

The Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties  
01-05 July 2019

Pearle Beach Resort & Spa conference centre, Flic en Flac, Mauritius

MoP6-Prop09

Proposal for a Conservation and Management Measure on Sharks  
Caught in Association with Fisheries Managed by SIOFA

*Relates to agenda item: CC3 4.2, MoP6 12*

Proposal  Working Paper  Information Paper  Other Document

## Delegation of the European Union

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### Abstract

Currently the SIOFA framework does not provide any provision for the conservation and management of sharks caught in association with SIOFA fisheries. RFMOs that overlap geographically (e.g., IOTC) with or are adjacent to SIOFA (e.g., CCAMLR) have already adopted dedicated measures. The purpose of this proposal is to fill the gap and provide for specific measures for the conservation and management of sharks in SIOFA.

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### Recommendations (*proposals only*)

1. [The CC3 and MoP6 are invited to review, discuss and adopt this proposal.]
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**Proposal for a Conservation and Management Measure on Sharks Caught in Association with Fisheries Managed by SIOFA**

*[EU proposal]*

**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;

*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;

*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;

*AWARE* that despite regional agreements on the prohibition of shark finning, sharks' fins continue to be removed on board and the rest of the shark carcass discarded into the sea;

*ALSO AWARE* that identifying sharks by species is rarely possible when the fins have been removed from the carcasses;

***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.
2. CCPs shall ensure that fishing vessels flying their flag do not target any deep-sea shark species in the SIOFA area, until the SC defines and the MoP agrees on possible appropriate fishing mortality and harvest levels for any of these species.

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3. CCPs shall ensure that fishing vessels flying their flag record and submit all reporting requirements as per CMM 2018/02 for deep shark species caught as by-catch in SIOFA fisheries.
4. By 2020 the Scientific Committee shall advise the MoP on the need to adopt any appropriate by-catch limits for relevant SIOFA deep sea species and fleets, including on scientific and data needs for underpinning the elaboration of such advice.
5. CCPs shall prohibit the removal of shark fins at sea and the retention on board, transshipment and landing of shark fins.
6. Without prejudice to paragraph 3, in order to facilitate on-board storage, shark fins may be partially sliced through and folded against the carcass, but shall not be removed from the carcass before the first landing.
7. CCPs shall prohibit offering for sale, selling or purchasing shark fins that are taken, landed or possessed in contravention of this CMM.
8. CCPs shall, where possible, undertake research to identify ways to make all relevant fishing gears more selective and provide relevant information to the Scientific Committee.
9. CCPs shall, where possible, conduct research to identify shark nursery areas in the Agreement Area and provide relevant information to the Scientific Committee.
10. This CMM shall be reviewed every second year by the Scientific Committee and the Compliance Committee, unless the MoP decides otherwise.