



BOBP For Sustainable Fisheries
BAY OF BENGAL PROGRAMME
Inter-Governmental Organisation

National Plan of Action for Conservation and Management of Sharks in India *Context Setting*

Stakeholder Consultation

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International Instruments: Jargons

Instrument	Purpose	Responsible Organization(s)
IPOA (International Plan of Action)	Address specific global issues through collective action .	Varies by IPOA (<i>E.g. IPOA-IUU by FAO</i>)
RPOA (Regional Plan of Action)	Tackle specific regional challenges through collaborative efforts.	Regional bodies (<i>e.g., ASEAN, Pacific Islands Forum</i>)
NPOA (National Plan of Action)	Implement international/regional commitments at the national level.	National governments

Few More.....

Instrument	Purpose	Responsible Organization(s)
Guidelines (e.g., VG-SSF)	Provide guidance on best practices and standards for sustainability and equity.	International organizations, IGOs (e.g., FAO)
Agreement (e.g. BOBP)	Establish binding commitments between parties on specific issues.	Specific parties to the agreement
Resolutions	Express the will or intention of an international body on specific issues.	The body adopting the resolution (e.g., United Nations)
Declaration	A formal statement or announcement made by states or international bodies.	States or international bodies (e.g., United Nations)

International Plan of Action

International Plans of Action (IPOAs) are **voluntary instruments**.

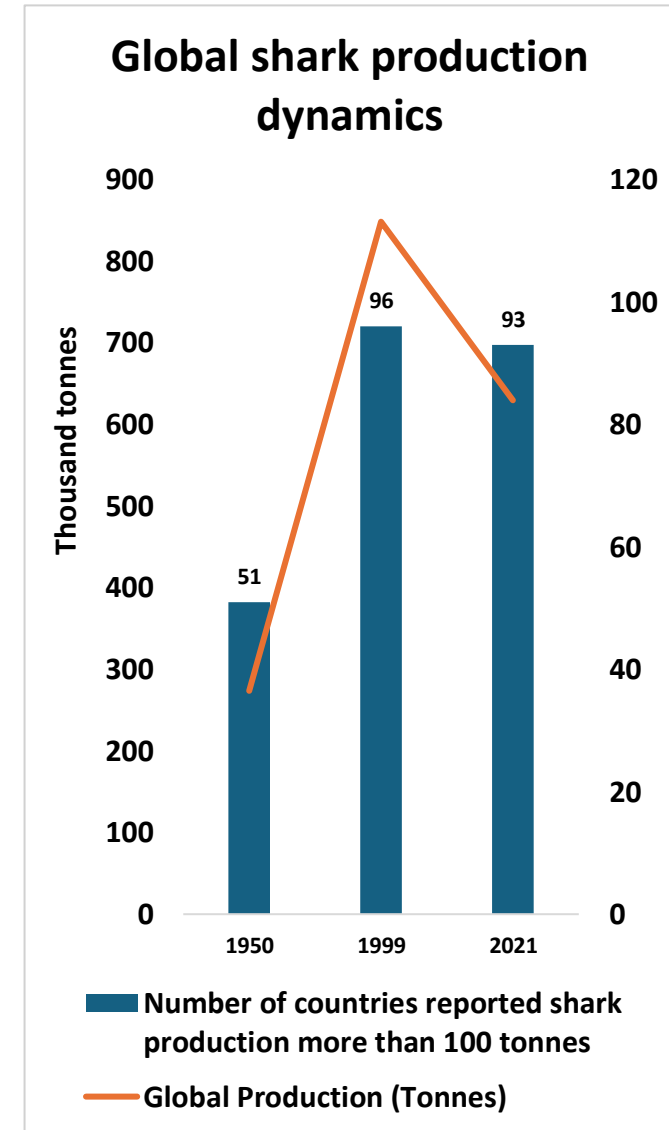
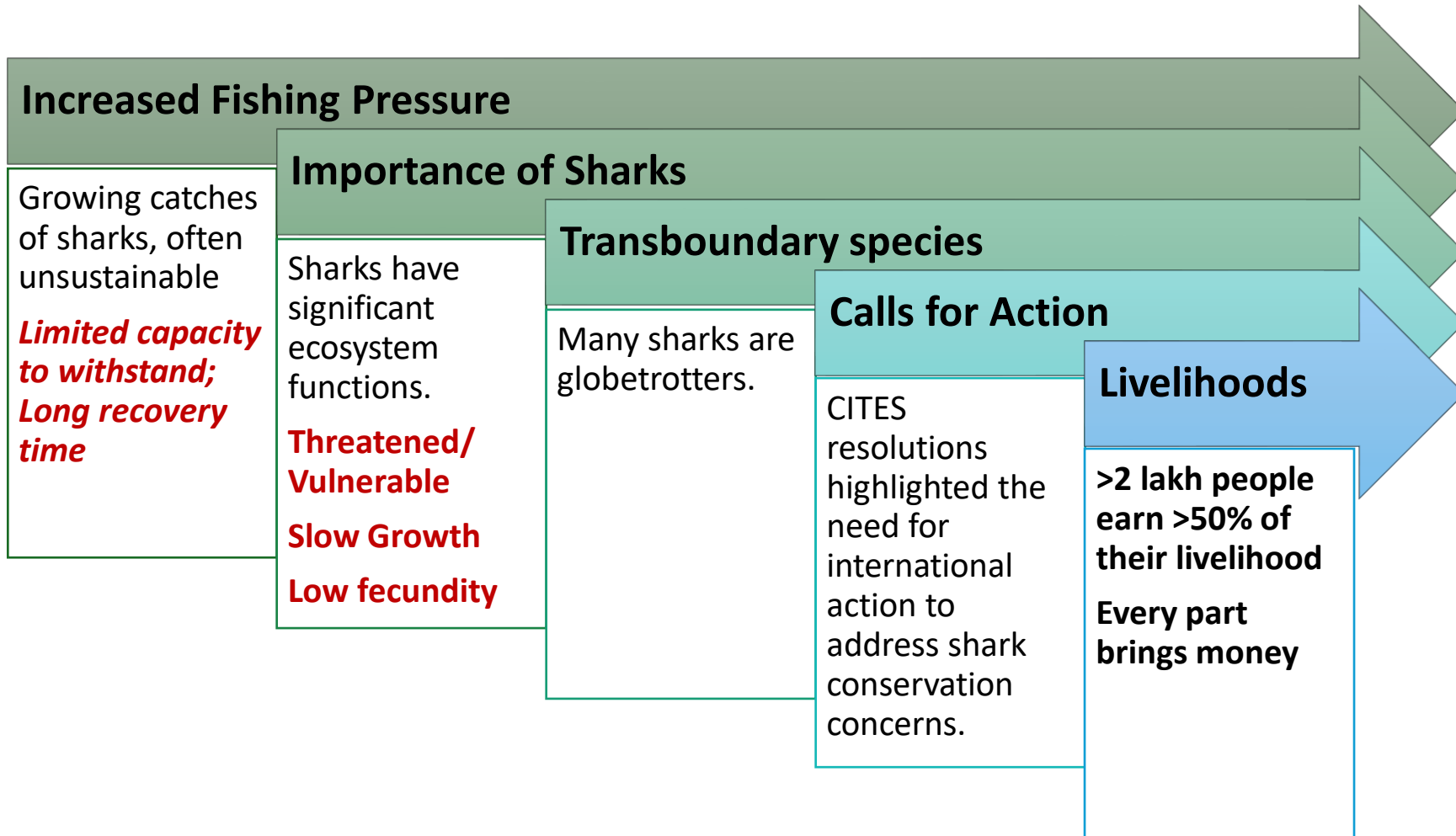
Elaborated within the **framework of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF)**.

