



Photo: Kina Scollay.



Research and information

Proposed Goal 6: Continuously improve the information available from New Zealand vessels and fishers to conserve sharks and manage fisheries that impact on sharks, with prioritisation guided by the risk assessment framework.

The conservation and management of sharks needs to be supported by effective and efficient data collection and monitoring processes, and a robust research programme.

PROPOSED DATA COLLECTION AND MONITORING ACTIVITIES

Systems in place should be reviewed to ensure that all necessary information is collected, including:

- **Observer coverage** and other forms of **at-sea monitoring** are sufficient to monitor compliance, verify catch information, collect scientific data for all New Zealand commercial fisheries that take sharks, and monitor progress towards achieving the objectives of the NPOA-Sharks.
- **Catch reporting** is accurate and at an appropriate level of detail, including minimisation of the use of generic reporting codes through education programmes and better tools for identification of shark species.
- **Historical catch data** for shark species is compiled and available to inform management.
- Information on **non-commercial shark catch** and its importance to the sectors is available for management.

PROPOSED RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

Research topics will cover the following broad topics; projects will be prioritised based on the risk assessment, the scale of relevant fisheries, and within the priorities for each fisheries complex (identified through fisheries plans).

- Shark populations and biology
- Assessment of shark populations
- Habitats of significance to fisheries management
- Mitigation/avoidance of non-target catches
- Handling and live release
- Non-fishing anthropogenic impacts
- Market opportunities

It is also proposed to implement research to inform the development of recovery plans appropriate to protected shark species.



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

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.