

IUCN SSC Shark Specialist Group



2018 Report



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Co-Chairs

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Number of members

176

Social networks

Facebook:
IUCN Shark Specialist Group
Instagram:
shark_specialist_group
Twitter:
@IUCNshark
Website:
<https://www.iucnssg.org/>
YouTube:
IUCN Shark Specialist Group



Mission statement

To secure the conservation, management and, where necessary, the recovery of the world's sharks, rays and chimaeras by mobilising global technical and scientific expertise to provide the knowledge that enables action.

Projected impact for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

By the end of 2020, we envision a substantial advance in reducing the extinction risk of the top three most threatened groups of chondrichthyans, namely the Sawfishes, Angel Sharks, and Guitarfishes. Eight regional and two thematic workshops will be undertaken to inform updated Red List assessments for all remaining chondrichthyans (942 species), thereby informing conservation prioritisation beyond these most threatened groups moving forward.

Targets for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

Assess

Policy: Living Planet Index for Chondrichthyans.
Red List: (1) nine hundred and forty-five assessments/reassessments through eight regional and two thematic workshops (all chondrichthyans not recently assessed); (2) Global Red List Index for chondrichthyans; (3) predicted statuses for all species assessed as Data Deficient.

Research activity: begin funding and development of a sawfish sightings database.

Technical advice: advance national shark report card work.

Plan

Planning: (1) conservation strategy for Wedgefishes and Guitarfishes; (2) Mediterranean Angel Sharks: Regional Action Plan workshop for Angel Sharks.

Research activities: advance the shark and ray Marine Protected Area (MPA) project.

Act

Policy: (1) provide policy advice on the use of Red List categories and criteria in fisheries management to the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES); (2) provide policy advice on chondrichthyans to the Convention on Migratory Species.

Research activities: creation of EDGE Sharks (Evolutionarily Distinct and Globally Endangered Sharks) with Zoological Society of London (ZSL).

Technical advice: (1) provide advice on shark and ray conservation priorities to donors, including the Shark Conservation Fund; (2) provide advice on reintroduction to zoos and aquaria; (3) provide advice as part of progress reporting on implementation of the Protocol for Specially Protected Areas and Biodiversity Information on the reporting party.

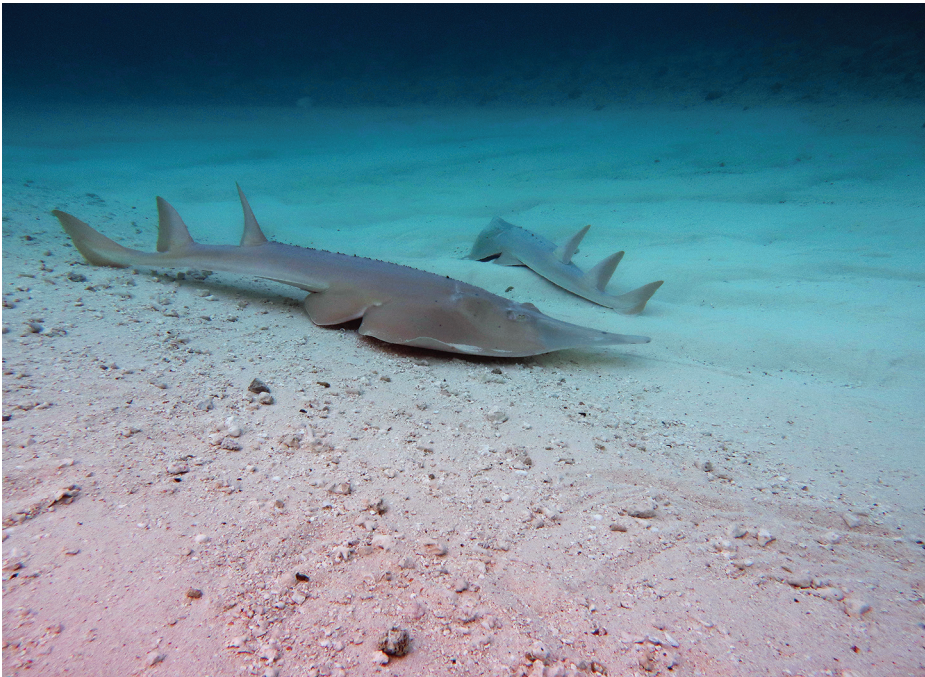
Network

Synergy: create a collaborative network focused on wedgefish and guitarfish conservation.

