



**THIRD REGULAR SESSION**

Apia, Samoa

11-15 December 2006

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**CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE ON SHARKS CAUGHT IN  
ASSOCIATION WITH FISHERIES IN THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL  
PACIFIC OCEAN**

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**WCPFC3-2006-DP04  
10th November 2006**

**Proposal submitted by FFA Members**

The Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean;

In accordance with the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean;

*Recognizing* the ecological and cultural significance of sharks in the western and central Pacific Ocean (WCPO);

*Recalling* that the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks calls on FAO members, within the framework of their respective competencies and consistent with international law, to cooperate through regional fisheries organizations with a view to ensuring the sustainability of shark stocks as well as to adopt a National Plan of Action for the conservation and management of sharks;

*Recognizing* the need to collect data on catch, effort, discards, and trade, as well as information on the biological parameters of many species, as part of shark conservation and management;

Resolves as follows:

1. Commission Members, Cooperating non-Members, and participating Territories (CCMs) shall implement the FAO International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks.
2. CCMs shall advise the Commission annually on their implementation of the IPOA-Sharks, including, as appropriate, results of their assessment of the need for a National

Plan of Action and/or the status of their National Plans of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks.

3. National Plans of Action or other relevant policies for sharks should include measures to minimize waste and discards from shark catches and encourage the live release of incidental catches of sharks.

4. Each CCM shall include shark species in their annual reporting to the Commission of annual catches and catch and fishing effort statistics by gear type, including available historical data, in accordance with the WCPF Convention and agreed reporting procedures;

5. The Commission shall consider appropriate assistance to developing CCMs for the implementation of the IPOA and collection of data on shark catches.

And adopts, in accordance with Article 10 of the Convention, that:

6. CCMs shall take measures necessary to require that their fishers fully utilize any retained catches of sharks. Full utilization is defined as retention by the fishing vessel of all parts of the shark excepting head, guts, and skins, to the point of first landing or transshipment;

7. CCMs shall require their vessels to have on-board fins that total no more than 5% of the weight of sharks onboard, up to the first point of landing or require sharks to be landed with fins attached to the carcass. CCMs shall take the necessary measures to ensure compliance with the requirements of this paragraph through monitoring by an observer, or other appropriate measures;

8. CCMs shall take measures necessary to require fishing vessels are prohibited from retaining on board, transship, landing, or trade in any fins harvested in contravention of this Conservation and Management Measure;

9. In fisheries for tunas and tuna-like species that are not directed at sharks, CCMs shall take measures to encourage the release of live sharks, that are caught incidentally and are not used for food or other purpose.

10. Nothing in this measure shall prejudice the sovereign rights of coastal States to apply and have applied alternative measures for the purpose of exploring, exploiting, conserving and managing sharks, including any national plan of action for the conservation and management of sharks, within areas under their national jurisdiction.

11. The Commission, on the basis of the advice and work of the SC and TCC, shall consider the adoption of additional measures for the management of shark stocks in the Convention Area, at its annual session in 2008.

12. This decision shall apply to sharks caught in association with fisheries managed under the WCPF Convention, and to sharks listed in Annex 1 of the 1982 Convention occurring in the Convention Area.