



Photo: Kina Scollay.



Non-fishing threats

Proposed Goal 4: New Zealand's non-fishing anthropogenic effects do not adversely affect long-term viability of shark populations and consideration is given to environmental impacts.

For the first time, it is proposed that the NPOA-Sharks incorporate understanding and appropriate management of human impacts other than fishing.

For example, rig, school shark and elephantfish use shallow coastal waters as nursery grounds, and are therefore potentially vulnerable to human impacts in these areas (see case study).

Non-fishing anthropogenic and environmental impacts on shark populations are not currently well understood. The draft NPOA-Sharks proposes the establishment of a research programme to investigate such impacts and better understand their potential effects on shark populations. Where appropriate, management measures should be put in place to ensure that threats to shark populations are minimised.

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.



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

CASE STUDY: RIG (SPOTTED DOGFISH)

Use of near-shore nursery areas puts rig in direct contact with human populations. The three main anthropogenic impacts are likely to be habitat degradation and loss, sedimentation and pollution from terrestrial runoff, and direct exploitation via fisheries.

A recent study has found that the harbours identified as important rig nursery habitats have all been impacted by anthropogenic activities occurring in the coastal fringe and wider catchment area. These impacts have degraded the water quality, habitat and benthic communities to varying extents. However, juvenile rig appear to be relatively tolerant to these impacts. More information is required on habitat utilisation, and how specific stressors affect growth and survival.



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