

2022: STATUS OF DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL PLANS OF ACTION (NPOA) FOR SEABIRDS AND SHARKS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FAO GUIDELINES TO REDUCE MARINE TURTLE MORTALITY IN FISHING OPERATIONS

CPC	Sharks	Date of Implementation	Seabirds	Date of implementation	Marine turtles	Date of implementation	Comments
MEMBERS							
Australia		1 st : April 2004 2 nd : July 2012		1 st : 1998 2 nd : 2006 3 rd : 2014 NPOA in 2018.		2003	<p>Sharks: 2nd NPOA-Sharks (Shark-plan 2) was released in July 2012, along with an operational strategy for implementation: http://www.daff.gov.au/fisheries/environment/sharks/sharkplan2</p> <p>Seabirds: Has implemented a Threat Abatement Plan [TAP] for the Incidental Catch (or Bycatch) of Seabirds During Oceanic Longline Fishing Operations since 1998. The present TAP took effect from 2014 and largely fulfilled the role of an NPOA in terms of longline fisheries. http://www.antarctica.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0017/21509/Threat-Abatement-Plan-2014.pdf.</p> <p>In 2018 Australia finalised, an NPOA to address the potential risk posed to seabirds by other fishing methods, including longline fishing in state and territory waters, which are not covered by the current threat abatement plan.</p> <p>Marine turtles: Australia's current marine turtle bycatch management and mitigation measures fulfil Australia's obligations under the FAO-Sea turtles Guidelines.</p>
Bangladesh							<p>Sharks: Bangladesh has drafted a NPOA for shark and rays which is now in the process of being finalised and approved by the relevant ministries.</p> <p>The Wildlife Conservation and Security Act introduced in 2012 lays out general rules on requirements for hunting wild animals but no specific mention of sharks. The Wildlife Conservation and Security Act was introduced in 2012 states: No person shall hunt any wild animal without license, or import or export any wild animal without a CITES certificate</p> <p>Seabirds: Bangladesh currently do not have a NPOA for seabirds. The Wildlife Conservation and Security Act introduced in 2012 lays out general rules on permits required to hunt wild animals but no specific mention of seabirds</p> <p>Marine turtles: Bangladesh currently have no information on their implementation of FAO guidelines on sea turtles. The Wildlife Conservation and Security Act introduced in 2012 lays out general rules on requirements for hunting wild animals but no specific mention of turtles</p>

China		–		–		<p>Sharks: China is currently considering developing an NPOA for sharks. Regulations relating to the conservation of sharks managed by RFMOs has been updated. Targeted distant water fisheries for sharks are prohibited and vessels must avoid or reduce catching of sharks. Sharks (species not under a retention ban) caught shall be fully utilised and finning is prohibited. Longliners are prohibited from using shark lines.</p> <p>Seabirds: China is currently considering developing an NPOA for seabirds. Regulations relating to the conservation of seabirds managed by RFMOs has been updated. Vessels operating in the area south of 25°S shall use two mitigation measures from: tori lines, night setting and weighted branch lines.</p> <p>Marine turtles: Regulations relating to the conservation of turtles managed by RFMOs has been updated. All longlines shall use circle hooks whenever possible. Longline vessels are encouraged to use finfish as bait, not squid.</p> <p>Sharks: No revision currently planned.</p> <p>Seabirds: No revision currently planned.</p> <p>Marine turtles: Wildlife Protection Act introduced in 2013, Protected Wildlife shall not be disturbed, abused, hunted, killed, traded, exhibited, displayed, owned, imported, exported, raised or bred, unless under special circumstances recognized in this or related legislation. <i>Cheloniidae spp.</i>, <i>Caretta Caretta</i>, <i>Chelonia mydas</i>, <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>, <i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i> and <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i> are listed into List of Protected Species. Domestic Fisheries Management Regulation on Far Sea Fisheries request all fishing vessels must carry line cutters, de-hookers and hauling nets in order to facilitate the appropriate handling and prompt release of marine turtles caught or entangled.</p>
–Taiwan,China		1 st : May 2006 2 nd : May 2012		1 st : May 2006 2 nd : Jul 2014		
Comoros		–		–		<p>Sharks: No NPOA has been developed. Shark fishing is prohibited but measures are difficult to enforce due to the artisanal nature of the fisheries. A campaign to raise awareness of measures is being implemented to improve compliance. Shark catches and size frequency data are submitted to IOTC</p> <p>Seabirds: No NPOA has been developed. There is no fleet in operation south of 25 degrees south and no long-line fleet. The main fishery is artisanal operating within 24 miles of the coast where there is low risk of interactions with seabirds.</p> <p>Marine turtles: According to the Comoros Fisheries Code Article 78, fishing, capture, possession and marketing of turtle and marine mammals or of protected aquatic organisms is strictly forbidden in accordance with national legislation in force and International Conventions applicable to the Comoros.</p>

