

The Amsterdam Effect: multiple stakeholder cooperation for successful management of sharks and rays

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The management of sharks and rays in European fisheries is both complex and challenging. Compounding factors are paucity of data, the group TAC for skates and rays and the uncertainties surrounding the landing obligation, whereby the species could choke the target fisheries. Cooperation between multiple stakeholders is essential to address these issues. In order to do this, the Dutch Elasmobranch Society has organized a number of expert meetings in Amsterdam. The meetings were attended by scientists, administrators and representatives from the fishing industry and NGOs from six European countries. Possible solutions and ways forward were discussed and the delegates gave their support for the continuation of the platform and working towards solutions. In the coming years the partners in this project will work on developing a two track approach to addressing key issues and questions. On the one hand we will work on a science-industry partnership on a widespread tagging scheme to collect essential information on bycatch and survival of elasmobranchs. On the other hand we will set up a dialogue platform with all stakeholders, in which ideas can be developed, coalitions formed and concrete solutions found. The resulting proposals to policy makers will have a high chance of successful implementation because they are supported by all relevant stakeholders. This unique approach combines multiple levels of influence in the social ecological model. This presentation will present the first results of the multi-stakeholder process and co-production of knowledge for the management of elasmobranchs, within the context of the social ecological model.

Key words: landing obligation; group-TAC; prohibited species; spatial management; tagging; sharks and rays; multiple stakeholders; social ecological model

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