CoP13 Inf. 51 (English only / únicamente en inglés / seulement en anglais) (One per delegation)

Information Paper

Government of Australia

October 2, 2004: A Single Day Snapshot of the Trade in Great White Shark (*Carcharadon carcharias*)

Proposal 32 – CoP13

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This report was prepared for the Australian Government with the kind assistance of William Carroll Muffett, Kelly Malsch and Hugh Barrow of Defenders of Wildlife, Nicola Beynon (Humane Society International), Ramon Bonfil (Wildlife Conservation Society) and others who generously provided input and assistance.

October 2, 2004: A Single Day Snapshot of the Trade

in Great White Shark (Carcharadon carcharias)

Australia and Madagascar have proposed the great white shark (*Carcharadon carcharias*) for inclusion in Appendix II of CITES. There is broad agreement that the great white shark satisfies the biological criteria for Appendix II listing. The great white is a naturally rare species with a low reproductive rate, little resilience to exploitation and evidence of large declines in significant parts of its range.

Nonetheless, some Parties and observers argue that CITES listing is not warranted because the great white shark is not heavily traded. It has been noted that the World Conservation Monitoring Centre has recorded only five great white shark shipments in trade since the species was listed on Appendix III in 2002. Because the Appendix III listing applies only to whole sharks, and not to the jaws, teeth and other body parts that comprise the bulk of the trade, this lack of trade data is neither surprising nor probative. Although the trade in this species is very poorly documented, even cursory research demonstrates that a very large trade in great white shark products exists in many countries around the world. Provided below is a small sampling of great white shark teeth and jaws for sale on the internet on the afternoon of October 2, 2004, as the opening ceremonies of COP 13 began.

- Products available as the COP begins include at least two sets of great white shark jaws, one offered at US\$12,500, the other at US\$8000. Less than one year ago, a pair of great white shark jaws was offered for auction in New Zealand with a minimum price of \$20,000.
- A simple search found hundreds of great white shark teeth available, excluding fossil teeth, with individual specimens priced as high as US\$625.
- In most instances, the offering parties indicate a willingness to ship their products internationally.

Annex 1 to this report provides a window into the demand that underlies important sectors of the global great white shark market. As Annex 1 demonstrates, the international market in shark teeth and jaws is driven not only by curio seekers and tourist souvenirs, as often supposed, but also by sophisticated collectors willing to pay huge prices to augment their collections. It is clear from this information that there is both a substantial demand for great white shark specimens in many countries, and a widespread network of suppliers and retailers willing and able to meet that demand.

It must be emphasized that the evidence below reflects a snapshot of specimens available on just a single day, and only reveals those specimens readily discoverable through simple English-language internet searches using only one of the dozens of synonyms for this species. The total scale of commercial trade in great white sharks will almost certainly be far larger.

I. GREAT WHITE SHARK JAWS FOR SALE--OCTOBER 2, 2004

The jaws of the great white shark are by far the most valuable shark products, with single specimens selling for as much as US\$50,000. Despite these steep prices, demand for great white shark jaws among collectors remains high, and specimens that come on the market are quickly sold. As the opening ceremonies of COP13 began, a simple search of the internet revealed at least two sets of great white shark jaws available for sale—one pair offered in the United States for US\$12,500, the second for nearly US\$8000.

1. http://www.geocities.com/surfnc12/greatwhitesharkjaws.html

Great White Jaws					
ITEM# & SIZE	SPECIES	CONDITION	PRICE	ENLARGE	
Greatwhite Jaw 1 23'' by 23''	Greatwhite	Excellent Jaw with 2 1/2'' Principle	\$12500.00		

2. http://www.blueh20.com/jaws.html

Blue Water Hunter Great White Jaws!

Great white shark jaws for sale

\$7995.00 plus shipping. Payment by money order only.

Please call the Blue Water Hunter at 800-452-6696 or 805-564-6677 for further information.



II. GREAT WHITE SHARK TEETH FOR SALE--OCTOBER 2, 2004

By far the largest trade in great white shark products is in shark teeth. Internet searches on the first day of COP13 readily revealed dozens of sites selling hundreds of great white shark teeth, with prices ranging from \$15 for small specimens to US\$625 for large specimens. Fossilized teeth were excluded from the search and were not included below. Scores of specimens are offered at more than US\$100, and prices in excess of US\$200 are common. The very largest specimens are offered for unspecified prices. One retailer offers great white teeth in minimum lots of \$200 at average prices of \$15-20 each, meaning average orders include ten (10) or more specimens. The popular internet auction site, eBay.com, includes eighteen (18) separate simultaneous auctions for modern great white shark teeth (as well as shark jaws from many species), with individual auctions including up to 40 teeth. Prices on many sites are indicated in both Euros and US dollars, indicating that products are intended for international trade.

1. http://www.geocities.com/surfnc12/moderngreatwhitesharkteeth.html

	Modern Great White Shark Teeth					
Home Page	Shipping \$ Click to calculate Shipping total					
ITEM# & SIZE	SPECIES	QUANITY	PRICE	ENLARGE		
Great White 1 1 1/8''	Modern Great White	One upper or lower ''Choice''	\$54.99 Add to Cart	VA VA		
Great White 2 1 1/4''	Modern Great White	One upper or lower ''Choice''	\$69.99 Add to Cart	VA VA		

	One upper or lower ''Choice''	\$99.99 Add to Cart	
Modern Great White	One upper or lower ''Choice''	\$119.99 Add to Cart	X X X
		\$149.99 Add to Cart	V A V A
		\$199.99 Add to Cart	V A V A
Modern Great White	One upper or lower ''Choice''	\$249.99 Add to Cart	V A V A
Modern Great White	One upper or lower ''Choice''	\$369.99	
	Modern Great White Modern Great White Modern Great White Modern Great White Modern Great White Modern Great White	Modern Great WhiteOne upper or lower "Choice"Modern Great WhiteOne upper or lower "Choice"Modern Great WhiteOne upper or lower "Choice"Modern Great WhiteOne upper or lower "Choice"Modern Great WhiteOne upper or lower "Choice"	Modern Great WhiteOne upper or lower ''Choice''\$119.99 Add to CartModern

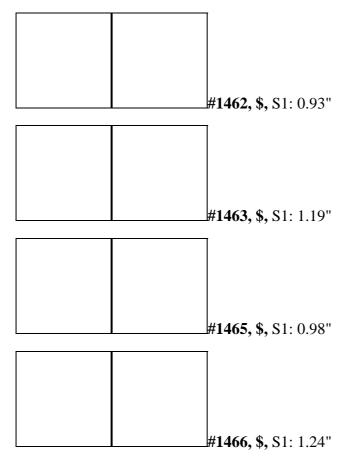
2. http://www.naturepreserved.com/modern_shark_teeth_catalog.htm

