



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON THE CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY SHARKS (SHARKS MOU)

Aggregation of *Sphyrna lewini* © Masayuki Agawa / Ocean Image Bank

Species listed on the Sharks MOU

There are currently thirty-eight shark species covered by **Annex 1**¹ of the Memorandum of Understanding:

Rhincodontidae	<i>Rhincodon typus</i>
Lamnidae	<i>Carcharodon carcharias</i> <i>Isurus oxyrinchus</i> <i>Isurus paucus</i> <i>Lamna nasus</i>
Cetorhinidae	<i>Cetorhinus maximus</i>
Alopiidae	<i>Alopias superciliosus</i> <i>Alopias vulpinus</i> <i>Alopias pelagicus</i>
Carcharhinidae	<i>Carcharhinus falciformis</i> <i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i> <i>Carcharhinus obscurus</i>
Sphyrnidae	<i>Sphyrna mokarran</i> <i>Sphyrna lewini</i> <i>Sphyrna zygaena</i>
Triakidae	<i>Galeorhinus galeus</i>
Squalidae	<i>Squalus acanthias</i> (northern hemisphere populations)
Squatinaidea	<i>Squatina squatina</i>
Rhinobatidae	<i>Rhinobatos rhinobatos</i>
Rhinidae	<i>Rhynchobatus australiae</i> <i>Rhynchobatus djiddensis</i> <i>Rhynchobatus laevis</i>
Pristidae spp.	Entire family
Mobulidae spp.	Entire family

THE SHARKS MOU

The global Sharks MOU aims to achieve and maintain a favourable conservation status for migratory sharks and rays based on the best available scientific information and taking into account the socio economic value of these species.

An alarming proportion of one-quarter of chondrichthyan species are threatened worldwide², including a significant number of migratory shark and ray species. Some of these species travel large distances across and around ocean basins, and require special conservation and management measures on a global scale across their entire range.

Sharks and rays are highly vulnerable to overexploitation as they grow slowly, mature late and produce very few offspring. The rapid and largely unregulated increase in target fisheries and by-catch have already depleted many populations of sharks and rays worldwide³.



Manta Ray © Adobe Stock Images

¹ Signatories to the MOU can propose further species to be listed in Annex 1 of the MOU.

² Dulvy, Nicholas K., et al. "Extinction risk and conservation of the world's sharks and rays." *Elife* 3 (2014): e00590.

³ Worm, Boris, et al. "Global catches, exploitation rates, and rebuilding options for sharks." *Marine Policy* 40 (2013): 194-204.

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The CMS Sharks MOU Conservation Plan

An international **Conservation Plan** forms the basis of the ongoing work under the MOU calls for cooperation among governments, fishing industries, NGO's, local communities and scientists. The MOU's **Advisory Committee** provides expert advice and suggestions on new initiatives for the implementation of the Conservation Plan.

Objectives of the CMS Sharks MOU Conservation Plan

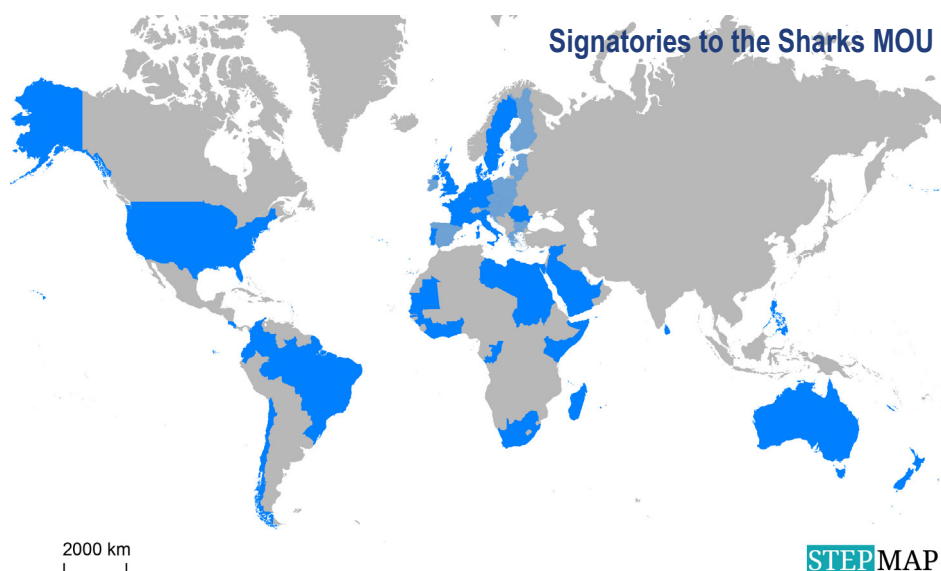
- > Improve understanding of migratory shark and ray populations through research, monitoring and information exchange,
- > Ensure that directed and non-directed fisheries are sustainable,
- > Protect critical habitats, migration corridors and critical life stages of sharks and rays,
- > Increase public awareness of threats and participation in conservation activities,
- > Enhance national, regional and international cooperation.

Signatories to the Sharks MOU

As of October 2019, the CMS Sharks MOU has 49 Signatories: 48 national governments and the European Union.

The Sharks MOU is open for signature by all Range States³ (and regional economic integration organizations) of listed shark species.

Signatories have the opportunity to help shape the policy direction of the Memorandum and adapt it to the needs of their shark population.



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Challenges for Signatories

A major challenge facing Signatories will be ensuring that both directed and non-directed fisheries for sharks and rays are sustainable. Proper monitoring schemes are required to collect data and information for each species throughout its range to inform the development of effective conservation measures and fisheries management.

For more Fact Sheets please visit: <http://www.cms.int/en/publications/factsheets>

³ Range States are defined as any State that exercises jurisdiction over any part of the range of migratory shark and ray species, or a State, flag vessels of which are engaged outside its national jurisdiction limits in taking migratory sharks and rays.