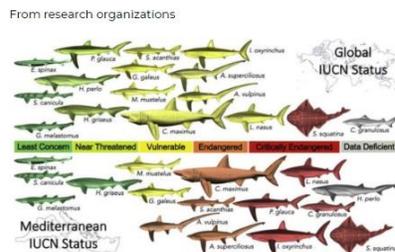


SCIENCE HOT
 FISH; SEA LIFE; NEW SPECIES; FISHERIES; ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY; EXOTIC SPECIES; ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS; GEOGRAPHY

Official stats mask shark and ray species caught in the Mediterranean and Black seas

by Fleur Delacroix April 09, 2019 52 views

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TRENDING



Flower Grass Blocks and Mushroom Mycelium (Top View)



F-35A goes down in Japan?



Shark and ray species commonly caught in the Mediterranean and Black seas aren't being reported in official figures, new research by the *Sea About Us* initiative at the University of British Columbia shows.

A new study published in *Marine Policy* shows that 97 percent of those sharks and rays captured and brought to market domestically by fleets from the European, North African and Middle Eastern states that surround these oceans aren't reported by species.

"The Black and Mediterranean Seas have historically harboured a high diversity and abundance of sharks and rays, but now between between 53 percent and 71 percent of them face an elevated risk of extinction," said Madeline Cashion, lead author of the study, who carried out the research at the *Sea About Us* initiative at UBC's Institute for the Oceans and Fisheries.

By not keeping an eye on the different species of sharks and rays they are bringing to vent, those may be threatening already.

"Part of the problem is that many sharks and rays in the area are captured as bycatch in fisheries targeting other species and therefore are brought to vent either because there is a small market for them or because, by law, they cannot be thrown right back at sea," Cashion said. "If neither fishers nor governments keep detailed records of what is being captured, then it is very tricky to detect declines and design effective steps to protect threatened species."

Cashion discovered that sharks and rays are now increasingly rare after centuries of abuse as well as also the more recent expansion and intensification of fisheries in the Mediterranean, specifically of these non-European ones. Catch data is the sole source of advice where they were found whether species still exist, to know.

"The problem is that detailed catch information is hard to come by because species identification can be very costly," Cashion said. "Good reporting relies on the fiscal and logistical support of authorities and fisheries management associations. Fishers can not be expected to carry it alone."

Given that the dangers posed by the fishing sector due to the dearth of information, the investigators call for a much better implementation of information collection and reporting policies.

They call for statistics to begin accounting for fish which are captured and thrown back in those that are caught and the sea.

"To comprehend the real tendencies of ray and shark exploitation and abundance, we need to know what is discarded at sea since not all species endure after being pulled up with a net," said Daniel Pauly, co-author of this study and the *Sea About Us* Principal Investigator. "For example, 98 percent of scalloped hammerheads die but in regards to thornback rays, only 2 percent of them perish. We simply need to know what is being caught."

Journal Reference:

1. Madeline S. Cashion, Nicolas Bailly, Daniel Pauly. **Official capture data underrepresent shark and ray taxa captured in Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries.** *Marine Policy*, 2019; 105: 1 DOI: 10.1016/j.marpol.2019.02.041

Link: <https://upmitter.com/43894-official-stats-mask-shark-and-ray-species-caught-in-the-mediterranean-and-black-seas.html>