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UPDATES TO INFORMATION RECEIVED IN ACCORDANCE WITH REC. 12-05

Following a request from the Compliance Committee Chair and some CPCs, the responses by CPCs contained in the 2014 Annual Reports (requirement SHK-7005) pursuant to paragraph 3 of *Recommendation by ICCAT on Compliance with Existing Measures on Shark Conservation and Management* [Rec. 12-05] were compiled and circulated. This document contains the information circulated in 2014, with updates received in 2015 from CPCs where appropriate.

(Annual Report requirement SHK-7005: All CPCs submit to the ICCAT Secretariat, in advance of the 2013 annual meeting, details of their implementation of and compliance with shark conservation and management measures (Recs. 04-10, 07-06, 09-07, 10-08, 10-07, 11-08 and 11-15).

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Response</i>
Albania	Not applicable.
Algeria	It should be noted that sharks, as referred to in requirements (7001 to 7004) are not targeted and traded in Algeria. However, we record some low levels of by-catch which remain to be determined. A consultation with our researchers on the state of these species is in progress.
Angola	Nothing in Annual Report.
Barbados	As noted in part 1 of this report, a study is currently being conducted to assess the species composition of the Barbados shark catch. This will allow estimating of landings to the level of species or species groups for reporting to ICCAT until a more routine programme of recording fish landings at the required level of the species or groups can be implemented, at least at Barbados major landing sites.
Belize	Pursuant to Recommendation 12-05, Belize is pleased to advise that on 12 March 2015, we adopted our National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks on the High Seas in accordance with the FAO International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks. This plan explicitly details Belize's high seas shark fisheries, Belize's management system both the institutional and legal structure and Belize's management measures and strategies for the effective management of sharks caught by Belize flagged fishing vessels. A copy of the NPOA-Shark is annexed. Prior to the adoption of our NPOA-Sharks, Belize has been proactive in passing specific shark-friendly legislation by first protecting the whale shark in 2003 and the nurse shark in 2011. Additionally, Belize has also issued legally binding circulars in respect to whitetip, hammerhead, thresher and silky shark consistent with ICCAT Recommendations. The wasteful practice of finning, whereby the shark's fins are cut off and the fish discarded often alive, has been banned in Belize and throughout for Belize-registered high seas vessels in accordance with our new High Seas Fishing Act, 2013. Belize also imposed the finning-ban and the move to land sharks with fins partially attached and supported the resolution prohibiting the export of great and scalloped hammerhead products (<i>Sphyrna</i> spp) with the International Commission for the

	<p>Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). All CITES endangered shark species are also prohibited from being targeted by Belize flagged vessels. Belize has always ensured timely submissions of catch and effort data of sharks by gear type, species and landings. Mako sharks and blue sharks are mostly targeted by Belize vessels operating in the ICCAT area.</p>
Brazil	<p>Interministerial Rule No. 05, 15 April 2011, establishing the prohibition of retention onboard, unloading, storage and commercialization of bigeye thresher shark, <i>Alopias superciliosus</i>.</p> <p>New rules to be established - Establishment of conservation measures for shark species (<i>Alopias superciliosus</i>, <i>Carcharhinus falciformis</i>, <i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i>, and hammerhead sharks of the family Sphyrnidae) caught by longline fleet – this rule will replace the Interministerial Rule No. 05, 15 April 2011.</p>
Canada	<p>Retention of sharks as by-catch in ICCAT related fisheries is primarily two species; porbeagle and shortfin mako sharks with the release of any live sharks being encouraged. All sharks landing information is provided to the Scientific Council through Task I and II data and reported in the Canadian National Report. By licence conditions, harvesters are not permitted to retain sharks that are prohibited from retention as by-catch in ICCAT related fisheries (bigeye thresher, hammerhead, oceanic whitetip, and silky sharks). Canada also monitors all landings of sharks at dockside to ensure that fins do not make up more than 5% of all sharks on board any vessel.</p>
Cape Verde	<p>Hammerhead shark catches in Cape Verde were prohibited in the entire national EEZ and landings, transshipment and selling are also prohibited.</p> <p>The measures implemented for the conservation and management of sharks were published in the Biannual Plan for the Implementation of Fishery Resources (2014-2015). These measures establish the full usage of sharks caught, the prohibition of cutting fins on board vessels and the prohibition of fishing the following: whale shark, white shark, hammerhead shark, oceanic whitetip shark, basking shark, porbeagle and bigeye thresher shark.</p>
China	<p>COFA and TTWG in SHOU have made effort to mitigate the shark by-catch. Key shark species posters are prepared and circulated to each vessel to facilitate fisherman to identify shark species, especially thresher shark, hammerhead sharks and silky shark. Training sessions are made to abide by Resolutions for sharks (04-10, 07-06, 09-07, 10-08, 11-08, 11-15). Furthermore, scientific observers also monitored effectiveness of conservation of sharks according to their records.</p>
Côte d’Ivoire	<p>For the purposes of having reliable data, at least 2/3 of the canoes landed at each site will be investigated from Thursday to Saturday. Data obtained randomly shall be collected on landing by fishers at the quayside or on stalls, minimizing disruptions to sales. The date of the investigation and duration of the trip (time of departure and return) shall be noted. The geographical coordinates shall be determined for each vessel using GPS so as to map fishing grounds. The gear types used shall be noted. The fish landed shall be identified on a species-specific level</p>

