

What future for West Africa's sharks?

Conservation Cinema No. 419

Background:

This documentary highlights the alarming decline in shark numbers off West Africa and the impacts on the region's fisheries. Intensive fishing of skates and sharks to supply fins for the Asian market is partly responsible for the collapse, compounded by the species' biology—they are slow to grow and reproduce, making them vulnerable to exploitation.

The film describes the development of the selacean (skates and sharks) fishery in the area covered by the Sub-regional Fisheries Commission in West Africa. The fishery has never been profitable and the fishermen are now in debt and must find a new source of income. The film is part of a project to implement the Sub-regional Shark Action Plan to be carried out by the Member States of the Commission.

With funding support from the International Foundation for the Banc d'Arguin (FIBA), this project helps countries which are engaged in conservation and sustainable management measures for skate and shark stocks.

Produced by FIBA/OCEANIUM, 2007, French/English/Woloff, 26 min.

Where:

Tuesday 7 October 11:15-11:45 room 450

Thursday 9 October 10:30-11:00 room 450

Spokespersons:

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The world's oldest and largest global environmental network, IUCN is a democratic membership union with more than 1,000 government and NGO member organizations, and almost 11,000 volunteer scientists and experts in some 160 countries. IUCN's work is supported by over 1,000 professional staff in 60 offices and hundreds of partners in public, NGO and private sectors around the world. IUCN's headquarters are located in Gland, near Geneva, in Switzerland.

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