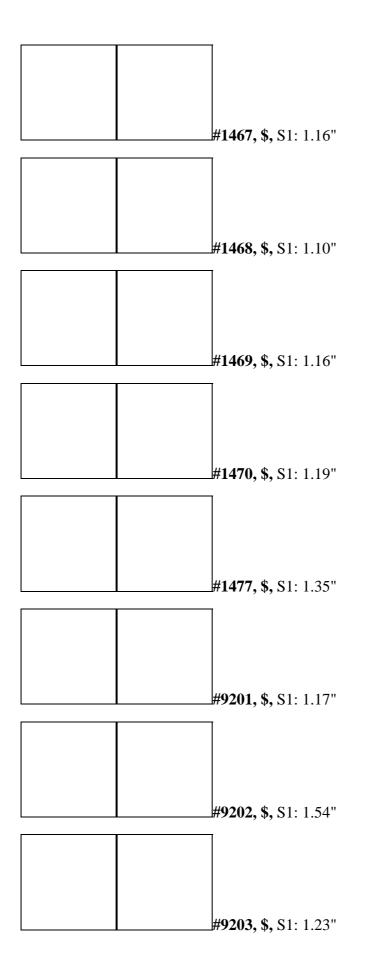
Carcharodon carcharias, Modern Great White Shark Teeth, Typical, \$15-\$25 each. \$200 minimum

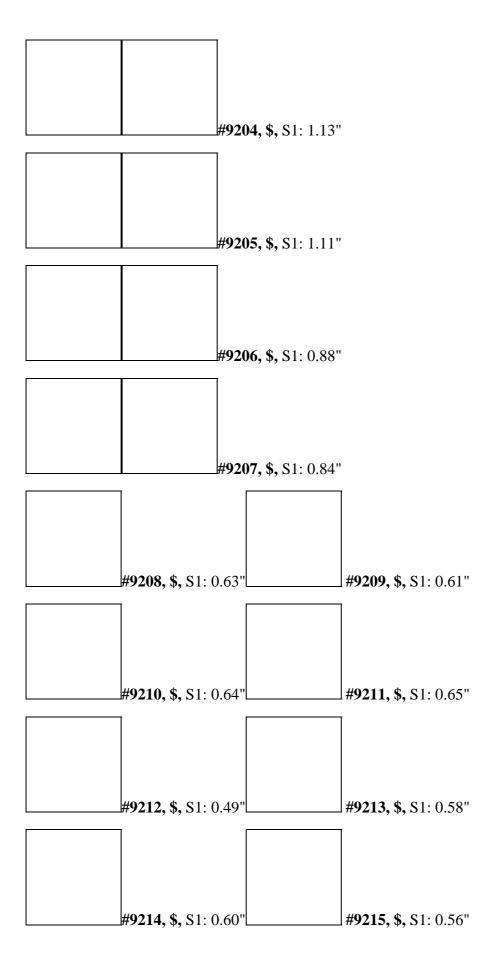
Carcharodon carcharias, Modern Great White Shark Teeth, typical \$15-\$25 each. \$200 minimum

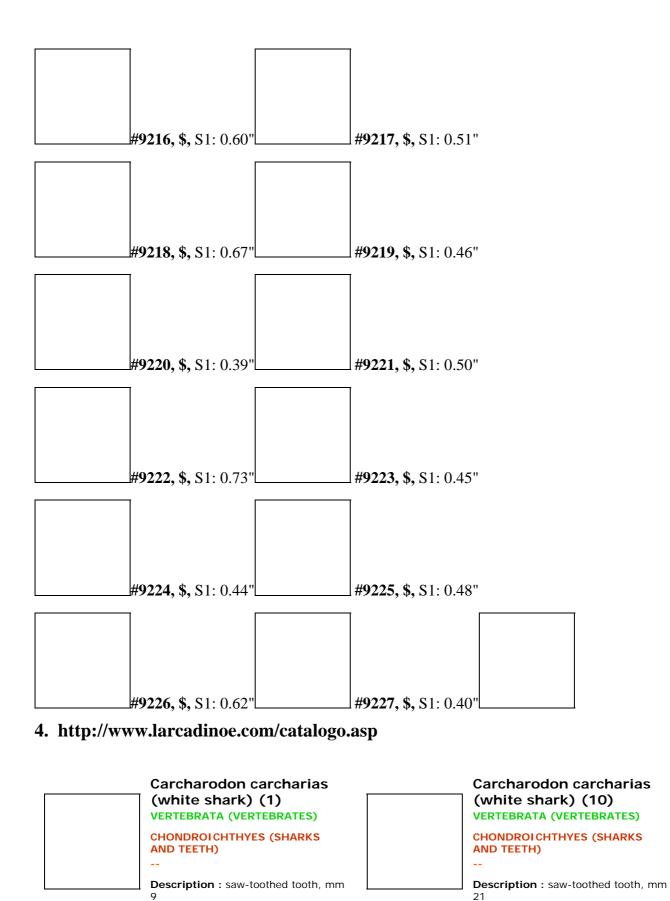
Carcharodon carcharias, Modern Great White Shark Teeth, typical \$25

These are available and may be priced by phone only. \$200 minimum purchase. All priced wholesale and to move.









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EUR : 21,00

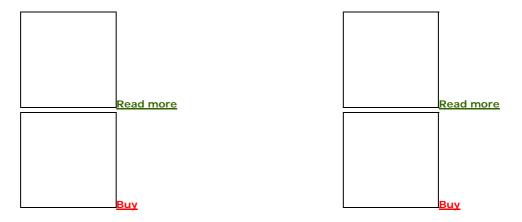
USD: 26,50

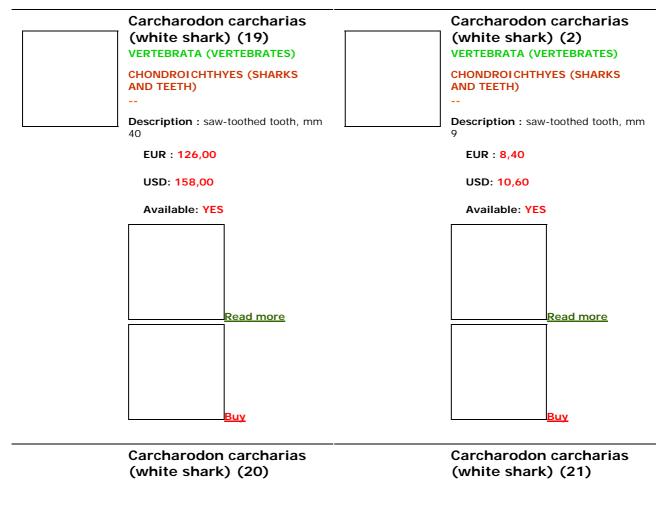
Available: YES

EUR : 8,40

USD: 10,60

Available: YES



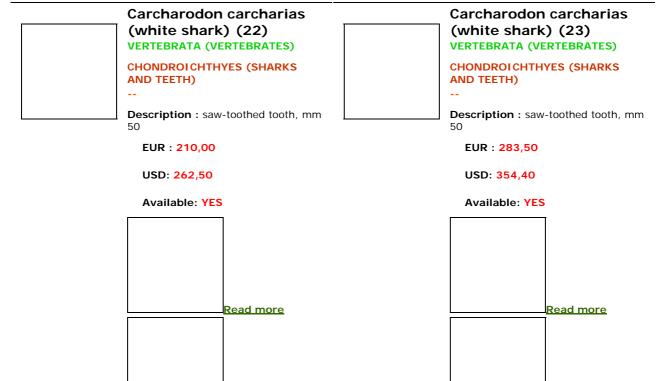


VERTEBRATA (VERTEBRATES)

