

Feeding the world with sustainable sharks

Conservation and management of sharks



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European Parliament, 27 March 2023

Conservation & Mgmt measures

“Finning” is already banned globally

RFMOs	Fin measures	Discard/bycatch measures	Catch measures (TACs)	Reporting requirements	Gear measures	Prohibited species	Shark-related research	NPOAs requested
CCAMLR*		✓				✓		
CCSBT**								
GFCM	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	
IATTC	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
ICCAT	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
IOTC	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	
NAFO	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
NEAFC	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		
SEAFO	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
WCPFC	✓	✓		✓		✓		✓
Total	8	8	2	8	5	8	6	3

* The CCAMLR prohibits all shark fisheries except for research purposes.

** The CCSBT does not yet have any binding shark regulations in place.

<https://www.semanticscholar.org/paper/Review-of-the-implementation-of-the-International-Fischer-Erikstein/eb4c00e0022d2a032c24da3777bb81ea10448b8a/figure/1>

The EU fleet condemns the practice of “finning” by any fleet in the world

Conservation & Mgmt measures

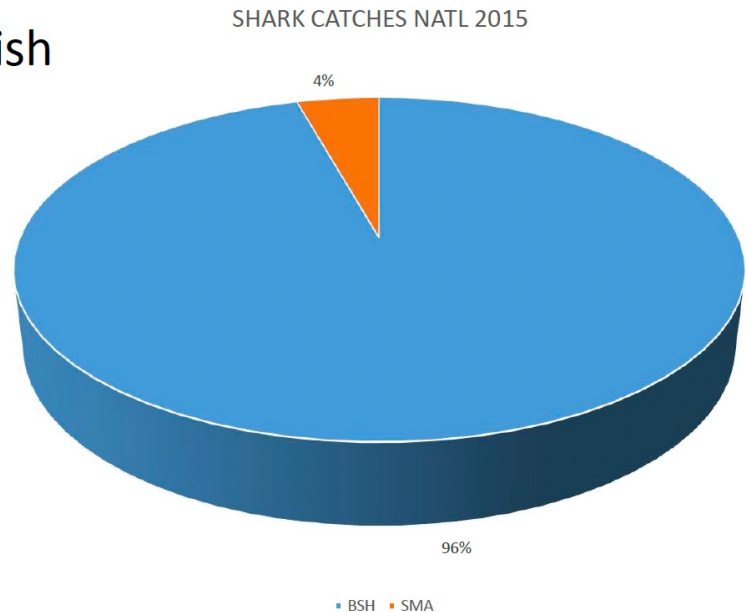
International legal framework relevant for sharks

Legally binding	Legally non-binding
UNCLOS (1982)	FAO Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (1995)
FAO Compliance agreement (1993)	IPOA sharks
UNFSA (1995)	UNGA Resolutions
FAO Port State measures (2009)	IUCN (SSG)
RFBS, RFMOs	Sharks MoU
MEAs (CITES, CMS, Regional Sea Conventions, e.g. Barcelona Conv. etc.)	

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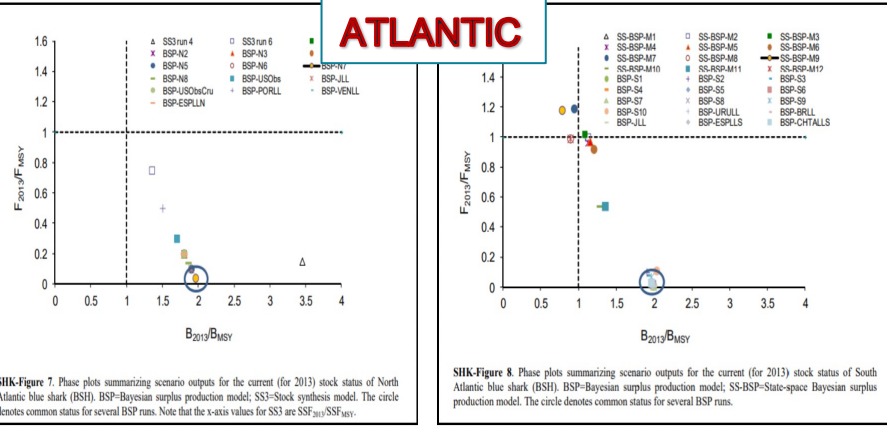
What do we fish?

