Responses to Notification No. 2011/049

Information to be submitted for the 26th meeting of the Animals Committee
Prepared by Dr. Simon C. Nemtzov, Israel's Scientific Authority for CITES

Sharks and Rays

Domestic measures

Israel has included the elasmobranchs in its list of protected species. Specifically listed as protected in the latest (2005) regulations, are all sharks (Order Selachii) and all rays (Order Batoidea). They may not be captured, harmed, traded or kept, without a specific permit from the Israel Nature and Parks Authority (INPA).

The INPA had begun a recent campaign to increase awareness of the need to protect these species and has increased enforcement efforts against fishing of these species. A new information sheet about the importance of sharks in the ecosystem and the regulations against fishing them, was prepared in Hebrew and Arabic (Israel's two official languages) and is attached at the end of this report.

Similarly, any import or export of sharks and rays (alive or dead), or any parts and derivatives of these species requires an import or export permit from the INPA. Live specimens also require a permit from the Fishery Department of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Species of Concern for Possible Consideration by the Animals Committee

Israel has concern over the conservation status of guitarfish of the genus *Glaucostegus*; Israel is a range state for two of these species. According to the FAO there are four species of guitarfish (Rhinobatidae) in the genus, three of which are listed in the IUCN Red List as endangered with classification VU (Vulnerable), and one without sufficient data to make a determination (DD - Data Deficient).

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<td>Common Shovelnose Ray, Giant Shovelnose Ray</td>
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Here is specific information on these four species, based on that in the IUCN Red Book (IUCN Red Book web site accessed 1/1/2012):

**Glaucostegus granulatus** (= *Rhinobatos granularus*) A large (to 215 cm total length) inshore and offshore guitarfish recorded to depths of 119 m. It is an Indo-Pacific species with a poorly documented distribution, but with a centre of abundance around India and Sri Lanka. *Rhinobatos granulatus* was once moderately abundant but is now irregularly caught in local fisheries. It is susceptible to capture in a variety of fishing gear including trawl, gillnet, line and seine net and its occurrence along inshore areas of the continental shelf makes these rays an easy target for such fisheries. The species is impacted by direct and indirect fishing pressure where the flesh is utilised and the demand for fins for the international fin trade could be a factor in the switch from subsistence fisheries to more directed, commercial export fisheries of especially the larger guitarfish in Asia. Habitat requirements are not well understood, but inshore areas are important as nursery areas and these are being impacted upon by fishing activities and environmental degradation/pollution. The entire known area of occurrence of *R. granulatus* is impacted by often intense and generally unregulated and unmonitored fisheries. The centre of abundance for this species, off India and Sri Lanka is impacted upon by a high level of resource utilisation, as is most of the Southeast Asian region. Fishing pressure is consistently increasing in these areas and the demand for fins for the international fin trade is helping drive landings of large guitarfish. Although exact catch data are not available this species is seen much less regularly than it was previously and declines of greater than 30% are expected to have already occurred, while fishing pressure continues unabated over this species. Native range: Australia; India (Andaman Is.); Indonesia; Kuwait; Myanmar; Pakistan; Papua New Guinea; Philippines; Sri Lanka; Thailand; Viet Nam.

**Glaucostegus halavi** (= *Rhinobatos halavi*) - The Halavi Guitarfish is a poorly known guitarfish confirmed from the Red Sea and Gulf of Oman, but likely occurring off the adjacent coastlines of the Gulf of Aden and northwestern Arabian Sea. Reports from the Mediterranean Sea and the coasts of India, Myanmar, Philippines, Vietnam, China, Australia, and West Africa are all unconfirmed. Frequent misidentification complicates any inference of relative population size. A target and utilized bycatch in fisheries, but appears to have some refuge from fishing pressure in certain areas (e.g., Oman). Lack of information about abundance, combined with limited knowledge of the extent of fishing pressure impacting this species necessitates a Data Deficient classification at present. Research is required better to define its distribution and to determine population trends. Native range: Djibouti; Israel; Egypt; Eritrea; Oman; Saudi Arabia; Yemen.

**Glaucostegus thouin** (= *Rhinobatos thouin*) has a widespread distribution in the Indo-West Pacific. It was once moderately abundant but is now irregularly caught as bycatch in local fisheries throughout its range, especially in the Western Central Pacific. It is a large species (>300 cm TL), vulnerable to gillnets, inshore trawl fisheries and even line fishing. Rhinobatids are taken by multiple artisanal and commercial fisheries throughout their range as a target species and as bycatch, and population declines in many guitarfish species have been observed in areas of
the Indo-Pacific. Local population depletion can be inferred from Indonesia where
the target gillnet fishery fleet declined from a maximum of 500 boats in 1987 to
100 in 1996, due to declining catch rates (Chen 1996). Flesh is sold for human
consumption in Asia and the fins from large animals fetch particularly high prices,
creating a significant incentive for bycatch to be retained (the value of rhinobatid
and rhynchobatid fins far exceeds that of other sharks and rays). Demands for
dried fins for the international fin trade could be a factor in the switch from
subsistence fisheries to more directed fisheries, although their flesh is also highly
sought after. Very little is known about the biology or population status of \textit{R. thouin}. Their existence along coastal inshore areas of the continental shelf makes
them an easy target for fisheries and it is likely that habitat degradation in these
areas may also be affecting nursery areas. Population declines are inferred from
observed declines in bycatch numbers in local fisheries and given its susceptibility
to capture by multiple fishing gear types and its high value fins, it is probable that
numbers have been locally reduced by fishing throughout its range. This species
meets the criteria of A2abd+3bd+4abd for Vulnerable due to the population decline
outlined above and the remaining very high level of unmanaged exploitation in
Southeast Asia. Native range: Bangladesh; Djibouti; Egypt; Eritrea; Ethiopia; India;
Indonesia (Java, Kalimantan, Sumatra); Iran; Israel; Iraq; Japan; Kuwait; Malaysia;
Myanmar; Oman; Pakistan; Papua New Guinea; Qatar; Saudi Arabia; Singapore;
Somalia; Sri Lanka; Sudan; Thailand; United Arab Emirates; Viet Nam; Yemen.

