

Species: Porbeagle Shark

OSPAR Recommendation 2014/06:

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

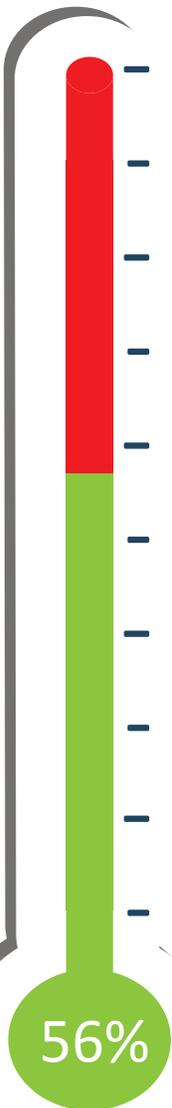
Measures taken by Contracting Parties to protect the Porbeagle shark include prohibition of fisheries and abundance and tagging surveys



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Description

The Porbeagle Shark (*Lamna nasus*) is a wide-ranging, coastal and oceanic pelagic shark that may be found throughout the OSPAR Area (Figure 1) in water temperatures of 2–18°C, preferring 5–10°C. They are most commonly reported on continental shelves and slopes from near the surface to depths of 200 m, but have occasionally been caught at depths of 350–700 m. They range from close inshore (particularly in summer), to far offshore (where they are often associated with submerged banks and reefs), including movements into the High Seas outside 200 mile EEZs, although only one tagged animal has been recorded crossing the Atlantic.



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. Some recent examples include:

1. There is Zero Total Allowable Catch;
2. Fishing for porbeagle shark is prohibited;
3. France has undertaken tagging and abundance surveys;
4. UK has undertaken tagging surveys;
5. France, Norway, Spain and the UK submit data to ICES for scientific analysis.

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 Porbeagle shark (OSPAR Publication 474)
- OSPAR Recommendation 2014/06
- OSPAR List of Threatened and/or Declining Species and Habitats (Agreement 2008-06)

Condition

Porbeagle shark is seriously depleted in the OSPAR Area. It is assessed as “Critically Endangered” in the North-East Atlantic on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Although large-scale target fisheries ceased decades ago, this species is still vulnerable to localised, seasonal fisheries because of its aggregating behaviour and unregulated and unreported catches are being taken on the High Seas. Recovery will require fishing pressure on this stock to be minimised. ICES has advised a zero TAC since 2006. Recovery of this stock is unlikely to take place while fisheries continue. Recovery following complete closure of fisheries would still likely take 15–34 years.



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