- The EU has an important surface longline fleet that targets swordfish and sharks
- Most of the catches of sharks are blue shark



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ATLANTIC



SIK- Figure 7. Phase plots summarizing scenario outputs for the current (for 2013) stock status of North Atlantic blue shark (BSH). BSH-BSP-Bayesian surplus production model; SS3-Stock synthesis model. The circle denotes common status for several BSP runs. Note that the x-axis values for SS3 are $SS3_{2013}/SS3_{MSY}$.

SIK- Figure 8. Phase plots summarizing scenario outputs for the current (for 2013) stock status of South Atlantic blue shark (BSH). BSH-BSP-Bayesian surplus production model; SS-BSP-State-space Bayesian surplus production model. The circle denotes common status for several BSP runs.

INDIAN OCEAN

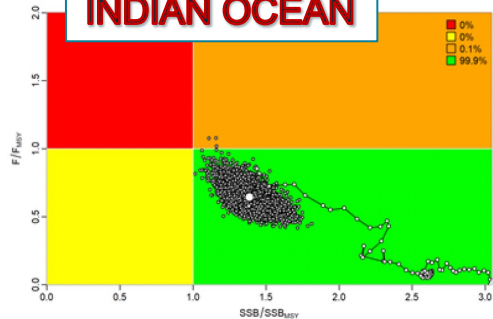
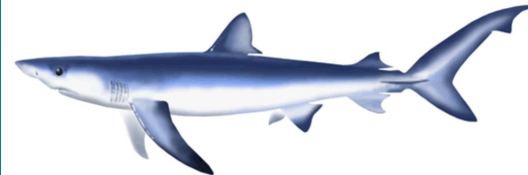


Figure 1. Blue shark: SS3 Indian Ocean assessment Kobe plot. The results are from the final base case SS3 model

State of the stock



GOOD
HEALTH



PACIFIC

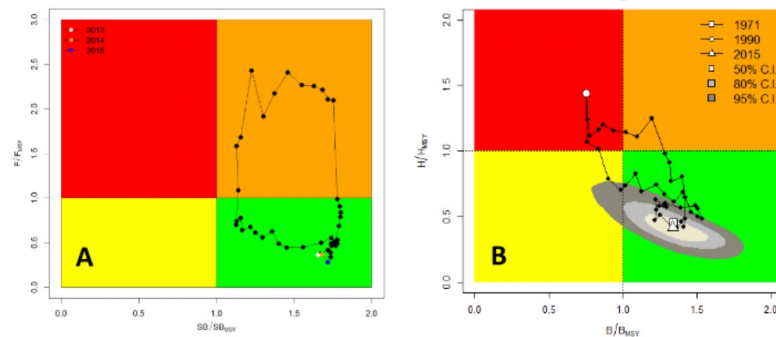


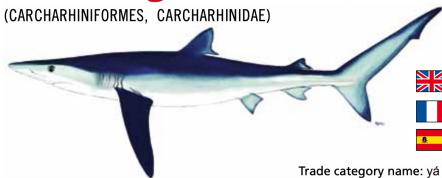
Figure 5E. Kobe plots of the trends in estimates of relative fishing mortality and biomass of North Pacific blue shark between 1971-2015 for the reference case of (A) the SS stock assessment model, and (B) the BSSPM stock assessment model.

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Can we differentiate shark species & fins?

