

SUMMARY OF NATIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR THE CONSERVACIÓN AND MANAGEMENT OF SHARKS IN ECUADOR (PAT-EC)

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

The Ecuadorian State considering that the sharks are a resource of high importance like fishing resource, as a tourist resource and like emblematic species, decided to work for his conservation and sustainable use.

Ecuador engaged with the application of the Code of Responsible Behavior of Fishing and having subscribed the statement of Rome on the application of the Code, adopted by the Ministerial Meeting of the FAO on Fishing in March of 1999. This Statement assigned the highest priority to achievement the sustainability of the fishing in the frame of the ecosystems approach and taking into account the circumstances and special needs of the developing countries. Incidentally it assigns of high priority the application of the International Action Plans including the one of the Conservation and Management of the Sharks.

Ensure the sustainability and the rational use on a long-term of the resource shark is besides a commitment made by Ecuador in several international forums, like the Convention on the International Trade of Threatened Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) and the World-wide Summit on Sustainable Development that proposes the integrated management of the oceans like principle guides to attain the sustainable development.

For this, the Ministry of external Trade, Industrialization, Fishing and Competitiveness (MICIP) and his respective dependencies (Undersecretary of Fishing Resources and National Institute of Fishing), with the support of the World-wide Union for the Nature (UICN), assumed the challenge to elaborate a National Action Plan for the Conservation and management of the sharks that would took in account the objectives of conservation, as the ones of sustainable development and that was based in a frame of management that it involve of effective way to all the actors.

OBJECTIVES OF THE PAT-EC

Main Objective

Guarantee the conservation and the sustainable management of the sharks, rays, guitars and chimaeras (pejegallo) that are located in the waters of Ecuador, protected in the frame of the Behavior Code for the Responsible Fishing and in the national laws, regional and international to which Ecuador has subscribed.

Specific Objectives

- Delete the practice of shark fin;
- Determine and put particular attention to species or populations particularly vulnerable or threatened;
- Improve the knowledge on populations of sharks distributed in Ecuadorian waters;
- Facilitate the update of the data on catches and lands by shark
- Improve the regulatory frame to promote and ensure the conservation and the sustainable use of sharks, rays, guitars and chimaeras or pejegallo;
- Evaluate the threats populations of sharks, determine the critical habitats and apply collection strategies compatible with the principles of biological sustainability and rational economic utilization on a long-term basis;

- Establish education programs and training on the conservation and the sustainable use of sharks, rays, guitars and chimaeras along the Ecuadorian continental coast and the insular region;
- Improve and develop frames to establish and coordinate effective queries in which they take part all the parts interested in the investigation, in the management and in the educational initiatives in Ecuador and with the neighbor countries;
- Improve the surveillance, the control and the implementation of relative regulations to the conservation and management of the sharks.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PAT-EC

The Undersecretary of Fishing Resources, through his Direction of Control of Fishing Resources from the 2007 has invested a big effort to give fulfillment to this rule reinforcing the monitory and control of the fishing through the acquisition of equipment's, material, professional personnel and the installation of strategic offices along the coastal profile of the Ecuador.

The fishing inspectorates to national level have gone increasing gradually, with the increase of the inspectors in each port of land. Between the main functions and responsibilities of fishing inspectors are the followings:

- Issuing of certificates of fishing monitory and land
- Issuing of guides of mobilization of incidental fishing and fishing objective
- Inspection of shark fins in cellars previous permission for his export
- Monitory of fishing land
- Verification of devices excluders of marine turtle (TED'S)
- Collection reports to treasury
- Review of documents of fishing: credentials and permissions to artisanal and industrial vessels.
- Inspections to processing plants of flour of fish, canneries and pamperas.
- Diffusions of closure and permanent Controls of bio aquatic species considering the minimum size of extraction, transport, consumption and commercialization of that species
- Control and inspection of fishing arts to the vessels
- Inspection to vessels of fishing previous obtaining the permission
- Maritime and terrestrial controls

The correct exert of the functions of the inspectors of fishing, help to reach the objectives posed in the PAT-EC.