



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

CMS/Sharks/Outcome 3.4

14 December 2018

3rd Meeting of the Signatories (Sharks MOS3)
Monaco, 10 – 14 December 2018

**GUIDANCE FOR SHARKS MOU SIGNATORIES AND THE SECRETARIAT IN THEIR
ENGAGEMENT WITH RFMO**

1. Signatories have agreed the below list of activities which aim to guide the Secretariat and the Signatories in their engagement with Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs).
2. The list includes a number of measures, that Signatories would like to see adopted by RFMOs. These are consistent with the objectives of the MOU and its associated Conservation Plan.

A. Directed to the Secretariat:

- i. Enhance collaboration with RFMOs via the signing of Memoranda of Cooperation or the conclusion of other mechanisms;
- ii. Liaise and communicate with RFMOs to identify opportunities for joint activities, including capacity-building activities that are relevant for the conservation and management of species listed in Annex 1;
- iii. Enhance visibility of MOU activities in RFMOs and vice versa.

B. Directed to the Signatories:

- iv. Actively promote and raise awareness of the objectives of the Sharks MOU;
- v. Liaise with RFMOs to identify opportunities for joint activities, including capacity-building activities that are relevant for the conservation and management of species listed in Annex 1;
- vi. Keep the Secretariat and other Signatories informed about discussions relevant to Sharks MOU listed species that are taking place in fisheries fora;

- vii. Support adoption of measures consistent with the objectives of the MOU and its associated Conservation Plan, such as:
- measures to ensure that all shark catch is within sustainable limits;
 - measures requiring sharks to be landed with fins naturally attached;
 - recommendations for the safe handling and release of all sharks and mobulid rays caught incidentally;
 - measures to improve data collection including catch and effort, biological data, bycatch, and discard and release information;
 - measures to mitigate bycatch and associated mortality and reduce entanglement;
 - research programs to assess and monitor the status of shark species in the RFMO Convention Areas;
 - precautionary management approaches with regard to fisheries that catch sharks.