



## SIDE EVENT CALENDAR

Date	Time <i>Times may vary depending on the duration of plenary session</i>	
	Lunch Break (12.30 – 13:15)	Evening (17:45-18:30)
<b>Tuesday 28 February</b>	Dive in and Discover: The Tope Shark Proposal and the Sharks MOU Advisory Committee's Assessment	Collaborative action for Mediterranean Angel Sharks
<b>Wednesday 1 March</b>	Important Shark and Ray Areas (ISRA)	Shark conservation requires effective fisheries management measures in all RFMOs, including tuna RFMOs
<b>Thursday 2 March</b>	Shark conservation in Kenya and the Western Indian Ocean	

## Tuesday 28 February

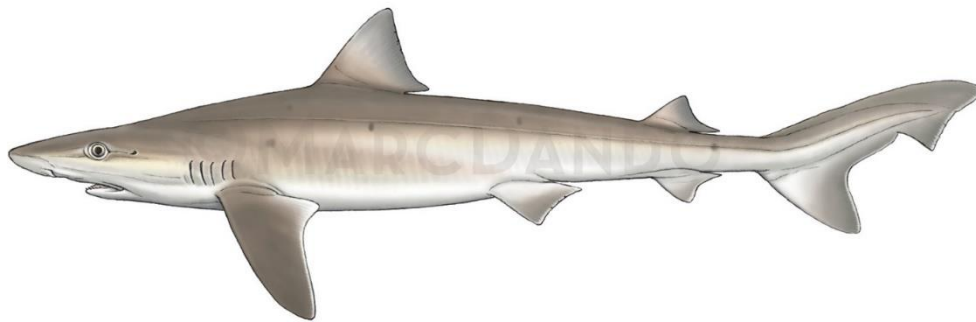
### Dive in and Discover: The Tope Shark Proposal and the Sharks MOU Advisory Committee's Assessment

**Time:** 12:30 – 13:15

**Room:** AAH (plenary room)

**Organiser:** Government of Germany & Sharks MOU Advisory Committee

**Speakers:** **Jürgen Friedrich** (Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection, BMUV), **Matthias Schaber** (Thünen Institute of Sea Fisheries/Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture, BMEL), and **James Ellis** (Vice Chair Sharks AC, Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science, CEFAS)



Following a proposal submitted by the EU, parties at the 13th Conference of the Parties to the CMS (COP13) in 2020 agreed to list the Tope Shark, also known as School Shark, (*Galeorhinus galeus*) in Appendix II of the Convention. An according amendment to Annex 1 of the Sharks MOU should be assessed by the Signatories during the Meeting of the Signatories (MOS). The aim of this side event is to present the EU proposal including relevant information on how this endangered migratory shark species meets the listing criteria. Additionally, an assessment and review of the listing proposal is presented by the Advisory Committee.

### Collaborative action for Mediterranean angel sharks

**Time:** 17:45 – 18:30

**Room:** AAH (plenary room)

**Organiser:** Ali Hood and Cat Gordon (The Shark Trust) on behalf of the Angel Shark Conservation Network\* (ASCN) and partners

**Speakers:** **Ali Hood**, The Shark Trust (in person) with ASCN partners (virtual)



Three species of angel shark are present in Mediterranean waters - *Squatina aculeata*, *S. oculata*, *S. squatina* - and whilst all are Critically Endangered, only the latter is listed on CMS Appendices I and II, and Annex I of the CMS MOU.

Since inception of the Angel Shark Conservation Network in 2016 and the subsequent development of a series of conservation planning documents, knowledge of angel shark distribution across the Mediterranean has enhanced substantially, though there is still much to learn.

This event celebrates the breadth of work being delivered across the region by a diversity of partners in multiple countries. Reference will be made to several planning documents and resources including the Mediterranean Angel Sharks: Regional Action Plan and the CMS Single Species Action Plan. Documents designed to help guide CMS Parties, Signatories of the Sharks-MOU and other Range States, as well as NGOs and researchers in efforts to honour existing conservation commitments and establish and implement domestic and regional regulations in order to better protect angel sharks.



\*The founding partners of the Angel Shark Conservation Network are: IUCN Shark Specialist Group, Leibniz Institute for the Analysis of Biodiversity Change, Shark Trust, SUBMON, Universidad de las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Zoological Society of London, along with a number of additional collaborators.

## Wednesday 1 March

### Important Shark and Ray Areas (ISRAs)

**Time:** 12:30 – 13:15

**Room:** AAH (plenary room)

**Organiser:** IUCN SSC Shark Specialist Group

**Speakers:** **Rima Jabado** (Sharks AC, IUCN SSC SSG), **Ryan Charles** (IUCN SSC SSG), and **Andrea Pauly** (Sharks MOU Secretariat - tbc)

