

Supplemental Press Statement: *Sharks Ahead* Report



Monaco, December 13, 2018. Today Shark Advocates International (SAI) released *Sharks Ahead*, a report revealing countries are falling short on their obligations to protect shark and ray species through the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS). The Shark Trust, Project AWARE, and Defenders of Wildlife collaborate with SAI in efforts to promote proper implementation of these conservation commitments and have endorsed the SAI report. Shark experts from these organizations offer the following statements about the report's findings:

"We are particularly concerned about the lack of progress to safeguard vulnerable shortfin makos from overfishing," said **Ali Hood, Director of Conservation for the Shark Trust**. "Ten years after their listing on CMS Appendix II, this highly migratory shark is still not subject to any international fishing quotas or even basic limits in the country that lands the most: Spain. We call on the European Commission to take action later this month -- when they set quotas for scores of other commercially valuable species -- and ban the landing of North Atlantic shortfin mako, as advised by scientists."

"Manta rays are exceptional for their inherent vulnerability, their status as species to be strictly protected by CMS Parties, and their popularity with tourists," said Ian Campbell, **Project AWARE's Associate Director of Policy**. "Unfortunately, manta rays continue to be legally fished in countries that have also committed to protect them and could support marine ecotourism. Countries such as the Seychelles benefit economically from manta-based tourism yet could do much more to develop national protection measures for mantas as part of their 'blue economy' development strategies."

"This report underscores our long-term frustration with continued fishing of endangered hammerheads," said **Alejandra Goyenechea, Senior International Counsel for Defenders of Wildlife**. "We urge Costa Rica to collaborate with the US and EU on efforts to establish regional hammerhead safeguards for the eastern tropical Pacific and call them to join Panama and Honduras to fulfil their commitments for all migratory sharks and rays listed under CMS."

The SAI press release with link to the full report, *Sharks Ahead: Realizing the Potential of the Convention on Migratory Species to Conserve Elasmobranchs*, is posted here: <https://bit.ly/2C9QrsM>

Where Conservation Meets AdventureSM
projectaware.org

The Shark Trust is a UK charity working to safeguard the future of sharks through positive change.
sharktrust.org

Defenders of Wildlife is dedicated to the protection of all native animals and plants in their natural communities.
defenders.org

Shark Advocates International is a project of The Ocean Foundation dedicated to science-based shark and ray policies.
sharkadvocates.org