

Report on the RESOLUTION C-05-03

Portugal - 2018

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION | COMISIÓN INTERAMERICANA DEL ATÚN
TROPICAL

1. Each Party and co-operating non-party, co-operating fishing entity or regional economic integration organization (collectively “CPCs”) should establish and implement a national plan of action for conservation and management of shark stocks, in accordance with the FAO International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks.

Portugal as an European Union (EU) Member follows the common guidelines and European Directives. The EU is officially the IATTC CPC.

An EU plan of action for conservation and management of shark is in practice, FAO adopted in 1999 the International Plan of action for the conservation and management of sharks (IPOA SHARKS). The actions adopted by Portugal are based upon this EU plan.

Based upon the reporting obligations to the EU, Portugal delivers to the EU Commission (EC) every year full reports on catches made in IATTC areas. The data covers the areas, the vessels, the species captured (sharks included) and the amounts in weight, among others. EU Commission collects these data from all EU countries that can be used to management proposes.

Besides the catches reports on sharks, vessels owners fulfil the IATTC obligation concerning observers’ coverage. The corresponding reports have valuable information about sharks that can be used within the plan of action.

2. In 2006, the IATTC, in cooperation with scientists of CPCs and, if possible, the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, shall provide preliminary advice on the stock status of key shark species and propose a research plan for a comprehensive assessment of these stocks.

Not applicable.

3. CPCs shall take the measures necessary to require that their fishers fully utilize any retained catches of sharks. Full utilization is defined as retention by the fishing vessel of all parts of the shark excepting head, guts, and skins, to the point of first landing.

All shark catches performed in 2018 by Portuguese vessels were landed in port and transported to Europe (Portugal and Spain ports) by maritime container.

Fin sharks by-products are prohibited in Portugal. Unlike fins, shark meat is commercialized to human consumption meaning that these species when caught have other purposes than fins commercialization.

Concerning legislative framework, Portugal complies with the following European Directives or policies:

- Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) which focus also on the conservation and sustainable exploitation of fisheries resources in which sharks are included;
- As mentioned in the EU plan of action for conservation and management of sharks, the Council Regulation No1185/2003 bans and prevents the practice of "finning", whereby the fins are removed from sharks with the remainder of the shark being discarded at sea. It provides that the weight of the fins kept from the catch shall never exceed the theoretical weight of the fins that would correspond to the remaining parts of sharks retained on board, transhipped or landed. Ship owners operating in IATTC waters are also covered by this Regulation.

4. CPCs shall require their vessels to have onboard fins that total no more than 5% of the weight of sharks onboard, up to the first point of landing. CPCs that currently do not require fins and carcasses to be offloaded together at the point of first landing shall take the necessary measures to ensure compliance with the 5% ratio through certification, monitoring by an observer, or other appropriate measures.

As a member state, PT has to comply with the Regulation (UE) n. 605/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, amending Council Regulation (EC) No 1185/2003 on the removal of fins of sharks on board vessels. It bans and prevents the practice of "finning", whereby the fins are removed from sharks with the remainder of the shark being discarded at sea. It provides that the weight of the fins kept from the catch shall never exceed the theoretical weight of the fins that would correspond to the remaining parts of sharks retained on board, transhipped or landed. For the purpose of enforcing this obligation, the Regulation provides that in no case shall the theoretical weight of the fins exceed 5 % of the live weight of the shark catch.

The evidences about this compliance are supported on:

- Observer coverage
- All vessels operating in the IATTC regulatory area are subject to VMS and Electronic Reporting (ERS) of their fishing. Catches are reported on a daily basis through the ERS system.

5. Fishing vessels are prohibited from retaining on board, transshipping, landing or trading in any fins harvested in contravention of this Resolution.

The EU legal framework does not allow for the removal of shark fins. EU vessels are subject to much more strict rules than the vast majority of third countries fleets.

6. In fisheries for tunas and tuna-like species that are not directed at sharks, CPCs shall encourage the release of live sharks, especially juveniles, to the extent practicable, that are caught incidentally and are not used for food and/or subsistence.

Not Applicable.

7. CPCs shall, where possible, undertake research to identify ways to make fishing gears more selective.

8. CPCs shall, where possible, in cooperation with the IATTC scientific staff, undertake research to: a. identify ways to make fishing gears more selective, where appropriate, including research into alternative measures to prohibiting wire leaders; b. improve knowledge of key biological/ecological parameters, life-history and behavioural traits, and migration patterns of key shark species; c. identify key shark mating, pupping, and nursery areas; and d. improve handling practices for live sharks to maximise post-release survival.”

Only three vessels flying under Portuguese flag have been operating in IATTC waters, in 2018, reducing the opportunities to develop research within affordable costs. Relevant information that may of interest to the shark nurseries areas can be extract only in the observer’s reports.

9. Each CPC shall annually report data for catches, effort by gear type, landing and trade of sharks by species, where possible, in accordance with IATTC reporting procedures, including available historical data. CPCs shall send to the IATTC Secretariat, by May 1, at the latest, a comprehensive annual report of the implementation of this Resolution during the previous year.

