



United States Department of the Interior
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Washington, D.C. 20240



January 6, 2012

In Reply Refer To:
FWS/DMA/TRE

Mr. John Scanlon
Secretary-General
CITES Secretariat
International Environment House
Chemin des Anémones
CH-1219 Châtelaine-Geneve
Switzerland

VIA EMAIL: info@cites.org

Dear Mr. Scanlon:

This letter responds to paragraph a) of Notification to the Parties No. 2011/049 of November 10, 2011, regarding sharks.

In partial response to subparagraph a) i), we have attached a report on U.S. trade in CITES-listed shark species. This report was generated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Management Authority, from U.S. CITES annual report data. Information on U.S. imports and exports of shark fins is contained in the 2010 Shark Finning Report to Congress, which we have also attached.

Prior to the 25th Meeting of the Animals Committee, the United States provided information that responds to subparagraphs i), iii), and iv) under paragraph a) (Sharks) of this notification. Specifically, we provided copies of the 2009 Shark Finning Report to Congress and the Shark Conservation Act. As noted above, we have attached the 2010 Shark Finning Report to Congress, prepared by the National Marine Fisheries Service, and we draw your attention to the information that was provided in our response to CITES Notification to the Parties No. 2010/027.

Subparagraph a) ii) invites Parties to submit a list of shark species that they believe require additional action to enhance their conservation and management. In response to this request, we note that a list of shark species of concern was compiled by the Chair of the shark working group of the Animals Committee and considered at AC24 and at CoP14 and CoP15 (see AC24 Doc. 14.1, CoP14 Doc. 59.1, and CoP15 Doc. 53). We herewith submit the list contained in Table 1 of CoP15 Doc. 53. The documents

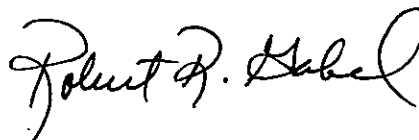
referenced from AC24 and from CoP14 and CoP15 include the supporting information for the species included in this Table.

In addition, we recall the considerable past work of the Animals Committee and the CITES Parties with regard to shark conservation and the collaboration between CITES and FAO with respect to sharks. Consideration of international trade in sharks by the CITES Parties began in 1994 at CoP9, with a document submitted by the United States (CoP9 Doc. 9.58), and since that time conservation and management of sharks has been considered at every regular meeting of the Animals Committee and the Conference of the Parties. Discussion papers have been developed, workshops have been held, reports have been provided, and a number of resolutions and decisions related to the international trade of sharks have been adopted.

The United States continues to believe that shark conservation and management is a priority, and that range States have a responsibility to manage their shark fisheries sustainably. We continue to seek the adoption of shark conservation and management measures by the Regional Fishery Management Organizations (RFMOs). We encourage individual States to improve implementation and compliance with shark conservation and management measures adopted by the RFMOs. The United States also believes the time has come for CITES Parties, with concerns about the conservation and management of shark species affected by unsustainable international trade, to develop strong proposals for the inclusion of priority species in the CITES Appendices. We urge Parties to review the information that has been provided to date on shark species of concern and bring proposals to the next Animals Committee meeting for technical review and guidance, if Parties believe such proposals are warranted, and discuss how such proposals can be implemented to promote sustainable international trade of these important species.

If you have questions regarding the information we have provided, please contact Dr. Rosemarie Gnam, Chief, Division of Scientific Authority, at 703-358-1708 or via email: rosemarie_gnam@fws.gov; or me at 703-358-2095 or via email: rodny_gabel@fws.gov.

Sincerely,



Robert R. Gabel
Chief, Division of Management Authority

Enclosures

cc: Sr. C. Ibero, Chair of the Animals Committee
Sra. M. Clemente, Chair of the Plants Committee

U.S. TRADE IN CITES-LISTED SHARK AND RAY SPECIES

2000-2010

Prepared by:

**Division of Management Authority
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Department of the Interior**

Prepared on November 14, 2011

U.S. TRADE IN CITES-LISTED BASKING SHARK (*CETORHINUS MAXIMUS*)

2000-2010

(Data taken from U.S. CITES Annual Report data)
Report compiled on 11/14/2011

NOTE: The basking shark was listed in CITES Appendix III by the United Kingdom on 09/13/2000 and uplisted to Appendix II on 02/13/2003

