



Evidence cards

One card per group

Card A: Pacoureaux and others, Nature, 2021

Researchers combined 57 long-term abundance records for 18 oceanic shark and ray species with Red List assessments of all 31 oceanic species. Since 1970, their global abundance fell by 71%, while relative fishing pressure rose 18-fold. Three-quarters of the species are now threatened. The authors call for strict prohibitions and science-based catch limits.

Card B: Worm and others, Science, 2024

Researchers estimated shark deaths in fisheries worldwide from 2012 to 2019, combining catch records, observer data and estimates of coastal and illegal fishing, and interviewed experts. Deaths rose from at least 76 to 80 million a year (up to 101 million including unidentified sharks), about 25 million from threatened species. Coastal fisheries, 95% of deaths, rose 4%; open-ocean fisheries fell 7%. Anti-finning laws did not reduce deaths, but regional fishing or retention bans had some success.

What was measured, and how?

What are the main uncertainties?

What should governments do, according to this evidence?
