

Public Shark Finning Policy

Prepared by Key Traceability and Grand Bleu S.A.

Introduction

Globally, pelagic longlining has the highest rate of shark catch (as a target and nontarget species) of any fishery. Most shark species are quite vulnerable to this practice, since several aspects of their biology make them highly susceptible to overfishing.

Shark finning is the practice of retaining shark fins and discarding the remaining carcass while at sea. The practice is against the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and its International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks, as well as the resolutions of a number of other international marine bodies, all of which call for minimizing waste and discards. There are major uncertainties about the total quantity and species of sharks caught, and shark finning has added to this problem.

Public Policy

Grand Bleu S.A. make this public policy stating that shark finning is prohibited aboard all vessels and does not occur. Grand Bleu adopts the “fins naturally attached” rule for sharks. Any sharks retained and landed will be reported, except for species that are prohibited by national law or RFMO regulations, or those individuals that are released alive.

Grand Bleu S.A. takes advice from the International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF), which has called on industry to adopt policies against finning. All shark handling and release will be carried out by trained crewmen as per the Purse Seine Skippers Guidebook. This includes how to handle and release a shark safely to not harm the animal, and most importantly for crew safety.

On behalf of Participant (Grand Bleu S.A.):

Signature:

S. K. Kon

Name and title or role:

Managing Director

Date:

20 Oct 2022

