

## ***Fast Facts:***

# **IUCN Report on Conservation Status of Open Ocean Sharks & Rays**

## **Pelagic shark fishing**

### **How?**

Open ocean (“pelagic”) sharks and rays are caught in longline, purse seine, and gillnet fisheries.

### **How much?**

According to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), worldwide landings of “sharks” (including rays and chimaeras) averaged about 400,000 tonnes (t) in the 1960s, increased to 630,000t in the 1980s and peaked in 2003 at about 900,000t. In 2007, 781,326t were reported, about 10% of which were pelagic species.

### **Where?**

Of the 2007 shark landings, 38% came from the Atlantic, 34% from the Pacific, and 28% from the Indian Ocean. The greatest expansion of shark fishing has occurred in the Indian Ocean.

### **Who?**

In 2007, 21 shark-fishing nations reported more than 10,000t of shark landings, with the top five - Indonesia, India, Taiwan, Spain, and Mexico - accounted for 42%. The top three countries in terms of pelagic species were Spain (23,737t reported to FAO, but more than 45,000t reported to national au