



LDAC recommendation about shark finning

Status: approved by the Executive Committee

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Original drafting language: Spanish

The LDAC agrees that the requirement to land all sharks with their fins still naturally attached, as established under Regulation (EU) No 605/2013, is an effective means of preventing shark finning. Furthermore, it should be promoted more broadly beyond the EU, and extended to regional fisheries organisations (RFMOs).

However, according to the fishing sector, this regulation also has serious consequences, as listed below:

- Economic and social costs, including decreased competitiveness, decreased storage capacity, increased costs associated with landings, and associated losses of employment.
- Increased on-board industrial accidents related to handling frozen sharks.
- Increased use of wild bait (mackerel and shortfin squid) instead of shark bellies.
- Health risks related to frozen sharks being processed after landing, sometimes under warm conditions in third-country ports.
- Competitive inequality in relation to non-EU fleets.

The LDAC therefore makes the following two recommendations:

- 1) The European Commission should assess the implementation of Regulation (EU) No 605/2013, based on the information submitted by Member States under Article 6.1, and also including an assessment of (a) the associated costs for the fishing sector, and (b) the effectiveness of implementation in EU and third-country ports where shark catches are landed.
- 2) The European Commission should make every effort to strongly promote the fins-attached requirement within RFMOs, in order to secure the support needed for this measure to be adopted. These efforts should not be limited to the annual meetings of the RFMOs, but should also be made throughout the year, through bilateral dialogue with contracting parties.