



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

CMS/Sharks/MOS4/National
Report/United States of America
17/02//2023
Original: English

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

United States of America National Report

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Respondent

2

Anonymous

08:52

Time to complete

Report submitted by:

1. Name: *

Cheri McCarty

2. Position: *

Senior Foreign Affairs Specialist

3. Institution: *

NOAA/NMFS/IATC

4. Email: *

Cheri.McCarty@noaa.gov

5. Contributors

If contributions were submitted by multiple entities

Species in your area of national jurisdiction

6. Signatory *

Please select the Signatory you represent

United States of America



7. Please download the following spreadsheet

(https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/12l9mqt2c7IAAcQAdgVVy_CjIOA1MD8BZ/edit?usp=share_link&ouid=104870991349149978927&rtpof=true&sd=true)

to review the status of Annex 1-listed species in your national jurisdiction. Once complete, please email it 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



8. Please download the following spreadsheet

(https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1DAiVLWEDVs10ybCWDpPkAwWEEiSj1u1y/edit?usp=share_link&ouid=104870991349149978927&rtpof=true&sd=true)

to review the status of Annex 1-listed species in your national jurisdiction. Once complete, please email it to the Secretariat (fenella.wood@cms.int). *

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9. Please download the following spreadsheet

(https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1bK8PaQ1AFjd71-Z1lwiFism8UY_-40kH/edit?usp=share_link&oid=104870991349149978927&rtpof=true&sd=true)

to review the status of Annex 1-listed species in your national jurisdiction. Once complete, please email it 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

10. Do your vessels catch (landed, transhipped or discarded) any Annex 1-listed species WITHIN your area of national jurisdiction? *

Yes

No

11. If yes, please report species-specific catch information within your area of national jurisdiction on the spreadsheet provided to download in Q11. *

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

12. Do your vessels catch (landed, transhipped or discarded) any Annex 1-listed species OUTSIDE of your area of national jurisdiction? *

Yes

No

13. If yes, please report species-specific catch information outside of your area of national jurisdiction on the spreadsheet provided to download in Q11. *

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

Management and conservation measures

14. Are any Annex 1-listed species protected or have a managed fishery? *

Yes

No

15. If yes, please include details of protection measures or managed fisheries for each species in the spreadsheet provided to download in Q11. *

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

16. Are there any regulations concerning Annex 1-listed species currently in the process of being proposed or implemented? *

Yes

No

17. If yes, please include details of the proposed or in the process of implementation in the spreadsheet provided to download in Q11. *

Please infill column K on the spreadsheet for each species.

I have added species-specific information to the spreadsheet

18. Have you established other conservation measures for Annex 1-listed species in your area of national jurisdiction? *

Yes

No

19. If yes, please include details of the conservation measures in the spreadsheet provided to download in Q11. *

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

Cooperation

20. 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.

The United States continues to promote the global conservation and management of sharks. We work with regional fisheries management organizations and other international bodies for global shark conservation and management measures. We also work internationally to promote our "fins naturally attached" policy overseas and provide technical support for other countries' shark conservation efforts. Support activities include shark identification training and data collection workshops. We also collaborate with other countries on research aimed at achieving science-based management measures and conservation of sharks in our global ocean.

Domestically, the United States manages commercial and recreational shark fisheries in the Atlantic Ocean and works with three regional fishery management councils to conserve and sustainably manage sharks in the Pacific Ocean.

21. 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.

N/A

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

Please describe.

N/A

Capacity and materials

23. 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.

N/A

24. 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.

Links provided in the spreadsheet.

25. 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.



