Supplementary Table 1A: Interview questions asked of fishers in Malvan. Responses to questions 24-27, 33-35 and 38 were quantified by fishers using a visual Likert scale (Supplementary Figure 1)

**Demographics, background and fishing behaviour:**

1. Name:
2. Age:
3. Where are you from?
4. What is your highest level of education?
5. What type of fishing do you do? If more than one, how much time (days/trips) do you spend doing each?
6. How many years have you been fishing? How many years in/around Malvan?
7. Are you the captain of your vessel? If yes, for how many years?
8. Can you describe the fishing season – what do you target when, where and with what gear?
9. What are the peak and low months of fish catch?
10. What are your top 4-5 target species?
11. On average, how much of your target species do you catch per day?
12. What are the main fishing grounds where you get maximum catch of the target species?
13. What is the range of your fishing grounds? What is the northern-most and southern-most point?
14. How many days per month do you go fishing?
15. Which month has the most fishing days? And which month has the least?

**Catches and trends in sharks and rays**

1. What do you think about sharks and rays?

i. Food ii. Money iii. No thought iv. Other - specify

1. Do you catch sharks and rays in your net?
2. Can you give me the following details about your shark catch:
   1. How many species do you catch?
   2. Which month (s) are they caught most frequently?
   3. Which fishing grounds?
   4. What type of net?
   5. How many, on average, do you catch per fishing trip?

i. 0-5 ii. 5-10 iii. 10-20 iv. 20-30 v. >30

* 1. Do you retain all sharks? If not, how much do you discard?

1. Can you give me the following details about your ray catch:
   1. How many species do you catch?
   2. Which month (s) are they caught most frequently?
   3. Which fishing grounds?
   4. What type of net?
   5. How many, on average, do you catch per fishing trip?

i. 0-5 ii. 5-10 iii. 10-20 iv. 20-30 v. >30

* 1. Do you retain all rays? If not, how much do you discard?

1. Can you give me the following details about your hammerhead shark catch:
   1. Do you catch hammerhead sharks?
   2. Which month (s) are they caught most frequently?
   3. Which fishing grounds?
   4. What type of net?
   5. How many, on average, do you catch per fishing trip?

i. 0-5 ii. 5-10 iii. 10-20 iv. 20-30 v. >30

* 1. Do you retain all hammerheads? If not, how much do you discard?

1. Can you give me the following details about your guitarfish catch:
   1. Do you catch guitarfish?
   2. Which month (s) are they caught most frequently?
   3. Which fishing grounds?
   4. What type of net?
   5. How many, on average, do you catch per fishing trip?

i. 0-5 ii. 5-10 iii. 10-20 iv. 20-30 v. >30

* 1. Do you retain all guitarfish? If not, how much do you discard?

1. Do you know of any fishing grounds where:
   1. Sharks come to give birth/lay eggs?
   2. Rays come to give birth/lay eggs?
   3. Juvenile sharks are found?
   4. Juvenile rays are found?
2. Can you give me the following details of your last fishing trip:
   1. How many days was the fishing trip?
   2. Where did you go?
   3. What gear did you use?
   4. Did you catch any sharks? If yes, how many?
   5. Did you catch any rays? If yes, how many?
   6. Did you catch any hammerheads? If yes, how many?
   7. Did you catch any guitarfish? If yes, how many?
3. Over the last 10 years, how has your shark catch changed?
4. Over the last 10 years, how has your ray catch changed?
5. Over the last 10 years, how has your hammerhead catch changed?
6. Over the last 10 years, how has your guitarfish catch changed?
7. Has the species composition of your catches changed over the last 10 years? If yes, how?
8. What do you think are the reasons for all the above changes?
9. Are you concerned in any way about these changes?
10. Do you think there is a need for conservation of sharks and rays?
11. What do you think can be done to reduce catch/protect of sharks and rays?