Eritrea						<p>Sharks: No information received by the Secretariat.</p> <p>Seabirds: No information received by the Secretariat.</p> <p>Marine turtles: No information received by the Secretariat.</p>
European Union		5 Feb 2009		16-Nov-2012	2007	<p>Sharks: Approved on 05-Feb-2009 and it is currently being implemented.</p> <p>Seabirds: The EU adopted on Friday 16 November 2012 an Action Plan to address the problem of incidental catches of seabirds in fishing gears.</p> <p>Marine turtles: European Union Council Regulation (EC) No 520/2007 of 7 May 2007 lay down technical measures for the conservation of marine turtles including articles and provisions to reduce marine turtle bycatch. The regulation urges Member States to do their utmost to reduce the impact of fishing on sea turtles, in particular by applying the measures provided for in paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of the resolution.</p>
France (territories)		2009		2009, 2011	2015	<p>Sharks: approved on 05-Feb-2009.</p> <p>Seabirds: Implemented in 2009 and 2011. 2009 for Barrau's petrel and 2019 for Amsterdam albatross which will be in force from 2018-2027.</p> <p>Marine turtles: Implemented in 2015 for the five species of marine turtles that are present in the southwest Indian Ocean for the period 2015-2020. This is still being applied and currently is under evaluation in view of its renewal.</p>
India						<p>Sharks: In preparation. In June 2015, India published a document entitled "Guidance on National Plan of Action for Sharks in India" which is intended as a guidance to the NPOA-Sharks, and seeks to (1) present an overview of the current status of India's shark fishery, (2) assess the current management measures and their effectiveness, (3) identify the knowledge gaps that need to be addressed in NPOA-Sharks and (4) suggest a theme-based action plan for NPOA-Sharks.</p> <p>Seabirds: India has determined that seabird interactions are not a problem for their fleets. However, a formal evaluation has not yet taken place which the WPEB and SC require.</p> <p>Marine turtles: No information received by the Secretariat.</p>

Indonesia		–		–		<p>Sharks: Indonesia first drafted a NPOA in 2010 then later developed a revised NPOA for sharks and rays for the period 2016-2020. Indonesia is in the process of revising the latest version of the shark NPOA. Indonesia has also established a national plan of action for whale sharks from 2021-2025 through Ministerial Decree No. 16 of 2021.</p> <p>Seabirds: An NPOA was finalized in 2016</p> <p>Marine turtles: Indonesia has established an NPOA for Marine Turtles but this does not fully conform with FAO guidelines. Indonesia has also been implementing Ministerial Regulations 12/2012 and 30/2012 regarding capture fishing business on high seas to reduce turtle bycatch. Indonesia is also cooperating with Coral Triangle countries including Malaysia, the Philippines, the Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, and Timor Leste through Coral Triangle Initiatives on Coral Reefs, Fish, and Food Security (CTI CFF) platform to protect threatened migratory species, including marine turtles. The CTI CFF is now developing a regional plan of action (RPOA) 2020-2030 and areas of critical habitats, such as migratory corridors, nesting beaches, and Inter-nesting and feeding areas, have been identified.</p>
Iran, Islamic Republic of		–		–	–	<p>Sharks: Have communicated to all fishing cooperatives the IOTC resolutions on sharks. Have in place a ban on the retention of live sharks.</p> <p>Seabirds: I.R. Iran determined that seabird interactions are not a problem for their fleet as they consist of gillnet vessels only. i.e. no longline vessels.</p> <p>Marine turtles: No information received by the Secretariat.</p>
Japan		03-Dec-2009, 2016		03-Dec-2009, 2016		<p>Sharks: NPOA–Shark assessment implementation report submitted to COFI in July 2012 (Revised in 2016)</p> <p>Seabirds: NPOA–Seabird implementation report submitted to COFI in July 2012 (Revised in 2016).</p> <p>Marine turtles: All Japanese fleets fully implement Resolution 12/04.</p>