	<p>using identification keys. Since sampling size is often large, the weight and length frequency of each species are often difficult to obtain before landings and sales have ended. Other than very large species which require scales to be used because of their size, all the fish shall be measured to the centimetre below and weighed. Only the total and standard lengths shall be determined for these species. For this purpose, a retractable band shall be applied to the flank of the fish from the tip of the upper jaw to the base of the caudal fin (standard length) or to the tip of the caudal fin (total length). The sexes and the maturity stages shall be determined for each species morphologically. The length-weight relationships and the a and b parameters shall be determined for the specimens which have in turn been measured and weighed. These parameters shall be determined by sex and by both sexes combined. For large specimens, the lengths shall be converted into weight based on the length-weight relationship contained in literature. In addition, two gears are used by artisanal fishers operating more offshore. Drift gillnets and longlines catch a large quantity of sharks. However, to date, statistics are produced globally, taking in account the two fishing gears. A study of the characteristics of this offshore artisanal fishery shall enable improvement of data.</p>
<i>Curaçao</i>	Purse seiners are instructed to free any incidental catch of shark alive if possible. Non entangling FADs are being developed by the fleet.
Egypt	Catching sharks is prohibited.
<i>El Salvador</i>	Not applicable: El Salvador does not have any vessels fishing in the Convention area.
European Union	Council Regulation (EU) No. 40/2013 of 21 January 2013 (TAC & Quota) prohibits catches of several sharks (<i>Lamna nasus</i> , <i>Alopias</i> spp, Sphyrnidae (exception of <i>Sphyrna tiburo</i>), <i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i> , <i>Carcharhinus falciformis</i>); landing inspections of longliners. Annex V of EU report contains more details on single Member States.
France	Not applicable.
Gabon	No report submitted in 2014. In 2013, Gabon reported the following: In addition and in relation to by-catch management, Gabon has withdrawn the tuna longline vessels fishing both within and outside the framework of fishing agreements in order to reduce the catch of sharks and sea turtles.
<i>Ghana</i>	Not applicable.
Guatemala	Not applicable.
<i>Guinea (Equatorial)</i>	Not implemented.
Guinea (Rep)	Nothing in Annual Report.
Honduras	As per Executive Decree, Honduras is a shark sanctuary prohibiting hammerhead catches, among others.

