSIDE of your national jurisdiction limits ²	Any supporting documentation for catches within your area of national jurisdiction
Scientific name	Common name (English)						
<i>Alopias pelagicus</i>	Pelagic Thresher Shark	Doesn't Occur					
<i>Alopias superciliosus</i>	Bigeye Thresher Shark	Extant (Resident)	Extant (Resident)	Taking does not occur	From the Cefas at-sea observer programme, which focusses on waters around the UK and adjacent waters, there have been no records of bycatch. Data for most of the species detailed in this spreadsheet are too limited to derive annual estimates of bycatch, and so only the original records are presented.	Taking does not occur	NA
<i>Alopias vulpinus</i>	Common Thresher Shark	Extant (Resident)	Extant (Resident)	Taking does not occur	Bycatch does occur but minimally. From the Cefas at-sea observer programme, which focusses on waters around the UK and adjacent waters, there have been four records of bycatch, all from the western English Channel. One 210 cm unsexed discarded after being caught in a gillnet (October 2012), one 328 cm female discarded after being caught by midwater trawl (September 2017), and two individuals (304 cm female and 392 cm male) retained after capture by midwater trawl (September 2017). Data for most of the species detailed in this spreadsheet are too limited to derive annual estimates of bycatch, and so only the original records are presented.	Taking does not occur	NA
<i>Anoxypristis cuspidata</i>	Narrow Sawfish	Doesn't Occur					

¹ Species that your vessels catch (landed, transhipped or discarded) WITHIN your area of national jurisdiction.

² Species that your flag vessels are engaged in catching (landed, transhipped or discarded) OUTSIDE of your national jurisdiction limits. This also includes those vessels with the potential to take these species.

Species		Status of species in your area of national jurisdiction according to IUCN	Status of species in your area of national jurisdiction	Species that your vessels catch WITHIN your area of national jurisdiction ¹	Any supporting documentation for catches within your area of national jurisdiction	Species that your flag vessels catch OUTSIDE of your national jurisdiction limits ²	Any supporting documentation for catches within your area of national jurisdiction
Scientific name	Common name (English)						
<i>Carcharhinus falciformis</i>	Silky Shark	Doesn't Occur					
<i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i>	Oceanic Whitetip Shark	Doesn't Occur					
<i>Carcharhinus obscurus</i>	Dusky Shark	Doesn't Occur					
<i>Carcharodon carcharias</i>	Great White Shark	Doesn't Occur					
<i>Cetorhinus maximus</i>	Basking Shark	Extant (Resident)	Extant (Resident)	Taking does not occur	Bycatch does occur but minimally. From the Cefas at-sea observer programme, which focusses on waters around the UK and adjacent waters, there have been two records of bycatch. Two records, both discarded after accidental capture in gillnets. A 382 cm female was caught in the western English Channel in October 2002, and a 378 cm female was caught in February 2012 in the Bristol Channel. Data for most of the species detailed in this spreadsheet are too limited to derive annual estimates of bycatch, and so only the original records are presented.	Taking does not occur	NA
<i>Isurus paucus</i>	Shortfin Mako Shark	Extant (Resident)	Extant (Resident)	Taking does not occur	From the Cefas at-sea observer programme, which focusses on waters around the UK and adjacent waters, there has only been one record of potential bycatch - a 144 cm male being caught by gillnet and discarded off south-west Ireland (Division 7.j) in February 2016. Could potentially have been a misidentified porbeagle. Data for	Taking does not occur	NA

