

## QUESTIONS (AND ANSWERS) FOR THE SHARK-HUNT

**How many species of sharks are there in the Mediterranean sea?**

**Less than 20 – more than 40 – over 100 (answer: over 40)**

Great whites, hammerheads, thresher sharks and even manta rays – actually their almost identical “cousins”, the mobulas - live in the Med. The second largest fish in the world lives in this sea too: it’s the giant basking shark whose favourite food is – do not panic! – plankton.

There are over 40 species of sharks in the Med, living close to the coast or in the open sea: from the small catshark to deep water giants. Sharks are at home in Mediterranean waters. Or should we say – they were.

**How many species are at risk with extinction in the Med? 22%-42%-62% (answer: 42%)**

42% of all shark and rays species in the Mediterranean are at risk with extinction. It is the highest percentage in the world. These figures come from IUCN, the World Conservation Union, the largest network for the conservation of Nature. Overfishing, including bycatch (non-target species caught incidentally), is the main cause of decline. There are no catch limits for fished species of Mediterranean sharks and rays. Only three species have received any protection in some countries: white and basking sharks are protected in Croatian and European Community waters, while Malta and Croatia protect the giant devil ray.

**How many signatures have been collected across Europe last year, asking the EU Commission to issue a Plan of Action on sharks?**

**Less than 10.000 –50.000 – over100.000 (answer: over 100.000)**

The Shark Alliance petition closed with an extraordinary success: over 100,000 European citizens asked their Fisheries Ministers to sign for a Plan of Action on sharks. The Plan was approved last April.