Title:
S-86: In order to reduce shark mortality due to charter fishing practices that keep sharks, and promote mount sales through dockside marketing; ban the keeping of live mounts (i.e. sharks caught for the sole purpose of taxidermy/mounting) of all shark species, and instead, promote proper handling and release techniques.

Background:
- The current taxidermy practice is to throw away the original shark and produce a fiberglass reproduction. No portion of the shark is kept for the fishers trophy. Charter fishing businesses often use a recently caught dead shark dockside to advertise to potential customers, with no intentions of keeping the body of the shark.
- This recommended management action relates to the state of Florida and includes pelagic, ocean, nearshore, and offshore habitats.
- This recommended management action is being put forth in order to address the issue that many sharks that otherwise could be released after being caught are instead suffering mortality. This will increase shark populations and apex predators that are currently overfished.

Objective:
- The intended outcome of this action is to reduce shark mortality through the promotion of proper catch-and-release fishing techniques and to change federal law to ban live mounts. There must be a ban on the practice of taking sharks out of the water to take measurements to make mounts. The law must include language that measurements must be taken in the water with the shark being released immediately (the shark cannot be taken to the dock for measurements). This will not change the ability of a fisherman to take and retain shark species of legal size that can be legally harvested.
- The intended outcome will also be to ensure that this information on proper handling techniques be disseminated to the charter fisherman and local recreational fishing community.
- Develop a public education component to address the issue of proper handling techniques.

Intended Benefits and/or Potential Adverse Effects:
- Benefits of implementation of this recommended management action include an increase in shark populations, which will improve overall ecosystem health.
- Some anticipated negative impacts associated with this recommended management action include that charter fishermen may try to harp on the result that some species of sharks die after release anyway. Charter fishermen will provide pushback.
- The duration of the benefits of this recommended management action are recurring and would require ongoing enforcement.
- If this recommended management action is not implemented, the result will be continued unintended mortality of shark species, which can cause an ecological cascade (trickle down) effect on the ecosystem.

Agencies/ Organizations:
- The lead agency for implementation of this recommended management action would be

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Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC).

- Other potential agencies or organizations who could be involved include non-governmental organizations (NGOs).
- The key stakeholders for this recommended management action would be the charter and recreational fishing industries, which may be opposed, as well as conservation organizations and NGOs, which would likely support this proposal.
- This recommended management action supports current FWC regulations.

**Permitting/ Enforcement Requirements of RMA:**

- There are no permitting requirements for this recommended management action.
- There would be a need for ongoing enforcement efforts for this recommended management action.
- Measurable Outcomes/Success Criteria/Milestones were not referenced in the recommended management action.

**Cost:**

- The estimated direct cost of and potential funding sources associated with implementing this recommended management action have not been identified.

**Time Frame & Extent:**

- The anticipated timeframe for implementation of this recommended management action is 2 years from the time it makes it onto the FWC work plan.

**Miscellaneous Info:**

- This recommended management action is not linked to any other recommended management action.
- There are no known uncertainties or information gaps with this proposed action.
- Supporting and relevant data for this recommended management action were not indicated.
- Currently, FWC is working on a shark outreach campaign that emphasizes safe handling and how to increase survival with catch-and-release shark fishing.

**Goals/ Objectives to be achieved:**

*Refer to the SEFCRI Coral Reef Management Goals and Objectives Reference Guide*

- Goals and Objectives were not identified within this recommended management action.