**Communiqué**

# First meeting of the Shark-Plan Representative Group

The Shark-Plan Representative Group (SRG) met for the first time on 21 November 2013 in Canberra.

SRG was established in 2013 to oversee and report on the implementation of Australia’s National Plan of Action for the Management and Conservation of Sharks - Shark-Plan 2. It will meet annually, to review, monitor and report on the implementation of Shark-Plan 2 actions by jurisdictions, oversee preparation of advice to the Committee on Fisheries (FAO COFI) of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation on Australian shark conservation commitments and identify and provide advice on progress taking place in addressing gaps in shark management and conservation issues as they relate to Shark-Plan 2.

Membership of SRG includes representatives from the Northern Territory and state fisheries agencies, the Australian Fisheries Management Authority, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of the Environment, the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, the Fisheries Research Development Corporation, commercial and recreational fishers and environmental non-government organisations.

At the first meeting, members with jurisdictional responsibilities provided updates on their agency’s progress towards implementation of nominated actions, as detailed in the ‘Operational Strategy: National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks 2012, Shark‑Plan 2’, and spoke to progress made. Non-jurisdictional SRG members also reported on activities relevant to shark management and conservation issues from their perspective.

SRG will develop a communication plan to better convey progress to broader stakeholders and the Australian community. It will also seek opportunities to engage with the indigenous and retail sector on matters of relevance.