

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

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MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
GOVERNMENT OF MALDIVES

Ref No: 101/PRIV/2012/46

03rd January 2011

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09 JAN 2012

REPLY . . . FILE

Dear Mr. John E. Scanlon,
Secretary-General
CITES Secretariat,
11 Chemin des Anémones,
CH- 1219 Chatelaine,
Geneva, Switzerland
Tel: +41-(0)22-917-81-39/40
Fax: +41-(0)22-797-34-17

Dear Mr. John,

I am writing in regards to the recent CITES Notification to the Parties No. 2011/049. I would like to supply the following information pertaining to sections iii. and iv. for sharks. Our waters have been designated as a shark sanctuary prohibiting the commercial fishing of all sharks throughout our exclusive economic zone. In addition, we have implemented a trade ban making it illegal to catch or trade any sharks within the Maldives.

Our specific measures are attached for your records.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you are in need of further information.

Yours sincerely


Yusuf Riza
Permanent Secretary

Cc: Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture,
Ministry of Housing and Environment

Ministry of Housing and Environment
Male', Republic of Maldives

No: (IUL)138/1/2011/42

ANNOUNCEMENT

While Clause 22 of the Constitution of the Republic of Maldives requires for the sustainable protection of the environment and conservation of its biodiversity, and under Clause 4 (i) of the Environmental Protection and Preservation Act (Act no: 4/93), the following biodiversity groups have been protected from this date.

Type/ Group of Animal			
	Dhivehi name	Common name	Scientific taxa
1	Vela aai kahan'buge hurihaa baavaiythah	Sea turtles	Cheloniodea
2	Koamas	Oceanic dolphins	Delphinidae
3	Maahulhun'bu landau	Napoleon Wrasse	Chelinus undulatus
4	Gaahaka	Giant clams	Tridacnidae
5	Endheri	Black coral	Antipatharia
6	Fehurihi	Whale shark	Rhincodon typus
7	Sangu	Conch (Triton) shell	Charonia tritonis
8	Bodumahuge hurihaa baavaiythah	Whales	Mysticeti, Odontoceti, Ziphiidae
9	Hiri aai galaai muraka	Stony corals	Scleractinia
10	Ithaage hurihaa baavaiythah	Pearl Oysters	Pterioida
11	Miyaru	Sharks	Elasmobranchii
12	Ihi (Bandu dhashugai bis huri issaai jumla dhigumin bolun feshigen nigulah 25 cm hama nuvaa ihi)	Lobsters (Berried female lobsters and those smaller than 25cm in total length – from head to tail)	Nephropidae

Thus, from the 21st of July 2011, under Clause 4 (i) of the Environmental Protection and Preservation Act (4/93), we hereby prohibit and announce that it is illegal to catch, keep in captivity, trade or harm any of the animals stated in the list above. Those who violate this announcement will be prosecuted under the Regulation on Environmental Liabilities 2010 established under EPPA (Law No. 4/93).

20 Shau'baan 1432
21 July 2011

BAN ON SHARK FISHING IN THE EEZ OF THE MALDIVES

Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture
Male', Maldives

No: 30-D2/29/2010/32

Announcement

Review of the shark populations show that their stocks are declining in the Maldives and research has shown that these populations are under threat of extinction locally. Under Article 10 of the Maldives Fishery Law No. 5/87, the Ministry has the authority to protect any marine species from capture or fishing. The Ministry had decided to ban any fishery targeted at catching sharks from 01st of March 2010 and the issue was discussed at the Cabinet Meeting of the 09th of March 2010. It has been passed that all shark fishing within the EEZ of the Maldives will be banned from the 15th of March 2010. Thus under Maldives Fishery Law No. 5/87, it is prohibited to capture, kill or harm any shark species within the EEZ of the Maldives. In addition the Cabinet's decision to ban the trade of shark products will be implemented from the 01st of July 2010.

11 March 2010

UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION OF PRESS RELEASE OF 28 FEBRUARY 2010**BAN ON SHARK FISHING, CATCHING AND KILLING IN THE EEZ OF THE MALDIVES**

No: 30-D2/29/2010/32

Shark species have slow growth, late maturity and low fecundity resulting in wide generation gaps and low regeneration rates in the population. As a result shark stocks have low renewal rates and are easily overfished. Sharks are top level predators in the food chain and therefore play an important role in the functioning of the ecosystem.

Shark fishing in Maldives has proved to be detrimental to two vital economic sectors; tourism and fishery. Research has shown that shark watching in their natural habitat by tourists generates more revenue than one off income from fishing.

Hence under the Clause 10 of the Law number 5/87 (Maldives Fisheries Law) the Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture has declared a ban effective from the 01st of March 2009, on any fishery targeted at killing, capturing or extraction of any shark species inside within Maldivian waters.

11 March 2010