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Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement
Accord relatif aux Pêches dans le Sud de l'Océan Indien

9th Meeting of the Compliance Committee (CC9) and 12th Meeting of the Parties (MoP12)

Ebene, Mauritius, 25–27 June 2025 and 30 June – 04 July 2025

MoP-12-41

Proposal to amend CMM 12 (2024), Conservation and Management Measure for Sharks

Proposed by the delegation of Australia

Meeting	Compliance Committee ✓ Meeting of the Parties ✓
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Abstract	<p>Australia has proposed amendments to CMM 12-2024 (Sharks) to implement the recommendations from the 10th Annual Meeting of the Scientific Committee (SC). Specifically, paragraphs 347, 358 and 360 of the SC10 Report.</p> <p>The SC recommended that the Meeting of the Parties:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Add <i>Bythaelurus naylori</i> to Annex 1 of CMM 12(2024) (Sharks) and that smooth lanternshark (<i>Etmopterus pusillus</i>) should be considered a species at “high risk” (SC10:347).2. Consistent with previous advice from SC8 and SC9, the SC recommended that the MoP take urgent action to limit the catch of deepwater sharks associated with the bottom longline fishery in Subareas 2, 4 and 5 (SC10:358):<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Subarea 4: The SC recommended as a precautionary measure that bottom longline fishing in subarea 4 be managed on a set-by-set basis. Consistent with the SC definition of targeted species, in each set where the catch composition is over 50% of deepwater sharks, the vessel will apply the 5 nm move on rule.

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² Documents available only to members invited to closed sessions.



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- b. Subarea 5: The SC also recommended as a precautionary measure that bottom longline fishing in Subarea 5 be temporarily prohibited until a Portuguese dogfish stock assessment in the whole SIOFA Area is presented.
- c. Subarea 2: The SC recommended the retention of the existing catch limit in Subarea 2 on Portuguese dogfish.
3. Due to the increased catch of deepwater sharks and the unavailability of the results of the wire trace trial, SC10 re-iterated the SC8 (para 230) advice, which recommended restricting bottom longlines to nylon trace, until such time the results of the proposed trial on trace type is analysed by SC (**SC10:360**).

Recommendations

- For CC9 to review the proposal and propose it for adoption to MoP12.
- For MoP12 to review and adopt the proposal.

CMM 12(~~2024~~2025)³

Conservation and Management Measure for Sharks⁴ (Sharks)

The Meeting of the Parties to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement:

RECALLING the relevant provisions of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement, in particular Article 4;

FURTHER RECALLING Article 4(c) of the Agreement that the precautionary approach shall be applied in accordance with the Code of Conduct and the 1995 Agreement, whereby the absence of adequate scientific information shall not be used as a reason for postponing or failing to take conservation and management measures;

CONSIDERING that the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) International Plan of Action for Sharks calls on States to cooperate through regional fisheries organizations to ensure the sustainability of shark stocks;

RECOGNIZING the need to improve the collection of species-specific data on catch, effort, discards, and trade as a basis for improving the conservation and management of shark stocks;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING that the Scientific Committee have recommended the Meeting of the Parties to take urgent action to limit the mortality of deepwater sharks associated with the bottom longline fishery in Subareas 2, 4 and 5, consistent with previous advice from SC8 and SC9.

RECALLING that the FAO International Plan of Action for Sharks calls on States to encourage full use of dead sharks, to facilitate improved species-specific catch and landings data and monitoring of shark catches and the identification and reporting of species-specific biological and trade data;

FURTHER RECALLING that United Nations General Assembly, adopted consensus Resolutions every year since 2007 (62/177, 63/112, 64/72, 65/38, 66/68, 67/79, 68/71, 69/109, 70/75 and 71/123), calling upon States to take immediate and concerted action to improve the implementation of and compliance with existing regional fisheries management organization or arrangement measures that regulate shark fisheries and incidental catch of sharks, in particular those measures which prohibit or restrict fisheries conducted solely for the purpose of harvesting shark fins, and, where necessary, to consider taking other measures, as appropriate, such as requiring that all sharks be landed with each fin naturally attached;

ADOPTS the following Conservation and Management Measures (CMM) in accordance with Article 4 and 6 of the Agreement:

1. This CMM applies to all fishing vessels of Contracting Parties, cooperating non-Contracting Parties (CNCs) and participating fishing entities (PFEs) to the Agreement (collectively CCPs), engaged in fishing operations in the SIOFA Area of Application (the Agreement Area).
2. CCPs shall ensure that fishing vessels flying their flag do not target any deep-sea shark species listed in Annex 1 within the Agreement Area, until the Scientific Committee defines and the Meeting of the Parties agrees on possible appropriate fishing mortality and harvest levels for any of these species.
3. Fishing in subarea 2 shall be subjected to a bycatch limit for Portuguese dogfish (*Centroscymnus coelolepis*) of 767.6t, ~~starting from 1st January 2024~~. The fishing season for this catch limit is the calendar year.

³ CMM 12(2024) (Sharks) supersedes CMM 12(2023) (Sharks).

⁴ The term "sharks" refers to Chondrichthyes for the purposes of this CMM, as defined by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)

3bis. Bottom longline vessels fishing in subarea 4 shall move at least 5nm from any set where catch composition is comprised of more than 50% deepwater sharks. The vessel shall not set a line within 5nm from any area where catch composition was greater than 50% deepwater sharks for the remainder of the trip.

3ter. Bottom longline fishing shall be prohibited in subarea 5 until a Portuguese dogfish stock assessment for the SIOFA Area is presented and the Meeting of the Parties has endorsed the Scientific Committee's advice.

