



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES  
The Director General

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Brussels,  
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Ms Clara E. Fernández  
LDRAC Executive Secretary  
C/ Velázquez 41, 4º C  
28001 Madrid

**Subject: LDRAC advice on the non-paper for sharks**

Dear Ms Fernández,

Thank you for the reply of the Long Distance RAC to the Commission's consultation on the Action Plan for Sharks communicated on 28 March 2008 and amended on 23 April 2008.

I take note of the elements that you suggest should be addressed in the Plan of Action. The Commission is currently carrying out an impact assessment study. Together with the results of the consultative process, this study will help us to refine the measures outlined in the consultation paper, exclude or merge some of them and, possibly, add new ones, depending on the scope and intensity of their impact from an economic, environmental and social point of view.

I also note that LDRAC members have not been able to reach a consensus on the paper's proposals on finning. The Commission is fully aware of the importance and impact of shark finning and would like to envisage further appropriate measures to protect sharks from this practice. To this end, various options are currently being considered, which range from a complete ban on finning as a general rule, with very few and strictly controlled exceptions, to the introduction of a stricter fin-to-carcass weight ratio and the obligation for simultaneous landing of fins and carcasses.

I look forward to continuing dialogue and collaboration with the Long Distance RAC.

Yours sincerely,

Fokion FOTIADIS