Kenya			n.a.	–		<p>Sharks: A National Plan of Action for sharks is being developed and shall put in place a framework to ensure the conservation and management of sharks and their long-term sustainable use in Kenya. A draft has been developed and preliminary meetings have been held to finalise this.</p> <p>Seabirds: Kenya does not have any flagged longline vessels on its registry. There is no evidence of any gear seabird interaction with the current fishing fleet. Kenya plans to develop a NPOA for seabirds after the NPOA Sharks has been finalised.</p> <p>Marine turtles: The Kenyan fisheries law prohibits retention and landing of turtles caught incidentally in fishing operations. Public awareness efforts are conducted for artisanal gillnet and artisanal longline fishing fleets on the mitigations measures that enhance marine turtle conservation. Kenya plans to develop a NPOA for turtles after the NPOA Sharks has been finalised.</p>
Korea, Republic of		08-Aug-11		2019		<p>Sharks: Currently being implemented.</p> <p>Seabirds: NPOA seabirds was submitted to FAO in 2019.</p> <p>Marine turtles: All Rep. of Korea vessels fully implement Res 12/04.</p>
Madagascar		–		–		<p>Sharks: Madagascar has developed a NPOA for sharks which is awaiting final ministerial approval.</p> <p>Seabirds: Development has not begun.</p> <p>Note: A fisheries monitoring system is in place in order to ensure compliance by vessels with the IOTC's shark and seabird conservation and management measures.</p> <p>Marine turtles: There is zero capture of marine turtle recorded in logbooks. All longliners use circle hooks. This has been confirmed by onboard observers and port samplers.</p>

Malaysia		2008 2014		–		2008	<p>Sharks: A revised NPOA-sharks was published in 2014.</p> <p>Seabirds: To be developed</p> <p>Marine turtles: A NPOA For Conservation and Management of Sea Turtles had been published in 2008. A revision will be published in 2017.</p>
Maldives, Republic of		Apr 2015	n.a.	–			<p>Sharks: Maldives has developed the NPOA-Sharks with the assistance of Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BoBLME) Project. The final NPOA was published in 2015. The longline logbooks ensure the collection of shark bycatch data to genus level. Maldives would be reporting on shark bycatch to the appropriate technical Working Party meetings of IOTC.</p> <p>Seabirds: Maldives is in the final stages of developing an action plan on seabird nesting sites. Article 12 of IPOA states that if a 'problem exists' CPCs adopt an NPOA. IOTC Resolution 05/09 suggests CPCs to report on seabirds to the IOTC Scientific Committee if the issue is appropriate'. Maldives considers that seabirds are not an issue in the Maldives fisheries, both in the pole-and-line fishery and in the longline fishery. The new longline fishing regulations has provision on mitigation measures on seabird bycatch.</p> <p>Marine turtles: Standards of code and conduct for managing sea turtles have been developed by the Environmental Protection Agency in the drafted National sea turtle management plan under the protected species regulation.</p> <p>Longline regulation has provisions to reduce marine turtle bycatch. The regulation urges longline vessels to have dehookers for removal of hook and a line cutter on board, to release the caught marine turtles as prescribed in Resolution 12/04.</p>
Mauritius		2016					<p>Sharks: The NPOA-sharks has been finalised; it focuses on actions needed to exercise influence on foreign fishing through the IOTC process and licence conditions, as well as improving the national legislation and the skills and data handling systems available for managing sharks.</p> <p>Seabirds: Mauritius does not have national vessels operating beyond 25°S. However, fishing companies have been requested to implement all mitigation measures as provided in the IOTC Resolutions.</p> <p>Marine turtles: Marine turtles are protected by the national law. Fishing companies have been requested to carry line cutters and de-hookers in order to facilitate the appropriate handling and prompt release of marine turtles caught or entangled.</p>