Species		Status of species in your area of national jurisdiction according to IUCN	Status of species in your area of national jurisdiction	Species that your vessels catch WITHIN your area of national jurisdiction ¹	Any supporting documentation for catches within your area of national jurisdiction	Species that your flag vessels catch OUTSIDE of your national jurisdiction limits ²	Any supporting documentation for catches within your area of national jurisdiction
Scientific name	Common name (English)						
					most of the species detailed in this spreadsheet are too limited to derive annual estimates of bycatch, and so only the original records are presented.		
<i>Isurus paucus</i>	Longfin Mako Shark	Doesn't Occur					
<i>Lamna nasus</i>	Porbeagle	Extant (Resident)	Extant (Resident)	Taking does not occur	Bycatch does occur but minimally. The majority of bycaught individuals recorded by the Cefas at-sea observer programme were from the south-west (ICES Divisions 7.e-h). Data for most of the species detailed in this spreadsheet are too limited to derive annual estimates of bycatch, and so only the original records are presented.	Taking does not occur	NA
<i>Manta alfredi</i> (<i>Mobula alfredi</i>)	Reef Manta Ray	Doesn't Occur					
<i>Manta birostris</i> (<i>Mobula birostris</i>)	Manta Ray	Doesn't Occur					
<i>Mobula eregoodootenkee</i> (<i>Mobula eregoodoo</i>)	Longhorned Pygmy Devil Ray	Doesn't Occur					
<i>Mobula hypostoma</i>	Atlantic Devil Ray	Doesn't Occur					
<i>Mobula japonica</i>	Japanese Devil Ray	Doesn't Occur					

Species		Status of species in your area of national jurisdiction according to IUCN	Status of species in your area of national jurisdiction	Species that your vessels catch WITHIN your area of national jurisdiction ¹	Any supporting documentation for catches within your area of national jurisdiction	Species that your flag vessels catch OUTSIDE of your national jurisdiction limits ²	Any supporting documentation for catches within your area of national jurisdiction
Scientific name	Common name (English)						
<i>(Please enter information under Mobula mobular)</i>							
<i>Mobula kuhlii</i>	Shortfin Devil Ray	Doesn't Occur					
<i>Mobula mobular</i>	Giant Devil Ray	Doesn't Occur					
<i>Mobula munkiana</i>	Pygmy Devil Ray	Doesn't Occur					
<i>Mobula rochebrun ei</i> (Please enter information under <i>Mobula hypostoma</i>)	Lesser Guinean Devil Ray	Doesn't Occur					
<i>Mobula tarapacana</i>	Sicklefin Devil Ray	Doesn't Occur					
<i>Mobula thurstoni</i>	Bentfin Devil Ray	Doesn't Occur					
<i>Pristis clavata</i>	Dwarf Sawfish	Doesn't Occur					
<i>Pristis pectinata</i>	Smalltooth Sawfish	Doesn't Occur					
<i>Pristis pristis</i>	Large-toothed Sawfish	Doesn't Occur					

Species		Status of species in your area of national jurisdiction according to IUCN	Status of species in your area of national jurisdiction	Species that your vessels catch WITHIN your area of national jurisdiction ¹	Any supporting documentation for catches within your area of national jurisdiction	Species that your flag vessels catch OUTSIDE of your national jurisdiction limits ²	Any supporting documentation for catches within your area of national jurisdiction
Scientific name	Common name (English)						
<i>Pristis zijsron</i>	Green Sawfish	Doesn't Occur					
<i>Rhincodon typus</i>	Whale Shark	Doesn't Occur					
<i>Rhinobatos rhinobatos</i>	Common Guitarfish	Doesn't Occur					
<i>Rhynchobatus australiae</i>	Bottlenose Wedgefish	Doesn't Occur					
<i>Rhynchobatus djiddensis</i>	Whitespotted Wedgefish	Doesn't Occur					
<i>Rhynchobatus laevis</i>	Smoothnose Wedgefish	Doesn't Occur					
<i>Sphyrna lewini</i>	Scalloped Hammerhead Shark	Doesn't Occur					
<i>Sphyrna mokarran</i>	Great Hammerhead Shark	Doesn't Occur					
<i>Sphyrna zygaena</i>	Smooth Hammerhead Shark	Extant (Resident)	Extant (Resident)	Taking does not occur	From the Cefas at-sea observer programme, which focusses on waters around the UK and adjacent waters, there have been no records of bycatch. Data for most of the species detailed in this spreadsheet are too limited to derive annual estimates of bycatch, and so only the original records are presented.	Taking does not occur	NA