<i>Iceland</i>	Discards banned on the Icelandic fleet, all dead catch is to be landed. All catch recoded at landing and reported to the Directorate of Fisheries. Recommendation stipulating no retention: if alive to be released, otherwise kept separate and handed to Marine Research Institute at landing. All commercial sales banned.
<i>Japan</i>	<p>Japan requires its large-scale tuna longline fishing vessels to (a) retain all the parts of sharks on board until landing by the Ministerial Order. Fisheries inspection officers have been checking all the documents on shark landings from large-scale tuna longline fishing vessels, together with random monitoring at Japanese ports. (b) to release sharks live, especially juveniles to the extent possible, that are caught incidentally and are not used for food and/or subsistence, by the Notice of Director of Fisheries Management Division of Fisheries Agency of Japan (FAJ).</p> <p>No Japanese tuna longline vessels are targeting porbeagle and north Atlantic shortfin mako sharks.</p> <p>Japan has prohibited its large-scale tuna longline fishing vessels from retaining bigeye thresher, oceanic whitetip, hammerhead and silky sharks by Ministerial order.</p> <p>Japan encourages its large-scale tuna longline fishing vessels operating in the Atlantic Ocean to promptly release unharmed bigeye thresher and, hammerhead sharks when brought alongside for taking on board the vessel by the Notice of Director of Fisheries Management Division of FAJ. Japan requires its large-scale tuna longline fishing vessels operating in the Atlantic Ocean to promptly release unharmed silky sharks at the latest before putting the catch into the fish holds, giving due consideration to the safety of crew members, by Notice of Director of Fisheries Management Division of FAJ.</p> <p>Japan does not have any record of catch of <i>Alopias</i> spp. Nine <i>A. superciliosus</i>, one oceanic whitetip, eight hammerhead sharks were recorded by observers in 2013 and reported to SCRS.</p> <p>Based on the relevant Recommendations, Japan has prohibited Japanese longline vessels from retaining on board, transshipping or landing any part or whole carcass of silky shark, hammerhead shark, whitetip shark and bigeye thresher shark by Ministerial Order.</p>
<i>Korea</i>	In accordance with Korea's Distant Sea Fisheries Act (2008), fishing vessels should be compliant of all compulsory conservation and management measures including sharks-related measures adopted by Regional Fisheries Management Organizations. Through the recent revision of data collection regulations entered into force as of 5 December 2012, shark by species have been collected and reported due to the introduction of new logsheets in electronic format. Otherwise, they should be punished depending on the gravity of non-compliance.
Liberia	Not applicable.
Libya	Not applicable.

Mauritania	Nothing in Annual Report.
Mexico	<p>Mexico has taken the necessary regulatory measures requesting fishermen to fully utilize all the catches of sharks. Likewise, the information on the implementation of these measures is notified annually. The monitoring of incidental North Atlantic shortfin mako shark catches (<i>Isurus oxyrinchus</i>) in longline yellowfin tuna fishing in the Gulf of Mexico has been carried out through the National Programme of Onboard Observers.</p> <p>Mexico has adopted regulatory fishing measures to maintain the maximum sustainable yield for the catches of shark populations.</p> <p>Firstly, the sustainable exploitation of sharks is regulated by the Official Mexican Regulation (<i>Norma Oficial Mexicana</i>) NOM-029-PESC-2006, “Responsible fishing for sharks and rays. Exploitation specifications”, for the conservation and protection of elasmobranchs and other species which are caught incidentally.</p> <p>The last update of the National Fishing Letter (<i>Carta Nacional Pesquera</i>), published on 24 August 2012, establishes that as an additional management measure no new licenses to fish sharks be issued from 1993, except in the case that decommissioned vessels are substituted or licenses are renewed to avoid increases in existing fishing effort. However, it is considered that the exploited fishery is at its maximum sustainable level.</p> <p>To reduce the fishing mortality of thresher shark populations (<i>Alopias</i> spp.), a maximum allowable limit of 45 effort units for the tuna longline fishery was established in article 4.3 of the Official Mexican Regulation NOM-023-SAG/PESC-2014, which regulates the exploitation of tuna species using longline vessels in waters under federal jurisdiction of the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea. This amount is revised periodically based on the results of scientific and technological research regarding the development of the fishery.</p> <p>Mexico has complied with the ICCAT SCRS recommendations concerning the conservation of bigeye thresher sharks (<i>Alopias superciliosus</i>), with the use of research programmes carried out by the National Fisheries Institute (<i>Instituto Nacional de Pesca</i>), as well as the control of statistics on catches obtained through the onboard observers programme and the logbook information of the producers themselves. With this information there is progress as regards to establishing the baseline for the distribution and abundance status of these species to establish management measures for their protection.</p> <p>In Task I data, Mexico reports information on the monitoring of incidental catches of North Atlantic shortfin mako shark (<i>Isurus oxyrinchus</i>) in yellowfin longline tuna fishing in the Gulf of Mexico. Likewise, as regards ICCAT recommendations, these measures were included in the update of Official Mexican Regulation NOM-023-SAG/PESC-2014, which regulates the exploitation of tuna species by longline vessels in waters under federal jurisdiction of the Gulf of</p>

