



**General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM)
Working Group on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fisheries (WGIUU)
April 2018, Beirut**

The Shark League is focused on the conservation of sharks and rays because of their inherent vulnerability to overfishing. Protecting these species in the Mediterranean is a primary goal given their exceptionally dire status. We offer these views with respect to WGIUU Agenda Point 2: *Clarification process for GFCM contracting parties and cooperating non-contracting parties (CPCs) and relevant non contracting parties*, with particular relevance to the analysis of the GFCM recommendation on sharks (GFCM/36/2012/3).

Protecting Threatened Species:

The Shark League has long lauded the GFCM for taking ground-breaking action to protect the 24 shark and ray species listed on the Barcelona Convention’s Annex II of the Protocol concerning specially protected areas and biological diversity in the Mediterranean (Table 1).

Shortfin Mako	<i>Isurus oxyrinchus</i>	CR	White Shark	<i>Carcharodon carcharias</i>	CR
Porbeagle	<i>Lamna nasus</i>	CR	Sand Tiger	<i>Carcharias taurus</i>	CR
Smooth Hammerhead	<i>Sphyrna zygaena</i>	CR	Smalltooth Sand Tiger	<i>Odontaspis ferox</i>	CR
Angular Rough Shark	<i>Oxynotus centrina</i>	CR	Basking Shark	<i>Cetorhinus maximus</i>	EN
Sawback Angelshark	<i>Squatina aculeata</i>	CR	Giant Devil Ray	<i>Mobula mobular</i>	EN
Smoothback Angelshark	<i>Squatina oculata</i>	CR	White Skate	<i>Rostroraja alba</i>	EN
Angelshark	<i>Squatina squatina</i>	CR	Blackchin Guitarfish	<i>Rhinobatos cemiculus</i>	EN
Sandy Skate	<i>Leucoraja circularis</i>	CR	Common Guitarfish	<i>Rhinobatos rhinobatos</i>	EN
Maltese Skate	<i>Leucoraja melitensis</i>	CR	Scalloped Hammerhead	<i>Sphyrna lewini</i>	EN
Common Skate complex	<i>Dipturus batis spp.</i>	CR	Great Hammerhead	<i>Sphyrna mokarran</i>	EN
Spiny Butterfly Ray	<i>Gymnura altavela</i>	CR	Tope shark	<i>Galeorhinus galeus</i>	VU
Smalltooth Sawfish	<i>Pristis pectinata</i>	CR	Regional IUCN Red List Status: CR: Critically Endangered; EN: Endangered; VU: Vulnerable		
Common Sawfish	<i>Pristis pristis</i>	CR			

Table 1 Elasmobranch species covered by GFCM/36/2012/3

We also welcome the following key steps toward full implementation of this critical measure:

- the 2017 requirement for all GFCM Parties to report on associated national legislation;
- new FAO Mediterranean identification guides that highlight prohibited elasmobranchs;
- advances in national implementation by the European Union (EU) and Turkey.

We stress, however, that there is still work to be done to ensure that all Parties effectively protect all the elasmobranchs prohibited by GFCM. We therefore respectfully **request a continued emphasis on the delivery of detailed accounts regarding domestic regulations proposed and/or in place to protect these species.**

We take this opportunity to underscore the importance of effective compliance with the GFCM ban on shark finning, and reiterate our **request that the GFCM increase the enforceability of this measure by prohibiting the at-sea removal of shark fins**, in line with EU regulations and proposals.

The Shark League remains eager to work with the GFCM and individual Parties to safeguard Mediterranean elasmobranchs through improved implementation of relevant GFCM measures. We look forward to contributing in person to the Compliance Committee meeting in July.