CHONDROICHTHYES (SHARKS AND TEETH) VERTEBRATA (VERTEBRATES)

CHONDROICHTHYES (SHARKS AND TEETH)

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	<u>Buy</u>	<u>Buy</u>



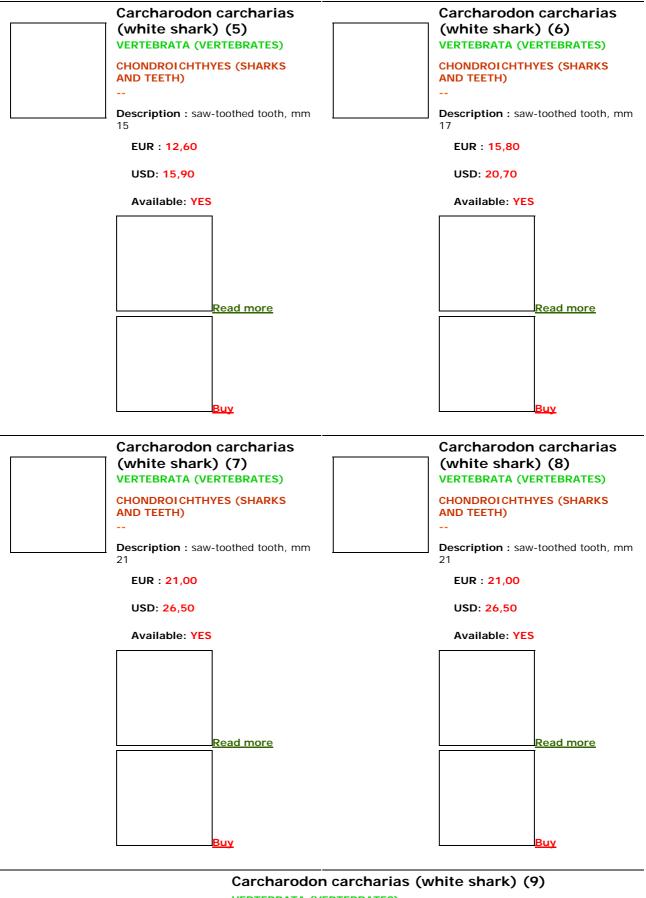
Carcharodon carcharias VERTEBRATA (VERTEBRATES) CHONDROICHTHYES (SHARKS AND TETTIN --Description : saw-toothed tooth, mm 10 EUR : 9,40 USD: 11,80 Available: YES

Buy

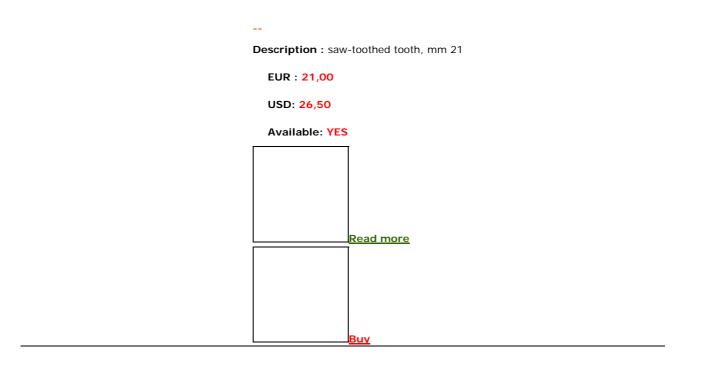
Carcharodon carcharias VERTEBRATA (VERTEBRATES) CHONDROICHTHYES (SHARKS AND TERTID --Description : saw-toothed tooth, mm 44 EUR : 11,60 USD: 15,40

Buy

Available: YES



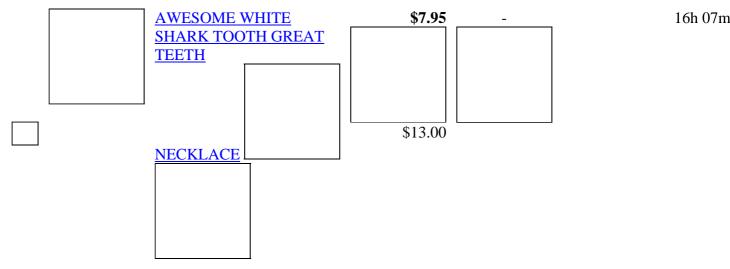
- VERTEBRATA (VERTEBRATES)
- CHONDROICHTHYES (SHARKS AND TEETH)

