



UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
MINISTRY OF CLIMATE CHANGE
& ENVIRONMENT

National Plan of Action for the Conservation & Management of Sharks the UAE

2018-2021

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What are Sharks?

'sharks' is applied broadly to include all species of true sharks, as well as related species of rays, skates and chimaeras, unless otherwise noted. Sharks, rays, skates (elasmobranchs), as well as the chimaeras, are cartilaginous fishes that comprise the class Chondrichthyes. This diverse group of fish is distinguished by the possession of a cartilaginous skeleton and placoid scales as opposed to the bony skeleton and the leptocephalous scales of the class Osteichthyes, or bony fishes. Sharks are an important species to the marine environment, as the extinction of sharks from it destabilizes the marine environment and affects other marine creatures as well as humans. It is therefore needed to stop the reduction of the number of sharks, and maintaining them in a way that restores the balance of the marine environment.

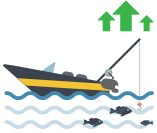
What is the National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks (Sharks NPOA)?

The UAE has a unique and rich biodiversity with diverse ecosystems and habitats. Like other countries in the region, the UAE's biodiversity is threatened by the overexploitation of its resources, climate change, habitat destruction, and urban development. The development of the National Plan of Action for sharks (NPOA) comes as part of a response mechanism to conserve UAE's biodiversity and ensure the long-term survival of sharks and rays.

What the duration of the Sharks NPOA?

This NPOA is intended to have an initial four years duration (2018- 2021)

What are some of the important challenges facing Sharks in the UAE?



Fishing effort (commercial and recreational)



Land and sea-based pollution



Coastal development



Habitat alteration



Climate change



What is the state of sharks' populations in the UAE?

A total of 43 shark and 29 batoid species have been recorded from UAE waters of the Arabian Gulf and Sea of Oman. Sharks are caught by commercial and recreational fishermen as targeted catch, non-target but retained catch (byproduct), or as non-target and non-retained catch (bycatch) in fisheries principally directed at other commercially important teleost (bony fish) species.

In recent years, the understanding of the species composition, relative abundance and size distribution of sharks exploited by the fishery in the UAE has improved. The 43 species of sharks recorded indicated that shark biodiversity in the Gulf was relatively high and comparable to other countries in the region when considering that deep water species are precluded from inhabiting these waters. Similarly, the 29 species of rays recorded at landing sites indicates that ray diversity is likely to be high. Yet further research needs to be undertaken both nationally and regionally to gain a better understanding of differences in biological traits and of the status of the various species on a local level.



What is the vision and the goals of the Sharks NPOA?

Vision:

'Sharks in the UAE are effectively conserved and managed to enable their long term sustainable use'

Goals:



Improve our knowledge of sharks' species and fisheries and their role in the ecosystem



Ensure effective policy, legislation and law enforcement mechanisms and develop a national, regional and international framework for cooperation

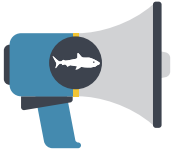


Enable effective conservation through capacity building



Undertake education and outreach programs to improve awareness of the public, and increase understanding of the role that individuals and the private sector can play in shark conservation

What are the indicators to measures the effectiveness of the Sharks NPOA?



Trend of the community awareness on the importance of sharks' conservation



Trend of the effective management of marine protected areas



Trend of the sharks' population



Trend of the status of fish stock



Trend of sharks species on the red list of endangered species

What is the rule of individuals and communities toward the Sharks NPOA?



Compliance to laws and legislations



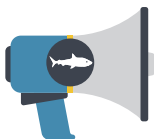
Do not damage natural habitats by dumping waste and polluting the marine environment



Avoid hunting sharks for recreational purposes



Inform environmental competent authorities in each Emirate of any violations



To be aware of the importance of sharks in the marine environment



Refrain from buying sharks or any of their products



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