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	Extant (Resident)	Taking occurs		Taking occurs	
<i>Alopias superciliosus</i>	Bigeye Thresher Shark	Extant (Resident)		Taking does not occur	HMS SAFE Report	Taking does not occur	
<i>Alopias vulpinus</i>	Common Thresher Shark	Extant (Resident)		Taking occurs	HMS SAFE Report	Taking occurs	HMS SAFE Report
<i>Anoxypristis cuspidata</i>	Narrow Sawfish	Doesn't Occur					
<i>Carcharhinus falciformis</i>	Silky Shark	Extant (Resident)		Taking potentially occurs	HMS SAFE Report	Taking potentially occurs	HMS SAFE Report
<i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i>	Oceanic Whitetip Shark	Extant (Resident)		Taking potentially occurs	HMS SAFE Report	Taking potentially occurs	HMS SAFE Report
<i>Carcharhinus obscurus</i>	Dusky Shark	Extant (Resident)		Taking potentially occurs	HMS SAFE Report	Taking potentially occurs	HMS SAFE Report
<i>Carcharodon carcharias</i>	Great White Shark	Extant (Resident)		Taking potentially occurs	HMS SAFE Report	Taking potentially occurs	HMS SAFE Report
<i>Cetorhinus maximus</i>	Basking Shark	Extant (Resident)		Taking potentially occurs	HMS SAFE Report	Taking potentially occurs	HMS SAFE Report
<i>Isurus oxyrinchus</i>	Shortfin Mako Shark	Extant (Resident)		Taking potentially occurs	HMS SAFE Report	Taking potentially occurs	HMS SAFE Report
<i>Isurus paucus</i>	Longfin Mako Shark	Extant (Resident)		Taking potentially occurs	HMS SAFE Report	Taking potentially occurs	HMS SAFE Report
<i>Lamna nasus</i>	Porbeagle	Extant (Resident)		Taking potentially occurs	HMS SAFE Report	Taking potentially occurs	HMS SAFE Report
<i>Manta alfredi</i> (<i>Mobula alfredi</i>)	Reef Manta Ray	Extant (Resident)		Taking occurs		Taking occurs	

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>Manta birostris</i> (<i>Mobula birostris</i>)	Manta Ray	Extant (Resident)		Taking occurs		Taking occurs	
<i>Mobula eregoodootenke</i> (<i>Mobula eregoodoo</i>)	Longhorned Pygmy Devil Ray	Doesn't Occur					
<i>Mobula hypostoma</i>	Atlantic Devil Ray	Extant (Resident)					
<i>Mobula japanica</i> (Please enter information under <i>Mobula mobular</i>)	Japanese Devil Ray	Extant (Resident)					
<i>Mobula kuhlii</i>	Shortfin Devil Ray	Doesn't Occur					
<i>Mobula mobular</i>	Giant Devil Ray	Extant (Resident)		Taking potentially occurs		Taking occurs	
<i>Mobula munkiana</i>	Pygmy Devil Ray	Doesn't Occur					
<i>Mobula rochebrunei</i> (Please enter information under <i>Mobula hypostoma</i>)	Lesser Guinean Devil Ray	Extant (Resident)					
<i>Mobula tarapacana</i>	Sicklefin Devil Ray	Extant (Resident)		Taking potentially occurs		Taking occurs	
<i>Mobula thurstoni</i>	Bentfin Devil Ray	Possibly Extant		Taking potentially occurs		Taking potentially occurs	
<i>Pristis clavata</i>	Dwarf Sawfish	Doesn't Occur					
<i>Pristis pectinata</i>	Smalltooth Sawfish	Extant (Resident)		Taking does not occur		Taking does not 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 pristis</i>	Large-tooth Sawfish	Possibly Extinct					
<i>Pristis zijsron</i>	Green Sawfish	Doesn't Occur					
<i>Rhincodon typus</i>	Whale Shark	Extant (Resident)		Taking potentially occurs		Taking occurs	
<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	Extant (Resident)		Taking occurs	HMS SAFE Report	Taking potentially occurs	HMS SAFE Report
<i>Sphyrna mokarran</i>	Great Hammerhead Shark	Extant (Resident)		Taking occurs	HMS SAFE Report	Taking potentially occurs	HMS SAFE Report
<i>Sphyrna zygaena</i>	Smooth Hammerhead Shark	Extant (Resident)		Taking occurs	HMS SAFE Report	Taking potentially occurs	HMS SAFE Report
<i>Squalus acanthias</i>	Spiny Dogfish	Extant (Resident)		Taking does not occur		Taking does not occur	
<i>Squatina squatina</i>	Angelshark	Doesn't Occur					