\textit{Glaucostegus typus} (=\textit{Rhinobatos typus}) is taken by multiple artisanal and commercial
fisheries throughout its range both as a target species and as bycatch. Flesh is
sold for human consumption in Asia and the fins from large animals fetch
particularly high prices, creating a significant incentive for bycatch to be retained.
Very little is known about the biology or population status of this species. Given its
susceptibility to capture by multiple fishing gear types, including trawl nets, gillnets
and hooks and its high value fins, it is probable that numbers have been locally
reduced by fishing throughout its range. Local population depletion can be inferred
from Indonesia where the target gillnet fishery fleet for rhinids and rhynchobatids
has declined significantly, reportedly due to declining catch rates. Therefore,
globally this species meets the criteria of Vulnerable A2bd+3bd+4bd due to the
apparent population decline outlined above and the remaining very high level of
exploitation in South East Asia. Furthermore, destruction of habitat, e.g.,
mangrove areas, and high level of fishing pressure in areas such as Papua (e.g.,
Merauke) may be having a deleterious effect on juveniles of this species that
utilize such inshore regions. There are no target fisheries for \textit{R. typus} in Australia
but it is a known bycatch of demersal trawl fisheries in the region. The introduction
of Turtle Exclusion Devices (TEDs) in the Australian Northern Prawn Trawl Fishery
in 2000 and the implementation of various elasmobranch-finning prohibitions, has
probably led to a recent reduction in captures by this sector. However, given the
population declines throughout South East Asia and the high value placed on fins
(even in Australia) the Australian population may meet the criteria of Vulnerable
A2d, but more detailed catch data is required and it is thus assessed as Near
Threatened in Australian waters. Native range: Australia (New South Wales,
Northern Territory, Queensland, Western Australia); Bangladesh; India; Indonesia;
Malaysia; Singapore; Sri Lanka; Viet Nam.
Information pages on sharks and on the regulations protecting them, prepared by the Israel Nature and Parks Authority, in Hebrew and Arabic (Israel’s two official languages).

The headline says: "Sharks: The Loyal Guardians of the Sea"
أسماك القرش
حراس البحر الأفقياء

تشهد في الأونة الأخيرة عمليات صيد واسعة لأسمك القرش في شواطئ إسرائيل. يتم الصيد بالأمسك خلال أشهر شباط - أيار. إنه موسم المغارة، وتكتل الأسمك القرش لجمع إتاتٍ لسلك القرش في هذه الفترة في المياه الساحلية لولاية أسماك القرش المpezغرة. عدد كبير من الأسماك التي يتم صيدها في إتاتِ في شواطئ إسرائيل بعد تلات تقديرات، يتم في هذه الفترة مسح عشرات أسمال القرش يومياً في شواطئ إسرائيل، مما يشير إلى مكافحة أسمال القرش. (إ) مستوي في شواطئ إسرائيل، تقع جميع الأسماك في شواطئ إسرائيل.

حراس البحر

لا تشكل أسمال القرش في شواطئ إسرائيل خطراً على الإنسان، على العكس من ذلك، إنها أكي ممتعة كبيرة. أسمال القرش هامة للحفاظ على الكائنات الحية في البحر، إنها تنظف مجموعات الأسماك وتقلف البحر من الأسماك، وكتالد المعيشة، أسماك القرش في بيئة مستدامة. *ша"ר חמה" هي البحر من الصدقة المعرفة، ما يتراقص على أسماك القرش، وقد يعود الأمر اليوم إلى كارثة بيئية وضعت في غياب الصيد.

أسمال القرش - كائنات طبيعية مجمحة

أسمال القرش هي كائنات طبيعية مجمحة حيث تعترف بها قانون الحدائق الوطنية، الصوتيات الطبيعية (موجودات طبيعية مجمحة) - 1995. كل أسماك القرش بما في ذلك الصيد والبيض - ممنوع.

تتم إنتاجة الضغطات والعناصر باللغة في حالة أسمال القرش التي تعيش في شواطئ بلادنا، فإنه مبسطة الطبية، يتنقل معها الآثار الأخرى لتمثيل القرش، تجري خارج الأنهار شبة - أيار، سلائف ونفايات تلقين في شواطئ إسرائيل ضد ملقي الألقاب الذين يضخون الضجر. (إ) أسماك القرش، وتتجاوزهم.

ساهمنا في المكافحة على أسماك القرش وعلى الطبقة في البحر. ننصح الجمهور بالتبني تبقي مضيفة للطبيعة والحفاظ على أدى أو تثبيت أسماك القرش والمحورغارات الطبيعية المجمحة الأخرى.

مركز سلالة الطبية والحدائق في خدمتك على مدار 24 ساعة يومياً
هاتف: 9253321 أو 08-916911.