Reporting data obligation is observed as follows:

- Report data for catches – Information sent previously by DGRM’s DPE service to EC;
- Effort by gear type - Information sent previously by DGRM’s DPE service to EC;
- Landing and trade of sharks by species, where possible, in accordance with IATTC reporting procedures – Consistently over the years (as in 2018) vessels flying under Portuguese flag in IATTC land all catches in ports within IATTC convention areas. All catches landed are then transported by maritime container to Europe (Aveiro port – Portugal – and Vigo port – Spain). Entering the European food market the shark’s products are subject to European rules. As mentioned above, weight of the fins kept from the catch must not exceed the theoretical weight of the fins that would correspond to the remaining parts of sharks retained on board, transhipped or landed. In no case shall the theoretical weight of the fins exceed 5 % of the live weight of the shark catch.

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The actions adopted by Portugal are based upon this EU plan (

2. In 2006, the IATTC, in cooperation with scientists of CPCs and, if possible, the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, shall provide preliminary advice on the stock status of key shark species and propose a research plan for a comprehensive assessment of these stocks.

Based upon the reporting obligations do the UE, Portugal delivers to the EU Commission (EC) every year full reports on catches made in IATTC areas. The data covers the areas, the vessels, the species captured (sharks included) and the amounts in weight, among others. EU Commission collects these data from all EU countries that can be used to management proposes.

Besides the catches reports on sharks, vessels owners fulfil the IATTC obligation concerning embarkation of observers. The succeeding reports have valuable information about sharks that can be used within the plan of action.

3. CPCs shall take the measures necessary to require that their fishers fully utilize any retained catches of sharks. Full utilization is defined as retention by the fishing vessel of all parts of the shark excepting head, guts, and skins, to the point of first landing.

All shark catches performed in 2017 by Portuguese vessels were landed in port and transported do Europe (Portugal and Spain ports) by maritime container.

Fin sharks by-products are prohibited in Portugal. Unlike fins, shark meat is commercialized to human consumption meaning that these species when cached have other purposes than fins commercialization.

Concerning legislative framework, Portugal is attached to the following European Directives or policies:

- Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) which focus also on the conservation and sustainable exploitation of fisheries resources in witch sharks are included;
- As mentioned in the UE plan of action for conservation and management of sharks, the Council Regulation (EC) No1185/2003 bans and prevents the practice of "finning", whereby the fins are removed from sharks with the remainder of the shark being discarded at sea. It provides that the weight of the fins kept from the catch shall never exceed the theoretical weight of the fins that would correspond to the remaining parts of sharks retained on board, transhipped or landed. Ship owners operating in IATTC waters are also covered by this Regulation

4. CPCs shall require their vessels to have onboard fins that total no more than 5% of the weight of sharks onboard, up to the first point of landing. CPCs that currently do not require fins and carcasses to be offloaded together at the point of first landing shall take the necessary measures to ensure compliance with the 5% ratio through certification, monitoring by an observer, or other appropriate measures.

As a member state, PT has to comply with the Regulation (UE) n.º 605/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, amending Council Regulation (EC) No 1185/2003 on the removal of fins of sharks on board vessels. bans and prevents the practice of "finning", whereby the fins are removed from sharks with the remainder of the shark being discarded at sea. It provides that the weight of the fins kept from the catch shall never exceed the theoretical weight of the fins that would correspond to the remaining parts of sharks retained on board, transhipped or landed. For the purpose of enforcing this obligation, the Regulation provides that in no case shall the theoretical weight of the fins exceed 5 % of the live weight of the shark catch.

The evidences about this compliance are supported on:

- Observer coverage
- All vessels operating in the IATTC regulatory area are subject to VMS and Electronic Reporting (ERS) of their fishing activities. All catches are landed and transported to the EU in cargo ships. Upon arrival to port, catches are subject to inspections by the competent authorities, during which compliance with de EU rules is verified. Catches are reported on a daily basis through the ERS system.

5. Fishing vessels are prohibited from retaining on board, transshipping, landing or trading in any fins harvested in contravention of this Resolution.

The EU legal framework does not allow for the removal of shark fins. EU vessels are subject to much more strict rules than the vast majority of third countries fleets.

6. In fisheries for tunas and tuna-like species that are not directed at sharks, CPCs shall encourage the release of live sharks, especially juveniles, to the extent practicable, that are caught incidentally and are not used for food and/or subsistence.

Not Applicable

7. CPCs are encouraged, where possible, to conduct research to identify shark nursery areas.

Only two vessels flying under Portuguese flag have been operating in IATTC waters reducing the opportunities do develop research within affordable costs. Relevant information that may of interest to the shark nurseries areas can be extract only in the observer's reports.

8. Each CPC shall annually report data for catches, effort by gear type, landing and trade of sharks by species, where possible, in accordance with IATTC reporting procedures, including available historical data. CPCs shall send to the IATTC Secretariat, by May 1, at the latest, a comprehensive annual report of the implementation of this Resolution during the previous year.

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