Prionace glauca (Linnaeus, 1758)

(CARCHARHINIFORMES, CARCHARHINIDAE)

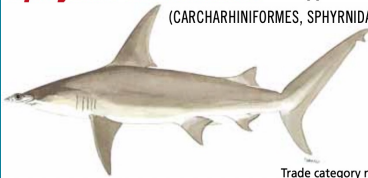





-  Blue shark
-  Peau bleue
-  Tiburón azul

Trade category name: yá jiān; 牙 兼 (Clarke, 2006a,b)

Sphyrna mokarran (Rüppell, 1837)

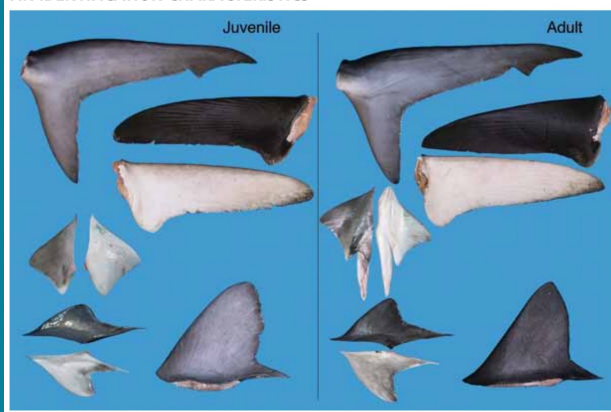
(CARCHARHINIFORMES, SPHYRNIDAE)



-  Great hammerhead
-  Grand requin marteau
-  Cornuda gigante

Trade category name: gù piàn; 骨 片 (Clarke, 2006a,b)

FIN IDENTIFICATION CHARACTERISTICS



FIN IDENTIFICATION CHARACTERISTICS

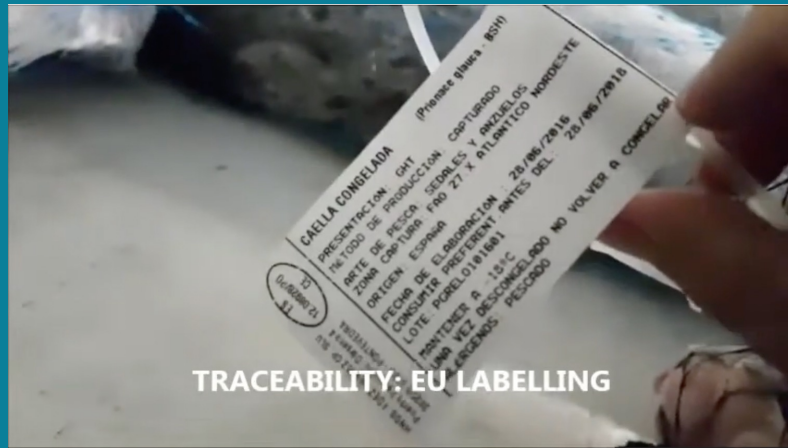


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Are sharks & fins traceable ?



EU fin-attached policy



EU Catch certificate

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rrS99p_1YNI

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Are sharks & fins traceable ?

In Country: CITES Permits & Certificates

import export re-export introduction from the sea

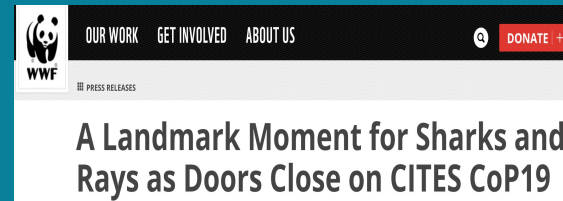
Permits and certificates issued under certain conditions:

- Lawfully obtained
(LAF Management Authority)
- Trade will not be detrimental
to the survival of the species
(NDF Scientific Authority)

Annex 2

Standard CITES form

CITES CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA		PERMIT/CERTIFICATE No.		Original	
		<input type="checkbox"/> EXPORT <input type="checkbox"/> RE-EXPORT <input type="checkbox"/> IMPORT <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:		2. Valid until:	
3. Importer (name and address)		4. Exporter (name, address and country)			
5a. Country of export		Signature of the applicant			
5. Special conditions		6. Name, address, national business and country of Management Authority			
<p>If for live animals, this permit or certificate is valid only if the transport conditions comply with the a12a Live Animals Regulations. For live plants, with the a12a Perishable Cargo Regulations or, in the case of forest transport, with the CITES Guidelines for the Non-Air Transport of Live Wild Animals and Plants.</p>					
5b. Purpose of the transaction (see heading)	5c. Security stamp no.				
7.B. Scientific name (genus and species) and common name of animal or plant	8. Description of specimens, including identifying marks or numbers (signature if any)	10. Appendix no. and source (see heading)	11. Quantity (including unit)	11a. Total import/export	
7.A.	8.	10.	11.	11a.	
12. Country of origin	13. Permit no.	Date	12b. Country of origin or export	Certificate no.	Date
12.		12b.		12c. No. of the operation ** or date of acquisition ***	



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Is trade a problem ?

