



**CONVENTION ON
MIGRATORY
SPECIES**

UNEP/CMS/Resolution 15.7

Original: English

**SINGLE SPECIES ACTION PLAN
FOR THE NORTHEAST ATLANTIC AND MEDITERRANEAN SUB-POPULATION OF THE
TOPE SHARK (*Galeorhinus galeus*)**

Adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its 15th Meeting (Campo Grande, March 2026)

Noting that the Tope Shark (*Galeorhinus galeus*) was listed on CMS Appendix II in 2020 and in Annex 1 of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Sharks in 2023,

Alarmed by an estimated 88% global population reduction over three generations and the classification of the Northeast Atlantic and Mediterranean subpopulations as Critically Endangered by the IUCN,

Recognizing the species' slow growth, late maturity, slow reproduction cycle and philopatric behaviour, which heighten its vulnerability to overexploitation and habitat loss,

Deeply concerned that the species is persistently threatened by commercial and recreational fisheries and continued degradation of essential coastal habitats such as nursery and pupping grounds due to coastal development, pollution, and climate change,

Acknowledging the lack of species-specific catch limits, the inadequacy of data for stock assessments, persistent IUU fishing as well as mislabeling in both commercial and recreational sectors,

Emphasizing the importance of protecting critical life-stage habitats and reducing human-induced threats to ensure population recovery,

Recognizing that a multi-pronged approach is required that simultaneously addresses knowledge, resources, capacity and legal gaps that hinder effective conservation of the species, while, at the same time, implementing and enforcing existing laws and regulations that can mitigate threats to the species,

Recognizing that implementation of effective conservation and management strategies requires enhanced regional and international cooperation among Range States and relevant fisheries bodies,

Noting the links between the Single Species Action Plan and the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Sharks (Sharks MOU),

Further noting the high relevance of several work areas of the CMS to the conservation of the Tope Shark, especially concerning bycatch, marine pollution and habitat conservation,

Affirming the need to address the catches of the species in close collaboration with the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) and the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna (ICCAT).

*The Conference of the Parties to the
Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals*

1. *Adopts* the Single Species Action Plan for the Northeast Atlantic and Mediterranean sub-population of the Tope shark (*Galeorhinus galeus*) (SSAP Tope shark NEA/Med) contained in Annex 1, with the overall aim of enabling the subpopulation to recover to levels commensurate with its biological potential;
2. *Urges* Parties and *invites* non-Party Range States to implement the relevant provisions of the SSAP Tope shark NEA/Med, particularly those of high and essential priority;
3. *Calls on* Range States to take immediate steps, where not already in place, to:
 - Implement fisheries management strategies based on the best available scientific advice;
 - Regulate recreational catches and report associated mortality;
 - Grant protection to essential habitats and include tope shark in relevant marine conservation legislation;
 - Enforce existing prohibitions on landings and improve compliance with regional conventions; and
 - Consider extending catch prohibitions where they do not exist.
4. *Further Calls on* Range States to strive for active collaboration between stakeholders to maximize the effective use of resources and expertise, and to facilitate regional collaboration between stakeholders in different Range States to ensure that knowledge and experience gained in one country can be used to most effectively implement conservation action in another, especially in countries where cross-border populations are suspected to occur;
5. *Requests* Parties and non-Parties and relevant donors to mobilize financial resources and to implement the activities outlined in the SSAP Tope shark NEA/Med;
6. *Calls on* Party and non-Party Range States to provide technical support to the implementation of the SSAP Tope shark NEA/Med, to integrate tope shark conservation into national marine restoration and research agendas and to invest in long-term ecological studies, tagging programmes, stock assessments, and market monitoring, with emphasis on reducing misidentification and mislabeling;
7. *Invites* other relevant intergovernmental organisations, in particular ICES, GFCM and ICCAT to consider the provisions of the SSAP Tope shark NEA/Med when planning activities within their mandates to support its implementation, as appropriate;
8. *Invites* the expert network that has been established for the development of the SSAP Tope shark NEA/Med to continue in an advisory role for its implementation; and
9. *Instructs* the CMS Secretariat to bring the SSAP Tope shark NEA/Med to the attention of all Range States and relevant intergovernmental organizations and to assist with and monitor the implementation of the SSAP subject to the availability of resources.