



**REPORT REGARDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE  
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON THE CONSERVATION  
OF MIGRATORY SHARKS DURING THE PERIOD 2012-2013**

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### **1. Scientific research and monitoring**

The National Institute for Marine Research and Development “Grigore Antipa” is designated authority for the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding on the conservation of migratory sharks.

Only one species of shark - Spiny dogfish (*Squalus acanthias*), Family *Squalidae*, Order Squaliformes occurs in the Black Sea and in compliance with the IUCN criteria, the species is considered near threatened.

The National Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture is involving in monitoring through the National Program for collection of Fisheries data.

The priority research, monitoring and training needs were identified.

The relevant data was compiled for improving the ecological knowledge.

No increase in and minimize the use of plastics and non-degradable materials in fishing operations were encouraged.

## **2. Education and awareness**

- ❖ Raise public awareness of threats to sharks and their habitats and enhance public participation in conservation activities.

## **3. Strengthening institutional capacity**

Training needs were identified.

## **4. International cooperation**

- ❖ Identify specific management issues where cooperation among states, with existing instruments and organizations is required for successful conservation and management of Spiny dogfish population.
- ❖ Regional cooperation through Advisory Group on Fisheries and Other Marine Living Resources /Black Sea Commission
- ❖ International cooperation for data collection, with the General Commission for Fisheries from Mediterranean and Black Sea
- ❖ Regional Coordination Meetings for Mediterranean and Black Sea, involving the representatives from the National Agencies for Fisheries and Aquaculture of EU member states from the Mediterranean and Black Sea regions, the research institutes participating in the National Programs for Collection of Fisheries Data, the representatives of Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, the European Commission and the representatives of the Scientific and Technical Committee for Fisheries.
- ❖ Promote practical and enforceable conservation recommendations based on the best available science within relevant Regional Fisheries management Organisations, biodiversity-related Multilateral Environment Agreements and Food and Agriculture Organization.

## **5. Protection of migratory species, conservation measures**

- In the Black Sea Romanian territorial waters, the fishing is prohibited during the period 15 March – 30 April.
- Throughout the year is prohibited retention on board of the pregnant females.
- Use selective gear, devices and techniques to ensure that the take of sharks in fisheries is sustainable and appropriately managed and that mortality of non-utilized catches is minimized to the greatest extent possible.
- Avoid the mortality of juvenile sharks and fecund females in order to maintain population levels and to ensure population viability.
- Promote the protection of the marine environment from land-based and maritime pollution that may adversely affect shark populations.

## **6. Administrative, institutional, legislative measures**

Romanian fisheries regulatory framework includes the following:

- ❖ Law No. 23/2008 on Fishing Fund, Fishery and Aquaculture;
- ❖ Annual Order on the Fishing Prohibition;
- ❖ Order No. 342/2008 on minimal size of the aquatic living resources;
- ❖ Order No. 449/2008 on technical characteristics and practice conditions for fishing gears used in the commercial fishing.

## **7. Activities planned for next year**

- ❖ Review domestic policies and laws to address gaps or impediments to the conservation and management of sharks and their habitats;
- ❖ Awareness of the fishery organizations and decision-makers from national fisheries regarding the need to use in the management strategies of the advice from research and joint-regional stock assessment;
- ❖ Promote stock assessments and related research;
- ❖ Promote stock assessments and related research, awareness and scientific partnerships in the fields of monitoring, control, protection and management of the Black Sea ecosystem and its living resources;
- ❖ In order to protect and rehabilitate the population of this species at the whole Black Sea level and for a sustainable management, we consider opportune a commune assessment of the stock size at regional level, by all riparian countries and function by the conclusions we can propose more complex measures;
- ❖ Assess and prioritize threats to sharks from human activities (especially fisheries);
- ❖ Strengthening the regional legal framework for sustainable management;
- ❖ Undertake concerted actions to combat illegal fishing and to establish regional consultation mechanisms between the Black Sea coastal states;

- ❖ Ensure that mortality rates arising from fishing activities do not exceed levels resulting in a significant decline of populations;
- ❖ Develop and/or use gear, devices and operational strategies or techniques to reduce to the lowest level possible incidental captures of sharks in fisheries;
- ❖ Exchange scientific and technical information and expertise among scientific institutions, NGOs, civil society, international organizations and the private sector;
- ❖ Elaborate and implement the National Plan of Action for Sharks conservation.