Apply to all States and entities and to all fishers.

Four IPOAs developed to date.

IPOA	Year
IPOA for Reducing Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries	1999
IPOA for the Conservation and Management of Sharks (IPOA-Sharks)	1999
IPOA to Prevent, Deter, and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (IPOA-IUU)	1999
International Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity (IPOA-Capacity)	2001

Why Manage Sharks?



Why IPOA Sharks ?

Why do we need a separate IPOA when Other International Instruments exist??

Convention on
International Trade
in Endangered
Species of



**Limited to trade-
related issues**

Convention on the
Conservation of Migratory
Species of Wild Animals
(CMS), 1979



**Focus is on migratory
species only.**



**UNCLOS,
1982**

**Broad legal framework
for the conservation,
but, Generic**

United Nations Fish
Stocks Agreement
(UNFSA), 1995

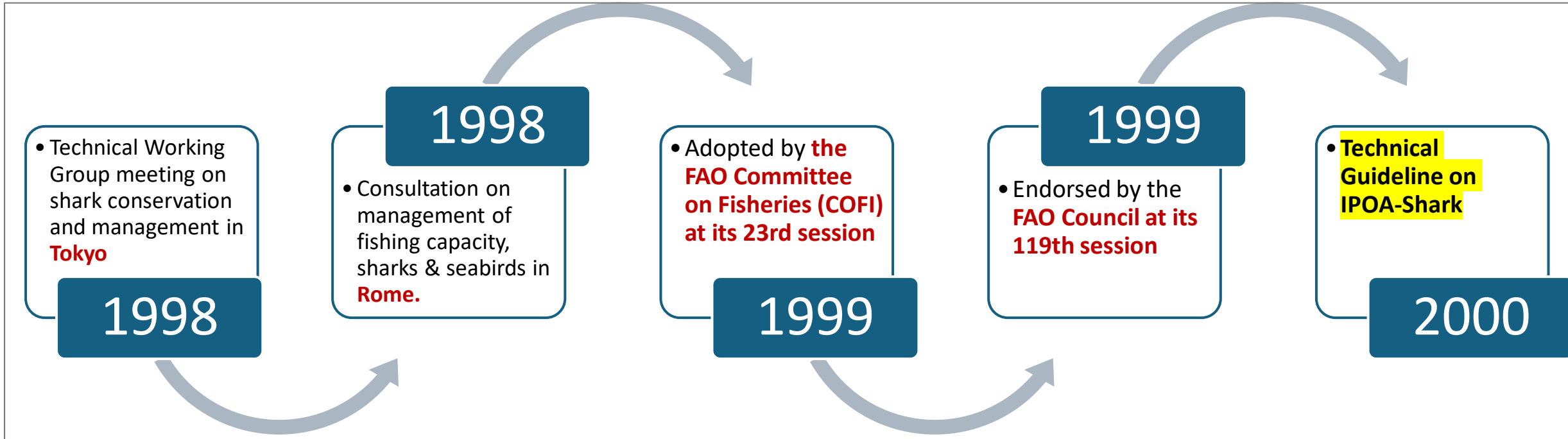
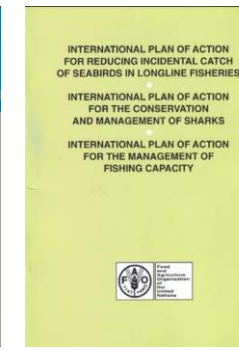
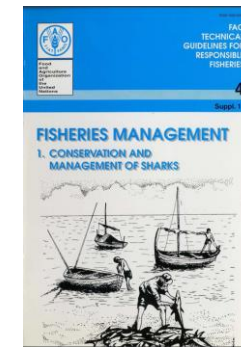
**Limited to International
waters and shared stocks**



Generic and Voluntary



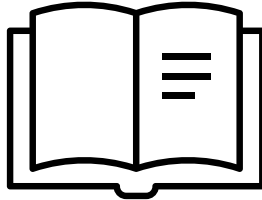
IPOA Sharks – Development by FAO



COFI-23 that approved IPOA-Shark was well represented by India

A Three member India delegation led by Secretary, DAHDF.
02 Fishermen & Community representatives from India were also present.

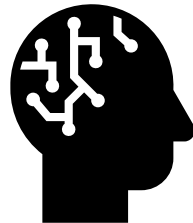
FAO's Role in IPOA-Sharks Implementation



FAO created the IPOA-Sharks
guidelines



Supports states in **implementing
IPOA-Sharks**, including NPOA-Sharks
preparation and technical assistance.



