**Communiqué**

# ThiRD meeting of the Shark-Plan Representative Group

The Shark-Plan Representative Group (SRG) met for the third time on 20 November 2015 in Canberra.

The SRG meets annually, to review, monitor and report on the implementation of Australia’s Second National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks (Shark-plan 2).

Members noted the progress of jurisdictions in a number of areas. These included updated species identification guides, improved stock status assessments and progress towards development of harvest strategies, revised fishery management plans and environmental accreditation for commercial shark fisheries. Jurisdictions also reported on updated recreational fishing surveys and recreational fishing management arrangements. These and other initiatives are summarised in a [separate reporting table](http://www.agriculture.gov.au/SiteCollectionDocuments/fisheries/environment/sharks/sharkplan2.xlsx).

Current research programmes to help better understand the status of Australia’s shark populations and interactions between sharks and humans were considered at the meeting. Highlighted research included the ongoing assessment of the status of Australian shark species as part of the shark report card project, post-release survival of mako sharks and a range of initiatives under the Australian Government’s National Environmental Science Programme, including:

* a national population assessment for white sharks
* the status of human-shark interactions and initiatives to mitigate risk in Australia
* northern Australian hotspots for the recovery of threatened euryhaline species (focus on sawfish and river sharks
* prioritisation of research and management needs for Australian elasmobranch species
* defining the connectivity of Australia's hammerhead sharks.

The group also agreed on terms of reference for reviewing Shark-plan 2, which will be undertaken by the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources in 2016.

The next annual meeting of members will be held in late 2016.