



Government of India
Ministry of Environment and Forests
(Wildlife Division)

Paryavaran Bhawan
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road
New Delhi-110003

F. No. 4-29/2010/WL- I

Dated: 16th May 2011

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Sub: Submission of information for the 25th meeting of the Animals Committee of CITES.

Sir,

Reference is invited to the notification no. 2010/027 dated 24th August 2010 on the above subject, inviting the parties to submit documents for discussion at the 25th meeting of the Animal Committee. As per the notification, India's position on the identified subject matters is as under:

1. Sharks:

India's report on trade: In India, Elasmobranchs are mainly caught as by-catch by different fishing and trawling gear and India occupies the third position among Asian countries in Elasmobranch landings. The Management of shark fisheries in India is moving up steadily, and now includes collection of accurate data on catch, species composition, biological parameters, and species identification, etc. However, there has been an increasing demand for shark fins that have become one of the world's most precious commodities, both for international as well as domestic clientele. Apart from this, growing trade in shark products like fins, liver oil, cartilage, skin and shark curios such as jaws and teeth, has also played a significant role in increased shark harvests. The annual production trend of Elasmobranchs over the last ten year period indicates that the landing had declined from 64,826 tons in 1999 to 52,777 tons in 2009. The details of estimated landings (in tonnes) of Elasmobranchs in India during 1999-2009 are given in **ANNEXURE – I**.

Most of the Indian shark fin exports are traditionally directed to Hong Kong and Singapore. Recently, new markets have emerged such as the UK, USA, Malaysia, Germany and Taiwan Province of China. However, worldwide awareness programmes have helped us to suspend India's export of shark. An analysis of the export data of shark products from India during the 10 year period (1999-2000 to 2009-10) indicates that there has been a decline in the quantity exported (from 960 t in 1999-2000 to 319 t in 2009-2010) (**ANNEXURE-II**). However, value-wise, there is considerable increase from Rs. 1,180 lakhs (US \$ 2.74 million) in 1999-2000 to Rs. 7,350 lakhs (US \$ 15.5 million) in 2009-2010, and could be attributed to the rise in price of the shark fin products owing to the heavy demand.

:2:

India's report on implementation of National Plans of Actions for sharks or regional plans and other available relevant data and information on the species:

The International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks (IPOA—Sharks) was initiated about a decade back, and several countries have developed National Plan of Action for Sharks (NPOA—Sharks). The Government of India is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme titled 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats' wherein technical and financial assistance is provided to all the State Governments for better protection and conservation of wildlife and their habitats, both within designated Protected Areas as well as those outside the Protected Areas. The Scheme also covers species/habitat specific conservation initiatives which also include protection to marine and fresh water habitats. In addition to this, the Government of India is implementing the National Wildlife Action Plan (2002-2016) and National Biodiversity Action Plan as per the requirements of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Both these Action plans also cover all the protection and conservation measures for marine species including sharks.

Apart from the above, ten out of the known 50-60 shark species found in India, have been listed in the Schedule - I of Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 of the country, viz, *Rhincodon typus* (Whale Shark), *Anoxypristis cuspidate* (Knife tooth sawfish), *Carcharhinus hemidon* (Pondicherry shark), *Glyphis gangeticus* (Ganges Shark), *Glyphis glyphis*, *Himantura fluvialis* (Gangatic Stringray), *Pristis microdon* (Large tooth Saw fish), *Pristis zijsron* (Narrow snout saw fish), *Rhynchobatus djiddensis* (Guitar Fish) and *Urogymus asperrimus* (Porcupine Ray) thereby according them the highest degree of protection. The collection and trade of these species is totally prohibited under the present law in India. Further, the Indian shark species *Pristis zijsron* is also listed in Appendix-I and that of *Rhincodon typus* and *Pristis microdon* are listed in Appendix-II of the CITES.