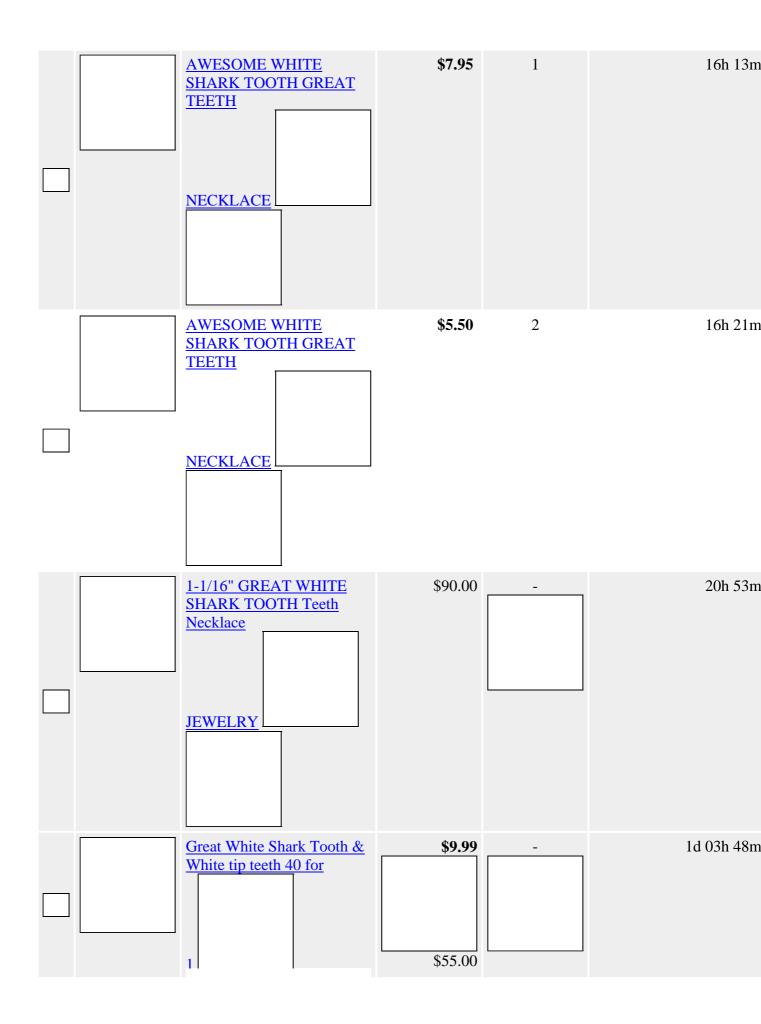


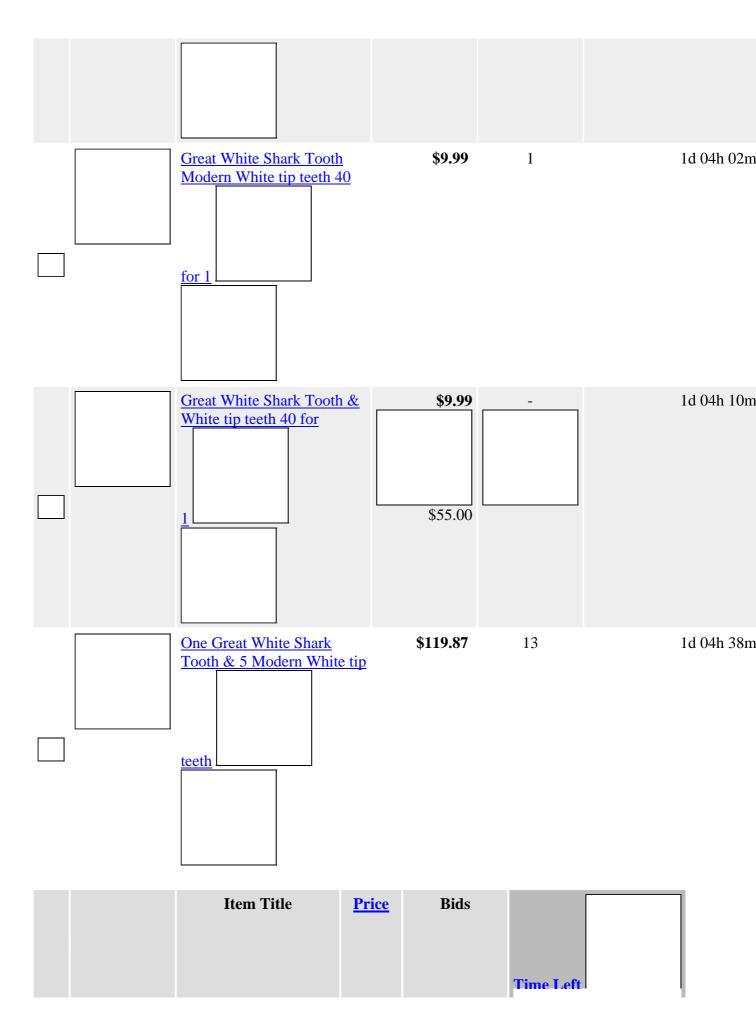
5. Ebay.com

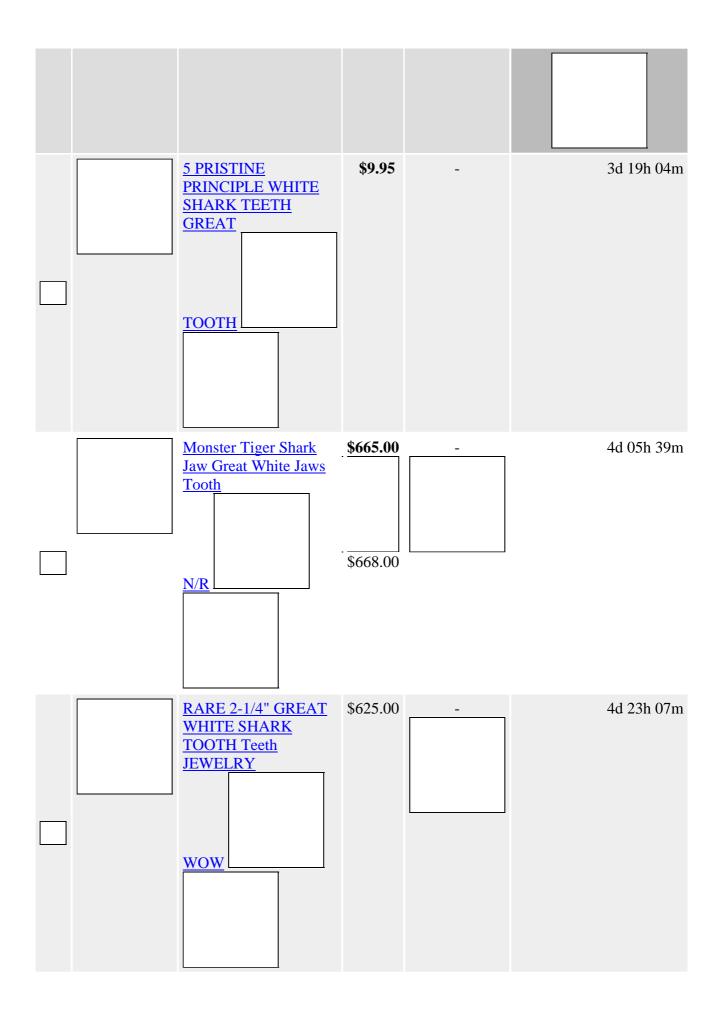
	Item Title	Price	Bids	
				Time Left

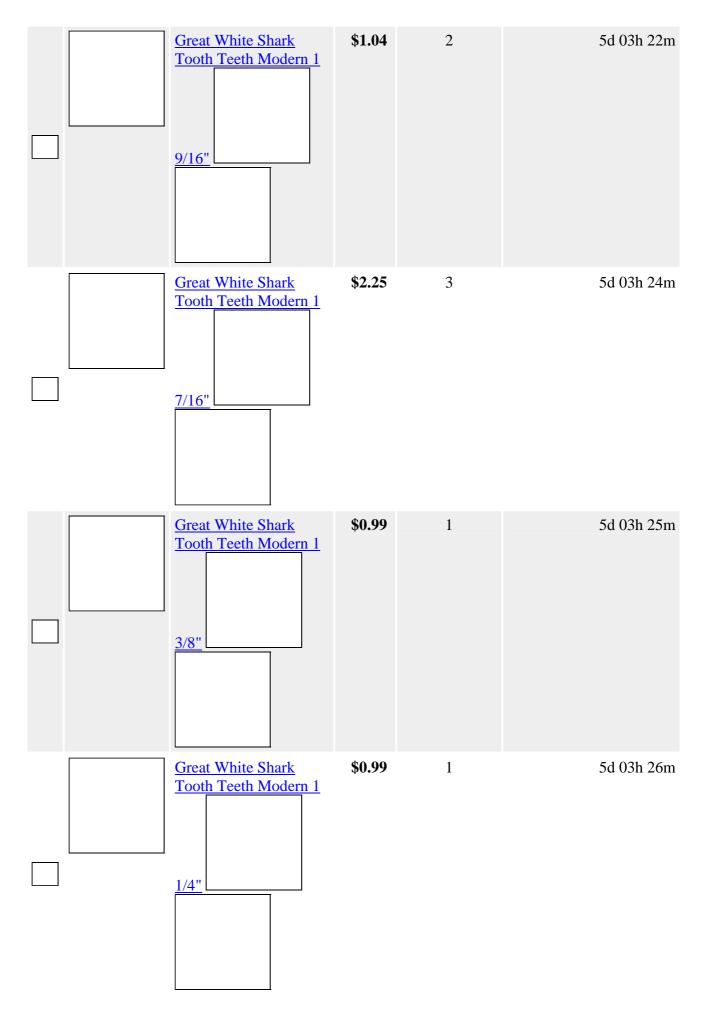
Featured Items

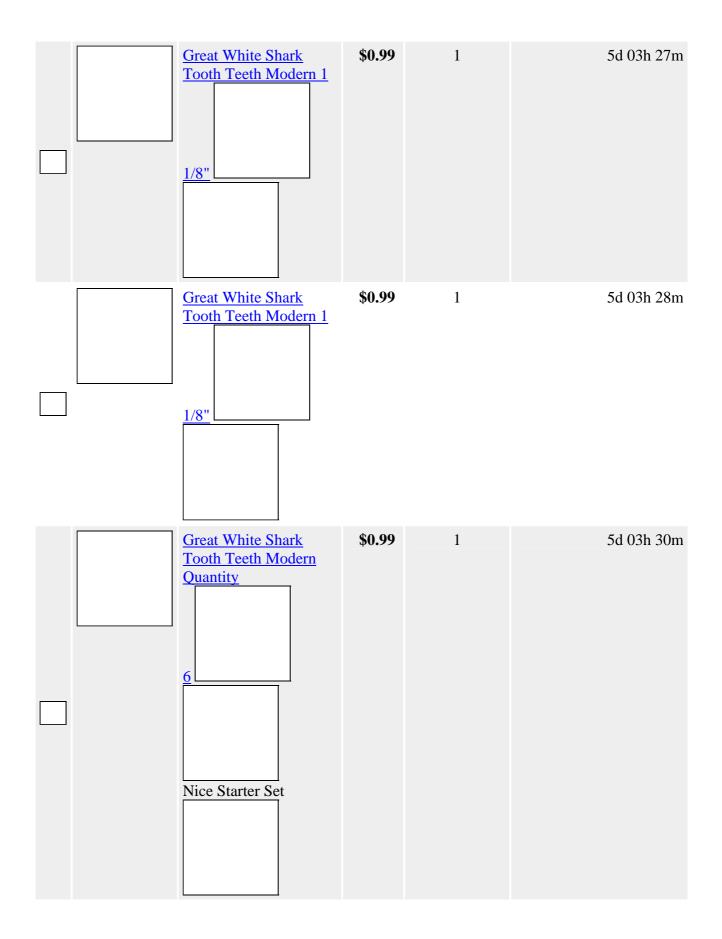




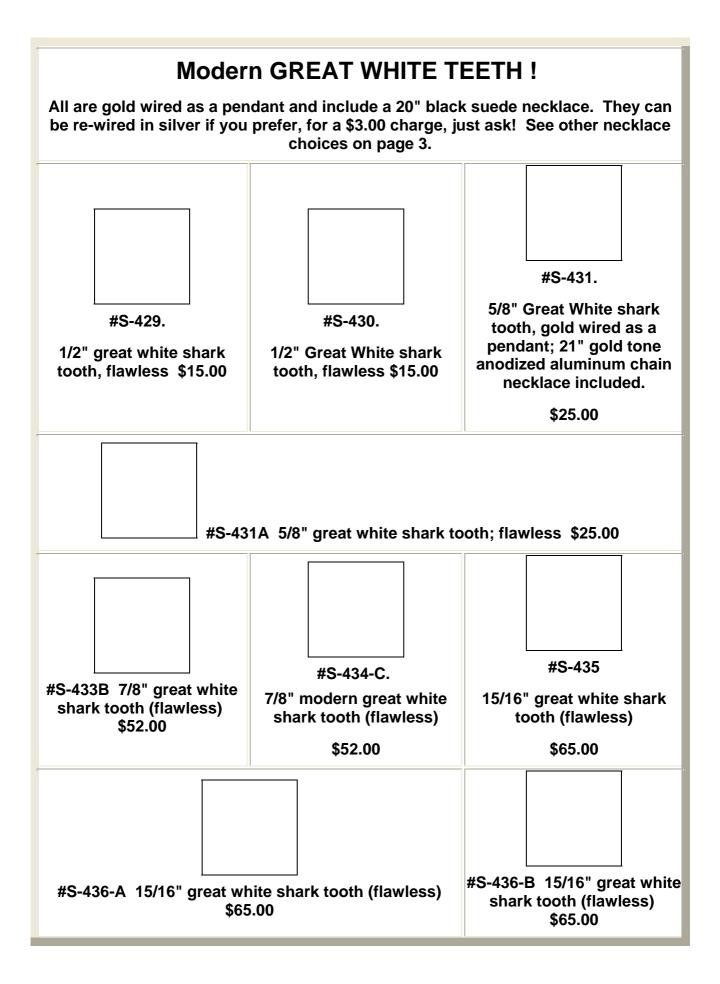


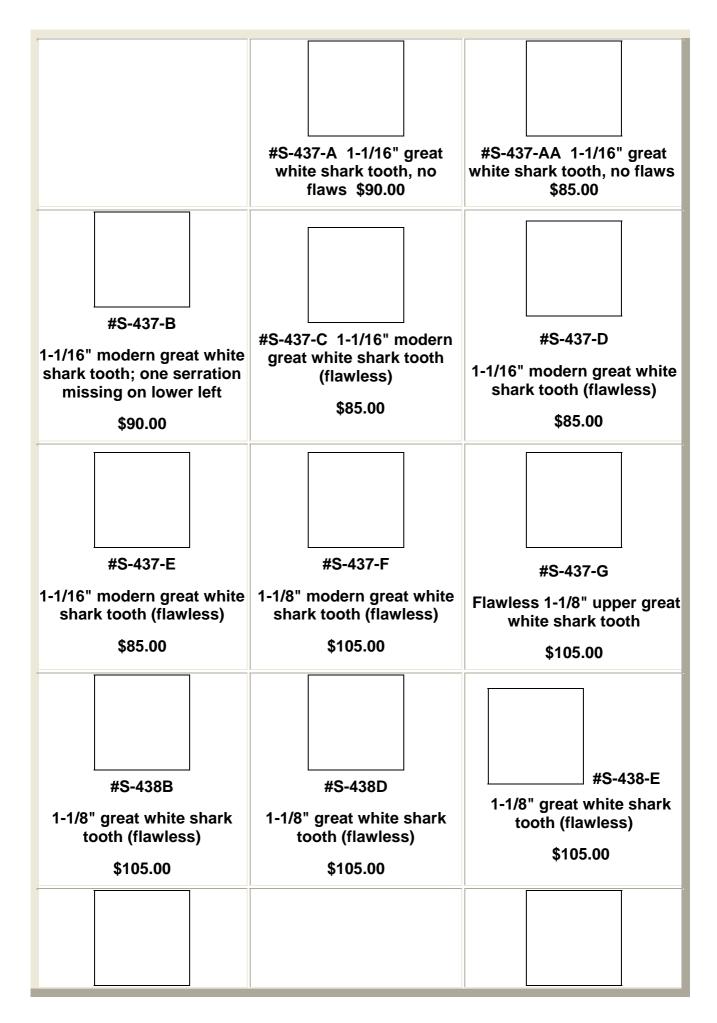


