Supplementary Table 4: Summary of the responses of fishers and boat owners to the interview questionnaire. The total sample size and respondent category (fishers or boat owners) are provided for each question, as well as the sample sizes for the most frequent responses. Likert scale values are provided in the Remarks column, wherever applicable. Instances where the respondent did not know or was unable to provide an answer are marked as NA.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Question** | **Sample size and respondent category** | **Average or most frequent response** | **Range or other responses** | **Remarks** |
| **(1) BACKGROUND INFORMATION** | | | | |
| **Age** | 16  (Fishers & Boat Owners) | 45.8 | 27-65 |  |
| **Education level** | 16  (Fishers & Boat Owners) | 5th - 10th Grade (n=4); Passed 12th Grade (n=4) | 1st Grade - Graduation |  |
| **No. of trawlers owned** | 11  (Boat Owners) | 2 | 1 - 5 boats |  |
| **Years spent in this business around Malvan** | 16  (Fishers & Boat Owners) | 18.3 | 1 - 40 years |  |
| **Peak months of catch** | 16  (Fishers & Boat Owners) | Sept - Nov (n=5) | Aug - Dec |  |
| **Low months of catch** | 16  (Fishers & Boat Owners) | Jan, Feb, May (n=5) | Dec - May |  |
| **Maximum fishing range**  **(North - South)** | 7  (Fishers) | Ratnagiri – Goa (n=7) |  |  |
| **Avg. fishing days/month** | 16  (Fishers & Boat Owners) | 28 | 18-30 |  |
| **(2) CATCHES AND TRENDS OF SHARKS AND RAYS** | | | | |
| **Sharks (all species)** | | | | |
| **Avg. catch per day** | 7  (Fishers) | 5 - 10 (n=3) | 0-5 (n=2);  10-20 (n=1);  Variable (n=1) |  |
| **Season of capture** | 7  (Fishers) | Post-monsoon (n=4) |  | Varied responses obtained |
| **Fishing grounds/depths** | 7  (Fishers) | Variable |  |  |
| **Main gear of capture** | 7  (Fishers) | Benthic nets (n=3); Pelagic nets (n=3) | Other (n=1) |  |
| **Catch trends over 10 years** | 7  (Fishers) | Decreased (n=7) |  | -2 (n=3) and -1 (n=4) on the Likert Scale |
| **Rays (all species)** | | | | |
| **Avg. catch per day** | 7  (Fishers) | 0-5 (n=4) | 5-10 (n=2) |  |
| **Season of capture** | 7  (Fishers) | Variable |  |  |
| **Fishing grounds/depths** | 7  (Fishers) | Variable |  |  |
| **Main gear of capture** | 7  (Fishers) | Benthic nets (n=5) | Other (n=1);  NA (n=1) |  |
| **Catch trends over 10 years** | 7  (Fishers) | Decreased (n=7) |  | -2 (n=3) and -1 (n=4) on the Likert Scale |
| **Hammerhead sharks** | | | | |
| **Avg. catch** | 7  (Fishers) | 1-2, if caught (n=2) | 2 per month (n=1); 5-10 per year (n=1); NA (n=3) |  |
| **Season of capture** | 7  (Fishers) | Post-monsoon (n=4) |  |  |
| **Fishing grounds/depths** | 7  (Fishers) | Southern fishing grounds (n=3) |  | Varied responses obtained |
| **Main gear of capture** | 7  (Fishers) | Both benthic and pelagic nets (n=3) | Benthic nets (n=2); Pelagic nets (n=1); NA (n=1) |  |
| **Catch trends over 10 years** | 7  (Fishers) | Decreased (n=7) |  | -2 (n=4) and -1 (n=3) on the Likert Scale |
| **Guitarfish** | | | | |
| **Avg. catch** | 7  (Fishers) | Variable (n=7) |  |  |
| **Season of capture** | 7  (Fishers) | Variable (n=7) |  |  |
