



Protecting Atlantic Canadian Shark Populations

21 species worth protecting

Sharks of Atlantic Canada

Close to half of all shark species found in Atlantic Canadian waters are considered globally threatened. The primary threat to these biologically vulnerable species in our waters is their unintentional capture in commercial fisheries.

*WWF is committed to ensuring that Canadian shark populations are protected. To do this, we have recognized the importance of **collaborating and building strong partnerships** with industry and other partners to work together to identify and implement **workable solutions**.*

Atlantic Shark Forum 2011

As a first step in a collaborative process, the Shark Forum brought together fishermen, scientists, managers and NGOs in order to identify and agree upon the top priorities to improve the conservation and management of Atlantic shark populations. The top cross-cutting priorities identified were/are:

- ❖ Better understanding of shark avoidance and release practices used by industry
- ❖ Advance research on and implementation of appropriate mitigation measures
- ❖ Require more and/or better information on, or changes in, stock status
- ❖ Training and education about shark conservation issues



Ongoing Initiatives

WWF is committed to working with partners to:

- ❖ Engage fishermen and gather their knowledge on sharks
- ❖ Support research on the bycatch of sharks and their relatives in Atlantic Canadian fisheries
- ❖ Convene a complementary Pacific Shark Forum in British Columbia
- ❖ WWF-Canada, in partnership with Dalhousie University, created an educational website for the *Sharks of the Atlantic Research and Conservation Coalition (ShARCC)*; www.atlanticsharks.org