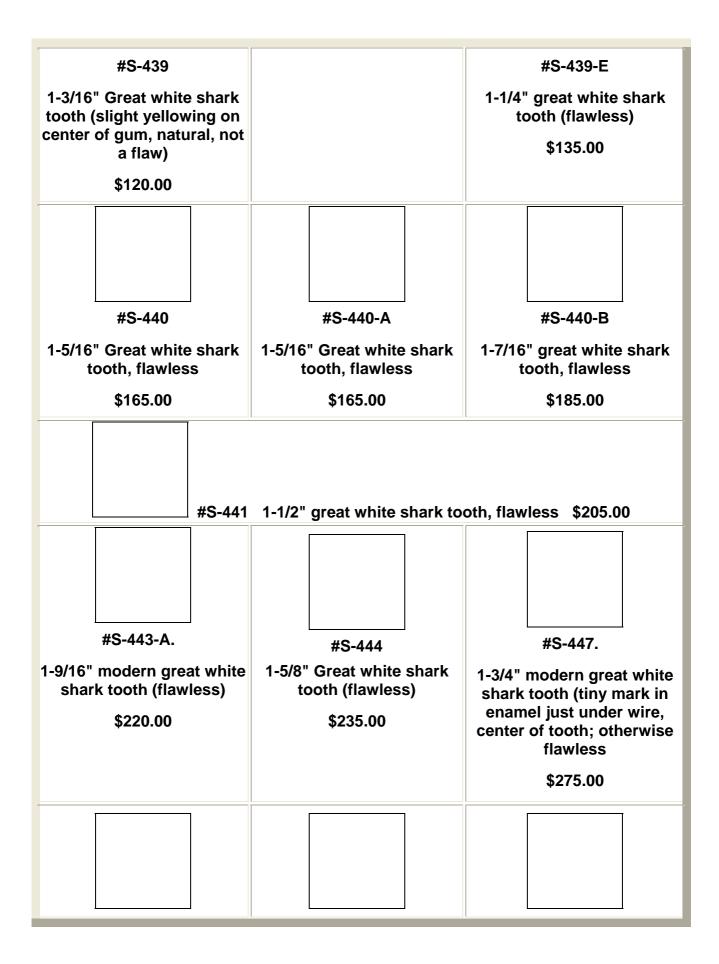


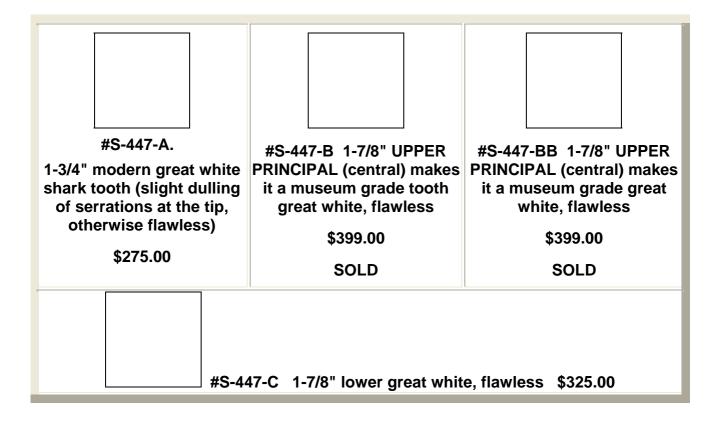


6. http://www.tellmewhereonearth.com/Web%20Pages/Sharks/Sharks_Page_4. htm





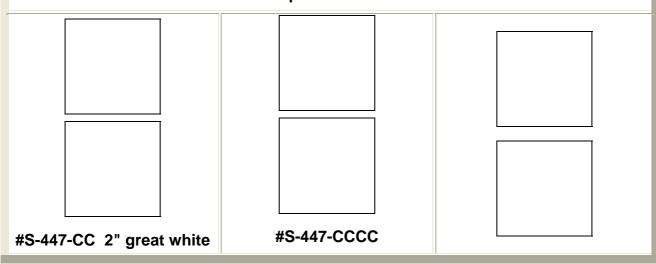


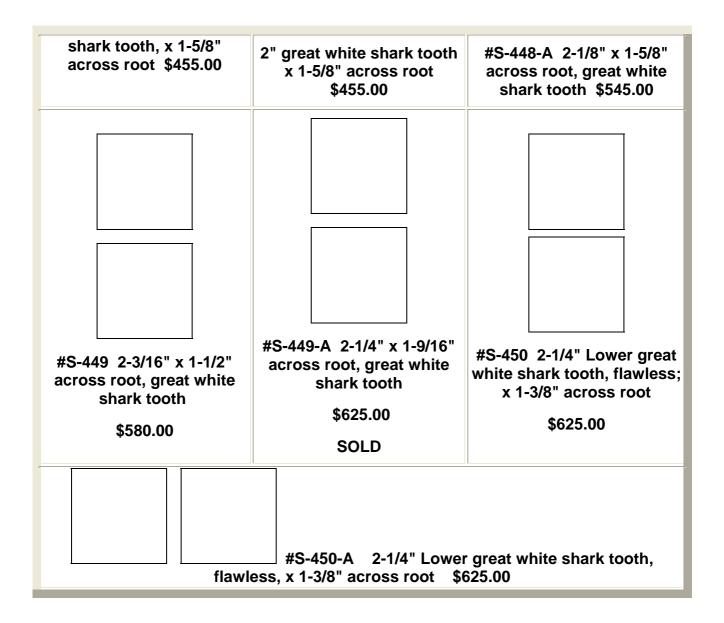


EXTREMELY RARE 2" or larger, modern great white shark teeth

(genuine carcharodon carcharias)

A recently released collection, we bought them ALL. All are FLAWLESS unless otherwise described; shown front & back; gold wired (but can be silver wired for \$3.00 more, or wire removed, no price difference); all come with a 21" gold tone anodized aluminum chain necklace free of charge. Root measurements are across the widest part of the root. Length measurements are along the longest side to the top of the root.