FAO Expert Advisory Panel for the assessment of proposal to amend CITES appendices

Trade

The Expert Panel noted that domestic consumption and national trade were the primary reasons for fisheries retaining and landing many of the species proposed, with the component of the fin trade that comprised the species in Proposal 37 being low (<1 percent). Where international fin and meat trade is rare in comparison with market demand, and **trade is not a major component or driver of fishing pressure,** fins entering international markets could be viewed in the context of efforts to “encourage full use of dead sharks”, as is recommended as part of many national shark plans, and the FAO IPOA-Sharks.

<https://www.fao.org/documents/card/es/c/cc1931en/>

Trade

Mako sharks are largely caught during target fishing for tunas, mostly in longline fisheries. Retention, where permitted, is for domestic

consumption and international trade. Mako shark fins and meat are traded, however new austerity regulations in market states

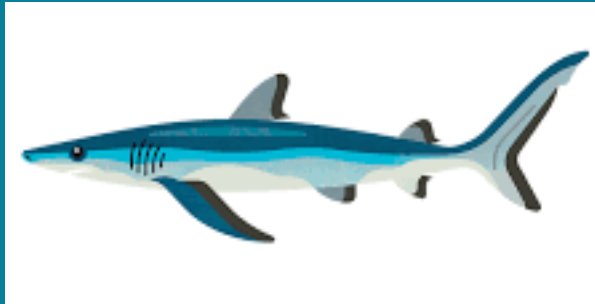
have seen market declines in the fin trade e.g. volumes at about half of post-2003 levels.

<https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/CA3576EN>

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Are sharks only caught for the market value of their fins ?

Meat 60% income



Fins 40% income

Example 500 kg:

450 Kg of carcasses sold at an average price of €2/Kg = € 900

50 Kg sold at an average price of 12 €/Kg = € 600

Shark fishing would
not be profitable
without the sale of
the carcasses

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Food security & Socio-economic benefits

- Spanish surface longline fleet: 209 vessels. Targeting sharks: 170 vessels
- Catches: In 2022, Spanish fleet landed 46.539 MT (live weight)
- Value (2022): 64,5 M €