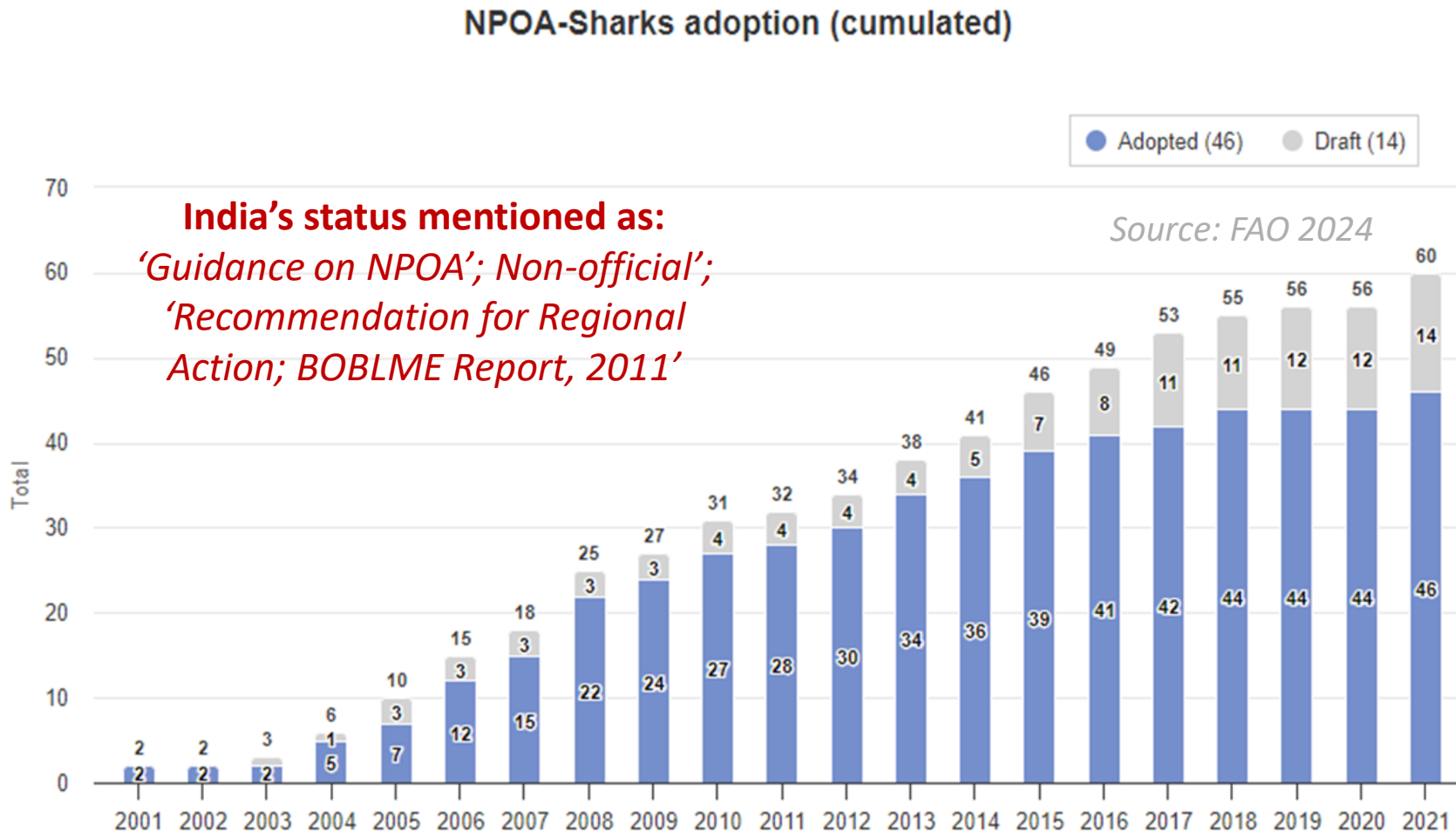
Offers a list of **experts for developing
Shark Plans**



Reports progress on IPOA-
Sharks implementation through
COFI every two years

Global Adoption of NPOA – Sharks

(Source: FAO 2024)



In addition, **RPOA** adoption by EU, Mediterranean, Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission, Pacific Island countries
(*about 54 countries*)

NPOA Plan 2 adopted
by 12 countries

NPOA/RPOA Plan 3
adopted by **Japan & EU**



India's Effort in Conservation and Management of Sharks

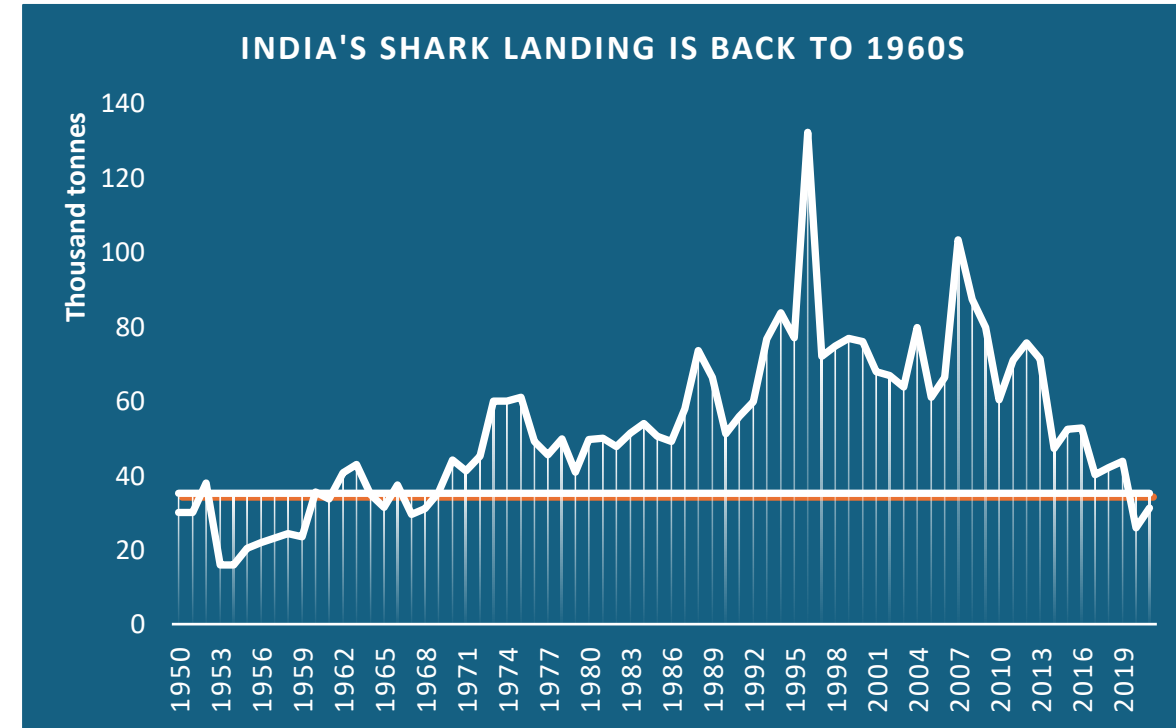
Legal Protection: Ten shark species listed under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act (1972)

Ban on Finning: Shark finning and import/export of fins banned since 2015.