Communicate

Communication: (1) launch the Sawfish Progress and Priorities report; (2) raise awareness about extinction risk in sawfishes; (3) maintain an active and engaged Shark Specialist Group membership; (4) make contributions to the SSC E-bulletin.

Technical advice: provide advice to Humane Society International.



Critically Endangered Giant Guitarfish
Glaucostegus typus, Heron Island,
Great Barrier Reef
Photo: Colin Simpfendorfer

Critically Endangered Clown Wedgefish
Rhynchobatus cooki, Singapore Fishing Port
Photo: Naomi Clark-Shen



Activities and results 2018

Assess

Policy

i. Draft Living Planet Index (LPI) developed for Oceanic Pelagic Sharks and Rays; progress toward a global Shark and Ray LPI is anticipated by end of year. (KSR #11, 12)

Red List

- i.** Seventy-six assessments published. (KSR #1)
- ii.** Produced taxonomic group Red List Index for all 16 Wedgefishes and Giant Guitarfishes, and sub-equatorial African endemic species (99 species). (KSR #1)
- iii.** Categorical predictions made for North-East Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea Chondrichthyans (Walls, R.H.L. and Dulvy, N.K. (2019). Predicting the conservation status of Europe's Data Deficient sharks and rays. *bioRxiv*. [DOI: 10.1101/614776]). (KSR #1)

Technical advice

i. National shark report card work is online at: www.sharkreportcard.org. (KSR #27)

Plan

Research activities

i. Planning work over the past two years led to two papers being published: MacKeracher, T., Diedrich, A. and Simpfendorfer, C.A. (2019). Sharks, rays and marine protected areas: A critical evaluation of current perspectives. *Fish and Fisheries* 20(2):255–267. Mizrahi, M., Duce, S., Pressey, R.L., Simpfendorfer, C.A., Weeks, R. and Diedrich, A. (2019). Global opportunities and challenges for Shark Large Marine Protected Areas. *Biological Conservation* 234:107–115. [DOI: 10.1016/j.biocon.2019.03.026]. An app was also created: https://rossdwyer.shinyapps.io/sharkray_mpa/ (KSR #26, 32)

Act

Research activities

i. The EDGE Sharks funding and capacity building programme was launched in December 2018. Ninety people watched the launch webinar, and 14 respondents commented from seven countries: United Kingdom, United States of America, Venezuela, Trinidad and Tobago, Sri Lanka, Canada, and Cameroon. (KSR #17)

Network

Synergy

i. A collaborative network focused on wedgefish and guitarfish conservation was created with the participation of thirty-seven network members from 22 countries. (KSR #29)

Communicate

Communication

- i.** The Sawfish Progress and Priorities Report [Fordham, S.V., Jabado, R., Kyne, P.M., Charvet, P. and Dulvy, N.K. (2018). *Saving Sawfish: Progress and Priorities*. Vancouver, Canada: IUCN Shark Specialist Group.] was launched at an international conference. (KSR #11, 16)
- ii.** More than 11.5 million social media impressions about extinction risk in sawfishes were generated; more than 8,700 people engaged. (KSR #15)
- iii.** Four newsletters were published. (KSR #28, 29)
- iv.** Six contributions were made to the SSC E-bulletin. (KSR #28, 29)

Acknowledgements

We thank the Shark Conservation Fund for funding for the Global Shark Trends Project and the associated international Red List assessment workshops. The South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity (SAIAB) and the Squalus Foundation generously hosted workshops. This important conservation work would not have been possible without the help of all of the Shark Specialist Group members and external experts who attended workshops, contributed data, or helped in the review process.

Summary of activities 2018

Species Conservation Cycle ratio: 5/5

Assess	5	
Plan	1	
Act	1	
Network	1	
Communicate	4	

Main KSRs addressed: 1, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 26, 27, 28, 29, 32

Resolutions addressed: WCC-2016-Res-016

KSR: Key Species Result