



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

CMS/Sharks/MOS4/National
Report/Germany
16 January 2023
Original: English

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

Germany National Report

Page number	Item
1 – 6	Completed National Reporting Form
7 – 14	Completed National Reporting Spreadsheet

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

1. Name*
Dr. Rudolf Specht
2. Position*
Officer
3. Institution*
Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection, Germany; Division N I 4: International Species Conservation, Wildlife Trade
4. Email*
NI4@bmu.bund.de
5. Contributors
If contributions were submitted by multiple entities
-Dr Manuel Dureuil, Dr Christian Pusch, Scientific Advisors, Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN), Isle of Vilm, 18581 Putbus, Germany
-Federal Agency for Agriculture and Food (BLE), Referat 531, Germany

Species in your area of national jurisdiction

6. Signatory*
Please select the Signatory you represent
Germany
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.

- 3 kg Squalus acanthias in GER EEZ – discarded
- 15 kg Squalus acanthias in GER EEZ – landed

*Catches by german vessels in years 2017-2022

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.

Discards:

- 11000 kg Cetorhinus maximus in GBR
- 2500 kg Cetorhinus maximus in IRL
- 35 kg Squalus acanthias in DNK
- 1291 kg Squalus acanthias in GBR
- 100 kg Squalus acanthias in IRL
- 15 kg Squalus acanthias in NOR
- 400 kg Lamna nasus in IRL

Landed:

- 357 kg Squalus acanthias in NOR

- 132 kg Squalus acanthias in GBR
- 60 kg Squalus acanthias in DNK
- 102 kg Lamna nasus in GBR

*Catches by german vessels in years 2017-2022

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.

No

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 need for cooperation has been identified. A scientific study by Zidowitz et al. (2017) has been conducted between July 2013 and February 2016 on the collection and evaluation of historical and current data concerning the occurrence of chondrichthyan species in the North and Baltic Seas. Close ecological connectivity exist between the German and adjacent areas of the Dogger Bank. Therefore, according to Zidowitz et al. (2017) conservation measurements for chondrichthyans in the Natura 2000 site Dogger Bank should be based on a cross-border concept. An international network of protected sites in the North Sea area could also be helpful for re-introductions of extinct and critically endangered species.

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.

According to ZIDOWITZ et al. (2017) filling of still existing gaps in knowledge would support elaboration and successful implementation of measures for the improvement of the conservation status of chondrichthyans in German waters. Future research concerning chondrichthyan species established in German waters should therefore for instance focus on the following points: compilation of further historical occurrence data, analysis of parameters of stock structure and reproduction biology, identification of important reproduction and nursery areas, clarification of migration patterns and habitat use, collection of species specific data of catch and bycatch, analysis of the effects of electromagnetic fields, investigation and modelling of the influence of changed climatic conditions. The introduction of special monitoring programmes for chondrichthyans seems to be useful for certain questions, e.g. in case of data collection with regard to the impact of recreational fishing on

chondrichthyans.

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.

The Federal Agency for Agriculture and Food (BLE) has translated the Commercial Fisheries Advisories developed by Shark Trust for 18 species of skates and rays into German (<https://www.sharktrust.org/german>).

