

Conservation Measure 32-18 (2006)
Conservation of sharks

| | |
|---------|--------|
| Species | sharks |
| Area | all |
| Season | all |
| Gear | all |

The Commission,

Recalling the aims of the Convention, and particularly its Article IX,

Recognising that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), in its International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks, requests that States, within the framework of their respective competencies and consistent with international law, should strive to cooperate through regional fisheries management organisations with a view to ensuring the sustainability of shark stocks,

Mindful of the fact that a large number of sharks are caught in fisheries operating within the Convention Area and that such catch may be unsustainable,

Bearing in mind, furthermore, that, pending the collection of information on the status of shark stocks, it would be appropriate to restrict and, if possible, to reduce removals from these stocks,

Recognising the need to collect data on catches, discards and trade in order to manage and conserve sharks,

hereby adopts the following conservation measure, in accordance with Article IX of the Convention:

1. Directed fishing on shark species in the Convention Area, for purposes other than scientific research, is prohibited. This prohibition shall apply until such time as the Scientific Committee has investigated and reported on the potential impacts of this fishing activity and the Commission has agreed on the basis of advice from the Scientific Committee that such fishing may occur in the Convention Area.
2. Any by-catch of shark, especially juveniles and gravid females, taken accidentally in other fisheries, shall, as far as possible, be released alive.