

Proposal to work on sharks across RFMO

1. Possible way forwards

The first possibility would be to produce an advice on sharks, either in RFMOs, jointly between WG1 and WG2, either as an intergroup, if it is decided to tackle IUU and SFPAs issues.

The second possibility that arise from last WG discussions was an internal document on sharks, to be used as a guideline for other advice construction. This second option might be more difficult to implement, as the work would need to be regularly updated.

In both cases, a Focus Group is needed.

2. Possible content

Context:

- Comparison between RFMOs
- EU Fleets strengths/weakness/opportunities/threats for both sustainable and competitive fisheries, including socio economic consideration
- Panorama of existing shark fleets in RFMOs and their standards, as well as on-going work on sharks in each RFMO.

Detailed Advice

- 1) Fins Naturally Attached without exceptions
- 2) Level playing field for shark conservation must apply to all CPCs
- 3) Shark management
 - Follow scientific advice: precautionary approach in case of uncertainty or absence of specific scientific advice? How to improve reporting of total mortality of catches to better inform stock assessments?
 - Commercial vs. bycatch: equivalent management procedures? How to reduce mortality of unwanted shark bycatch, including through good practices?
 - How to include socio-economics criteria and indicators?

Recommendations

3. For decision:

- Advice or guidelines?
- Creation of a focus group (WG1-2 or intergroup)?