Community Engagement: Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) and other NGOs work with fishing communities for awareness and alternative livelihoods.

Whale Shark Conservation Project: Led by the WTI and Tata Chemicals, this project has rescued and released over 813 whale sharks since 2004.

Compensation Scheme: Fishers receive compensation for releasing unharmed whale sharks caught accidentally, incentivizing conservation over profit.



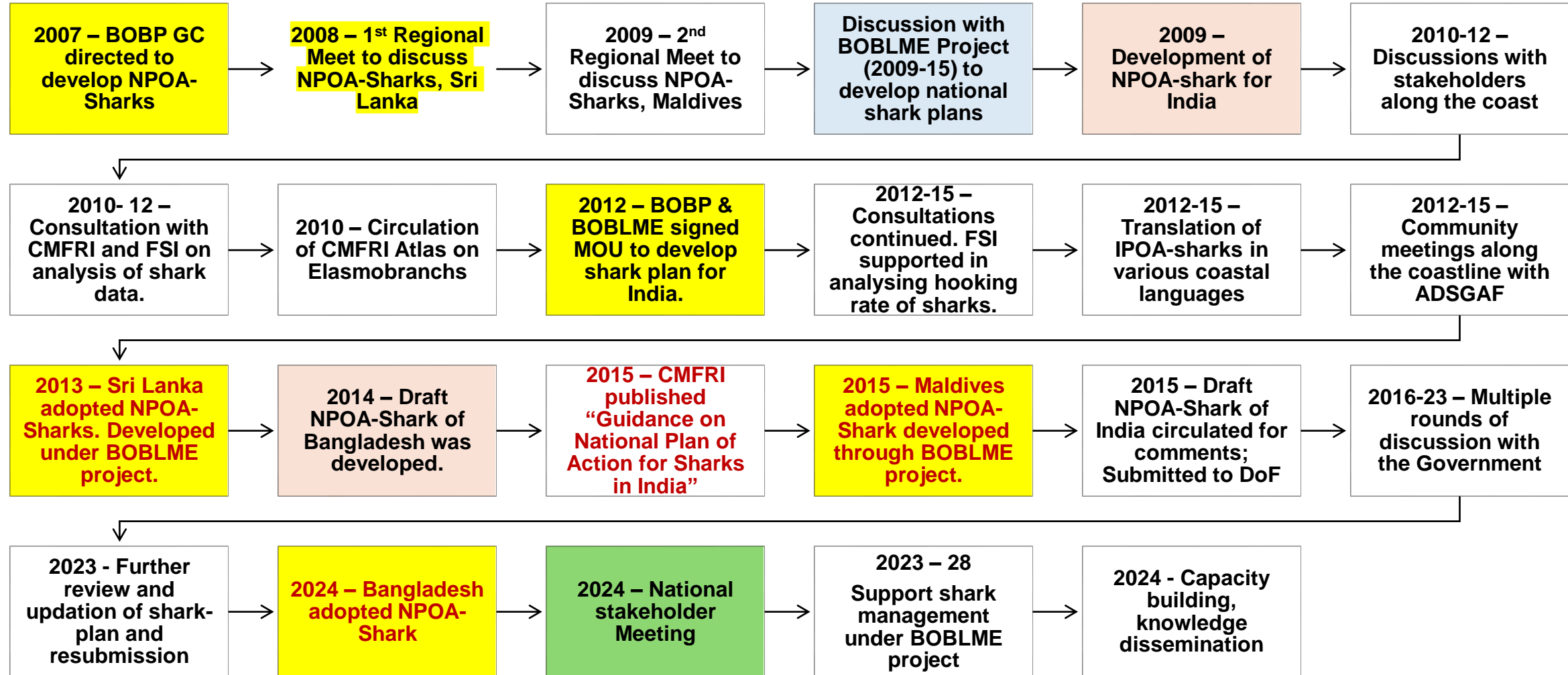
FULL USE OF SHARKS

In India fresh and dried shark meets are consumed traditionally. Fishermen usually land sharks fin attached and sale it for meat.

