

ENHANCING THE CONSERVATION OF ENDANGERED SHARKS AND RAYS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

77%

Oceanic shark and ray species that qualify as threatened with extinction under IUCN's Red List criteria.

40%

Sharks and rays species considered threatened in the Mediterranean Sea compared to 17% globally.

97%

Decline of sharks caused by overfishing.

Sharks and rays grow slowly, mature late, and have low reproductive potential.

As a result, they are highly vulnerable to overfishing and habitat loss, and populations are slow to recover from depletion.

FAST FACTS

1

Sharks and rays constitute a significant part of the bycatch in most artisanal and industrial fisheries.

2

The Protocol on Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean bans the retention, landing and sale of **24 species of exceptionally vulnerable sharks and rays**. For **9 additional species**, it requires the reporting of catches and discards.

3

MedReAct conducted surveys on the bycatch and trade of protected shark and ray species in the main Italian fishing ports and fish markets that revealed several cases of noncompliance with the shark and ray protection measures.

The results of the MedReAct surveys show a **general lack of awareness** by fish market operators and fishermen of the conservation measures in place for vulnerable shark and ray species in the Mediterranean.

LANDINGS AND SALES OF STRICTLY PROTECTED SPECIES

MedReAct detected the landing and/or sale of: **porbeagle, basking shark, angular rough shark, common skate, giant devil ray, shortfin mako and white skate**. None of these catches was reported by the national authority to the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM).

THE BYCATCH OF PROTECTED SHARKS AND RAYS GOES LARGELY UNREPORTED

11.545 KG

In 2015-2018, Italy reported 1.650 kg of smooth-hound catches to the GFCM, while the quantity recorded by Italian fish markets is **nearly 7 times higher**.

3.427 KG

The same pattern is observed with blue sharks. In 2015-2018, Italy reported catches of 360 kg to the GFCM, while fish markets declared sales **10 times higher**.

Learn more at
www.medreact.org