	<p>Mexico and the Caribbean Sea.</p> <p>The sustainable exploitation of shark species caught is regulated by the Official Mexican Regulation NOM-029-PESC-2006, “Responsible fishing for sharks and rays. Exploitation specifications”, for the conservation and protection of elasmobranchs and other species which are caught incidentally.</p>
Morocco	<p>Rec. 10-08 Adoption of decree, dated 9 April 2012 on the temporary prohibition of catches of three shark species: hammerhead shark, oceanic whitetip shark and bigeye thresher shark.</p> <p>Rec. 11-08 Silky sharks are not caught in Moroccan waters and is not imported to be traded in the Moroccan market.</p> <p>Rec. 14-06 A ministerial decree has been implemented since 2009, including measures aimed at preserving shark species (catch threshold not exceeding 5%, prohibition to target these species, prohibition to process onboard vessels (gutting and finning).</p> <p>Rec. 11-08 There is a strict control throughout the fisheries sector, namely fishing activities, transshipment, landing, trading and transport, as well as storage of fishing products and recording of landings and sales.</p> <p>Rec. 12-05 Follow-up of the shark fishing activity (logbook), identification of the fleet targeting these species, traceability, ventilation of shark and squalidae landings by species. A decree on the conservation of shark species is in the process of being adopted.</p>
<i>Namibia</i>	<p>There is need for improvement on this. Although the sharks landed were reported in Task I data sent on 28/07/15, no Task II was reported due to lack of sampling by onboard observers. Action to be taken to address this includes conducting training and refresher course for onboard observers and Fisheries Inspectors. ICCAT assistance on of training observers and Inspectors on how to sample sharks and prevent targeting of prohibited species would also be crucial.(See also Section 5 of Annual Report of Namibia).</p>
Nicaragua	<p>No report received.</p>
<i>Nigeria</i>	<p>Not applicable. Nigeria is not involved in shark fisheries.</p>
<i>Norway</i>	<p>According to paragraph 1 in Recommendation 11-08 on the Conservation of Silky Sharks caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries, CPCs shall require fishing vessels flying their flag and operating in ICCAT managed fisheries to release all silky sharks whether dead or alive, and prohibit retaining on board, transshipping, or landing any part or whole carcass of silky shark. However, this prohibition on retention does not apply to CPCs whose domestic law requires that all dead fish be landed, that the fishermen cannot draw any commercial profit from such fish and that includes a prohibition against silky shark fisheries, cf. paragraph 6 of Recommendation 11-08.</p>

	<p>Silky sharks do normally not occur in Norwegian waters. In addition, there is a general requirement following from the Norwegian Marine Resources Act (Section 15) and the Regulations relating to Seawater Fisheries (Section 48) that all dead fish be landed. Hence, in order to be in line with Recommendation 11-08, a prohibition against silky shark fisheries has been included in the Norwegian regulation prohibiting fisheries for basking shark, spiny dogfish and porbeagle. Furthermore, bycatches of basking shark, porbeagle and silky shark shall be returned to the sea if they are capable of surviving, and all catches shall be reported.</p> <p>The regulations prohibiting fisheries of basking shark, porbeagle, spiny dogfish and silky shark are laid down under the Marine Resources Act, and the value of catches harvested or delivered in contravention of provisions laid down in or under this act, accrue to the appropriate sales organization or to the state. Hence, the fishermen cannot draw commercial profit from landings of silky shark.</p>
<i>Panama</i>	<p>Executive Decree No.9 concerning the protection of whale sharks, prohibiting shark fishing, catching and trading in the Republic of Panama and enactment of other provisions.</p> <p>Administrative Resolution No. ADM/ARAP No. 13 through which the national action plan is adopted for the conservation and management of shark fisheries.</p> <p>Administrative Resolution ARAP No. 022-2011, which establishes the requirements for issuing export certificates for shark fins.</p> <p>Executive Decree No. 161, dated 6 June 2013, which establishes inspection, surveillance and control mechanisms for catching and support fishing vessels flying national flags on international service.</p>
<i>Philippines</i>	<p>The Philippines under its Fisheries Code and other subsequent issuances recognizes the prohibition on the catching of sharks, turtles and other species that have been listed under CITES. Fishing vessels authorized to fish in other RFMOs convention areas, comply with the provisions and applicable strategies to mitigate and avoid such mortalities of sharks, turtles and other species. No incidental catches of thresher, silky hammerhead or oceanic whitetip sharks recorded.</p>
<i>Russia</i>	<p>Not applicable. Directed fishing and sharks by-catch fishing are absent.</p>
Sao Tomé & Príncipe	<p>No report received.</p>
Senegal	<p>Shark management can no longer be limited to the area of a country, hence implementation of sub-regional management of shark resources to ensure the visibility of the activities of national shark plans under the auspices of the FAO. Implementation of a policy to retrain stakeholders in the artisanal fishery linked to shark fisheries;</p> <p>Periodic suspension of catching sharks.</p>

