



SPATIAL MANAGEMENT OF SHARKS AND RAYS WORKSHOP

Amazwi South Africa Museum of Literature | Makhanda | 15 September 2025

Hosted by the South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity (SAIAB), Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) Western Indian Ocean Shark Program, and Nelson Mandela University (NMU)

Facilitator: Prof. Mandy Lombard – Nelson Mandela University

AGENDA

Time	Agenda item
09:30	Opening of workshop and round of introductions (<i>all</i>)
09:40	Overview of plan, objectives and outputs of workshop (<i>Facilitators</i>)
09:50	Interactive mind-mapping session on threats to shark and ray conservation status , and identifying opportunities for improvement; drawing out the potential role of marine protected areas (MPAs) for shark and ray conservation and management (<i>Interactive exercise 1</i>)
10:20	Informative presentations - Status of sharks and rays in southern Africa: <i>Dr Sven Kerwath (Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, 10 minutes)</i> - Strategic conservation plan for sharks and rays in South Africa: <i>Nina Faure-Beaulieu (Nelson Mandela University, 10 minutes)</i> - Effectiveness of MPAs for sharks and the requirements for an enabling environment (based on Global Fingerprint Project BRUV data): <i>Dr Jordan Goetze (Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australian government, 20 minutes)</i>
11:00	Tea/coffee break
11:30	Informative presentations (continued) (5 minutes each) - Important Shark and Ray Areas (ISRAs) and how they can inform spatial management for sharks and rays in southern Africa: <i>Dr Ryan Daly (Oceanographic Research Institute)</i> - Transboundary Conservation Areas (TBCAs) and their potential for the conservation of sharks and rays: <i>Nakia Cullain (Marine Megafauna Foundation)</i> - Protection offered by the current WIO MPA network and the need for improved MPA coverage for sharks and rays in the WIO: <i>Dr Chantel Elston (Oceanographic Research Institute)</i> - South African National Parks MPAs: <i>Dr Alison Kock (SANParks representative)</i> - CapeNature MPAs: <i>Pierre de Villiers (CapeNature representative)</i> - Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency MPAs: <i>Sisanda Mayekiso (ECPTA representative)</i> - iSimangaliso MPA: <i>Dr Riaan Cedras (iSimangaliso Wetland Park Authority representative)</i> - MPA effects on shark and ray abundance in South Africa (BRUV data): <i>Dr Anthony Bernard (NRF-SAIAB)</i> - Pipeline Shark and Ray sanctuary areas in SA <i>Dr Jennifer Olbers (WILDTRUST)</i>

12:15	Interactive mind-mapping session on MPAs for shark and ray conservation and management: status, threats, needs, opportunities, actions (<i>Interactive exercise 2</i>)
12:45	Discussion on Interactive exercise 2
13:00	Lunch break
14:00	Plenary discussions, potential questions for discussion - Can MPAs work for protection of sharks and rays in Southern Africa, and should we pursue these as a conservation and management tool? - What factors make MPAs work or not for sharks/rays? - How to align with Global Biodiversity Framework Target 3: 30x30 and how to ensure these accommodate sharks and rays? - What types of spatial management are countries supportive of (e.g. MPAs, OECMs, LMMAs), so national efforts can align? - Do ISRAs have value and should these be used to guide national spatial planning processes? - In which sites/areas should spatial efforts in southern Africa be focussed? - Is there a preference for targeting high diversity areas or critical habitats for individual species? - What are the key threats, when it comes to spatial management for sharks and rays? - What are the key lessons learned with spatial management for sharks and rays (southern Africa and global)? - What are the next steps, recommended actions, and opportunities (to inform action plan)? - What are the current/planned initiatives in each country that spatial efforts for sharks and rays could build on (e.g. 30x30) - Considerations to not rely solely on spatial protections - how to build a well-managed, enabling environment outside of MPAs
14:50	MPA representatives: - What are the main threats to your MPA/s? - What are your main challenges? - What are your primary needs (financial, data, communication, capacity)? - What are your recommendations for improvement of these MPAs for sharks and rays?
15:15	Defining workshop outputs: - Action plan, with SMART outputs (who, when, how, format), drawn up based on this workshop, and shared with participants for comment/input - Potential policy brief (include action plan as appendix), scientific paper, or both - Other recommendations and suggestions
15:45	Wrap up and next steps
16:00	Closure of workshop
16:00	8th Southern African Shark and Ray Symposium Registration
17:30	Ice-breaker function