Species		Status of species in your area of national jurisdiction according to IUCN	Status of species in your area of national jurisdiction	Species that your vessels catch WITHIN your area of national jurisdiction ¹	Any supporting documentation for catches within your area of national jurisdiction	Species that your flag vessels catch OUTSIDE of your national jurisdiction limits ²	Any supporting documentation for catches within your area of national jurisdiction
Scientific name	Common name (English)						
<i>Squalus acanthias</i>	Spiny Dogfish	Extant (Resident)	Extant (Resident)	Taking occurs	The spurdog bycatch management programme previously allowed 10 vessels to land 2t of dead spurdog per vessel per month. Following the updated ICES advice this programme stopped at the end of 2022 and a TAC will be introduced in spring 2023 (following the removal of spurdog under 100cm from the prohibited species list).	Taking does not occur	NA
<i>Squatina squatina</i>	Angelshark	Extant (Resident)	Extant (Resident)	Taking does not occur	From the Cefas at-sea observer programme, which focusses on waters around the UK and adjacent waters, there has only been one record of potential bycatch - 133 cm male angelshark being caught by gillnet in the Bristol Channel, and discarded, in September 2017. Data for most of the species detailed in this spreadsheet are too limited to derive annual estimates of bycatch, and so only the original records are presented.	Taking does not occur	NA

Species		Details of protection measures or managed fisheries for each species	Details of regulations currently being proposed or implemented for each species	Details of conservation measures for each species	Comments, including sources of information, resources and links
Scientific name	Common name (English)				
<i>Alopias pelagicus</i>	Pelagic Thresher Shark				
<i>Alopias superciliosus</i>	Bigeye Thresher Shark	Retaining on board, transshipping or landing any part or whole carcass of bigeye thresher shark in any fishery is prohibited. When bigeye thresher sharks are caught, they are not to be harmed and be promptly released.			
<i>Alopias vulpinus</i>	Common Thresher Shark				
<i>Anoxypristis cuspidata</i>	Narrow Sawfish				
<i>Carcharhinus falciformis</i>	Silky Shark				
<i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i>	Oceanic Whitetip Shark				
<i>Carcharhinus obscurus</i>	Dusky Shark				
<i>Carcharodon carcharias</i>	Great White Shark				
<i>Cetorhinus maximus</i>	Basking Shark	Retaining on board, transshipping or landing any part or whole carcass of basking shark in any fishery is prohibited. When basking sharks are caught, they are not to be harmed and be promptly released. Basking sharks are also protected under section 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, making the following an offence: kill or injure, capture, possess or keep, damage or destroy place of shelter/protection, disturb, transport or possess for sale or offer or expose for sale or advertise for sale, use prohibited method to take or kill.	Wildlife and Countryside Act (https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69/c/contents). Additional species can be added to the Wildlife and Countryside Act as part of a five yearly review, whereby the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), adviser to the UK Government on nature conservation issues, propose species in need of protection. Through this process the listing of additional shark species on the Act can be considered, where these listings would be in line with scientific		

Species		Details of protection measures or managed fisheries for each species	Details of regulations currently being proposed or implemented for each species	Details of conservation measures for each species	Comments, including sources of information, resources and links
Scientific name	Common name (English)				
			advice and offer a real conservation benefit. Details on the review can be found on the JNCC website (https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/wildlife-countryside-act/).		
<i>Isurus oxyrinchus</i>	Shortfin Mako Shark				
<i>Isurus paucus</i>	Longfin Mako Shark	This species is in the process of being added to the prohibited species list. This means that retaining on board, transshipping or landing any part or whole carcass of shortfin mako shark in any fishery will be prohibited. When shortfin mako sharks are caught, they are not to be harmed and be promptly released.			
<i>Lamna nasus</i>	Porbeagle	Retaining on board, transshipping or landing any part or whole carcass of porbeagle in any fishery is prohibited. When porbeagle are caught, they are not to be harmed and be promptly released.			
<i>Manta alfredi</i> (<i>Mobula alfredi</i>)	Reef Manta Ray				
<i>Manta birostris</i> (<i>Mobula birostris</i>)	Manta Ray				
<i>Mobula eregoodootenkee</i> (<i>Mobule eregoodoo</i>)	Longhorn ed Pygmy Devil Ray				
<i>Mobula hypostoma</i>	Atlantic Devil Ray				
<i>Mobula japanica</i>	Japanese Devil Ray				