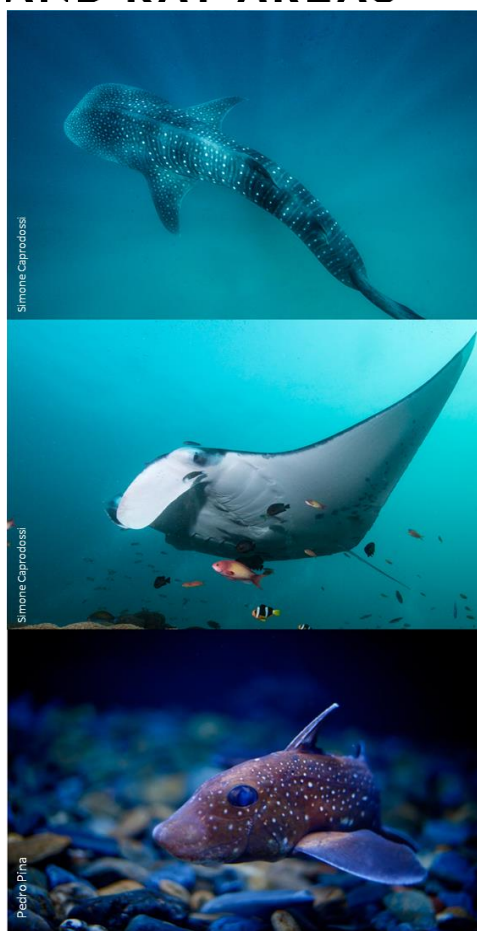
The IUCN SSC Shark Specialist Group will introduce the Important Shark and Ray Areas (ISRAs) project. This project aims to identify discrete, three-dimensional portions of habitat that are critical to the survival of sharks, rays, and chimaeras around the globe. ISRAs are modelled on the successful Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs) initiative. Similarly, delineated ISRAs have the potential to be managed for conservation. ISRAs aim to support broader conservation goals and are complementary to other area-based conservation measures such as Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) and Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs). This scientific expert-based process is being applied across 13 global regions. We will present a case study on the application of the ISRA Criteria in the Central and South American Pacific.

With this side event, the ISRA project seeks to:

1. support CMS' work by identifying critical habitats for sharks, rays, and chimaeras;
2. showcase the importance of area-based management for this species group; and
3. encourage countries to get involved in the ISRA project.

# ISRA

## IMPORTANT SHARK AND RAY AREAS



**Wednesday 1 March****Shark Conservation Requires Effective Fisheries Management Measures in All RFMOs, Including Tuna RFMOs****Time:** 17:45 – 18:30**Room:** AAH (plenary room)**Organiser:** Sharkproject International**Speakers:** **Iris Ziegler** (Sharkproject International),  
**Jillian Acker** (Oceana),  
**Lawrence Clebeck** (Humane Society Australia)

Sharks are actively targeted by many fisheries, but to date, no effective management has been implemented by the major Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) to end overfishing of stocks. Blue shark fisheries alone have a global estimated value of 411 million US\$ (Oceana 2022), but none of the tuna RFMOs have effective management measures in place compared to, for example, those that have been implemented for bluefin tuna.

Reporting of catch efforts and discards at species level remains extremely poor, hindering stock assessments and preventing conservation measures being agreed for sharks. Some smaller RFMOs have implemented harvest control rules for some shark species, and ICCAT has recently adopted first measures to end overfishing of mako in the Atlantic, however mortality remains excessive. Although most vulnerable to overfishing, oceanic sharks continue to be a massive “targeted bycatch” in fisheries applying non-selective gear and lacking bycatch avoidance strategies.

Therefore, globally harmonized requirements are important to ensure all sharks overlapping with fisheries will be managed effectively by the RFMOs, applying science-based reference points and a precautionary approach in case of uncertainty or insufficient data.

We invite experts from science, governments, and fisheries for a panel discussion to evaluate existing gaps in fisheries management and how these can be closed.

**SHARKPROJECT**

## Thursday 2 March

### Shark Conservation in Kenya and the Western Indian Ocean

**Time:** 12:30 – 13:15

**Room:** AAH (plenary room)

**Organiser:** Kenyan Wildlife Research and Training Institute

**Speakers:** **Mohamed Omar** (Wildlife Research and Training Institute)

Currently, Kenya is developing a National Plan of Action (NPOA) for sharks and rays due to the alarming decline in shark populations. The shark population in Kenyan waters has witnessed a significant decline and it is reported that sighting of sharks in Kenyan waters ranks one of the lowest globally. This is compounded by a serious lack of accurate data on shark fisheries. Consequently, the development of the NPOA is a step towards this goal. To date, two assessments have been done. These include (1) an Ecological Risk Assessment (ERA) for shark and ray species in fisheries within Kenya's marine waters, and (2) a shark baseline assessment report for Kenya to support the NPOA for the conservation and management of sharks and rays.



The side event will focus on:

1. Presenting the NPOA being finalised by the State Department for Fisheries, Aquaculture and The Blue Economy (Ministry of Agriculture & Livestock Development).
2. Presenting the Kenyan multi-stakeholder shark conservation strategy currently being developed and being facilitated by CORDIO.
3. Display shark awareness materials from CORDIO, WCS, and the Nairobi Convention.
4. Present species-specific fisheries policy being promoted in Kenya that addresses CMS, IOTC, and CITES issues, especially the CITES ruling on requiem sharks and Kenya's commitment to its implementation.

The side event will also provide a regional perspective, where the regional shark and ray status report prepared by WCS, WIOMSA, and the Nature Conservancy in 2022 will be presented. IUCN Shark Specialist Group activities, to help give an Africa wide perspective, will also be presented.