Yet, Why India needs to adopt NPOA

Administrative	Ensures <u>targeted governance and coordination</u> among government entities for unified management of shark populations.
Trade	Regulates India's significant role in global shark trade, ensuring compliance with CITES and combating IUU fishing.
Livelihood	Promotes sustainable fishing practices for the longevity of shark populations and fisheries sector, aiding in the development of alternative livelihoods for coastal communities.
Political	Demonstrates political will for marine biodiversity conservation, integrates policy, enhances international relations , and boosts domestic engagement in marine conservation issues.

Role of BOBP in NPOA-Shark



Inadequate management will necessitate stringent protection measures and regulations – that will lead to more conflicts.

Thus, NPOA-Sharks (the Shark Plan) is the first step in right direction...



BOBP For Sustainable Fisheries
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National Plan of Action for Conservation and Management of Sharks in India

Implementation Plan


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Stakeholder Consultation


19 Feb 2024 | Kochi





IPOA-Sharks (1999): Aims of Shark-Plan (1/1)

- Ensure that shark catches from directed and non-directed fisheries are **sustainable**;
- Assess threats to shark populations; determine and protect critical habitats; implement harvesting strategies for biological sustainability and rational long-term economic use;
- Identify and provide special attention to vulnerable or threatened shark stocks;
- Developing frameworks for establishing and coordinating consultation involving all stakeholders in research, management and educational initiatives within and between States;



IPOA-Sharks (1999): Aims of Shark-Plan (1/2)

- Minimize unutilized incidental catches of sharks;
- Contribute to the protection of biodiversity and ecosystem structure and function;
- Minimize waste and discards from shark catches;
- Encourage full use of dead sharks;
- Facilitate improved species-specific catch and landings data and monitoring of shark catches;
- Facilitate the identification and reporting of species-specific biological and trade data.

Development of NPOA-Sharks-India: *The Process*

- Preparation has gone through a long and arduous process
- Developed in a participatory mode, with the active engagement of a range of stakeholders
- Source of Information
 - *Exploratory survey data from FSI*
 - *Commercial fishery data from ICAR-CMFRI*
 - *Information on international fishery and trade dimensions of shark from FAO database*
 - *Shark trade data from MPEDA*
 - *Literature review*
 - *ICAR-CMFRI “Guidance on National Plan of action for Sharks in India”*
 - *NPOA of other countries*

BOBP-IGO in cooperation with the Association of Deep Sea Going Artisanal Fishers (ADSGAF) initiated the ‘National Mission on Conservation of Sharks’

Under the Mission, 8 consultations, one in each coastal State involving representatives of DoF of Central/State/UT Governments, academia, NGOs and Community-based Organizations (CBOs).

Scope of NPOA- Sharks

- NPOA-Sharks is an **operational plan**.
- **Umbrella document** providing the Plan of Action under thematic areas
- **To be customized** to address specific requirements (of States/communities/fishery types/species) for taking management actions
- Cannot be viewed in isolation; **to be linked** to other related instruments
- Will be reviewed and **revised** (at least once in 5 years)



Scope of NPOA – Sharks (continued)

- In the NPOA, Sharks are defined as all species in the Class Chondrichthyes: true sharks, rays, guitarfishes & chimaeras
- Applies to species within India's EEZ, species that migrate to Indian EEZ, species captured by India-flagged vessels in the High Seas
- Stakeholder-centric

Considerations for the Preparation of NPOA

(i) Issues in shark fisheries in India

(ii) Setting up a fisheries MCS

(iii) Principles of EAFM and Co-management

(iv) Livelihood & Trade

(iv) Research needs and improved data collection

(v) Precautionary approach

Eight Necessities for Sustainable Shark Fisheries

- (i) Legal, institutional and management framework requirements
- (ii) Human resources and capacity building requirements
- (iii) Data collection and management requirements
- (iv) Scientific research requirements
- (v) Options for regulating fishing
- (vi) Encouraging full utilization of dead sharks
- (vii) Biodiversity and ecological considerations
- (viii) Regional cooperation

Principles

- Ecological Well-being
- Human Well-being
 - Facilitated by Good Governance

(i) Legal, Institutional & Management Framework



- Acceptance and **Notification** on the Implementation of NPOA-Sharks
- **Enactment of law** for waters between 12 and 200 nm
- **Revisiting MFRA**s considering contemporary challenges
- **Joint Policy Paper** by MOFAH&D and MOEF&CC on balancing sustainable harvesting and conservation
- Setting up of **Coordination Committee** - MOFAH&D, MOEF&CC, Min Commerce & Industry, Min Defence, DoF of Coastal States & UTs, research organisations, fisher associations - for monitoring, harmonizing & reporting progress of NPOA-Sharks
- Developing formal mechanism for **stakeholder engagement**, with representation from various sections including women
- **Reviewing shark trade policy** in view of the requirements stipulated under international agreements such as CITES, and the livelihood needs of fishers
- Setting up of an effective **MCS system**