GREAT WHITE SHARK TEETH WITH GOLD & SILVER CAPS				
	#S-454. 1 1/4" modern great white shark tooth (slight gray tinge discoloration, perfect serrations, sterling silver capped) mounted on a 19" rare New Zealand blue coral/white bone beaded necklace. Excellent choice.	\$155.00		
	#S-456. 1 1/4" modern great white tooth (slightly yellowed, great tooth!) sterling silver capped, mounted on 16" rare New Zealand blue coral beaded necklace.	\$150.00		

#S-457. 1 1/2" modern great white tooth (streaks front and back, great buy!) sterling silver capped, and mounted on a 17" rare New Zealand blue coral beaded necklace.	\$165.00
#S-472 3/4" great white with 14k gold over sterling cap as pendant, no flaws	\$40.00
#S-473 3/4" great white with 14k gold over sterling cap as pendant, one serration missing lower right side	\$35.00
#S-474 3/4" great white with 14k gold over sterling cap as pendant,	\$40.00
#S-475-A. Great white tooth, 3/4", gold plated over sterling capped a a pendant. Includes 21" gold tone anodized aluminum chain.	\$40.00
#S-476-B. 7/8" great white shark tooth, 14k gold over sterling cap; slight rust color spot on back of tooth near juncture of tooth/cap; includes a 21" gold tone anodized aluminum chain	\$48.00
#S-477. 7/8" Great White, capped in gold-plating over sterling silver as a pendant. Includes gold tone anodized aluminum chain, 21".	\$48.00
#S-478. 7/8" Great White, capped in gold-plating over sterling silver as a pendant. Includes gold tone anodized aluminum chain, 21".	\$48.00
#S-478-B. 7/8" great white tooth (no flaws), gold plating over sterling silver, pendant. Includes gold tone anodized aluminum chain, 21".	\$48.00

#S-478-C. 7/8" great white tooth (distinct gray and white coloring, extra notch on right lower side is natural oddity), gold plating over sterling silver, pendant. Includes gold tone anodized aluminum chain, 21".	\$48.00
#S-478-F 15/16" great white shark tooth, 14k gold over sterling cap; slight orange mark on back of tooth; includes a 20" gold brass shot chain necklace	\$52.00
#S-479. Great white, 1", capped in sterling silver as a pendant. Slight discoloration on back near silver cap. Includes black/silver tone anodized aluminum 21" chain.	\$60.00
#S-479-A. Great white, 1", capped in sterling silver as a pendant; antique ivory coloring; perfect serrations, includes a 21" black/silver tone anodized aluminum chain necklace. A GREAT deal	\$60.00
#S-481 1-1/4" great white shark tooth/pendant, sterling silver cap; small nick on tip; perfect serrations; includes a 20" silver tone shot ball chain necklace	\$99.00
#S-482-a. Great white shark tooth, 1 1/4", capped in sterling silver as a pendant. Tooth is gray, hairline crack down center (stable). Serrations perfect! Another great buy. Includes a 21" black/silver tone anodized aluminum chain.	\$99.00
 #S-482-B. 1 1/4" great white shark tooth (darker spot near cap line on the right), capped in sterling silver, pendant. Includes a 21" black/silver tone anodized aluminum chain. 	\$99.00
#S-485. 1-1/2" great white shark tooth, sterling capped as a pendant; color naturally antiqued to ivory/white pattern; nick on right lower side; GREAT BUY, includes a 20" silver tone shot ball chain necklace	\$130.00
#S-486. 1-1/2" modern great white shark tooth, sterling silver capped (gray/yellow aging marks & edging; serrations perfect). Includes a 21" black/silver tone anodized aluminum chain necklace. Plenty of tooth for the price!	\$130.00

#S-487 1-5/8" great white shark tooth, capped in sterling silver. Small discoloration at cap edge center, and along back edge (see back photo); perfect serrations! Comes with an 18" black cord/silver accent necklace; a great deal.	\$145.00
#S-488. Great white shark tooth, 1 5/8", capped in sterling silver as a pendant. Silver has a soft patina. Tooth has a minor chip off the tip, and a slight discoloration on the back near the silver cap. GREAT BUY! Comes with 21" black/silver tone anodized aluminum chain necklace.	\$145.00

GREAT WHITE SHARK TOOTH EARRINGS

#S-497. Modern great white shark tooth earrings, 1/2", gold wired, hypoallergenic French wires.

\$49.00

III. CONCLUSION

As this brief snapshot demonstrates, thriving markets exist at both the national and international levels for a variety of great white shark products, particularly great white shark jaws and teeth. High demand from collectors in many countries—a demand only hinted at by the collections in Annex 1—combined with the astronomical prices commanded by some specimens—provides a compelling economic incentive for fishermen and traders to supply this market. There is a high likelihood that the potential economic windfalls from a great white shark sale are resulting in the mortality of sharks that might otherwise be released alive from longlines and sport fisheries. A growing body of scientific evidence and fisheries data indicate that the species cannot withstand such mortalities. On the basis of this evidence, it must be concluded that international trade now constitutes a significant—if as yet unquantified—threat to the long term survival of the great white shark. For this reason, inclusion of the species in Appendix II of CITES is clearly warranted. Because of the significant and ongoing declines in this species, the great white shark should be listed on Appendix II as a matter of urgency, and the CITES Parties should take immediate steps to bring the trade in great white sharks under effective control.

ANNEX 1—SINGLE COLLECTIONS AS EVIDENCE OF DEMAND

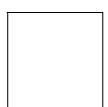
The following photos from two individual collectors are featured on a shark products retail website, www.thesharkdoctor.com. Based on visible landmarks in the photos provided, one collection appears to contain at least 50 unique shark jaws, ranging in size from large reproductive adults to neonates. These photos provide strong evidence that the trade in this species involves more than casual trade in curios and tourist souvenirs.

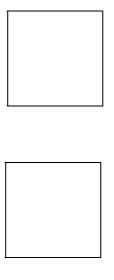
www.thesharkdoctor.com

"The Best Shark Jaws And Teeth For Sale In CyberSpace-Your #1 Source For A Shark's Jaw"

TheSharkDoctor's

Collector's Hall Of Fame 04-04-04 Sharkman-Andrew of Scotland Gives Us-Sharkites A Glimpse Of His Unbelievable Great White Shark Jaw Collection ... Image: Collection Image





Master-Skipper-Ray's AMAZING

Shark Jaw & Tooth Collection!

LONGEST TOOTH IS 2+1/2 INCHES ... FROM A MONSTER SHARK!

