

SHARKLIFE Closed project — LIFE10 NAT/1T/271 three years of duration with the following partners:

Beneficiary coordinator: CTS - Centro Turistico Studentesco e Giovanile

Associated Beneficiaries:

AGCI Agrital

CIBM (Centro Interdisciplinare di Biologia Marina)

F.I.P.S.A.S. (Federazione Italiana Pesca Sportiva e Attività Subacquee)

Fondazione Cetacea onlus

Parco Nazionale Arcipelago di La Maddalena

Università della Calabria

Co-funder:

Ministry of Environment

Parco Nazionale dell'Asinara

In the aim of pursuing the objective of the sharks preservation, the project has set out different kind of activities. Sometimes, they concerned concrete actions of preservation that entailed the involvement and the cooperation of sport anglers and professional fishermen, other times they were however aimed at raising the big public's awareness and sensibility regarding the importance of sharks in the aquatic ecosystems. The complex of actions raised by the project, which preview, among the others, training activities with seminars and workshops and the use of different kind of communication, like permanent and itinerant exhibitions and a web site, is devoted to preserve sharks and other cartilaginous species and to cancel from the collective imagination the idea of sharks as "men eater machines", which was alimeted by many books and commercial movies.

FIPSAS, in particular, in Shark Life project was involved with the introduction of the Tag&Release practice, in the aim of suggesting a real solution towards the modification of sport fishing competition rules, in order to forbid the killing of elasmobranchii. The Tag&Release operation consists in tagging and, afterwards, releasing the prey after its catch. This technique represents an alternative way of fishing, which avoids the deaths of animals, but also prevents from the ban of its catch during fishing competitions.

The project has produced the liberation of 100% of elasmobranchii caught during the sport fishing competitions organized every year by FIPSAS and has involved more than 4000 FIPSAS card holders.



Project proposal to be presented to the call for proposals LIFE INFO - September 2017:

Project working title: Protection of Sharks in the Mediterranean (SHARK MED)

This project collects the baton of the European project SHARKLIFE, which has just ended and that promoted the preservation of cartilaginous fishes in Italy towards many actions, also including the introduction of the obligatory practice of catch/tag&release in the official competitions. By this project, we aim to reply and develop this experience, both by involving some actions at a Mediterranean level, both by involving the largest audience of recreational anglers and many other Countries of West Mediterranean Sea.

Lead partner: Federazione Italiana Pesca Sportiva Attività Subacquee e nuoto pinnato (FIPSAS)

Project idea - Project duration is 3 years

The main objective of the project is to raise awareness and inspire behavioural changes among sport, recreational and professional fishermen to promote sustainable fishing practices, thus reducing the mortality of elasmobranchs and eventually of other endangered species which populate the Mediterranean sea.

Building on the previous LIFE project SHARKLIFE, which was carried out by some of the current partners and focused on sport fishing, Shark Med will contribute to protect marine biodiversity by:

- Introducing a mandatory catch&release policy in sport fishing competitions in Spain and replicating countries ;
- Promoting and disseminating best shark catch&release practices among the recreational, sport and professional fishing communities of Mediterranean countries;
- Increasing education and awareness among the recreational and professional fishing communities, encouraging sustainable fishing practices and compliance with fishing restrictions;
- Disseminating best practices to other European countries;
- Promoting the engagement of institutional stakeholders in the policy revision debate.

Aim is to implement the project in Italy, Spain and some other Mediterranean countries with significant professional and/or recreational fishery practices, seeking to inspire other countries to replicate best practices. Shark-Med will contribute to the implementation of the Biodiversity Strategy, the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, the European Plan of Action for Cartilaginous Fishes, to the European Strategy for more Growth and Jobs in Coastal and Maritime Tourism and recommendations of the IUCN.

Proposed partnership

Confirmed:

FIPSAS - Federazione Italiana Pesca Sportiva ed Attività Subacquee [Coordinator]

FEPyC - Federación Española de Pesca y Casting

MedSharks <http://www.medsharks.org>

Fondazione Cetacea Onlus <http://fondazionecetacea.org>

Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn <http://www.szn.it/index.php/en/>

Letter of Commitment: *Confédération Internationale de la Pêche Sportive (C.I.P.S.)*

Invited:

- National organizations representing professional or recreational fishermen in Mediterranean countries (except for Spain and Italy), to collaborate in the implementation of activities in their country.

-Medac, representing the widest group of fishermen in the Mediterranean, to support dissemination, networking and awareness raising activities, stimulating its members to engage in replication.

-Co-funding opportunity: the adhesion to the project entails the co-funders' presence in the project's image, in its materials and communication and the organization, in their local headquarters, of some of the activities, such as events, exhibitions, trophies of catch&release.