CMM 2019/12

Conservation and Management Measure for Sharks[1] (Sharks)

The Meeting of the Parties to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement:

RECALLING the relevant provisions of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement, in particular Article 4;

CONSIDERING that the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) International Plan of Action for Sharks calls on States to cooperate through regional fisheries organizations to ensure the sustainability of shark stocks;

RECOGNIZING the need to improve the collection of species-specific data on catch, effort, discards, and trade as a basis for improving the conservation and management of shark stocks;

RECALLING that the FAO International Plan of Action for Sharks calls on States to encourage full use of dead sharks, to facilitate improved species-specific catch and landings data and monitoring of shark catches and the identification and reporting of species-specific biological and trade data;

FURTHER RECALLING that United Nations General Assembly, adopted consensus Resolutions every year since 2007 (62/177, 63/112 , 64/72, 65/38, 66/68, 67/79, 68/71, 69/109, 70/75 and 71/123), calling upon States to take immediate and concerted action to improve the implementation of and compliance with existing regional fisheries management organization or arrangement measures that regulate shark fisheries and incidental catch of sharks, in particular those measures which prohibit or restrict fisheries conducted solely for the purpose of harvesting shark fins, and, where necessary, to consider taking other measures, as appropriate, such as requiring that all sharks be landed with each fin naturally attached;

***ADOPTS* the following Conservation and Management Measures (CMM) in accordance with Article 4 and 6 of the Agreement:**

1. This CMM applies to all fishing vessels of Contracting Parties, cooperating non-Contracting Parties (CNCPs) and participating fishing entities (PFEs) to the Agreement (collectively CCPs), engaged in fishing operations in the SIOFA Area of Application (the Agreement Area).

2. CCPs shall ensure that fishing vessels flying their flag do not target any deep-sea shark species listed in Annex 1 within the Agreement Area, until the Scientific Committee defines and the Meeting of the Parties agrees on possible appropriate fishing mortality and harvest levels for any of these species.

3. CCPs shall ensure that fishing vessels flying their flag record and submit all reporting requirements as per CMM 2019/02 (Data Standards) for all deep-sea sharks to the lowest taxonomical level possible when caught in SIOFA fisheries.

4. By 2020 the Scientific Committee shall advise the Meeting of the Parties on the need to adopt any appropriate by-catch limits for relevant SIOFA deep sea shark species and fleets, including on scientific and data needs for underpinning the elaboration of such advice.

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[1] The term "sharks" refers to Chondrichthyes for the purposes of this CMM, as defined by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)

5. CCPs shall, where possible, undertake research to identify ways to make all relevant fishing gears more selective to minimise deep sea shark by-catch and shall provide relevant information to the Scientific Committee.

6. CCPs shall, where possible, conduct research to identify shark nursery areas in the Agreement Area and provide relevant information to the Scientific Committee.

7. This CMM shall be reviewed every second year by the Scientific Committee and the Compliance Committee, unless the Meeting of the Parties decides otherwise.

ANNEX 1: List of "**high risk**" and "of concern" deep sea shark species for the purpose of this CMM[2]

Scientific name	French common name	English common name	FAO code
Centroscymnus coelolepis	Pailona commun	Portugese dogfish	CYO
Deania calcea	Squale savate	Birdbeak dogfish	DCA
Centrophorus granulosus	Requin chagrin	Gulper shark	GUP
Dalatias licha	Squale liche	Kitefin shark	SCK
Bythaelurus bachi	Requin chat de Bach	Bach's catshark	BZO
Chimaera buccanigella	Chimère bouche-foncée	Dark-mouth chimaera	ZZC
Chimaera didierae	Chimère de Didier	The Falkor chimaera	ZZD
Chimaera willwatchi	Chimère du marin	Seafarer's ghostshark	ZZE
Centroscymnus crepidater	Pailona à long nez	Longnose Velvet Dogfish	CYP
Centroscymnus plunketi	Pailona austral	Plunket shark	CYU
Zameus squamulosus	Squale-grogneur à queue échancrée	Velvet dogfish	SSQ
Etmopterus alphus	Requin lanterne à joues blanches	Whitecheek lanternshark	EZU
Apristurus indicus	Holbiche artouca	Smallbelly catshark	APD
Harriotta raleighana	Chimère à nez rigide	Bentnose rabbitfish	HCR
Bythaelurus tenuicephalus	Requin chat à tête étroite	Narrowhead catshark	BZL
Chlamydoselachus anguineus	Requin lézard	Frilled shark	HXC
Hexanchus nakamurai	Requin griset	Bigeyed six-gill shark	HXN
Etmopterus pusillus	Sagre nain	Smooth lanternshark	ETP
Somniosus antarcticus	Requin dormeur antarctique	Southern sleeper shark	SON
Mitsukurina owstoni	Requin lutin	Goblin shark	LMO

[2] As defined by SC-04 paragraph 159 and paper SC-04-19.