



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

CMS/Sharks/AC3/Doc.7.1
22 November 2019

Original: English

3rd Meeting of the Advisory Committee (AC3)
Bonn, Germany, 10 - 12 December 2019
Agenda Item 7

NATIONAL REPORTING

(Prepared by the Secretariat)

1. At the 3rd Meeting of the Signatories, an Intersessional Working Group (IWG) was established, which was tasked with the development of a new format for national reporting amongst other things;
2. The tasks were defined in Doc. CMS/Sharks/Outcome 3.11¹ and are as follows:

“The primary objectives of the Intersessional Working Group are to provide advice to the MOS on streamlining the reporting format, ensuring the questions are focused on the priorities of the MOU and that the reporting platform is user-friendly. The Intersessional Working Group will provide advice to the MOS on the following broad categories, including, but limited to, the issues outlined in the bullets below:

1) *Content of the National Report:*

- *Identify the purpose of the National Reports;*
- *Review the current questionnaire for reporting to ensure that all appropriate questions are included, such as relevant social information;*
- *Determine required baseline information;*
- *Develop reporting guidelines, i.e., standard reporting requirements, when to report*
- *New information versus status quo;*
- *Streamline reporting (review of other relevant reporting requirements within CMS and other processes and identify synergies);*
- *Develop indicators for assessing progress of implementation of the MOU.*

¹ Found at: <https://cms.int/sharks/en/document/terms-reference-intersessional-working-group-national-reporting>

2) *Format/Platform:*

- *Online Reporting Tool (consider alternative options, if possible, in consultation with the Secretariat);*
- *Identify (technical) challenges to completing the online form.*

3) *Process:*

- *Determine the frequency of reporting;*
- *Determine the deadlines for submission;*
- *Identify challenges to reporting.*

4) *Modus Operandi of the Intersessional Working Group:*

- *Composition: Co-chairs: USA and Australia;*
- *Membership: Brazil, Comoros, Congo (Brazzaville), Cote d'Ivoire, the EU and its Member States, Madagascar, Mauritania, New Zealand, Senegal, South Africa, H.S.I., Sharks Advocates International;*
- *The IWG will work remotely by email.*

5) *Process for finalization:*

- *The IWG will begin its work in late January and develop a final draft by 31 August 2019. This will be submitted to the 3rd Meeting of the AC, a month or so later, at a date to be determined;*
- *The Secretariat will make revisions based on the comments from the AC and circulate to the IWG for their agreement;*
- *The Secretariat will then circulate the final document to all Signatories, for them to adopt the revised National Report format, by mid-2020;*
- *The Secretariat will prepare the reporting template/platform, in good time for Signatories to begin completing their National Reports in early 2021.”*

3. The IWG undertook its work remotely, chaired by the USA and Australia.
4. A draft national reporting format, which is presented in Annex 1 to this document, was provided to the AC for review in July 2019. Comments received from the AC have not been included in the draft so far, because the Secretariat felt that further discussions were required by the AC members at this meeting to finalize their recommendations to the IWG.
5. The IWG has also provided further guidance on the content, format and process of completing National Reports, details of which are included in Annex 2.
6. The IWG has requested the AC to elaborate indicators that allow the status of implementation of the Sharks MOU to be measured.
7. Furthermore, the IWG has requested the Secretariat to identify online reporting tool options, taking into account any identified challenges to reporting. Furthermore, the Secretariat was requested to ensure that any National Reporting format could be made available in a format

that could be populated offline as well as online as this would greatly facilitate the internal clearance process by Parties.

8. The Secretariat will present a possible approach to implement this request to the AC members for consideration.

Action requested:

1. Review and finalize the draft reporting format in Annex 1;
2. Review Annex 2 and make comments as required;
3. Develop indicators that enable measurement of the status of implementation of the Sharks MOU;
4. Provide guidance to the Secretariat on reporting tools, that can be used online and offline.

ANNEX 1

STRAWMAN FOR CMS SHARK MOU NATIONAL REPORT

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

1. Indicate which Annex I-listed species are found in your EEZ.
2. What is their national and/or regional conservation status (if unknown, please indicate the status according to the IUCN Red List of Threatened species or other regional or national red list assessment schemes)?
3. Do your vessels catch Annex I species (either in EEZ or on high seas)?
 - a. Please indicate which species are caught as direct catch and/or which species are caught as bycatch.
 - b. Are they managed and if so, through domestic regulations or through implementation of RFMO measures? Please explain briefly and also upload applicable regulations.
 - c. What protections are afforded these species in your EEZ? (over and above the regulations above).
4. Please upload any national/regional identification guides, safe handling and release guidelines, etc. that you have for any of the Annex I listed species.
5. Report on actions undertaken that contribute to implementation of the Conservation Plan.
6. Have you identified the need, or do you have a request for cooperation with other Signatories or Cooperating Partners in implementation of the Conservation Plan within your country/region? Please describe.
7. Have you identified any capacity needs in your country? If so, please provide details below.

Annex 2: Further guidance on content, format and process of completing National Reports

The Intersessional Working Group has agreed the remaining advice, as outlined in the TOR for the Intersessional Working Group.

1. Content of the National Report

- Develop reporting guidelines, i.e., standard reporting requirements, when to report new information versus status quo

Once Signatories have agreed to the National Report format, to expedite future reporting, it is proposed that this can be updated with new information, where appropriate, and resubmitted without change if no new information is available.

- Streamline reporting (review of other relevant reporting requirements within CMS and other processes and identify synergies)

We believe we have addressed this issue with the new national reporting format.

- Develop indicators for assessing progress of implementation of the MOU.
We propose asking the Advisory Committee (AC) to develop the indicators at their December meeting.

2. Format/Platform

- Online Reporting Tool (consider alternative options, if possible, in consultation with the Secretariat)

The IWG is supportive of the Secretariat exploring online reporting tool options, taking into account any identified challenges to reporting.

- Identify (technical) challenges to completing the online form.

Some Signatories have to get clearance of the draft report from multiple different offices/agencies, therefore, we strongly request that any National Reporting format be made available in a format that can be populated offline as well as online as this will greatly facilitate the internal clearance process.

3. Process

- Determine the frequency of reporting

At MOS1, Signatories agreed to submit a national report once every three years. We recommend maintaining this reporting frequency at this time.

- Determine the deadlines for submission

At MOS2, Signatories agreed national reports were to be submitted six months before the meeting of the Advisory Committee preceding a session of the MOS. We recommend maintaining this deadline.

- Identify challenges to reporting.

Difficulty getting multiple clearances was the only identified challenge. This can be addressed by the suggestion above of providing an online format that can be populated offline as well as online.