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	<u>ATL HMS: Prohibited species (must be released)</u>			<u>WCR: https://apps-st.fisheries.noaa.gov/stocksmart?stockname=Bigeye%20thresher%20-%20Pacific&stockid=11712</u> Atlantic HMS: <u>https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/topic/atlantic-highly-migratory-species</u>
<i>Alopias vulpinus</i>	Common Thresher Shark	<u>ATL HMS: Commercial (within the pelagic shark management group) and recreational protection measures</u>			<u>WCR: https://apps-st.fisheries.noaa.gov/stocksmart?stockname=Thresher%20shark%20-%20North%20Pacific&stockid=11714</u> Atlantic HMS: <u>https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/topic/atlantic-highly-migratory-species</u>
<i>Anoxypristis cuspidata</i>	Narrow Sawfish				
<i>Carcharhinus falciformis</i>	Silky Shark	<u>For eastern Pacific Ocean: U.S. purse seine and longline vessels prohibited from retaining on board, transshipping, storing, or landing any part or whole carcass of a silky shark, with the exception of silky shark caught by purse seine that is not seen during fishing operations and is delivered into the vessel hold. Similar prohibitions in the WCPO at 50 CFR 300.226. Atlantic HMS: Commercial retention is not authorized with pelagic longline gear and allowed</u>			<u>WCR: https://apps-st.fisheries.noaa.gov/stocksmart?stockname=Silky%20shark%20-%20Western%20and%20Central%20Pacific&stockid=11728</u> Atlantic HMS: <u>https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/topic/atlantic-highly-migratory-species</u>

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)				
		<u>with other authorized commercial gear types. Recreational retention is prohibited.</u>			
<i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i>	Oceanic Whitetip Shark	<u>For eastern Pacific Ocean: Vessels prohibited from retaining, storing, transshipping, landing, selling, or offering to sell Oceanic Whitetips (parts or whole); Required handling and release requirements to minimize trailing gear in Pacific Island longline fisheries. ATL HMS: Prohibited in commercial pelagic longline and recreational fisheries. This species is listed as threatened throughout its range under ESA.</u>	WCPFC: Vessels are prohibited from retaining, landing, selling oceanic whitetip sharks in WCPO Convention Area excluding the overlap area. Implemented at 50 CFR 300.226		https://apps-st.fisheries.noaa.gov/stocksmart?stockname=Oceanic%20whitetip%20shark%20-%20Western%20and%20Central%20Pacific&stockid=11724
<i>Carcharhinus obscurus</i>	Dusky Shark	<u>ATL HMS: Prohibited species (must be released)</u>			Atlantic HMS: https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/topic/atlantic-highly-migratory-species
<i>Carcharodon carcharias</i>	Great White Shark	<u>For West Coast HMS fisheries: prohibited from retention ATL HMS: Prohibited species (must be released)</u>			Atlantic HMS: https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/topic/atlantic-highly-migratory-species
<i>Cetorhinus maximus</i>	Basking Shark	<u>For West Coast HMS fisheries: prohibited from retention ATL HMS: Prohibited species (must be released)</u>			Atlantic HMS: https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/topic/atlantic-highly-migratory-species
<i>Isurus oxyrinchus</i>	Shortfin Mako Shark	<u>ATL HMS: Zero shark retention limit in the commercial and recreational fishery. Retention could be allowed in the future.</u>			North Pacific: https://apps-st.fisheries.noaa.gov/stocksmart?stockname=Shortfin%20mako%20-%20North%20Pacific&stockid=11715 ATL

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)				
					HMS: https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/topic/atlantic-highly-migratory-species
<i>Isurus paucus</i>	Longfin Mako Shark	ATL HMS: Prohibited species (must be released)			Atlantic HMS: https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/topic/atlantic-highly-migratory-species
<i>Lamna nasus</i>	Porbeagle	ATL HMS: Commercial retention authorized allowed if dead at haulback. Recreational retention is authorized			Atlantic HMS: https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/topic/atlantic-highly-migratory-species
<i>Manta alfredi</i> (<i>Mobula alfredi</i>)	Reef Manta Ray	IATTC: Prohibited from retaining on board, transshipping, storing, landing, selling, or offering for sale any part or whole carcass of a mobulid ray that is caught in the Convention Area	WCPFC: Proposed Rule to 1) prohibit intentional setting on mobulid rays, 2) prohibit retention of, landing or transshipment of mobulid rays, 3) require release of rays, 4) allow for incidental catch by purse seine vessels of mobulids, and 5) require for vessels to allow for observers to collect samples		
<i>Manta birostris</i> (<i>Mobula birostris</i>)	Manta Ray	IATTC: Prohibited from retaining on board, transshipping, storing, landing, selling, or offering for sale any part or whole carcass of a mobulid ray that is caught in the Convention Area	WCPFC: Proposed Rule to 1) prohibit intentional setting on mobulid rays, 2) prohibit retention of, landing or transshipment of mobulid rays, 3) require release of rays, 4) allow for incidental catch		