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



2 ZERO HUNGER

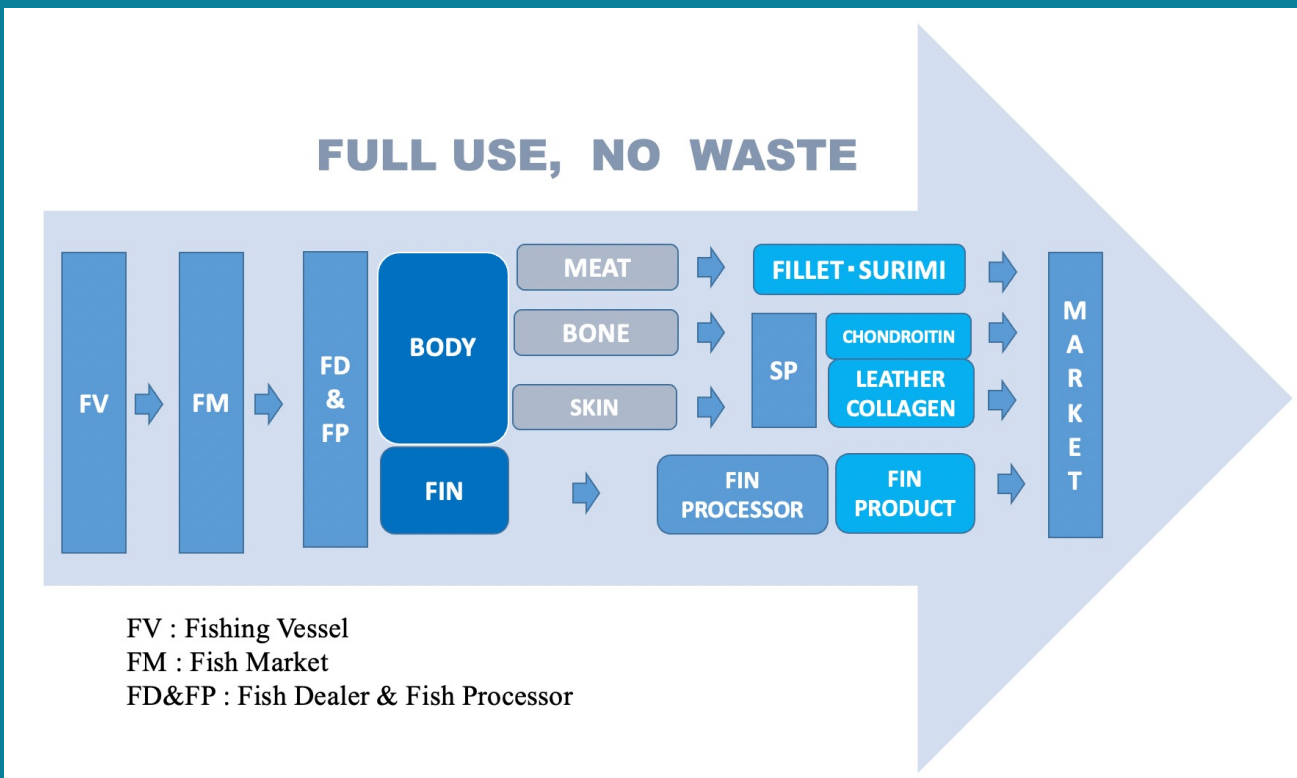


3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



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Important source of protein



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Where does the EU fleet sell the catches?

- The majority of shark catches harvested in all oceans are **transported to Vigo (Spain)** where they are processed (fin cutting)
- **Meat** is sold in Spain, EU (e.g., Italy, Greece, Rumania, Portugal, Poland, Germany), South America (Brazil, Peru, Colombia), Russia and Ukraine
- **Fins** are sent to Hong Kong, Japan, China and California
- Asian fleets do not use EU verified fin commercial logistics channels

Does the fleet care about sharks?

The Project

FIP BLUES is a Fishing Improvement Project for the Swordfish and Blue Shark Fisheries promoted by 4 producer organizations and 14 companies, these latter constitute the National Association of Commercializing Companies and Transformers of Highly Migratory Species.



4

FISHERY PRODUCER ORGANIZATIONS

(90% catches of the EU fleet)

14

BUSINESS

(80% of the EU supply chain)

124

SHIPS

(95% of the EU in the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Ocean)

<https://fipblues.com/en/fip-blues>

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Conclusions

- We would be **banning** a **perfectly legal & sustainable activity** in Europe
- Fin trade ban = **serious consequences** for **European fishers**, processors, retailers and consumers and **negative effects** for the **Asian market**
 - ✗ Fishery economically unsustainable (40% income loss)
 - ✗ Relocation of landings/processing to non-EU countries
 - ✗ Increase food waste
 - ✗ Boost unsustainable imports in Asia
- **It would NOT help improve the situation in Asian markets**

Our Proposals

- Maintain exploited sharks species within safe biological limits & **MSY**
- **Strict protection** and conservation of endangered shark species
- Improvement of **data collection and reporting**
- Support **research & science** to underpin stock status
- Effective **enforcement** of relevant national and international rules and level playing field (e.g., adopt a fin attached policy in all RFMOs)
- Enhance **traceability and certification** of sustainably harvested shark products in Asian countries
- Better **coherence** and coordination between fisheries and env. administrations

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THANKS!

Do you have any questions?

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**Committed to responsible fishing,
nature, science and seafood supply
now and for future generations**

