



Species: Gulper Shark

OSPAR Recommendation 2014/03:

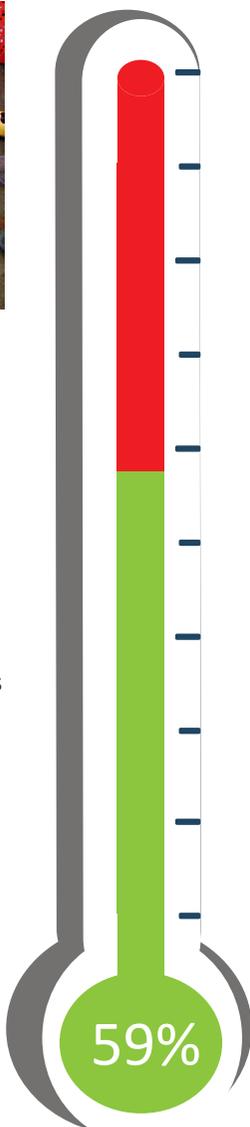
Contracting Parties are required to report progress with implementation of recommendations every six years, with initial more frequent reporting until 2019.

Measures taken by Contracting Parties to protect Gulper shark include cooperation through NEAFC to prohibit directed fisheries and additional monitoring in a number of countries



Description

Gulper shark (*Centrophorus granulosus*) widely distributed in temperate and tropical seas. In the North-East Atlantic, it occurs in the southern part of the OSPAR Area on the upper continental slopes and outer continental shelf off France, Spain and Portugal. There is no population estimate for *C. granulosus* in the OSPAR Area, but abundance declined very steeply during the late 20th century, following the establishment of a directed longline fishery for deepwater sharks. Gulper sharks are believed to have one of the lowest reproductive potentials of all elasmobranch species and therefore the highest risk of overfishing. Recovery of depleted populations will be slow and take longer than 25 years, even if all exploitation ceases.



Action Highlights

Each Recommendation requires Contracting Parties to report on the methods used to implement the measures. The methods are Legislation, Administrative action and Negotiated agreement, or any combination of these. Recent examples include:

1. Contracting Parties have cooperated through NEAFC to prohibit directed fisheries until 2019;
2. France, Spain, France, and UK undertake monitoring surveys.

Engagement

The engagement index (left) measures how well Contracting Parties have engaged with the national measures in the Recommendation. The higher the score the greater the number of actions that Contracting Parties, which have reported, have taken to implement the measures in the Recommendation. Click here for more information on the index.

References:

- Background Document for Gulper shark *Centrophorus granulosus* (OSPAR Publication 472)
- OSPAR Recommendation 2014/04
- OSPAR List of Threatened and/or Declining Species and Habitats (Agreement 2008-06)

Condition

The population of gulper shark in the OSPAR Maritime Area is severely depleted. The North-East Atlantic population is assessed as Critically Endangered in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Directed fishing is currently prohibited by NEAFC, but bycatch continues. As noted above, the very low productivity of this species means that recovery will be extremely slow (in the order of many decades).