3quart. CCPs shall prohibit the use of wire trace on bottom longline vessels flying their flag, until the Scientific Committee has analyzed the results of the proposed trial on trace type (MoP11 paragraphs 133-135) and provides advice to the Meeting of the Parties, and the Meeting of the Parties has considered this advice and endorsed an approach on the use of wire trace on bottom longline vessels.

4. Subarea 2 is defined as ~~the area which:~~

- South border is 36° South,
- East border is 49° East,
- West border is 40° East,
- North border are EEZs.

4bis. Subarea 4 is defined as:

- South border is 36° South and EEZ,
- East border is 90° East,
- West border is 80° East and EEZ,
- North border is 20° South.

4ter. Subarea 5 is defined as:

- South border is 36° South,
- East border is 105° East,
- West border is 90° East,
- North border is 25° South.

5. To facilitate the implementation of the catch limit in paragraph 3, CCPs that have caught Portuguese dogfish in subarea 2 shall provide monthly reports of Portuguese dogfish catches to the Secretariat by the twentieth day of the following month. Once 80% of the catch limit (614t) has been taken, the Secretariat shall notify all CCPs that weekly reporting is required. Upon receiving such a notification from the Secretariat, CCPs who have vessels fishing in subarea 2 shall provide weekly reports to the Secretariat by close of business Wednesday for the preceding seven days.
6. The Secretariat shall notify all CCPs once this catch limit is reached. On receiving a notification from the Secretariat that the catch limit has been reached, CCPs shall ensure that their flagged vessels fishing in subarea 2 do not retain any Portuguese dogfish for the remainder of the year⁵.
7. CCPs shall ensure that fishing vessels flying their flag record and submit all reporting requirements as per CMM 02(2023) (Data Standards) for all deep-sea sharks to the lowest taxonomical level possible when engaged in fishing for fishery resources.
8. By 2020 the Scientific Committee shall advise the Meeting of the Parties on the need to adopt any appropriate by-catch limits for relevant SIOFA deep sea shark species and fleets, including on scientific and data needs for underpinning the elaboration of such advice.

⁵ The retention prohibition shall apply to any gears in the water following notification of the catch limit being reached. Vessels with gears in the water at the time that the notification is received may retain Portuguese dogfish that are dead at time of haul and shall release all live Portuguese dogfish.

9. CCPs shall, where possible, undertake research to identify ways to make all relevant fishing gears more selective to minimise deep sea shark by-catch and shall provide relevant information to the Scientific Committee.
10. CCPs shall, where possible, conduct research to identify shark nursery areas in the Agreement Area and provide relevant information to the Scientific Committee.
11. This CMM shall be reviewed every second year by the Scientific Committee and the Compliance Committee, unless the Meeting of the Parties decides otherwise.

ANNEX 1: List of “**high risk**” and “of concern” deep sea shark species for the purpose of this CMM.⁶

FAO code	English common name	French common name	Scientific name
APD	Smallbelly catshark	Holbiche artouca	<i>Apristurus indicus</i>
BZL	Narrowhead catshark		<i>Bythaelurus tenuicephalus</i>
BZO	Bach’s catshark		<i>Bythaelurus bachi</i>
CYO	Portuguese dogfish	Pailona commun	<i>Centroscymnus coelolepis</i>
CYP	Longnose velvet dogfish	Pailona à long nez	<i>Centroselachus crepidater</i>
DCA	Birdbeak dogfish	Squale savate	<i>Deania calceus</i>
DWG	Cristina’s skate		<i>Bathyraja tunae</i>
ETP	Smooth lanternshark	Sagre nain	<i>Etmopterus pusillus</i>
EZT	Blue-eye lanternshark		<i>Etmopterus viator</i>
EZU	Whitecheek lanternshark		<i>Etmopterus alphas</i>
ETB	Blurred smooth lantern shark		<i>Etmopterus bigelowi</i>
GUP	Gulper shark	Squale-chagrin commun	<i>Centrophorus granulosus</i>
GUQ	Leafscale gulper shark	Squale-chagrin de l'Atlantique	<i>Centrophorus squamosus</i>
CPU	Little gulper shark	Petit squale-chagrin	<i>Centrophorus uyato</i>
HCR	Pacific longnose chimaera	Chimère à nez rigide	<i>Harriotta raleighana</i>
HXC	Friiled shark	Requin lézard	<i>Chlamydoselachus anguineus</i>
HXN	Bigeyed sixgill shark	Requin-vache	<i>Hexanchus nakamurai</i>
<u>JBY</u>	<u>Dusky Snout catshark</u>		<u><i>Bythaelurus naylori</i></u>
LMO	Goblin shark	Requin lutin	<i>Mitsukurina owstoni</i>
QUK	Shortspine spurdog	Aiguillat épinette	<i>Squalus mitsukurii</i>
RFI	Paddlenose chimaera		<i>Rhinochimaera africana</i>
SDQ	Longsnout dogfish	Squale-savate à long nez	<i>Deania quadrispinosa</i>
SDU	Arrowhead dogfish	Squale-savate lutin	<i>Deania profundorum</i>
SCK	Kitefin shark	Squale liche	<i>Dalatias licha</i>
SSQ	Velvet dogfish		<i>Zameus squamulosus</i>
RZZ	Southern sleeper shark		<i>Somniosus antarcticus</i>
YSM	Largespine velvet dogfish	Pailona austral	<i>Scymnodon macracanthus</i>
ZZC	Dark-mouth chimaera		<i>Chimaera buccanigella</i>
ZZD	Falkor chimaera		<i>Chimaera didierae</i>
ZZE	Seafarer’s ghost shark		<i>Chimaera willwatchi</i>

⁶ As modified by the SIOFA SC in Annex ~~N-D2~~ of the ~~SC9-SC10~~ report.