

SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL COMMENTS

(arising from ScC-SC8)

PROPOSAL FOR A CONCERTED ACTION FOR THE SAND TIGER SHARK (*CARCHARIAS TAURUS*) ALREADY LISTED ON APPENDIX I AND II OF THE CONVENTION UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.31.3.13

(ScC-SC8 Agenda item 14.3.13)

GENERAL COMMENTS ON THE DOCUMENT

The Sessional Committee welcomed the proposal for a Concerted Action for the sand tiger shark and considered it to be well developed, as it was built on multi-stakeholder workshops and incorporated important elements such as Important Shark and Ray Areas (ISRAs), bycatch concerns, and habitat identification.

The following comments were made by the COP Appointed Councillor for Marine Fish:

- The proposal aligns with National Plans of Action (NPOAs) and national protection measures already in place, while establishing a platform for much-needed regional coordination.
- Several areas could be further refined. As many of the proposed actions are resource-intensive, prioritization of activities is needed to ensure the feasibility of implementing these action points going forward.
- Actions such as conservation planning and the development of monitoring frameworks are particularly relevant.
- The research components of the Concerted Action could be more closely aligned with key knowledge gaps, including fisheries-related mortality and gear-specific impacts, movement ecology of the sand tiger shark within the south-west Atlantic, and clarification of sub-population structure.
- ISRAs have already been identified in the region, including for the sand tiger shark. Additional information on these areas—such as relevant jurisdictions, criteria, and potential or recommended action points—would be highly useful and relevant.

The COP Appointed Councillor for Marine Fish stated that the species warrants strengthened regional cooperation and that a Concerted Action would provide added value in this regard. Refining the scope to ensure feasibility and concentrating on the highest-impact management needs and scientific priorities was recommended.

It was noted that the timeline for implementation of activities extends beyond the duration of the triennium.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO COP15

The Scientific Council recommends adopting the proposal for a Concerted Action for the sand tiger shark.