GOOD PRACTICE GUIDE FOR THE HANDLING OF SHARKS AND RAYS CAUGHT INCIDENTALLY IN MEDITERRANEAN PELAGIC LONGLINE FISHERIES
Corps massif et trapu.

Peau ridée, surtout sur les 2/3 arrières du corps.

Coloration grise-foncée à marron avec les contours de la gueule blancs et des tâches claires variables sur le ventre.

TECHNICAL SHEET N° 1 - SHARK AND RAY SPECIES MOST AFFECTED BY MEDITERRANEAN PELAGIC LONGLINE FISHERIES (1/3)

Porbeagle (Lamna nasus)

Dorsal fin level with the pectoral fins
White patch at the rear of the dorsal fin
Pointed snout

Shortfin mako shark (Isurus oxyrinchus)

Head longer than the pectoral fins
Wide mouth
Dorsal fin further back than the pectoral fins

Protected species, fishing is prohibited in the Mediterranean Sea. The reporting of any incidental catch is mandatory (see Technical Sheet 6)
TECHNICAL SHEET N° 1 - SHARK AND RAY SPECIES MOST AFFECTED BY MEDITERRANEAN PELAGIC LONGLINE FISHERIES (2/3)

Great white shark (*Carcharodon carcharias*)
- Wide mouth
- Long gill slits
- Large dorsal fin
- Long caudal keel

Common thresher (*Alopias vulpinus*)
- Conical snout
- Small eyes
- White belly
- Dark brown and slate gray back becoming slate gray to dark blue on the flanks

Blue shark (*Prionace glauca*)
- Very slender body shape
- Dark blue back and white belly
- Long and pointed pectoral fins

Protected species, fishing is prohibited in the Mediterranean Sea. The reporting of any incidental catch is mandatory (see Technical Sheet 6)

Fishing of this species is allowed in the Mediterranean Sea, but the reporting of any catch is mandatory (see Technical Sheet 6)
Pelagic stingray
(Pteroplatytrygon violacea)
- Rounded snout
- Back without spines
- Pelvic fins protruding from the disc

Bigeye thresher
(Alopias superciliosus)
- Deep frontal furrow
- Purple gray back
- Big eyes
- White belly

Bluntnose sixgill shark
(Hexanchus griseus)
- Small fluorescent green eyes
- Six gill slits
- Dorsal fin close to the tail
ALWAYS WATCH OUT FOR BITES, BLOWS AND STINGS!

HAVE THE CORRECT EQUIPMENT:

- Hook remover
- Pincers / Bolt cutters
- Long-handled pruning shears
- Gloves
- Protective glasses
Removing the hook from the shark

If the shark is in the water
Cut the line as close as possible to the shark’s mouth

If the shark is on board
Cut the hook if possible or cut the line as close as possible to the hook ring

N.B. In order to release the shark as quickly as possible, it is best not to bring it on board.

Releasing the shark

Handle the shark holding a pectoral fin with one hand and the tail with the other.

Return the shark to the water, head first, without throwing it. Let the animal slide.
Removing the hook from the ray

Rays rarely survive after release due to jaw damage. Although these animals are potentially dangerous, there are simple handling procedures that increase their chances of survival after release.

If the hook is lodged in the corner of the mouth

Cut the hook if possible or cut the line as close as possible to the hook ring.

If the ray is deep-hooked

Tie the end of line to a fixed point so as to have both hands free. Use a hook remover or a pair of pliers to grab hold of the tip of the hook and then rotate it in order to extract it. Cut the line to allow the ray to drop back into the water.
TECHNICAL SHEET N° 5 - "DO NOTS" WHEN RELEASING SHARKS AND RAYS CAUGHT IN PELAGIC LONGLINE FISHERIES

Do not lift the shark by the tail or by the head.

Do not incise the flesh or cut the jaw of the ray to remove the hook.

Do not carry the shark by its gill slits.

Do not put your hands in the shark’s mouth to remove the hook.

Do not carry the shark by inserting the boathook or other sharp objects into its body (jaws or gills).

Do not cause any trauma that might damage the shark’s internal organs (for example, do not put pieces of wood into its mouth or cut its flesh).

Do not expose the shark to the sun.
The information above is extremely important! Please submit it, as soon as possible, to the relevant national authorities. If in doubt, ask for their help.
This guide was developed within the framework of a project which aimed to mitigate the negative interactions between endangered marine species and fishing activities. This project was implemented by the Secretariat of the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS) and by the Secretariat of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), in collaboration with the Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC). The main objective of the project was to enhance the conservation of endangered marine species (cetaceans, sea turtles and seabirds, etc.) by promoting responsible fishing practices in the Mediterranean.

Technical and scientific contribution (in alphabetical order)
Aurora Nastasi, Julia Pierraccini, François Poisson

Illustrations
Manuela D’Antoni, Organisation des Nations unies pour l’alimentation et l’agriculture, illustrations scientifiques originales reproduites avec permission [Fiche technique 1], François Dolambi (Fiches techniques 2-5), Alberto Gennari (Fiche technique 6)

Graphic design
Stile Libero Communication Monaco

Main bibliographic references
GFCM, 2012. Recommandation CGPM/36/2012/3 concernant des mesures de gestion des pêches pour la conservation des requins et des raies dans la zone d’application la CGPM.

© FAO and ACCOBAMS, 2018