



Shark Trust position on angling for *Critically Endangered* species

The Shark Trust has long supported recreational sea-angling, provided the activity is carried out by experienced operators working to high handling standards to ensure the maximum chance of survival for released animals. This collaboration has included producing best practice handling guides for sharks, skates and rays, tagging projects, and the recording of catches from around the UK. The Trust recognises that UK shark anglers have a long tradition and culture of catch and release, and that they acknowledge the need for conservation of this endangered group of animals.

When a species has been declared *Critically Endangered* (based on assessment by the IUCN Red List www.iucnredlist.org), the Trust believes it should not be targeted by any group, either commercial or recreational, as any catching of these animals can result in mortality and thus exert further pressure on the population. Species currently listed as Critically Endangered in the Northeast Atlantic are the Porbeagle, Common Skate complex, Angelshark and White Skate.

However the Trust recognises the need for population monitoring, and believes that if angling is carried out in a responsible manner, it can provide a valuable mechanism in this respect. Anglers targeting Critically Endangered species should be experienced, or be under the supervision of an experienced skipper, and best practice catch and release procedures should be followed including accurate recording of catches to provide a valuable dataset. The appropriateness of these activities must be judged on their own merits

This statement is intended to be used in its entirety; as such any part taken out of context is not necessarily representative of the views of the Shark Trust