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ARTICLE

Exploring the Decline of Shark Populations in Santiago Island, Cabo Verde: Insights From Local Fishers' Knowledge and Perspectives

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[Correction to “Exploring the Decline of Shark Populations in Santiago Island, Cabo Verde: Insights From Local Fishers' Knowledge and Perspectives”](#)

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ABSTRACT

Cabo Verde is a well-known marine megafauna biodiversity hotspot in the Eastern Atlantic Ocean. As a Small Island Developing State, fishing is one of its most important economic activities and a major source of animal protein. Yet, the interaction and impacts of the artisanal fisheries on shark species are poorly known in this region. To fill this gap, between April and June 2024, we conducted 152 face-to-face interviews with fishers from the 10 main fishing communities on Santiago Island, Cabo Verde. Most respondents (95%) reported the presence of sharks in their fishing grounds all year round (59%) and at certain times of the year (41%). Eighty-five percent indicated that they catch sharks, but the majority (63%) said they do so unintentionally. The catch is made up of at least 18 species of sharks, almost all of which are threatened with extinction, according to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature. Most fishers (80%) had noticed a reduction in the number of sharks over the last 15 years, attributing the

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the fishers interviewed declared that they do not support shark conservation. Although fishers are valuable sources of information, the present results also show the need to improve fisher's perceptions of sharks and involve them in decision-making processes and management measures to reduce the impacts of artisanal fishing on endangered species.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

Open Research

Data Availability Statement

The data that support this article can be found online at <https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.28909199.v2>.

Supporting Information

Filename	Description
aqc70167-sup-0001-Supplementary_Figure.docx Word 2007 document , 15.5 MB	Figure S1 Photographs provided by local NGOs and fishers as proof of the shark species caught. (A) <i>Sphyrna lewini</i> (Santa Cruz), (B) <i>Ginglymostoma cirratum</i> (Tarrafal), (C) <i>Prionace glauca</i> (Rincão), (D) <i>Carcharhinus limbatus</i> (Cidade Velha), (E) <i>Galeocerdo cuvier</i> (Santa Cruz), (F) <i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i> (Tarrafal), (G,H) possibly <i>Carcharhinus falciformis</i> or <i>Carcharhinus leucas</i> (Porto Mosquito), (I) <i>Alopias</i> spp. (Santa Cruz), and (J) <i>Hexanchus griseus</i> (Porto Mosquito).
aqc70167-sup-0002-Supplementary_Tables.docx Word 2007 document , 29 KB	Table S1 Socio-demographic profile of the fishers interviewed. Table S2 General information about the fishers interviewed. Table S3 List of species caught and identification numbers by fishers in each fishing community on the island of Santiago, Cabo Verde. Species highlighted in bold have higher than 15 identifications (SD: standard deviation). Current global IUCN Red List of Threatened status (EN,

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endangered; NI, near threatened; VU, vulnerable); CITES (Ap. I, Appendix I; Ap. II, Appendix II), CMS and National protection status (Decree-Law no. 8/2022 of 6th April; NP, not protected).

Table S4 Complete list of sharks protected by Cabo Verdean legislation (Decree-Law no. 8/2022 of 6 April) and their respective conservation status.

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