GREAT WHITE SHARK (GWS)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND THEIR ANSWERS

Q. What is the population size of the Great White Shark (GWS)?

A. The wild population size is estimated to be small. Though limited data are available on its population size, the GWS is known to be very rare compared to other shark species (comprising 0.03–0.5% of total shark fishery records).

Q. Has the population declined substantially in recent times?

A. Yes. There has been an observed decline in the number of individuals in the wild with major long-term data sets indicating significant declining trends over relatively short time scales. Evidence suggests that the population of GWS may have declined by at least 20% over the last three generations (>60 years). In some areas the species is considered to have declined even more substantially over a shorter period. For example, data from the Northwest Atlantic, the Adriatic, South Africa and Australia indicates GWS population declines of between 60-95% in the last 50 years.

Q. Is the GWS affected by trade?

A. Yes. Jaws and teeth are the main GWS product traded. These trophies and curios are available through Internet trading sites for up to US\$1,150/tooth and up to US\$50,000/set of large jaws, and GWS are therefore targeted to supply this international trade demand.

Q. Are current rates of exploitation sustainable?

A. No. Current rates of exploitation are unsustainable. Without adequate protection, levels and patterns of exploitation are expected to remain high, causing further population depletion, due to the high value of GWS products.

Q. Is the GWS vulnerable to overexploitation?

A. Yes. The GWS is particularly vulnerable to overexploitation due to its life history characteristics. The International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) Red List (2003) lists the GWS as globally "Vulnerable".

The risk to the GWS population posed by trade is exacerbated by the fact that large, mature females are the most important breeding segment of the population, yet it is these sharks that are most targeted and threatened by international trade for their large jaws and teeth.

Q. Does the GWS meet the criteria for Appendix II listing?

A. Yes. The GWS clearly meets the criteria for Appendix II in CITES Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP12) (the 'Resolution'), demonstrated by a) population declines of between 60-95% in the NW Atlantic, Mediterranean and Southern Oceans, as a result of unsustainable fishing activity; b) a thriving international trade of high-value parts (jaws, teeth and fins) of this species, and c) the existence of illegal trade in areas where the species is protected.

Furthermore, the species is more than likely to meet Appendix I criteria if it is not successfully protected through inclusion on Appendix II; in fact it already does meet criteria A(i) and (v), and criteria C(i) & (ii) of the Resolution.

The GWS also meets the draft revised criteria for inclusion on Appendix I, namely that the 'general guideline for a marked recent rate of decline is a percentage decline of 50% or more in the last 10 years or three generations, whichever is the longer.' The generation time for the white shark is 23 years, (i.e. three generations = 69 years). Where quantitative decline data are available these greatly exceed both guidelines for inclusion in Appendix I and II.

At the recent CITES AC20, the Report of the Working Group stated, "most members agreed that the species appears to meet the criteria for inclusion in Appendix II".

Q. Are there enough data to support an Appendix II nomination?

A. Yes. Despite a relative paucity of data on the GWS generally, the data that Madagascar and Australia considered in nominating the GWS for Appendix II listing are scientifically robust, and point to an alarming decline in the wild population of the GWS, and continued trade in GWS specimens and products.

At CITES AC20 the Parties noted:

'When considering proposals to amend the Appendices, the Parties shall, in the case of uncertainty, either as regards the status of a species or as regards the impact of trade on the conservation of a species, act in the best interests of the conservation of the species.' (Conference Resolution 9.24, Annex 4, A).

Q. Why upgrade from Appendix III to Appendix II?

A. Countries with the largest populations of GWS already have legislative protection to prevent the deliberate killing of GWS, but national measures are inadequate to protect this highly migratory species when it moves into waters where it is unmanaged. There is evidence that the GWS may become threatened with extinction unless regulations for international trade in GWS specimens and products are strengthened.

Australia originally listed the GWS on Appendix III in 2000 to encourage co-operation between Parties to control trade in the GWS, a species that has been given protection in a number of countries. Unfortunately the Appendix III listing has proven ineffective to date. Only 5 Certificates of Origin have been issued since 2000, while evidence indicates that more international trade has occurred than this. An Appendix II listing would increase the level of control and reporting requirements on trade in GWS specimens and products.

Q. What are individual countries doing to protect the GWS?

A. While a good start, action by a handful of individual countries will not be sufficient to protect the highly migratory GWS across its entire range. Adult numbers in legally protected waters (e.g. South Africa, Namibia, Australia) have not increased following protection in only part of their

range. Additionally, national management measures often suffer from shortcomings in monitoring, control and surveillance.

Listing on CITES Appendix II will support endeavors by individual countries to protect the GWS and contribute significantly to its sustainable management.

Q. Is the GWS included in other international arrangements?

A. Yes. The Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) listed the GWS on Appendix I and II in 2002. The CMS Appendix I listing means CMS parties are required to strictly protect the species while the Appendix II listing requires parties to cooperate in its conservation.

The GWS is also listed on Appendix I (Highly Migratory Species) in the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). It calls upon Parties to, *inter alia*, protect marine biodiversity, monitor fishing levels and stocks, provide accurate reporting of and minimise by-catch and discards, and gather scientific data as the basis for management decisions.

The Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean, lists the GWS in Annex II, endangered or threatened species, which should receive full legal protection when the Convention is ratified.

The Food and Agriculture International Plan of Action for Sharks (FOA IPOA-Sharks) may provide future protection for the GWS when more range states develop National Plans of Action (NPOAs).

None of these instruments have yet resulted in sufficient improvements in GWS management.

Q. Why don't you leave shark management issues to other organisations, such as the FAO?

A. Unfortunately implementation of the FAO IPOA-Sharks through the development of NPOA-Sharks has not resulted in adequate protection of the GWS. Since 1999 only seven of the 116 countries that officially catch shark have developed an NPOA.

At a recent Workshop on GWS Conservation Research, experts "...did not identify any specific progress with implementation of White Shark conservation or management as a result of the IPOA-Sharks".

The risk to the global population of GWS is such that an Appendix II listing is necessary to ensure its survival in the wild.

Q. Shark products are difficult to identify to the species level. Will we be able to effectively detect the presence of GWS being traded?

A. Yes. A GWS Identification Guide was produced to support Australia's Appendix III listing of the GWS on CITES. It contains detailed morphological information on the GWS, with photos and X-rays of the main traded parts. The Identification Guide makes it easier to positively identify GWS products being traded, with DNA testing available for confirmation.

Australia is currently investigating the use of DNA testing at strategic import and export points in Australia to prevent illegal trade in GWS products that cannot otherwise be detected by Customs Officers. The output from the investigation will be a set of guidelines on how to easily use the DNA test.

Q. Do shark experts support an Appendix II nomination?

A. Yes. At the recent Wildlife Conservation Society Workshop on GWS Conservation Research, GWS experts from around the world presented evidence of population declines, continued take of GWS and trade in GWS products. They concluded *"(I)nternational management measures are essential for this highly vulnerable species*". We understand that the vast majority of experts support an Appendix II listing for the GWS.