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**CONCERNING INCIDENTAL CATCHES OF SHARKS**

**SUBMITTED BY FRANCE**

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**Background:**

Tuna fisheries in the IOTC Area are responsible for the incidental capture of many sharks every year.

Several species of sharks are on the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) Red List of Threatened Species and on the list of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

**Content:**

The Resolution proposal calls for a limitation of incidental catches of sharks and for the conservation on board of all parts of the sharks until their landing.

**The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC),**

RECALLING the International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks adopted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in 1999, which encourages States to cooperate and to elaborate, themselves or in the framework of Regional Fisheries Organisations, their own Plans of Action.

RECALLING Resolution 05/05 Concerning the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by IOTC.

CONSIDERING that many sharks are accidentally or incidentally captured by vessels targeting tuna and swordfish in the IOTC Area.

ADOPTS, in accordance with paragraph 1 of Article IX of the IOTC Agreement, that:

1. Contracting and Cooperating non contracting Parties (CPCs) shall take all necessary measures to ensure that only sharks which are dead at the moment of their capture can be commercially exploited.
2. Sharks that are captured alive shall be released.
3. Shark fins shall not be landed separately from the carcasses.
4. CPCs shall encourage the development of fishing practices that avoid shark bycatch.