Mozambique		–		–		<p>Sharks: Drafting of the NPOA-Shark started in 2016. At this stage, a baseline assessment was performed and the relevant information of coastal, pelagic and demersal shark species along the Mozambican coast was gathered. The ongoing process is expected to be completed by the end of 2018.</p> <p>Seabirds: Mozambique is regularly briefing the Masters of their fishing vessels on the mandatory requirement to report any seabird interaction with longliner fleet.</p> <p>Marine turtles: see above.</p>
Oman, Sultanate of						<p>Sharks: The drafting of an NPOA-sharks started in 2017 but has not yet been finalised.</p> <p>Seabirds: Not yet initiated.</p> <p>Marine turtles: The law does not allow the catch of sea turtles, and the fishermen are requested to release any hooked or entangled turtle. The longline fleet are required to carry out the line cutters and de-hookers.</p>
Pakistan						<p>Sharks: A stakeholder consultation workshop was conducted in 2016 to review the actions of the draft NPOA - Sharks. The final version of the NPOA - Sharks has been submitted to the provincial fisheries departments for endorsement but has not yet been finalised. Meanwhile, the provincial fisheries departments have passed notification on catch, trade and/or retention of sharks including Thresher sharks, hammerheads, oceanic whitetip, whale sharks, guitarfishes, sawfishes, wedgefishes and mobulids. Sharks are landed with the fins attached and each and every part of the body of sharks are utilised.</p> <p>Seabirds: Pakistan considers that seabird interactions are not a problem for the Pakistani fishing fleet as the tuna fishing operations do not include longline vessels.</p> <p>Marine turtles: Pakistan has already framed Regulations regarding the prohibition of catching and retaining marine turtles. As regards to the reduction of marine turtle bycatch by gillnetters; presently Marine Fisheries Department (MFD) in collaboration with International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Pakistan, is undertaking an assessment. Stakeholder Coordination Committee Meeting was conducted on 10th September 2014. The “Turtle Assessment Report (TAR)” will be finalized by February 2015 and necessary guidelines / action plan will be finalized by June 2015. As per clause-5 (c) of Pakistan Fish Inspection & Quality Control Act, 1997, “Aquatic turtles, tortoises, snakes, mammals including dugongs, dolphins, porpoises and whales etc” are totally forbidden for export and domestic consumption.</p> <p>Pakistan is also in the process of drafting a NPOA for cetaceans.</p>

Philippines		Sept. 2009		–		<p>Sharks: A NPOA sharks was published in 2009 and this document is under periodic review.</p> <p>Seabirds: Development has not begun.</p> <p>Marine turtles: No information received by the Secretariat.</p>
Seychelles, Republic of		Apr-2007 2016		–		<p>Sharks: Seychelles has developed and is implementing a new NPOA for Sharks for years 2016-2020</p> <p>Seabirds: SFA is collaborating with Birdlife South Africa to develop an NPOA for sea bird. A consultant will be recruited to start development in December 2017</p> <p>Marine turtles: An NPOA for turtles is planned to start in 2018.</p>
Somalia						<p>Sharks: Somalia is currently revising its fisheries legislation (current one being from 1985) and has completed the necessary steps for required for the consultative process to begin in order to develop these NPOA.</p> <p>Seabirds: See above.</p> <p>Marine turtles: The Somali national fisheries law and legislation was reviewed and approved in 2014. This includes Articles on the protection of marine turtles. Further review of the National Law is underway to harmonize this with IOTC Resolutions and is expected to be presented to the new parliament for endorsement in 2017.</p>

