



Join Doctoral Studies

PhD THESIS

Ioannis Giovos

**Evaluation and strengthening the management policies of
elasmobranchs in the Mediterranean**

MESOLONGI-PADOVA 2025

3 Abstract

4 This PhD thesis examines and refines the management policies of elasmobranchs
5 (sharks, rays, and chimaeras) in the Mediterranean Sea, a region considered a hotspot for
6 their diversity and extinction risk. The study addresses key knowledge gaps in
7 conservation, including species identification, fisheries management, legislative
8 frameworks, and spatial conservation strategies. Through the synthesis of literature
9 reviews, biodiversity databases, citizen science, and field surveys, the thesis generates
10 the first national checklists of species for Greece and Cyprus, providing important
11 references to conservation planning. It identifies challenges in aggregating data in
12 fisheries reporting and proposes a more effective scheme to enhance species-specific
13 monitoring. The research also considers the patchwork legal regime, identifying
14 inconsistencies and overlaps in international, regional, and national policy. Case studies
15 illustrate fundamental issues such as unlawful fishing, mislabeling, and underreporting
16 and present the need for harmonised enforcement and intersectoral coordination. Spatial
17 conservation techniques such as Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and systematic
18 planning strategies are examined to protect crucial habitats. Adaptive, evidence-based
19 policies, extended monitoring, and stakeholder participation are encouraged within the
20 thesis to attain long-term sustainability of Mediterranean shark, rays and chimaeras
21 populations.

22 ***Keywords: elasmobranchs, conservation policies, fisheries management, biodiversity,***
23 ***Marine Protected Areas, citizen science, illegal fishing, Mediterranean Sea***