

**ANNUAL REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COUNCIL
REGULATION (EU) NO 605/2013 OF 12 JUNE 2013 ON THE REMOVAL OF
FINS OF SHARKS ON BOARD VESSELS
(AMENDING COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) NO 1185/2003)**

**Member State: United Kingdom
Reference Year: 2013**

The UK government is fully committed to the implementation and enforcement of Council Regulation (EC) 1185/2003. We continue to take steps through education and monitoring of the fishing industry to ensure that the legislative requirements of the regulation are understood and adhered to.

1. Monitoring of compliance as required under Article 6 of 1185/2003 as amended by Council Regulation 605/2013

2013 summary shark statistics for UK vessels in Union waters

- a) Number of landings which included shark species reported by UK vessels operating in EU waters – **8557**
- b) Number, date, and place of inspections carried out by enforcement authorities – **1025**
- c) Number and nature of cases of non-compliance detected – **1**
- d) Total live weight of landings by species and port

Species	Code	Port of landing	Live weight in tonnes
Dogfish (Scyliarhinidae)	SYX	Blyth and Milford Haven	1
Lesser Spotted Dogfish	SYC	Portavogie	2.8
Smooth hound	SMD	Brixham, Newlyn, Plymouth	2.6
Tope	GAG	Newlyn	0.003
Unidentified Squalus spp	DGX	Bolougne, Eemshaven, Kinlochbervie	7.4
Unidentified Dogfish spp	DGH	Bolougne, Brixham, Campletown, Dieppe, Fraserburgh, Kinlochbervie, Lochinver, Peterhead, Scrabster	23.5
Arrowhead Dogfish	SDU	Dieppe, Bolougne	3.8
Small Spotted Catshark	SYC	Bolougne, Dieppe	0.4
Starry Smooth hound	SDS	Dieppe, Bolougne	1.3
Blue Shark	BSH	Guilvinec, Ilfracombe, Loctudy, Mevagissy, Newlyn, Padstow, Plymouth, Falmouth, Roscoff, Sunderland	9.7
Common Thresher shark	THR	Brixham	1.1
		TOTAL	53.6

Consideration

Inspections of fishing vessels at sea are carried out by the UK management authorities and the Royal Navy. Inspections of landings, including those consisting of sharks, are also regularly carried out at ports and markets by enforcement officers however the volume of this data makes it inappropriate to include in this report. All enforcement activities are carried out on a risk based and intelligence led basis.

In 2013 in UK waters, there were a total of 1025 at sea boardings that involved UK vessels as part of the UK's regular surveillance and enforcement activities. These can be broken down into 616 boardings in the South West of the UK, 84 in the North West of the UK, and 323 in the North Sea.

During this time one case of non-compliance was recorded which related to the skinning at sea of two smoothhounds. This was not considered to be intentional non-compliance and therefore a verbal re-brief was issued and considered sufficient.

2013 summary shark statistics for UK vessels in Non-Union waters

- a) Number of landings which included shark species reported by UK vessels operating in Non-EU waters – 15.
- b) Number, date and place of inspections – Unavailable.
- c) Number and nature of cases of non-compliance detected – none reported.
- d) Total live weight of landings by species and port

Species	Code	Port of landing	Live weight in tonnes
Blue Shark	BSH	Port Louis, Durban	189
Short Fin Mako	SMA	Port Louis, Durban	46

Consideration

The UK has a limited capacity to conduct inspections at sea and during landing for those vessels that fish outside the North East Atlantic and land predominantly in non-Community ports where we do not have an inspection presence.

Information on the number, date and place of inspections was requested for this report by the Marine Management Organisation on a number of occasions from the African and Mauritian relevant authorities. However, this information has not been forthcoming at this time therefore it has not been possible to report on any inspections that were carried out on UK vessels catching sharks in the Indian Ocean area.

With regards compliance, no incidents of non-compliance have been reported however this should be considered in light of the aforementioned difficulties in obtaining information from non-Community ports..

In order to help address this issue the UK is continuing to pursue enforcement opportunities and exchange of information with the relevant non-Community fisheries authorities. We support the use of the co-operative enforcement provisions within the resolutions of Regional Fishery Management Organisations (RFMOs) and within EU Fishery Partnership Agreements (FPAs).

Ongoing education to encourage compliance with the regulation for vessels fishing in non-Community waters has resulted in a significant improvement in the quality of catch information recorded in logbooks. For those vessels fishing outside of the North East

Atlantic, no shark fins were recorded on electronic log books submitted to the UK authorities during 2013. In addition, the requirement to submit logbook information electronically will allow the fishing activities of these vessels to be monitored much more effectively. Also, application of the Control regulation obligations (see below for details) placing the responsibility for submission of sales notes on the Master of the vessel (or his representative) when landing outside of the Community allows for direct action to be taken to ensure correct submission of future sales notes.

Information regarding the requirements of the regulations and the prohibition on the removal of shark fins is provided on the central website of the UK government¹ and provided directly to the industry by the management authorities.

The legislation to control and monitor these UK fishing activities by vessels that land in non-Community ports is summarised below:

1. Legislation to ensure compliance on catch certificates (*Commission Regulation (EC) No 1010/2009 of 22 October 2009, laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008, establishing a Community system to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing*).
2. Legislation to ensure compliance with electronic reporting of fishing logbooks landing declarations and sales notes (*Council Regulation (EC) 1966/2006 and Commission Regulation (EC) 1077/2008, laying down detailed rules for the implementation of CR 1066/2006 on electronic recording and reporting of fishing activities and on means of remote sensing*).

2. Additional Information

Catches of sharks are recorded by the fishing industry on either paper or electronic logbooks depending on the size of the vessel. For vessels of under 10m in size that are not required to submit logbooks, this information is captured on sales notes that are submitted to management authorities by fish merchants either electronically or on paper. These details are input to the management authorities fishery activity databases. For the purposes of producing this report, the data for landings of all shark species was produced from these databases.

Details of inspections and boarding of vessels at sea are recorded by enforcement authorities on the Marine Compliance and Surveillance System (MCSS). Summary reports were run from this system to provide the inspection data, however the inspection/boarding data entered do not distinguish between presence and absence of sharks therefore this information has not been provided. Due to the size of the data set involved, dates and locations of these inspections have also not been provided in this report but can be upon request.

**Marine Management Organisation
United Kingdom
July 2014**

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/dangers-to-marine-species-and-measures-to-protect-them>