Species		Details of protection measures or managed fisheries for each species	Details of regulations currently being proposed or implemented for each species	Details of conservation measures for each species	Comments, including sources of information, resources and links
Scientific name	Common name (English)				
<i>(Please enter information under Mobula mobular)</i>					
<i>Mobula kuhlii</i>	Shortfin Devil Ray				
<i>Mobula mobular</i>	Giant Devil Ray				
<i>Mobula munkiana</i>	Pygmy Devil Ray				
<i>Mobula rochebrunei</i> <i>(Please enter information under Mobula hypostoma)</i>	Lesser Guinean Devil Ray				
<i>Mobula tarapacana</i>	Sicklefin Devil Ray				
<i>Mobula thurstoni</i>	Bentfin Devil Ray				
<i>Pristis clavata</i>	Dwarf Sawfish				
<i>Pristis pectinata</i>	Smalltooth Sawfish				
<i>Pristis pristis</i>	Large-toothed Sawfish				
<i>Pristis zijsron</i>	Green Sawfish				

Species		Details of protection measures or managed fisheries for each species	Details of regulations currently being proposed or implemented for each species	Details of conservation measures for each species	Comments, including sources of information, resources and links
Scientific name	Common name (English)				
<i>Rhincodon typus</i>	Whale Shark				
<i>Rhinobatos rhinobatos</i>	Common Guitarfish				
<i>Rhynchobatus australiae</i>	Bottlenose Wedgefish				
<i>Rhynchobatus djiddensis</i>	Whitespotted Wedgefish				
<i>Rhynchobatus laevis</i>	Smoothnose Wedgefish				
<i>Sphyrna lewini</i>	Scalloped Hammerhead Shark				
<i>Sphyrna mokarran</i>	Great Hammerhead Shark				
<i>Sphyrna zygaena</i>	Smooth Hammerhead Shark	Retaining on board, transshipping or landing any part or whole carcass of smooth hammerhead shark in any fishery is prohibited. When smooth hammerhead sharks are caught, they are not to be harmed and be promptly released.			
<i>Squalus acanthias</i>	Spiny Dogfish		Spurdog is currently on the prohibited species list which means that retaining on board, transshipping or landing any part or whole carcass in any fishery is prohibited. Following ICES advice, we are in the process of removing spurdog under 100cm from this list meaning that they will be able to be targeted and landed once		

Species		Details of protection measures or managed fisheries for each species	Details of regulations currently being proposed or implemented for each species	Details of conservation measures for each species	Comments, including sources of information, resources and links
Scientific name	Common name (English)				
			this legislation has gone through. Spurdog over 100cm will remain on the prohibited species list.		
<i>Squatina squatina</i>	Angelshark	Retaining on board, transshipping or landing any part or whole carcass of angelshark in any fishery is prohibited. When angelshark are caught, they are not to be harmed and be promptly released. Angel shark are protected under sections 9(1), 9(2) and 9(5) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, making the following an offence: kill or injure, capture, possess or keep, transport or possess for sale or offer or expose for sale or advertise for sale, use prohibited method to take or kill.	Wildlife and Countryside Act (https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69/contents). Additional species can be added to the Wildlife and Countryside Act as part of a five yearly review, whereby the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), adviser to the UK Government on nature conservation issues, propose species in need of protection. Through this process the listing of additional shark species on the Act can be considered, where these listings would be in line with scientific advice and offer a real conservation benefit. Details on the review can be found on the JNCC website (https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/wildlife-countryside-act/).		