

BELIZE

Report on the Implementation of Resolution C-05-03 and C-16-04

12 July 2017

Pursuant to paragraph 1 of Resolution C-05-03, Belize is pleased to advise that on 12th March 2015 we adopted our National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks on the High Seas in accordance with the FAO International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks.

This plan explicitly details Belize's high seas shark fisheries, Belize's management system both the institutional and legal structure and Belize's management measures and strategies for the effective management of sharks caught by Belize flagged fishing vessels.

Prior to the adoption of our NPOA-Sharks, Belize has been proactive in passing specific shark-friendly legislation by first protecting the whale shark in 2003 and the Nurse Shark in 2011. The wasteful practice of finning, whereby the shark's fins are cut off and the animal discarded – often alive has been banned in Belize and throughout for Belize-registered high seas vessels in accordance with our new High Seas Fishing Act, 2013. Belize also proposed the finning-ban, the move to land sharks with fins partially attached and supported the resolution prohibiting the export of great and scalloped hammerhead products (*Sphyrna* spp) with the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). Belize has also issued legally binding circulars in respect to Whitetip shark consistent with IATTC Resolution on this specie, on Silky Sharks consistent with ICCAT Regulations on this specie and Hammerhead sharks consistent with all relevant

RFMO regulations on this specie. All CITES endangered shark species are also prohibited from being targeted by Belize flagged vessels.

Belize has always ensured timely submissions of catch and effort data of sharks by gear type, species and landings. Silky sharks and blue sharks are mostly targeted by Belize vessels operating in the IATTC area and consist of small long line vessels of between 55-125 gt. Reports of our 2016 catches have already been submitted to IATTC prior to its due date.