**Communiqué**

# Second meeting of the Shark-Plan Representative Group

The Shark-Plan Representative Group (SRG) met for the second time on 26 November 2014 in Canberra.

The SRG meets annually, to review, monitor and report on the implementation of Australia’s Second National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks (Shark-plan 2).

The agenda focused on the reporting of progress against the action items in the plan, as detailed in the plans’ operational strategy. Highlights, achievements and challenges relating to the conservation and management of sharks in Australia were discussed.

Updates were provided by all jurisdictions. Other SRG members also reported on activities relevant to shark management and conservation matters from their perspective.

The Chair, Heather Brayford commended the group on the positive progress being made on the actions in Shark‑plan 2 over the last two years, noting updates often focussed primarily on challenges, however many positive outcomes were also being achieved across all jurisdictions, such as the implementation of formal management strategies and recovery plans, enhanced data collection and surveys, and improved information on shark and ray handling.

The group also discussed a number of communication matters, including steps to enhance communication, and openness and transparency on the progress of actions under the plan.

Membership of SRG includes representatives from the Northern Territory and state fisheries agencies, the Australian Fisheries Management Authority, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of the Environment, the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation, commercial and recreational fishers, shark scientists and environmental
non-government organisations.

The next meeting of the SRG will be held in late 2015.

 Further information on sharks and Shark-plan 2 is available on the Department of Agriculture’s website: [www.agriculture.gov.au/fisheries/environment/sharks](http://www.agriculture.gov.au/fisheries/environment/sharks).