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	Doesn't Occur				
<i>Alopias superciliosus</i>	Bigeye Thresher Shark	Doesn't Occur	Doesn't Occur				
<i>Alopias vulpinus</i>	Common Thresher Shark	Extant (Resident)	Extant (Resident)				
<i>Anoxypristis cuspidata</i>	Narrow Sawfish	Doesn't Occur	Doesn't Occur				
<i>Carcharhinus falciformis</i>	Silky Shark	Doesn't Occur	Doesn't Occur				
<i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i>	Oceanic Whitetip Shark	Doesn't Occur	Doesn't Occur				
<i>Carcharhinus obscurus</i>	Dusky Shark	Doesn't Occur	Doesn't Occur				
<i>Carcharodon carcharias</i>	Great White Shark	Doesn't Occur	Doesn't Occur				
<i>Cetorhinus maximus</i>	Basking Shark	Extant (Resident)	Presence Uncertain		Taking occurs		
<i>Isurus oxyrinchus</i>	Shortfin Mako Shark	Doesn't Occur	Doesn't Occur				
<i>Isurus paucus</i>	Longfin Mako Shark	Doesn't Occur	Doesn't Occur				
<i>Lamna nasus</i>	Porbeagle	Extant (Resident)	Extant (Resident)		Taking occurs		
<i>Manta alfredi</i> (<i>Mobula alfredi</i>)	Reef Manta Ray	Doesn't Occur	Doesn't Occur				
<i>Manta birostris</i> (<i>Mobula birostris</i>)	Manta Ray	Doesn't Occur	Doesn't Occur				
<i>Mobula eregoodootenkee</i>	Longhorned Pygmy Devil Ray	Doesn't Occur	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>(Mobula eregoodoo)</i>							
<i>Mobula hypostoma</i>	Atlantic Devil Ray	Doesn't Occur	Doesn't Occur				
<i>Mobula japanica</i> (Please enter information under <i>Mobula mobular</i>).	Japanese Devil Ray	Doesn't Occur	Doesn't Occur				
<i>Mobula kuhlii</i>	Shortfin Devil Ray	Doesn't Occur	Doesn't Occur				
<i>Mobula mobular</i>	Giant Devil Ray	Doesn't Occur	Doesn't Occur				
<i>Mobula munkiana</i>	Pygmy Devil Ray	Doesn't Occur	Doesn't Occur				
<i>Mobula rochebrunei</i> (Please enter information under <i>Mobula hypostoma</i>).	Lesser Guinean Devil Ray	Doesn't Occur	Doesn't Occur				
<i>Mobula tarapacana</i>	Sicklefin Devil Ray	Doesn't Occur	Doesn't Occur				
<i>Mobula thurstoni</i>	Bentfin Devil Ray	Doesn't Occur	Doesn't Occur				
<i>Pristis clavata</i>	Dwarf Sawfish	Doesn't Occur	Doesn't Occur				
<i>Pristis pectinata</i>	Smalltooth Sawfish	Doesn't Occur	Doesn't Occur				
<i>Pristis pristis</i>	Large-tooth Sawfish	Doesn't Occur	Doesn't Occur				
<i>Pristis zijsron</i>	Green Sawfish	Doesn't Occur	Doesn't Occur				
<i>Rhincodon typus</i>	Whale Shark	Doesn't Occur	Doesn't Occur				
<i>Rhinobatos rhinobatos</i>	Common Guitarfish	Doesn't Occur	Doesn't Occur				
<i>Rhynchobatus australiae</i>	Bottlenose Wedgefish	Doesn't Occur	Doesn't Occur				
<i>Rhynchobatus djiddensis</i>	Whitespotted Wedgefish	Doesn't Occur	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>Rhynchobatus laevis</i>	Smoothnose Wedgefish	Doesn't Occur	Doesn't Occur				
<i>Sphyrna lewini</i>	Scalloped Hammerhead Shark	Doesn't Occur	Doesn't Occur				
<i>Sphyrna mokarran</i>	Great Hammerhead Shark	Doesn't Occur	Doesn't Occur				
<i>Sphyrna zygaena</i>	Smooth Hammerhead Shark	Extant (Resident)	Doesn't Occur				
<i>Squalus acanthias</i>	Spiny Dogfish	Extant (Resident)	Extant (Resident)	Taking occurs	Taking occurs		
<i>Squatina squatina</i>	Angelshark	Possibly Extinct	Possibly Extinct				

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				
<i>Alopias vulpinus</i>	Common Thresher Shark	No direct species-specific protection measures exist	The year-round exclusion of all mobile bottom-contacting gears in large parts of the Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) in the German EEZ of the North Sea was adopted by the EU-Commission as delegated act in December 2022 and is expected to be enforced in the near future. The conservation objectives and the proposed management measures in Marine Protected Areas in the German EEZ are focused on species and habitats that are listed on Annex I and II of the Habitat Directive and bird species protected according to the Birds Directive. The proposed measures are not primarily focused on the conservation of migratory sharks. According to Zidowitz <i>et al.</i> (2017) some sharks will benefit from the fisheries management measures as food availability will improve and zones for retreat will be established. The establishment of sufficient zones for retreat might be in the prerequisite for the recovery or even the return of extinct chondrichthyan species in German EEZ waters.		
<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	No direct species-specific protection measures exist	The year-round exclusion of all mobile bottom-contacting gears in large parts of the Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) in the German EEZ of the North Sea was adopted by the EU-Commission as delegated act in December 2022 and is expected		

