



Photo: Kina Scollay.



Biodiversity and long-term viability of shark populations

Proposed Goal 1: Maintain the biodiversity and long-term viability of New Zealand shark populations based on a risk assessment framework with assessment of stock status, measures to ensure any mortality is at appropriate levels, and protection of critical habitat.

SHARK CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

- New Zealand has seven protected shark species:
 - White pointer (great white) shark, basking shark, deepwater nurse shark, spine-tailed devil ray, manta ray, whale shark and oceanic whitetip shark.
- Eleven species (the bulk of commercial catches, that is, 90 percent) are managed under the Quota Management System (QMS):
 - Spiny dogfish, ghost shark, pale ghost shark, smooth skate, rough skate, school shark, elephantfish, rig (spotted dogfish), mako shark, porbeagle shark and blue shark.
- QMS introduction is being considered for a further two species (seal shark and carpet shark).
- Two other species (hammerhead shark and sharpnose sevengill shark) may not be targeted commercially. Other species are open access; landings of these species are generally low.

- It is proposed that a risk assessment framework is developed to take account of available information on shark species' characteristics, conservation status, and biology.
- Risk assessment will form the basis of management actions, allowing a focus on high risk species.

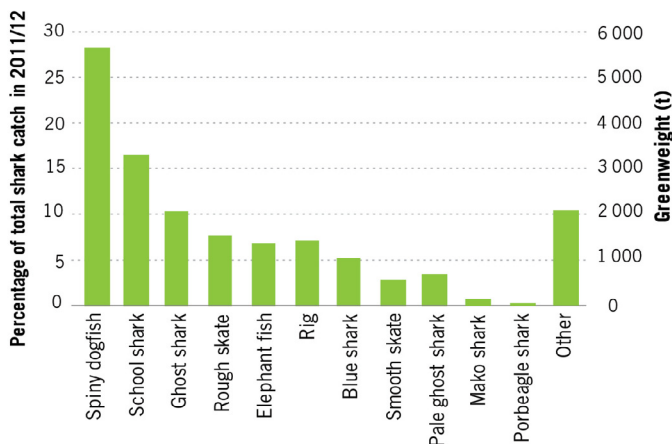
SETTING CATCH LIMITS AND MANAGING SHARK MORTALITY

- Under the QMS, a total allowable catch is set and catch is allocated between commercial fishers, recreational and customary fishers and other sources of mortality.
- The best available information is used to set catch limits. For some shark species this means a full stock assessment, but for others it means other indicators, e.g. catch-per-unit-effort indices, trawl survey indices and other biological information.
- Catch trends are reviewed annually and catch limits are reviewed as new information becomes available.
- Proposed improvements include objectives to assess stock size in relation to sustainable biomass levels; reviewing catch limits; management of protection mechanisms; and ensuring mortality of all sharks from fishing is at or below a level that allows for the maintenance at, or recovery to, a favourable stock and/or conservation status.

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS – A RISK ASSESSMENT APPROACH

- We need to understand the impact of fisheries on populations as well as the resilience of populations to these impacts to be best placed to prioritise research, management, and compliance.

Catch of QMS (90%) and "Other" sharks as a percentage of the total reported shark catch in 2011/12 (total 20 165t). The "Other" category includes 40 shark species.



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

HOW DO I HAVE MY SAY?

More information and the full text of the draft NPOA-Sharks is available at www.mpi.govt.nz

You can make a submission on the draft NPOA-Sharks by emailing NPOA-Sharks@mpi.govt.nz

or to: Fisheries Management, Ministry for Primary Industries, PO Box 2526, Wellington 6140.