Setting up of MCS framework (1 to 36 months)

1. **Notification** on Implementation of the National Plan of Action on Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (NPOA-MCS)
2. **Setting up of MCS Division** at the Central level (MoA&FW) and in each coastal State and UT for effective implementation of the scheme
3. Establishment and maintenance of systems for acquisition, storage and dissemination of **MCS data**
4. Promotion of industry understanding of the need for, and their cooperative participation in MCS activities to **prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing**.
5. Planning and provision of **funds** for MCS operations.
6. Provision of **training and education** to all persons involved in MCS operations
7. Implementation of **log book system**
8. Maintenance of **records of all fishing vessels, boat building yards**, their operation and construction of boats

Human resources and capacity building requirements (06 – 12 months)

1. Improving the skills of field investigators in taxonomy and data collection
2. Awareness building of fishermen and leadership building for monitoring fisheries activities, conservation needs, reporting; and preparation of awareness materials
3. Training programme on the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management, Co-Management, and International Agreements/Arrangements
4. Value addition in shark products



Data collection and management requirement

- Developing, Implementing & Coordinating data collection framework and dissemination mechanism
 - Exploratory Surveys
 - Commercial fisheries (including data declaration through logbook)
 - Biological data
 - Bycatch
 - Incidental capture
 - Trade

Scientific research requirements (04 – 36 months)

1. Preparation of **Shark Assessment Report**
2. Publication of the National **Shark Identification Kit or Guide**
3. Developing & Evaluating methodology and indicators for **rapid assessment** of status of different shark species to assess and monitor the Shark-Plan for its effectiveness
4. Revalidating species listing under different **vulnerability categories**; and revise the status, if necessary
5. Identifying shark **hotspots** and congregating zones (habitat mapping)
6. Developing DNA sequences of all species; establishing **DNA referral library**
7. Developing effective shark **by-catch reduction** measures
8. Research on **value addition** of shark products