**Impacts of mitigation measures for elasmobranchs:**

1. If fishing was closed at the south fishing grounds over October and November, what do you think would be its impact on:

i. Target/high-value species populations ii. Shark and ray populations

1. If the benthic net (in which catch of juvenile sharks and rays is higher) was restricted during October and November, what do you think would be its impact on:

i. Target/high-value species populations ii. Shark and ray populations

1. Bycatch Reduction Devices: These are structures attached to your net, that will reduce catch of juvenile fish, sharks and rays by up to 50%, and shrimp catch by 5%. If you use these, what do you think would be its impact on:

i. Target/high-value species populations ii. Shark and ray populations

1. Have you ever released a shark or ray alive back into the water? If yes, how many do you think have survived?
2. Can you suggest any other measures to reduce catch of sharks and rays?
3. What do you think about these reduction measures? How feasible do you think each of them are, and how willing would you be to try them?
   1. Closing fishing grounds for 2 months
   2. Restrict use of the benthic net for 2 months
   3. Using a BRD
   4. Safely releasing the animal back into the water
   5. Other
4. If these measures were introduced, do you think fishers would follow them?
5. How do you think fishers can be made follow these measures?
6. Do you think there are other species that need protection (from fishing)? Which and why?

Supplementary Table 1B: Interview questions asked of boat owners in Malvan. Responses to questions 24-27 and 29 were quantified by respondents using a visual Likert scale (Supplementary Figure 1)

**Demographics, background and fishing behaviour:**

1. Name:
2. Age:
3. Where are you from?
4. What is your highest level of education?
5. Is fishing your only occupation? If no, what are your other sources of income? Which is your main source of income?
6. How many boats do you own? What kind?
7. How many years have you been fishing?
8. Are you also the captain/active fisherman on your trawler? If yes, for how many years?
9. What are your top 4-5 target species?
10. On average, how much of your target species do you catch per day?
11. What are the peak and low months of fishing?
12. How many days per month do you go fishing?
13. Which month has the most fishing effort? And which month has the least?

**Details of costs and revenues:**

1. What is your average expenditure for a fishing trip?
2. What is your average gross income from a fishing trip?
3. Can you tell me the following details of your most recent fishing trip:
   1. What was the total expenditure?
   2. What are the main areas of expense? What is the cost of each?
   3. What was your gross income in this fishing trip?
   4. How many days at sea for this fishing trip?
   5. How far did you travel (in km) and where?
   6. Was this a typical fishing trip? If no, why?

**Impacts of mitigation measures for elasmobranchs:**

1. What do you think about sharks and rays?

i. Food ii. Money iii. No thought iv. Other - specify

1. Do you catch sharks and rays in your fishing boats?
2. At present, what fraction of your income comes from sharks and rays?
3. In your previous fishing trip, how much income did you get from sharks and rays?
4. Have the catches and sizes of sharks and rays changed in the past 10 years? How and why?
5. Are you concerned in any way about these changes?
6. Do you think there is a need for conservation of sharks and rays?
7. What do you think can be done to reduce catch of/protect sharks and rays?
8. If fishing was closed at the south fishing grounds over October and November, how do you think it would affect your catch and your income?
9. If the benthic net (in which catch of juvenile sharks and rays is higher) was restricted during October and November, how do you think it would affect your catch and your income?
10. Bycatch Reduction Devices: These are structures attached to your net, that will reduce catch of juvenile fish, sharks and rays by up to 50%, and shrimp catch by 5%. If you use these, how do you think it would affect your catch and your income?
11. If you had to release all elasmobranchs captured and could not sell them, how do you think it would affect your income?
12. Can you suggest any measures to reduce catch of sharks and rays?
13. What do you think about these reduction measures? How feasible do you think each of them are, and how willing would you be to try them?
    1. Closing fishing grounds for 2 months
    2. Restrict use of the benthic net for 2 months
    3. Using a BRD
    4. Safely releasing the animal back into the water
    5. Others
14. If these measures were introduced, do you think fishers would follow them?
15. How do you think fishers can be made to follow these measures?
16. If you could no longer fish, what would you do for a living? What would make you switch from fishing to that job?