

WWF GALAPAGOS AND EASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN PROGRAM

PROTECTING

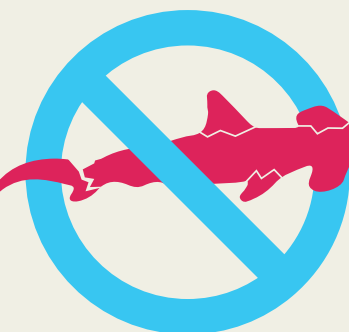
HAMMERHEAD SHARKS

ECUADOR HITS THE RIGHT SPOT ON CONSERVATION!

In August 2013, Ecuador issued the Ministerial Agreement #116 through which the Undersecretariat of Fisheries Resources of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Aquaculture and Fisheries established management measures for hammerhead sharks in the country.



The agreement protects pregnant female sharks and adult hammerhead sharks. It prohibits transportation and commercialization of hammerhead sharks on industrial ships and permits by catch on artisan boats of only five individuals under 150 cm.



PAT-Ec is the National Action Plan for the Conservation and Management of Sharks in Ecuador. It seeks to ensure the conservation and sustainable management of sharks through monitoring, applied research, regulations, control, surveillance, education and awareness.



Overfishing of hammerhead sharks in the Eastern Pacific Ocean constitutes a serious threat for the survival of these species due to poor fisheries management practices. The demand focusses on their meat, fins, oil, cartilage and other products and has led to an annual reduction of 92 to 96% of hammerhead sharks in the Ecuadorian coast between 2011 and 2012. Because they are migratory species, it is very important to establish international cooperation agreements for managing and conserving these species on the long term in regional fisheries forums like the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission.



About WWF

WWF is one of the largest and most respected, independent conservation organizations in the world with over 5 million supporters and a global network active in over 100 countries. WWF's mission is to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature, conserving the world's biological diversity, ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable, and promoting reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption.

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