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**DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF SHARKS CAUGHT IN  
ASSOCIATION WITH FISHERIES IN THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL  
PACIFIC OCEAN**

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**WCPFC/Comm.2/DP.11  
21<sup>st</sup> November 2005**

**Proposal submitted by the United States**

*Members and Cooperating Non-Members of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC):*

*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;

*Considering* that many sharks are part of pelagic ecosystems in the WCPF Convention Area, and that sharks are captured in fisheries targeting tunas and tuna-like species;

*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;

*Concerned* that an extensive unregulated and unreported shark fishery is reported to be conducted in parts of the Pacific Ocean by a large number of shark-fishing vessels, including some slightly smaller than 24 meters length overall, about which the Commission has little information;

*Noting* that comparable actions have already been taken by the Inter American Tropical Tuna Commission and the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas;

*Believing* that specific measures to be implemented by vessels of all fishing gears are necessary for the conservation of sharks;

*Members and Cooperating Non-Members of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention resolve as follows:*

*Resolves as follows:*

1. Each Member and Cooperating Non-Member should establish and implement a national plan of action for the conservation and management of shark stocks, in accordance with the FAO International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks;
2. In 2006, the WCPFC, via the Scientific Committee and the Northern Committee, and in cooperation with the IATTC and the Interim Scientific Committee to the extent practicable, will complete a preliminary ranking of shark species by stock status in the WCPO and develop a plan for conducting comprehensive assessments of key shark species;
3. Members and Cooperating Non-Members 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;
4. Members and Cooperating Non-Members shall require their vessels to have onboard fins that total no more than 5% of the weight of sharks onboard, up to the first point of landing. Members and Cooperating Non-Members that currently do not require fins and carcasses to be offloaded together at the point of first landing shall take the necessary measures to ensure compliance with the 5% ratio through certification, monitoring by an observer, or other appropriate measures;
5. Fishing vessels are prohibited from retaining on board, transshipping, landing, or trading in any fins harvested in contravention of this Resolution;
6. In fisheries for tunas and tuna-like species that are not directed at sharks, Members and Cooperating Non-Members shall encourage the release of live sharks, especially juveniles, to the extent practicable, that are caught incidentally and are not used for food and/or subsistence;
7. Members and Cooperating Non-Members shall, where possible, undertake research to identify ways to make fishing gears more selective;
8. Members and Cooperating Non-Members are encouraged, where possible, to conduct research to identify shark nursery areas;
9. The Commission shall consider appropriate assistance to developing States that are Members for the collection of data on shark catches;

10. Each Member and Cooperating Non-Member shall, where possible, 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;

11. Members and Cooperating Non-Members shall send to the Executive Director, by July 1, 2006, at the latest, a comprehensive report of the implementation of this Resolution. Thereafter, Members and Cooperating Non-Members shall send to the Executive Director, by July 1, a comprehensive annual report of the implementation of this resolution.

12. Paragraphs 2-11 of this Resolution apply only to sharks caught in association with fisheries under the competence of the WCPFC.