



Photo: Kina Scollay.



# Research and information

**Proposed Goal 6: Continuously improve the information available from New Zealand vessels and fishers to conserve sharks and manage fisheries that impact on sharks, with prioritisation guided by the risk assessment framework.**

The conservation and management of sharks needs to be supported by effective and efficient data collection and monitoring processes, and a robust research programme.

## PROPOSED DATA COLLECTION AND MONITORING ACTIVITIES

Systems in place should be reviewed to ensure that all necessary information is collected, including:

- **Observer coverage** and other forms of **at-sea monitoring** are sufficient to monitor compliance, verify catch information, collect scientific data for all New Zealand commercial fisheries that take sharks, and monitor progress towards achieving the objectives of the NPOA-Sharks.
- **Catch reporting** is accurate and at an appropriate level of detail, including minimisation of the use of generic reporting codes through education programmes and better tools for identification of shark species.
- **Historical catch data** for shark species is compiled and available to inform management.
- Information on **non-commercial shark catch** and its importance to the sectors is available for management.

## PROPOSED RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

Research topics will cover the following broad topics; projects will be prioritised based on the risk assessment, the scale of relevant fisheries, and within the priorities for each fisheries complex (identified through fisheries plans).

- Shark populations and biology
- Assessment of shark populations
- Habitats of significance to fisheries management
- Mitigation/avoidance of non-target catches
- Handling and live release
- Non-fishing anthropogenic impacts
- Market opportunities

It is also proposed to implement research to inform the development of recovery plans appropriate to protected shark species.



Department of  
Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*

### HOW DO I HAVE MY SAY?

More information and the full text of the draft NPOA-Sharks is available at [www.mpi.govt.nz](http://www.mpi.govt.nz)

You can make a submission on the draft NPOA-Sharks by emailing [NPOA-Sharks@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:NPOA-Sharks@mpi.govt.nz) or to: Fisheries Management, Ministry for Primary Industries, PO Box 2526, Wellington 6140.