

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

**Canada
May 1, 2023**

Pursuant to paragraph 11 of Resolution C-05-03, this is a report on Canada's implementation of the resolution on the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries in the eastern Pacific Ocean.

Canada released its National Plan of Action (NPOA) for the Conservation and Management of Sharks in 2007, although it had been applying the same shark conservation principles for many years. The NPOA was developed in accordance with the principles and provisions of the FAO International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks. Canada updated its NPOA in 2012 following a review of the implementation of the initial Plan.

Canada's *Fisheries Act* was amended in 2019 to include a prohibition on the practice of shark finning and a ban on the import and export, to and from Canada, of shark fins that are not naturally attached to a shark's carcass. Furthermore, in Canadian fisheries managed by the IATTC, no retention of sharks is permitted. More specifically, regulations state that all sharks must be returned to the place from which they were taken and released in a manner that causes the shark the least harm. The licence conditions for Canadian IATTC-managed fisheries further state that the "...vessel master shall ensure that any sharks that are incidentally caught and live are released, as soon as is possible, in a manner that causes them the least harm and are not used for food or other purposes. All dead-caught sharks must be discarded whole; finning is prohibited."

Given the above-noted regulations and licence conditions, Canada has neither catch nor landings for sharks in its IATTC-managed fisheries. In 2022, one blue shark (BSH) was caught incidentally in Canada's North Pacific albacore troll fleet while operating in the Convention Area. This individual was released alive.

Canada did not export any sharks in 2022. Canada imported 114 metric tons of sharks in 2021. Note that these values include all sharks imported, not only those from IATTC-managed fisheries.