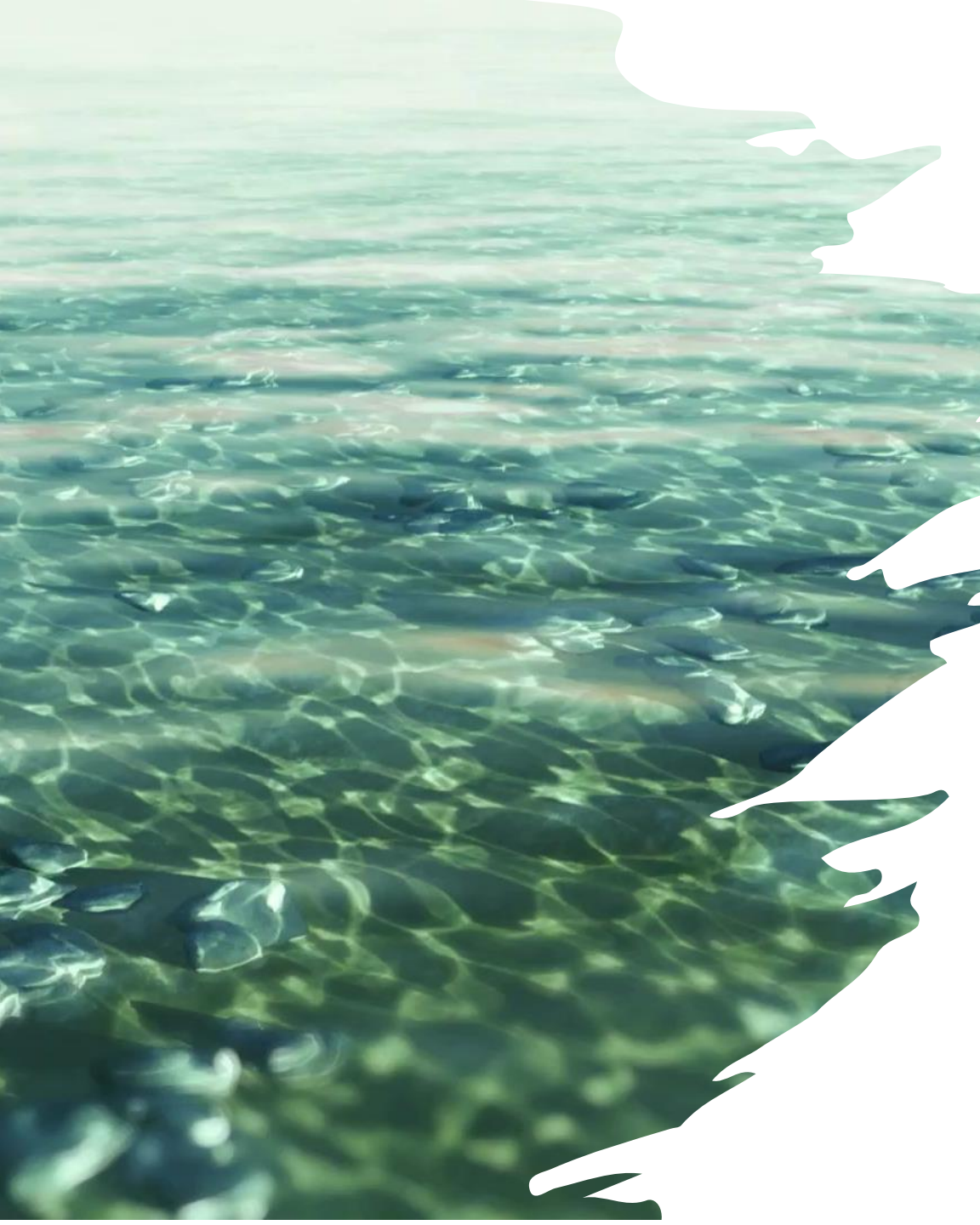
Options for regulating fishing

- Encouraging fishermen to follow gear regulation and effort control through awareness building
- Ensuring effective implementation of MCS measures by community participation
- Identifying, in consultation with the fishermen and research institutions, shark breeding grounds and season(s) and encouraging them to avoid these places through awareness building or through seasonal and area closure
- Ensuring that management arrangements for target shark species include precautionary management
- Developing mechanism for certification of products to avoid illegal trade on protected species



Encouraging full utilization of sharks

- Sharks are usually fully utilized in India
- Posters to be placed in the fishing harbours and fish landing centres of the condition of the fish which can be finned and exported without any detrimental impact
- Encouraging value addition in shark products.



Biodiversity and ecosystem considerations (6 to 36 months)

- Adopting **EAFM**
- Improving monitoring of **anthropogenic impact** on fisheries resources and habitats
- Encouraging research on **impact of climate change and pollution** on ecosystem
- Improving **monitoring of reefs** and reef-based fisheries discourage using reef for dumping.
- Encouraging **eco-tourism** with the active participation and building of entrepreneurial skill among marginalized local communities, including fishermen.
- Considering developing and regular updating of **ecosystem health indicators**.

Building regional cooperation (6 – 36 months)



Contributing towards development of RPOA-Sharks



Developing regional collaborative research and information exchange protocols



Reporting to IOTC/FAO/CITES on the progress of NPOA-Sharks



Building required political environment in support of regional action through regional forums

Approximate cost of implementation

First 3 years

4th & 5th year (Assessing & Adapting)

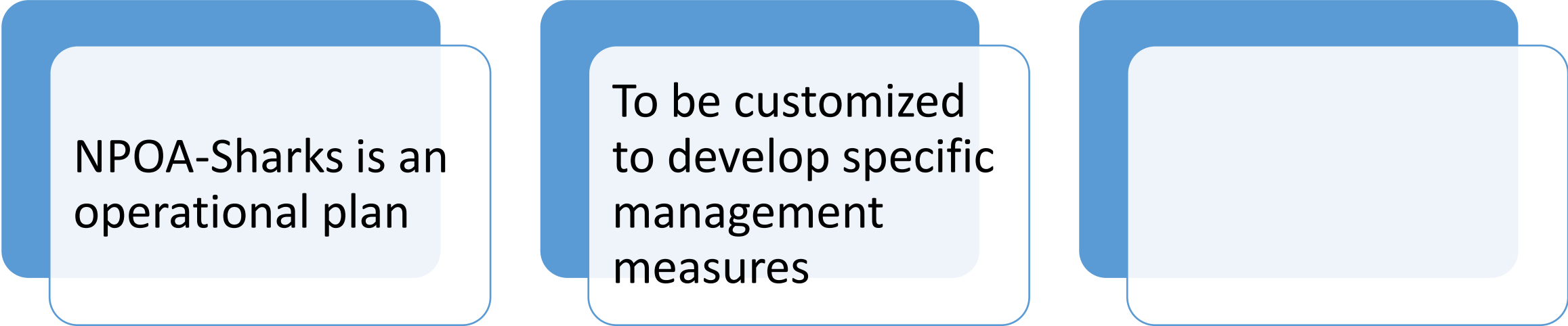


Rs 35.5
crores



Implementation Framework

- An Implementation Framework with the following details provided in the NPOA – Sharks document:
 - Description of activity
 - Responsible agency/Person
 - Indicators of Progress
 - Associated Actions/Issues/Risks
 - Approximate cost of implementing each activity



NPOA-Sharks is an operational plan

To be customized
to develop specific
management
measures

THANK YOU

