



Photo: Kina Scollay.



International engagement

Proposed Goal 5: New Zealand actively engages internationally to promote the conservation of sharks, the management of fisheries that impact upon them, and the long-term sustainable utilisation of sharks.

A GLOBAL NEED TO MANAGE AND CONSERVE SHARKS

In general, sharks grow slowly, mature late and produce few young over long lifetimes, leaving them vulnerable to overexploitation and slow to recover from depletion. As key predators, their depletion also affects other elements of ocean ecosystems. Of the shark and ray species assessed by scientists for the **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)**, 30 percent are threatened or near-threatened with extinction. In recognition of these points, New Zealand engages in a number of international meetings to ensure the long-term sustainability and conservation of shark populations.

INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS FOR THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF SHARKS

The International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks (IPOA-Sharks), the **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)**, and the **Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)** are three primary tools for conservation and management of sharks on a global level.

At the regional level, regional fisheries management organisations (RFMOs) play a critical role in regulating fishing for certain highly migratory and straddling stock species, including sharks, to ensure sustainability. New Zealand is a party to the **Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)**, the **Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT)**, the **South Pacific RFMO (SPRFMO)**, as well as the **Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)**. In practice, although some RFMOs have adopted shark conservation and management measures, the focus has been on managing target fisheries. The draft NPOA includes objectives to promote work in RFMOs to assess and manage shark populations.

Countries can also take action to manage and conserve sharks in their waters. The IPOA-Sharks is intended to provide guidance for measures to be taken at a national level and New Zealand's

draft NPOA has been formulated with this in mind. The measures adopted vary by country, and include protection measures such as landing prohibitions for certain species, controls on shark finning, and catch limits. New Zealand's draft NPOA-Sharks contains objectives to implement a finning ban to complement existing measures to sustainably manage and conserve sharks.

PROPOSED ACTIONS

In light of the migratory nature of many shark species, bilateral and regional co-operation is needed to manage and conserve sharks. Objectives are proposed in the draft NPOA-Sharks to co-operate with neighbouring countries and work for improvements for sharks through RFMOs.

In addition, the draft NPOA-Sharks includes a proposal for New Zealand to actively consider signing up to a CMS Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the conservation of migratory sharks. The objective of the MOU is to achieve and maintain a favourable conservation status for migratory sharks based on the best available scientific information, taking into account the socio-economic and other values of these species for the people of the Signatories.



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.