

MALDIVES CASE STUDY - SHARK FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION OVER TIME

Pre 1960s Traditional shark fishery: known as 'Maa keyolhukan', existed for hundreds of years targeting a few species of sharks for their liver oil and to treat wooden boats against rot. Catches were low so no population declines were recorded.

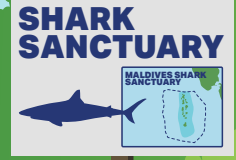
SHARK POPULATIONS

Commercial shark fishing begins



2010 Maldives Shark Sanctuary

Conservation measures begin to increase



2000s: The oceanic shark populations were in decline, particularly for large silky sharks, causing many fishermen to abandon this fishery.

1990s: Sharks help tuna fishers to find tuna schools by bringing them to the surface. They are also a major diving attraction which fuels tourism.

This led to conflict between the shark fishers and other resource users who benefitted from healthy shark populations.

New management measures failed to halt decline in shark populations.

2010 - MALDIVES SHARK SANCTUARY

National shark fishing ban 2010 and total trade ban in 2011 were introduced.

Maldives is one of the 17 shark sanctuaries in the world and only one in the Western Indian Ocean providing a safe haven for sharks!

In addition, a sustained ban on Longlining is great news for sharks and other species that were being caught as bycatch.

We hope to see a recovery of healthy shark stocks...

During the 1980s-1990s, reef shark populations were declining due to overfishing.

Traditional 'Bigline fishing'

1990s: The deep-water gulper shark population was completely overfished.

1995 - 98 Outcome:

1. Nine shark dive sites became Marine Protected Areas
2. Whale sharks became a nationally protected species
3. A 10-year moratorium on reef shark fishing implemented in several tourism areas.

These management measures failed to halt the decline of shark populations.

1960 - 1990 three decades of sharks exploitation

The start of large-scale shark exploitation
Global demand for shark products, especially fins, grew. Several species of sharks were targeted using longlining, netting and deep vertical longlining.

By working **#TogetherwithSharks** we can have a thriving ocean and productive fisheries long into the future!

1960 1970 1980 1990 2000 2010 2020 2030

TIME

