



COFI Shark Finning Side Event

Hosted by the Government of Costa Rica

Short film presentation by the government of Costa Rica: an illustration of the fins-attached method of landing sharks. Hosted by the Government of Costa Rica with support from Humane Society International.

Time: Thursday, 3 February, 2011

Date: 12:30 pm – 1:45 pm

Place: The Austria Room

At the twenty-eighth session of the Committee on Fisheries in 2009, the Costa Rican delegation recommended a workshop on the fins-attached method of landing sharks. This recommendation was endorsed by ten other Latin American delegations. (COFI/2011/Inf.7 Doc, Recommendation vii)

Having adopted legislation in 2004 that requires fins to remain attached to carcasses in the natural way, the government of Costa Rica has considerable practical experience of the day-to-day implementation of this law, which it offered to share with other members of COFI.

In 2010, Costa Rica organised a "fins-attached" workshop in Puntarenas, the country's largest port. It was attended by delegates from twelve countries in the Latin American region. In addition to discussing the technical aspects of implementing the fins-attached method of landing sharks, delegates were taken to the docks to witness for themselves the landing of deep-frozen sharks with their fins naturally attached (with a partial cut to facilitate storage of frozen sharks).

A short video was produced which includes parts of the workshop and a visit to the docks for a technical demonstration. Delegates to COFI 2011 are cordially invited to view and discuss this film.