

Fast Facts:

IUCN Report on Conservation Status of Open Ocean Sharks & Rays

Findings

Experts from the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Shark Specialist Group (SSG) examined the status of 64 species of open ocean (“pelagic”) shark and ray species against the IUCN Red List criteria and concluded:

- 32% are *Threatened* with extinction (categorized as *Critically Endangered*, *Endangered* or *Vulnerable*).
- 24% classify as *Near Threatened*.
- the percentage of pelagic shark and ray species *Threatened* with extinction is higher for the sharks taken in high-seas fisheries (52%) than for the group as a whole.

Species classified as globally ***Endangered*** include the:

- great hammerhead shark (*Sphyrna mokarran*)
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