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)				
			to be enforced in the near future. The conservation objectives and the proposed management measures in Marine Protected Areas in the German EEZ are focused on species and habitats that are listed on Annex I and II of the Habitat Directive and bird species protected according to the Birds Directive. The proposed measures are not primarily focused on the conservation of migratory sharks. According to Zidowitz <i>et al.</i> (2017) some sharks will benefit from the fisheries management measures as food availability will improve and zones for retreat will be established. The establishment of sufficient zones for retreat might be in the prerequisite for the recovery or even the return of extinct chondrichthyan species in German EEZ waters.		
<i>Isurus oxyrinchus</i>	Shortfin Mako Shark				
<i>Isurus paucus</i>	Longfin Mako Shark				
<i>Lamna nasus</i>	Porbeagle	No direct species-specific protection measures exist	The year-round exclusion of all mobile bottom-contacting gears in large parts of the Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) in the German EEZ of the North Sea was adopted by the EU-Commission as delegated act in December 2022 and is expected to be enforced in the near future. The conservation objectives and the proposed management measures in Marine Protected Areas in the German EEZ are focused on species and habitats that are listed on Annex I and II of the Habitat Directive and bird species protected according to the Birds Directive. The proposed measures are not primarily focused on the conservation of migratory sharks. According to Zidowitz <i>et al.</i> (2017) some sharks will benefit from the fisheries management measures as food availability will improve and zones for retreat will be established. The establishment of sufficient zones for retreat might be in the prerequisite for the recovery or even the return of extinct chondrichthyan species in German EEZ waters.		
<i>Manta alfredi</i> (<i>Mobula alfredi</i>)	Reef Manta 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>Manta birostris</i> (<i>Mobula birostris</i>)	Manta Ray				
<i>Mobula eregoodootenkee</i> (<i>Mobule eregoodoo</i>)	Longhorned Pygmy Devil Ray				
<i>Mobula hypostoma</i>	Atlantic Devil Ray				
<i>Mobula japanica</i> (Please enter information under <i>Mobula mobular</i>).	Japanese Devil Ray				
<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> (Please enter information under <i>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-tooth Sawfish				
<i>Pristis zijsron</i>	Green Sawfish				
<i>Rhincodon typus</i>	Whale Shark				
<i>Rhinobatos rhinobatos</i>	Common Guitarfish				

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>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				
<i>Squalus acanthias</i>	Spiny Dogfish	No direct species-specific protection measures exist	The year-round exclusion of all mobile bottom-contacting gears in large parts of the Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) in the German EEZ of the North Sea was adopted by the EU-Commission as delegated act in December 2022 and is expected to be enforced in the near future. The conservation objectives and the proposed management measures in Marine Protected Areas in the German EEZ are focused on species and habitats that are listed on Annex I and II of the Habitat Directive and bird species protected according to the Birds Directive. The proposed measures are not primarily focused on the conservation of migratory sharks. According to Zidowitz <i>et al.</i> (2017) some sharks will benefit from the fisheries management measures as food availability will improve and zones for retreat will be established. The establishment of sufficient zones for retreat might be in the prerequisite for the recovery or even the return of extinct chondrichthyan species in German EEZ waters.		
<i>Squatina squatina</i>	Angelshark	No direct species-specific protection measures exist	The year-round exclusion of all mobile bottom-contacting gears in large parts of the Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) in the German EEZ of the North Sea was adopted by the EU-Commission as delegated act in December 2022 and is expected to be enforced in the near future. The conservation objectives		

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)				
			and the proposed management measures in Marine Protected Areas in the German EEZ are focused on species and habitats that are listed on Annex I and II of the Habitat Directive and bird species protected according to the Birds Directive. The proposed measures are not primarily focused on the conservation of migratory sharks. According to Zidowitz et al. (2017) some sharks will benefit from the fisheries management measures as food availability will improve and zones for retreat will be established. The establishment of sufficient zones for retreat might be in the prerequisite for the recovery or even the return of extinct chondrichthyan species in German EEZ waters.		