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**EUROPEAN UNION: PROPOSAL FOR A CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT  
MEASURE FOR SHARKS CAUGHT IN ASSOCIATION WITH FISHERIES MANAGED  
BY WCPFC**

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**WCPFC10-2013-DP16**  
**16 November 2013**

## EUROPEAN UNION

### PROPOSAL FOR A CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE FOR SHARKS CAUGHT IN ASSOCIATION WITH FISHERIES MANAGED BY WCPFC

#### **The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC):**

*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 Sharks calls on States to cooperate through regional fisheries organizations to ensure the sustainability of shark stocks;

*ALSO RECALLING* that the FAO International Plan of Action for Sharks calls on States to facilitate improved species-specific catch and landings data and monitoring of shark catches;

*CONSCIOUS* that the use of fin-to-carcass-weight ratios is not an adequate means of ensuring that sharks are not finned;

*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;

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

*FURTHER RECALLING* that United Nations General Assembly, adopted consensus Resolutions every year from 2007 through 2012 (62/177, 63/112 , 64/72, 65/38, 66/68 and 67/79), 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 measures in accordance with Article 10 of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (Convention):

1. Members, Cooperating Non-Members and Participating Territories (CCMs) shall prohibit the removal of shark fins at sea and require that all sharks be landed with their fins naturally attached (fully or partially) through the point of first landing of the shark.

2. Fishing vessels are prohibited from retaining on board, transshipping, or landing shark fins harvested in contravention of this of this Conservation and Management Measure (CMM).
3. CCMs shall prohibit offering for sale, selling or purchasing shark fins that are taken, landed or possessed in contravention of this CMM.
4. In fisheries in which sharks are unwanted species, CCMs shall encourage the release of live sharks, especially juveniles, to the extent possible, that are caught incidentally and are not used for food and/or subsistence.
5. CCMs shall, where possible, undertake research to identify ways to make fishing gears more selective and provide relevant information to the Scientific Committee.
6. CCMs shall, where possible, conduct research to identify shark nursery areas in the Convention Area and provide relevant information to the Scientific Committee.
7. This CMM applies only to sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by WCPFC.
8. This measure shall replace paragraphs 7 and 8 of Conservation and Management Measure for Sharks (CMM 2010-07).