

The Beibu Gulf Declaration on Global Horseshoe Crab Conservation

2019.6.20

Beihai, Guangxi, China

From June 15th to 20th 2019, the 4th International Workshop on the Science and Conservation of Horseshoe Crabs was held in Qinzhou and Beihai, two coastal cities in the Beibu Gulf in Guangxi and an important gateway of China's "the belt and road initiative". More than 140 representatives from 18 countries and regions gathered at the workshop to share their research, conservation practices and public engagement cases on horseshoe crabs; to discuss ideas about horseshoe crab conservation strategies; and to plan for the future of a co-existence of humans and horseshoe crabs.

In order to promote better research, conservation and education on horseshoe crabs, the planning committee, all parties and participants of this workshop have reached a consensus to announce this declaration in the Beibu Gulf in Guangxi (Qinzhou and Beihai), China:

We call for **strengthening of policy making and better enforcement**: upgrade the conservation status of horseshoe crabs in different countries and regions, and promote the revision of relevant laws and policies for better management and conservation; strengthen enforcement efforts on illegal harvesting and trading of horseshoe crabs to reduce direct threats.

We look forward to **more scientific investigations and research**: global distribution, population and habitat status of four horseshoe crabs need long-term scientific investigations, so as to provide evidence for better management and conservation.

We advocate **sustainable management of horseshoe crabs**: TAL/LAL industries should regulate their blood extraction procedures to reduce mortality rates of harvested horseshoe crabs, and release properly afterward; horseshoe crab utilization should be greatly reduced or stopped in areas where horseshoe crab populations are in crisis; “No Horseshoe Crab Consumption Campaigns” should be promoted in crisis areas to educate people not to eat or to sell horseshoe crabs for food. We should reduce domestic and international trade of horseshoe crabs.

We suggest to **restore natural populations and protect their critical habitats**: In Asia, we encourage more artificial breeding and release to restore fragile natural populations of threatened horseshoe crabs; we shall identify and protect more key habitats for horseshoe crabs to breed, hatch, and grow up, and we shall promote the establishment and better management of more horseshoe crab reserves.

We will **promote public and multi-party participation in horseshoe crab conservation**: we shall carry out more public education or participatory activities to deepen the public and stakeholders' understanding of horseshoe crab conservation, and encourage their engagement in conservation actions. We hope everyone can become "horseshoe crab ambassadors".

Finally, we hope that all parties will actively carry out public outreach activities all around the world on "International Horseshoe Crab Day" (June 20th every year, proposed by IUCN Horseshoe Crab Specialist Group on June 20th, 2019 in Beihai) to contribute for the collective conservation efforts of the four horseshoe crab species.

Shǒu Hòu Dì Qiú! “Hòu Huì Yǒu Qī”! (守鲨地球! 鲨会有期!)
(Means: Conserve horseshoe crabs in the world. Let us wish the
best for horseshoe crabs!)

全球鲨鱼保护北部湾宣言

2019.6.20

【正文版】

2016年6月15-20日，第四届国际鲨鱼科学与保护研讨会在中国“一带一路”倡议的重要门户——广西北部湾重要城市钦州市和北海市举办。研讨会上18个国家和地区的140多名代表聚集一堂，分享各自关于鲨鱼的研究进展、保护实践和公众教育案例，探讨鲨鱼对自然、对人类的重要性以及鲨鱼保护的实际解决方案，集思广益为鲨鱼及其栖息地的保护出谋献策。

为了更好的推动鲨鱼的研究、保护和公众教育，会议组织委员会、各支持单位和参会代表达成共识，希望加强交流与合作，共同发布此宣言。

我们呼吁**加强立法和执法**：联合多方之力，推动保育鲨的法规政策的修订，提升鲨鱼的法律保护地位；加强打击鲨的非法捕捞和非法贸易的力度，从而减少鲨鱼因此遭受的直接威胁。

我们期待**更广泛的科学调查与研究**：全球加强鲨鱼野外种群及其栖息地的长期、科学调查，以全面了解世界各地鲨的种群分布、数量变化趋势及栖息地现状，助力鲨鱼及其栖息地的研究和保护、以及自然资源管理。

我们提倡**鲨鱼资源的可持续管理**：规范鲨鱼试剂产业对野生鲨鱼资源的利用，减少采血过程中鲨鱼的损伤与死亡，并科学放归；在鲨鱼种群急剧下降的地区大幅减少鲨鱼的利用或暂不利用；不吃鲨鱼，不卖鲨鱼，推动“不吃鲨鱼消费倡导行动”。我们还呼吁减少任何国内或国际的鲨鱼贸易。

我们建议**恢复鲨鱼种群并保护其栖息地**：在亚洲地区促进鲨鱼的增殖放流，以恢复脆弱的野生种群；并识别更多鲨鱼的关键栖息地，促进鲨鱼栖息地的保护，推动鲨鱼保护区的建立和有效管理。

我们将**促进公众与多方参与鲨鱼保护**：通过开展各种公众参与和公众教育活动，加深公众和各利益相关方对鲨鱼的认识和重视，促进公众和社会各界参与鲨鱼保护行动，鼓励人人都成为“守鲨大使”。

最后，我们正式宣布每年的6月20日为“国际鲨鱼日”（IUCN 鲨鱼专家组于2019年6月20日在北海提出，所有与会人员通过），全球各地能够积极开展各种鲨鱼保护的宣传和公众活动，共同推动全球四种鲨鱼的保护。

守鲨地球！鲨鱼会有期！