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The Shark League Mission

Sharks and rays are among the oceans' most vulnerable yet under-protected animals. Many populations have been seriously overfished, putting entire ecosystems at risk. Most countries lack catch limits for key species, while many finning bans remain weak. For the many sharks and rays that are fished by several countries, the international actions by Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) have the potential to swiftly safeguard species throughout their ranges. The sharks and rays of the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea are particularly beleaguered. International and domestic fisheries management improvements are urgently needed to protect these vulnerable species from overfishing and finning. Specifically, our coalition is working to secure through RFMOs and follow-up national actions:

- Shark and ray catch limits that align with scientific advice,
- Strict protections for endangered species, and
- Strong, enforceable bans on shark finning.

Overview

Our efforts are focused on the following RFMOs:

- The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT),
- The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), and
- The Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO).

ICCAT and NAFO Convention Areas; GFCM Area of Application





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Partners

Shark Advocates International (Washington, DC, USA) is a project of The Ocean Foundation based on 25 years of expertise in securing science-based shark and ray fishing limits, threatened species protections, and finning bans at local, national, and international levels.

Shark Trust (Devon, UK) is the United Kingdom's leading conservation organization dedicated to sharks and rays, with a 20-year record of effective independent and collaborative advocacy toward key UK and EU policy gains.

Project AWARE (California, USA) brings to the shark and ray policy debate the special, influential voice of its global constituency of 1.2 million scuba divers, along with an extensive network for communications and citizen action.

Ecology Action Centre (Nova Scotia, Canada) is a recognized leader in Canadian conservation policy, and the only Canadian conservation group consistently engaging on shark policy issues at national and international levels.

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