It is also to mention that the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, a Scientific Management Authority in India, has been facilitating the reporting of specific landings as well as biological data, of the species as also training in species identification to biologists as well as technical staff engaged in collection of fishery data. Further for establishment of abundance indices, stock studies of different shark species are also planned. Recently, India has appointed Sub-focal scientific authority under the Scientific Authority of Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, to frame a plan for conservation of Sharks.

2. Sturgeons

India position: Not applicable as these species are not found in India.

Yours faithfully,


Prakriti Srivastava)

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(Prakriti Srivastava)

Deputy Inspector General (WL)

ANNEXURE - I

**ESTIMATED LANDINGS (IN TONNES) OF ELASMOBRANCHS IN
INDIA DURING 1999-2009**

(Source : CMFRI)

Year	Sharks	Skates	Rays	Total Elasmobranches
1999	40629	2622	21575	64826
2000	47048	2538	21788	71374
2001	33703	2164	20074	55941
2002	36877	2579	19516	58972
2003	29277	2543	25023	56843
2004	35215	3378	19990	58583
2005	26139	3249	16940	46328
2006	29094	3018	18566	50678
2007	26598	2822	16696	46116
2008	26710	3530	18219	48459
2009	29129	3742	19906	52777

ANNEXURE - II

ITEM-WISE EXPORT DETAILS OF SHARK/RAY PRODUCTS

(Source: Marine Products Export Development Authority)

Item	09-10	08-09	07-08	06-07	05-06	04-05	03-04	02-03	01-02	00-01	99-00
Frozen products*	Q	20	53	76	31	11	1	4	437	772	680
	V	20.60	93.83	88.80	40.49	13.63	1.15	3.95	242.67	1062.64	279.88
Dried fins	Q	94	86	71	90	142	176	177	146	248	123
	V	4924.59	2100.39	1022.74	1317.60	1592.82	1457.03	1581.61	1672.16	2058.18	684.48
Dried tail/dog chew**	Q	31	20	35	44	39	73	23	0	3	0
	V	1015.34	681.88	246.70	477.02	348.46	795.86	175.40	0.55	51.30	0.00
Dried skin	Q	120	94	60	15	0	0	0	0	0	0
	V	571.43	265.39	140.47	31.22	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dried shark bones	Q	8	9	24	44	61	18	9	10	87	63
	V	28.86	23.22	40.34	70.88	116.18	19.33	6.43	17.99	55.83	85.74
Dried shark finrays	Q	19	15	23	18	34	41	34	5	28	4
	V	615.58	345.08	371.03	360.21	393.60	517.57	440.79	101.33	153.22	46.95
Dried shark /ray	Q	4	18	62	101	1	59	2	140	370	90
	V	68.40	51.04	114.72	159.35	4.84	109.75	35.13	48.84	167.82	82.42
Dried gill	Q	7	1	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	V	70.08	14.46	30.41	3.33	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dried shark jaws	Q	0	0	2	0	2	0	4	0	0	0
	V	1.81	0.00	3.59	0.35	7.75	0.00	6.51	0.00	0.00	0.00
Dried shark cartilage	Q	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	V	16.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Shark teeth	Q	0	0	18	8	0	5	0	0	0	0
	V	0.77	0.94	4.85	1.68	0.84	15.09	0.73	0.00	0.00	0.00
Squaline (shark oil)	Q	15	57	183	118	169	689	537	4	0	0
	V	14.89	522.35	1,676.57	589.95	344.29	1,388.54	1,168.67	8.48	0.00	0.00
Cooked shark with spice & salt	Q	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	V	0.00	36.95	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.28	0.00	0.00
TOTAL	Q	319	365	554	470	460	1,062	789	744	1,507	960
	V	7,348.55	4,135.53	3,740.21	3,052.06	2,822.40	4,304.34	3,419.23	2,548.75	2,092.31	1,179.46

Q : Quantity in tonnes; V : Value in Rs. Lakhs; *Frozen shark/ ray products comprises :whole shark/ ray, gutted finless shark, shark meat, shark/ ray steak, shark wings, tail and shark/ ray gills ; **Dog chew : made out of ray fish tail