



Photo: Kina Scollay.



The draft National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks (NPOA-Sharks)

As a nation with over one hundred species of shark, as well as significant shark catches, New Zealand is strongly committed to meeting its international obligations to maintain the biodiversity and the long-term viability of all New Zealand shark populations.

The National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks 2013 (NPOA-Sharks) aims to achieve this goal for all New Zealand shark populations by:

- recognising their role in marine ecosystems;
- ensuring that any utilisation of sharks is sustainable; and
- that New Zealand receives positive recognition internationally for its efforts in shark conservation and management.

SHARKS IN NEW ZEALAND

- New Zealand fisheries waters have 113 species of “shark” (including sharks, skates, rays and chimaeras).
- Sharks are valued for many reasons, including their unique characteristics, their important role in marine ecosystems, and as components of commercial, recreational, and customary fisheries.
- More than 70 shark species have been recorded in commercial fisheries. The fisheries are subject to a robust reporting and monitoring system, including catch limits.
- Seven species of sharks are absolutely protected under the Wildlife Act 1953.

- Some sharks are caught to be eaten, while others are caught as bycatch in fisheries targeting other species.
- The draft NPOA-Sharks includes a goal and objectives for promoting utilisation, waste reduction and the elimination of shark finning.

WHY A NATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION-SHARKS (NPOA-SHARKS)?

- Growing international concerns about declines in many shark populations worldwide led to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation adopting an International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks (IPOA-Sharks). Member States with shark fisheries are encouraged to develop their own National Plans of Action (NPOAs).
- New Zealand adopted its first NPOA-Sharks in 2008. We have reviewed progress on the actions outlined in this plan, and the overarching objective of the IPOA-Sharks **‘to ensure the conservation and management of sharks and their long-term sustainable use.’**
- Over the course of 2013, the Ministry for Primary Industries, the Department of Conservation, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade have worked together with a group of environment and industry stakeholders to produce an updated NPOA-Sharks.

HOW DO I HAVE MY SAY?

More information and the full text of the draft NPOA-Sharks is available at www.mpi.govt.nz

You can make a submission on the draft NPOA-Sharks by emailing NPOA-Sharks@mpi.govt.nz or to: Fisheries Management, Ministry for Primary Industries, PO Box 2526, Wellington 6140.



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

HOW WILL THE NPOA-SHARKS IMPROVE THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF SHARKS IN NEW ZEALAND?

- The overall purpose of the draft NPOA-Sharks is to maintain the biodiversity and the long-term viability of all New Zealand shark populations by recognising their role in marine ecosystems, ensuring that any utilisation of sharks is sustainable, and that New Zealand receives positive recognition internationally for its efforts in shark conservation and management.
- The draft NPOA-Sharks contains goals and objectives on the following topics:
 - Biodiversity and long-term viability of shark populations (fact sheet 2).
 - Utilisation, waste reduction and the elimination of shark finning (fact sheet 3).
 - Communication and education (fact sheet 4).
 - Non-fishing threats (fact sheet 5).
 - International engagement (fact sheet 6).
 - Research and information (fact sheet 7).
- The goals and objectives will direct shark conservation and management activities undertaken by various government agencies, including the Ministry for Primary Industries, the Department of Conservation and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

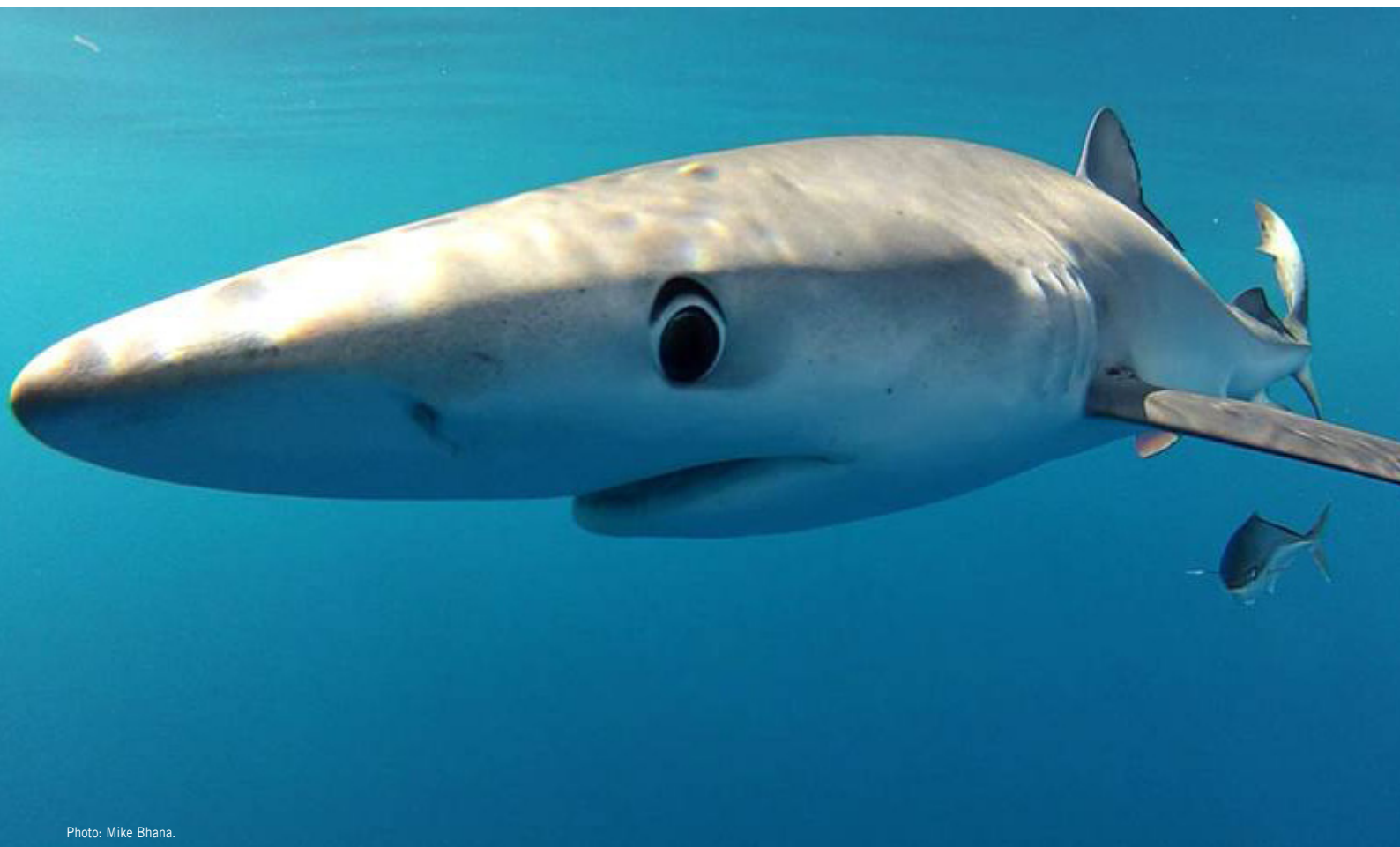


Photo: Mike Bhana.