

Fish stock conservation: prohibition of removing fins of sharks on board vessels

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The committee adopted the report by Elspeth ATTWOOLL (ELDR, UK) broadly approving the proposal under the consultation procedure, subject to a number of amendments. It made a number of drafting changes aimed at clarifying the text and introducing a catch certification system, similar to that used for *Dissostichus*. Whereas the Commission proposal provided for shark products to be transhipped or landed "at the same time", MEPs pointed out that in order for these products to be marketed profitably, it must be possible to land and market each of them separately in different ports, since the markets were different and were to be found all round the world. Pointing out that this was a preventive Regulation without a precedent, the committee called for its implementation to be carefully monitored and for these findings to be presented to the Member States and the European Parliament no later than two years after the Regulation's entry into force. Lastly, it wanted the Regulation to be incorporated into fishing agreements between EU Member States and non-EU countries.