Sierra Leone	Nothing in Annual Report.
South Africa	<p>04-10 All Task I and II data pertaining to sharks have been submitted to ICCAT, including length frequencies when South Africa had a national observer programme. Fishers are not permitted to discard shark trunks at sea. Longline permit holders are encouraged to release sharks alive. Discard and release data are not available since March 2011 when the contract for South Africa’s national observer programme expired. South Africa is in the process of re-establishing a national observer programme and it is anticipated that the program will commence in February 2015.</p> <p>07-06 South Africa does not fish for porbeagle and North Atlantic mako. South Africa investigating possible nursery grounds for southern Atlantic mako and blue sharks in the region of the Agulhas Bank.</p> <p>09-07 Thresher sharks are not permitted to be landed in any of the commercial tuna fisheries. Recreational fishers are not permitted to sell their catch. All landings of longline vessels are independently monitored. A shark identification guide has been developed and disseminated to industry and compliance officers to assist with identification.</p> <p>10-08 Hammerhead sharks are not permitted to be landed in any of the commercial tuna fisheries. Recreational fishers are not permitted to sell their catch. All landings of longline vessels are independently monitored. A shark identification guide has been developed and disseminated to industry and compliance officers to assist with identification.</p> <p>10-07 Oceanic white-tip sharks are not permitted to be landed in any of the commercial tuna fisheries. Recreational fishers are not permitted to sell their catch. All landings of longline vessels are independently monitored. A shark identification guide has been developed and disseminated to industry and compliance officers to assist with identification.</p> <p>11-08 See response under SHK 7004.</p> <p>11-15 Task I and II data, including zero catches, pertaining to sharks have been reported to ICCAT on 7 August 2014.</p>
St. Vincent & the Grenadines	Nothing in Annual Report.
Syria	No report received.
Trinidad and Tobago	Trinidad and Tobago’s compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures continues to be considerably affected by outdated fisheries legislation and limited human resource. Efforts made to address these issues have been previously reported including: the drafting of