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)				
			by purse seine vessels of mobulids, and 5) require for vessels to allow for observers to collect samples		
<i>Mobula eregoodootenke</i> (<i>Mobule eregoodoo</i>)	Longhorned Pygmy Devil Ray				
<i>Mobula hypostoma</i>	Atlantic Devil Ray	IATTC: Prohibited from retaining on board, transshipping, storing, landing, selling, or offering for sale any part or whole carcass of a mobulid ray that is caught in the Convention Area			
<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	IATTC: Prohibited from retaining on board, transshipping, storing, landing, selling, or offering for sale any part or whole carcass of a mobulid ray that is caught in the Convention Area	WCPFC: Proposed Rule to 1) prohibit intentional setting on mobulid rays, 2) prohibit retention of, landing or transshipment of mobulid rays, 3) require release of rays, 4) allow for incidental catch by purse seine vessels of mobulids, and 5) require for vessels to allow for		

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)				
			observers to collect samples		
<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	IATTC: Prohibited from retaining on board, transshipping, storing, landing, selling, or offering for sale any part or whole carcass of a mobulid ray that is caught in the Convention Area	WCPFC: Proposed Rule to 1) prohibit intentional setting on mobulid rays, 2) prohibit retention of, landing or transshipment of mobulid rays, 3) require release of rays, 4) allow for incidental catch by purse seine vessels of mobulids, and 5) require for vessels to allow for observers to collect samples		
<i>Mobula thurstoni</i>	Bentfin Devil Ray	IATTC: Prohibited from retaining on board, transshipping, storing, landing, selling, or offering for sale any part or whole carcass of a mobulid ray that is caught in the Convention Area	WCPFC: Proposed Rule to 1) prohibit intentional setting on mobulid rays, 2) prohibit retention of, landing or transshipment of mobulid rays, 3) require release of rays, 4) allow for incidental catch by purse seine vessels of		

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)				
			mobulids, and 5) require for vessels to allow for observers to collect samples		
<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	IATTC: It is prohibited to set a purse seine around a whale shark in the Convention Area.	WCPFC has similar prohibition on setting on whale sharks. Implemented at 30 CFR 300.223(g) and (h)		Atlantic HMS: https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/topic/atlantic-highly-migratory-species
<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	ATL HMS: Commercial retention not allowed with pelagic longline gear and allowed with other authorized gear types. Recreational retention is authorized under certain size and trip limit. This species is listed under EAS as threatened in the Central & Southwest Atlantic DPS.			https://apps-st.fisheries.noaa.gov/stocksmart?stockname=Scalloped%20hammerhead%20-%20Atlantic%20and%20Gulf%20of%20Mexico&stockid=11763 Atlantic HMS: https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/topic/atlantic-highly-migratory-species

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>Sphyrna mokarran</i>	Great Hammerhead Shark	ATL HMS: Commercial retention not allowed with pelagic longline gear and allowed with other authorized gear types. Recreational retention is authorized under certain size and trip limit.			Atlantic HMS: https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/topic/atlantic-highly-migratory-species
<i>Sphyrna zygaena</i>	Smooth Hammerhead Shark	ATL HMS: Commercial retention not allowed with pelagic longline gear and allowed with other authorized gear types. Recreational retention is authorized under certain size and trip limit.			Atlantic HMS: https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/topic/atlantic-highly-migratory-species
<i>Squalus acanthias</i>	Spiny Dogfish				
<i>Squatina squatina</i>	Angelshark				