| **Fishing grounds/depths** | 7  (Fishers) | NA |  | Fishers were not able to provide a response for this |
| **Main gear of capture** | 7  (Fishers) | Both benthic and pelagic nets (n=3) | Benthic nets (n=1);  NA (n=3) |  |
| **Catch trends over 10 years** | 7  (Fishers) | Decreased (n=6) |  | -2 (n=5), -1 (n=1) and 0 (n=1) on the Likert Scale |
| **Reasons for changes in elasmobranch catches** | 16  (Fishers & Boat Owners) | Poor fishing practices (n=11) | Overfishing (5); Environmental (4); |  |
| **C. IMPACTS OF AND OPINIONS ON THE PROPOSED MANAGEMENT MEASURES** | | | | |
| **Avoidance: Spatio-Temporal Closure** | | | | |
| **Shark and ray populations** | 7  (Fishers) | Will increase (n=6) | No difference (n=1) | +2 (n=2), +1 (n=4) and 0 (n=1) on the Likert Scale |
| **Target fish populations** | 7  (Fishers) | Will increase (n=3); No difference (n=3) | NA (n=1) | +2 (n=1), +1 (n=2) and 0 (n=3) on the Likert Scale |
| **Profits** | 11  (Boat Owners) | Will decrease (n=5); No difference (n=5) | Will increase (n=1) | -2 (n=2), -1 (n=3), 0 (n=5), +2 (n=1) on the Likert Scale |
| **Overall Opinion** | 16  (Fishers & Boat Owners) | Negative (n=6) | Positive (n=5); NA (n=5) | -2 (n=4), -1 (n=2), +1 (n=4) and +2 (n=1) on the Likert Scale |
| **Minimization: Benthic Net Restriction** | | | | |
| **Shark and ray populations** | 7  (Fishers) | Will increase (n=5) | NA (n=2) | +2 (n=1) and +1 (n=4) on the Likert Scale |
| **Target fish populations** | 7  (Fishers) | Will increase (n=4) | NA (n=3) | +1 (n=3) and 0 (n=1) on the Likert Scale |
| **Profits** | 11  (Boat Owners) | Will decrease (n=9) | No difference (n=2) | -2 (n=3), -1 (n=6), and 0 (n=2) on the Likert Scale |
| **Overall Opinion** | 16  (Fishers & Boat Owners) | Negative  (n=4) | Positive (n=3);  No difference (n=1);  NA (n=8) | -1 (n=4), 0 (n=1) and +1 (n=3) on the Likert Scale |
| **Remediation: BRDs** | | | | |
| **Shark and ray populations** | 7  (Fishers) | NA (n=5) | Will increase (n=2) | Fishers were not able to quantify this |
| **Target fish populations** | 7  (Fishers) | NA (n=5) | Will increase (n=1);  No difference (n=1) | Fishers were not able to quantify this |
| **Profits** | 11  (Boat Owners) | Will decrease (n=6) | No difference (n=2);  Will increase (n=2);  NA (n=1) | -2 (n=2), -1 (n=4), 0 (n=2) and +2(n=2) on the Likert Scale |
| **Overall Opinion** | 16  (Fishers & Boat Owners) | Positive  (n=9) | Negative (n=3);  NA (n=4) | -1 (n=3), +1 (n=6) and +2 (n=3) on the Likert Scale |
| **Remediation: Safe Release** | | | | |
| **Shark and ray populations** | 7  (Fishers) | Will increase (n=4) | NA (n=3) | +1 (n=4) on the Likert Scale |
| **Target fish populations** | 7  (Fishers) | No impact |  |  |
| **Profits** | 11  (Boat Owners) | Will decrease (n=5) | No difference (n=4);  NA (n=2) | -1 (n=5) and 0 (n=4) on the Likert Scale |
| **Overall Opinion** | 16  (Fishers & Boat Owners) | Positive  (n=13) | No difference (1); NA (2) | 0 (n=1), +1 (n=11) and +2 (n=2) on the Likert Scale |
| **Preferred Option** | 16  (Fishers & Boat Owners) | Safe Release (n=8) | BRDs (4); Closure (1); Other (1);  NA (2) |  |