	<p>updated legislation that provides for the mandatory elaboration, review and update of fishery management plans; the recruitment of staff for a large pelagics group to address research and monitoring/enforcement, including for sharks; and collaboration with FAO on the elaboration of a National Plan of Action for Sharks. It is envisaged that enactment of the legislation will be delayed as a result of the change in the Government of the country in early September 2015 as has the recruitment of staff for the large pelagics group. The development of an FMP for ICCAT managed species remains in the Division's work plan.</p>
Tunisia	<p>Not applicable. A management plan on whales is in progress.</p>
Turkey	<p>Catching, retaining on board, landing, transporting, storing, selling, displaying or offering for sale the following shark species have been prohibited within the framework of Notification No. 3/1 Regulating Commercial Fisheries;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sandbar Shark (<i>Carcharhinus plumbeus</i>) ● Basking Shark (<i>Cetorhinus maximus</i>) ● Tope Shark (<i>Galeorhinus galeus</i>) ● Porbeagle (<i>Lamna nasus</i>)
UK (OT)	<p>All shark catches are reported in Task I and II data as per Rec. 4-10. Catches of silky, porbeagle, Oceanic Whitetip or Thresher Sharks were not reported in 2014. These species are rarely caught, and only as bycatch.</p> <p>The terms and conditions of the one Bermudian longline vessel licence stipulate the release of all sharks (if alive). In practice, the longliner releases most sharks. See section 5 of annual report for further commentary about legislative capacity in the UKOTs.</p>
Uruguay	<p>All statistics on sharks caught in Uruguay's longline fisheries are reported in Task I and Task II statistical data. Likewise, all the recommendations have been incorporated in the national fishery regulation. These recommendations which prohibit retaining shark species were included in Uruguay's PAN-Constrictios update process carried out in 2013-2014. Furthermore, through an Executive Decree (No. 67/013 of 22 February 2013), Uruguay prohibits retaining onboard, transshipping, landing, storing, selling or offering for sale any part or whole carcass of sharks (<i>Lamna nasus</i>) which are caught.</p>
United States of America	<p>The United States continues to fulfil the requirements of ICCAT's shark recommendations through data collection programs and domestic management measures including a requirement for all sharks to be landed with their fins naturally attached. The United States has catch limits in place for all federally managed shark species, including Atlantic porbeagle, shortfin mako, and blue sharks and will continue to submit catch and effort data for sharks to ICCAT. The United States also has measures to prohibit harvest of bigeye thresher sharks in all ICCAT fisheries and fully implements and complies with the requirements of Rec. 10-07 and 10-08, which prohibit retaining, transshipping, landing, storing, or selling hammerhead sharks in the family Sphyrnidae (except for <i>Sphyrna tiburo</i>) and oceanic whitetip sharks (<i>Carcharhinus</i></p>

	<i>longimanus</i>), respectively, as well as silky sharks caught in association with ICCAT fisheries, per Rec. 11-08. For more information, see Appendix III of annual report.
Vanuatu	The Fisheries Bill was tabled in 2014 and Vanuatu has prescribed in detail, a regulation on the management of sharks. Vanuatu now has a Shark Management Plan and also there are definite plans to have observer coverage from 2014/2015 on all Vanuatu fishing vessels to improve the verification of fishing operations in so far as shark catches are concerned.
Venezuela	Regarding shark conservation measures; on 19 June 2012, Resolution DM/N062-2012 was published, stipulating the Technical Management Regulations to Regulate Catching, Exchange, Distribution, Trade and Transportation of Sharks. This Resolution established, among other measures, the prohibition on all fishing vessels from catching bigeye thresher sharks (<i>Alopias superciliosus</i>) and oceanic whitetip sharks (<i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i>). It also prohibited industrial fishing vessels from catching silky sharks (<i>Carcharhinus falciformis</i>) and any species belonging to the family Sphyrnidae (hammerhead sharks). This regulation came into force in January 2013. The following discards by the industrial tuna fleet were recorded: 695 kg of bigeye thresher shark (<i>Alopias superciliosus</i>), 76 kg of dead fish and 619 kg of live fish. 470 kg of silky sharks (<i>Carcharhinus falciformis</i>), 181 kg of oceanic whitetip sharks (<i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i>) and 10 kg of great hammerhead sharks (<i>Sphyrna mokarran</i>).
Bolivia	No report received.
Chinese Taipei	For consideration of the safety of crew members and conservation of shark species, fishermen are required to release all live sharks incidentally caught to reduce the mortality of shark species. Ban on specific sharks: Fishermen were required to prohibit catching and possessing bigeye thresher sharks (since 2010), hammerhead shark (since 2011), oceanic whitetip shark (since 2011) and silky sharks (since 2012). Any by-catch of such shark species shall be released and recorded on the catch logbook.
Suriname	In compliance with shark conservation and management measures all foreign flagged vessels have to land their sharks with the fins attached, they may also slice the fins half-off and attached it to the body of the shark. The Masters of these vessels are also been provided with a card with pictures of sharks that are prohibited to catch, have on board or to land.
Guyana	Guyana is a signatory to CITES and has received list with species of sharks on Appendix 11 of CITES. The Fisheries Department is currently in the process of developing a Shark Management Plan and training on identification of sharks.