South Africa, Republic of		2013 2022		2008		<p>Sharks: The NPOA-sharks was first approved and published in 2013. A revised version of the document was finalised in 2022 following extensive review including input from the research community and affected stakeholders.</p> <p>Seabirds: The NPOA seabirds was published in August 2008 and fully implemented. The NPOA is in the process being updated in 2022.</p> <p>Marine turtles: A report from 2019 on the implementation of FAO guidelines to reduce marine turtle mortality has been provided to the IOTC. Bycatch in South African fisheries is considered to be very low. The South African permit conditions for the large pelagic longline fishery prohibits landing of turtles. All interactions with turtles are recorded, by species, within logbooks and in observer reports, including data on release condition. Vessels are required to carry a de-hooker on board and instructions on turtle handling and release in line with the FAO guidelines are included in the South African Large Pelagic permit conditions. All turtle interactions in respective areas of competence are reported to the respective RFMOs. Recent South African led studies on impact of marine debris on turtles have been published in the scientific literature (Ryan et al. 2016). Marine turtle nesting sites in South Africa are protected by coastal MPAs since 1963.</p>
Sri Lanka		2013 2018				<p>Sharks: The first NPOA-sharks was finalized in 2013 then revised in 2018 and is currently being implemented. Shark data collection is done through logbooks and a large pelagic data collection programme. NARA has started to collect fisheries and biological data on blue, silky and scalloped hammerhead sharks.</p> <p>Seabirds: Sri Lanka has determined that seabird interactions are not a problem for their fleets. However, a formal review has not yet been provided to the WPEB and SC for approval.</p> <p>Marine turtles: Implementation of the FAO Guideline to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality in Fishing Operation in 2015 was submitted to IOTC in January 2016. Marine turtles are legally protected in Sri Lanka. Longliner vessels are required to have dehookers for removal of hooks and a line cutter on board, to release the caught marine turtles. Gillnets longer than 2.5 km are now prohibited in domestic legislation. Reporting of bycatch has made legally mandatory and facilitated via logbooks.</p>
Sudan						<p>Sharks: No information received by the Secretariat.</p> <p>Seabirds: No information received by the Secretariat.</p> <p>Marine turtles: No information received by the Secretariat.</p>

Tanzania, United Republic of		–		–		<p>Sharks: A NPOA has been drafted but not finalised.</p> <p>Seabirds: Initial discussions have commenced.</p> <p>Note: Terms and conditions related to protected sharks and seabirds contained within fishing licenses.</p> <p>Marine turtles: Sea turtles are protected by law. However, as there is a national turtle and Dugong conservation committee that oversee all issues related to sea turtles and dugongs. There is no information so far with regards to interaction between sea turtles and long line fishery.</p>
Thailand		2020		–		<p>Sharks: An updated NPOA Sharks has been developed for the years 2020-2024 and has been submitted to the Secretariat and FAO.</p> <p>Seabirds: Currently the draft NPOA – Seabirds for Thailand is being reviewed. Thailand has the Notification of the Department of Fisheries on Requirement and Regulations of Fishing Vessels Operating Outside Thai Water in IOTC Area of Competence (IOTC) B.E. 2565 (2022), Clause 18 and 21 include requirements for line-cutters and dehookers to be carried for releasing marine animals and for any fishing vessel operating south of 25°S to follow the measures for mitigating capture of seabirds.</p> <p>Marine turtles: Thailand reports on progress of the implementation of FAO guidelines on turtles in their National Report to IOTC. Regulations on Fishing Vessels operating outside Thai waters in the IOTC area of competence contains clauses relating to the conservation of marine turtles including: Clause 14 prohibiting purse seines from setting around cetaceans, marine turtles or whale sharks; Clause 18 requiring the release and recording of incidental bycatch of sensitive species including marine turtles; Clause 19 requiring that any bycaught marine turtles that are not healthy should be cared for until it is ready to be released.</p>
United Kingdom	n.a.	–	n.a.	–	–	<p>British Indian Ocean Territory (Chagos Archipelago) waters are a Marine Protected Area closed to fishing except recreational fishing in the 3nm territorial waters around Diego Garcia. Separate NPOAs have not been developed within this context.</p> <p>Sharks/Seabirds: For sharks, UK is the 24th signatory to the Convention on Migratory Species ‘Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Sharks’ which extends the agreement to UK Overseas Territories including British Indian Ocean Territories; Section 7 (10) (e) of the <i>Fisheries (Conservation and Management) Ordinance</i> refers to recreational fishing and requires sharks to be released alive. No seabirds are caught in the recreational fishery.</p> <p>Marine turtles: No marine turtles are captured in the recreational fishery. A monitoring programme is taking place to assess the marine turtle population in UK (OT).</p>

Yemen						Sharks: No information received by the Secretariat. Seabirds: No information received by the Secretariat. Marine turtles: No information received by the Secretariat.
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COOPERATING NON-CONTRACTING PARTIES						
Liberia						Sharks: Liberia does not currently have a NPOA for sharks Seabirds: No information received by the Secretariat. Marine turtles: No information received by the Secretariat.

Colour key	
Completed	
Drafting being finalised	
Drafting commenced	
Not begun	