I. U.S. imports of CITES-listed basking shark, 2000-2010, by country of origin

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>CTRY ORIGIN</u>	<u>CTRY REEXPORT</u>	<u>QUANTITY</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>TYPE SPECIMEN</u>	<u>PURPOSE</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>STATUS</u>	<u>NO. SHIPMENTS</u>
2000	None								
2001	None								
2002	None								
2003	None								
2004	United Kingdom		1	No	Skin piece	Commercial	Wild	Cleared	1
2004	Unknown	China	1	No	Skin piece	Educational	Pre-CITES	Cleared	1
2004	Unknown	United Kingdom	1	No	Leather product	Personal	Pre-CITES	Cleared	1
2004	Unknown	United Kingdom	1	No	Skin piece	Exhibition	Pre-CITES	Cleared	1
2005	None								
2006	Unknown	United Kingdom	1	No	Skin	Commercial	Unknown	Cleared	1
2006	Unknown	United Kingdom	1	No	Skin piece	Commercial	Unknown	Cleared	1
2007	None								
2008	None								
2009	China		20	Gm	Medicinals	Commercial	Wild	Not cleared	1
2009	United Kingdom		30	No	Scientific spec.	Scientific	Wild	Cleared	1
2010	None								
TOTALS			1	No	Leather product				1
			20	Gm	Medicinals				1
			30	No	Scientific spec.				1
			1	No	Skin				1
			4	No	Skin pieces				4

II. U.S. exports/reexports of CITES-listed basking shark, 2000-2010, by country of origin

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>CTRY ORIGIN</u>	<u>CTRY REEXPORT</u>	<u>QUANTITY</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>TYPE SPECIMEN</u>	<u>PURPOSE</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>STATUS</u>	<u>NO. SHIPMENTS</u>
2000	None								
2001	None								
2002	None								
2003	None								
2004	None								
2005	Unknown	United States	2	No	Skin pieces	Educational	Unknown	Cleared	1
2006	None								
2007	None								
2008	None								
2009	None								
2010	None								
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TOTALS			2	No	Skin pieces				1

U.S. TRADE IN CITES-LISTED GREAT WHITE SHARK (*CARCHARODON CARCHARIAS*) 2001-2010

(Data taken from U.S. CITES Annual Report data)
Report compiled on 11/14/2011

NOTE: The great white shark was listed in CITES Appendix III by Australia on 10/29/2001 and uplisted to Appendix II on 01/12/2005

I. U.S. imports of CITES-listed great white shark, 2001-2010, by country of origin

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>CTRY ORIGIN</u>	<u>CTRY REEXPORT</u>	<u>QUANTITY</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>TYPE SPECIMEN</u>	<u>PURPOSE</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>STATUS</u>	<u>NO. SHIPMENTS</u>
2001	None								
2002	Australia		1	No	Bone	Commercial	Wild	Cleared	1
2002	Australia		1	No	Skull	Commercial	Wild	Cleared	1
2002	Australia		300	No	Teeth	Commercial	Wild	Cleared	1
2002	South Africa		13	Kg	Bones	Scientific	Wild	Cleared	1
2002	Taiwan		5	No	Bones	Commercial	Wild	Cleared	1
2003	Australia		1	No	Tooth	Personal	Wild	Not cleared	1
2004	Taiwan		12,519	No	Bones	Commercial	Wild	Cleared	1
2005	New Zealand		1	No	Bone	Personal	Pre-CITES	Cleared	1
2005	South Africa		24	No	Teeth	Scientific	Wild	Cleared	1
2006	Australia		1	No	Trophy	Personal	Wild	Not cleared	1
2006	Mexico		1	No	Trophy	Personal	Wild	Not cleared	1
2006	New Zealand		1	No	Bone	Personal	Wild	Cleared	1
2007	South Africa		1	No	Scientific spec.	Educational	Wild	Cleared	1
2007	Unknown	China	5	No	Teeth	Commercial	Wild	Not cleared	1
2008	Philippines		383	No	Bones	Commercial	Wild	Cleared	1
2009	Australia		3	No	Bones	Exhibition	Wild	Cleared	1
2009	Australia		300	No	Teeth	Exhibition	Wild	Cleared	1
2009	Philippines		15	No	Teeth	Commercial	Wild	Not cleared	1
2009	South Africa		750	No	Teeth	Scientific	Wild	Cleared	1
2009	Unknown	China	4	No	Teeth	Personal	Wild	Not cleared	2
2009	Unknown	Taiwan	1	No	Jewelry	Personal	Wild	Not cleared	1
2009	Unknown	Thailand	1	No	Teeth	Personal	Wild	Not cleared	1

2010	Indonesia	168	No	Teeth	Commercial	Wild	Not cleared	1
2010	Mexico	4	No	Medicinals	Personal	Wild	Not cleared	2

TOTALS		13	Kg	Bones				1
		12,913	No	Bones				7
		1	No	Jewelry				1
		4	No	Medicinals				2
		1	No	Scientific spec.				1
		1	No	Skull				1
		1,568	No	Teeth				11
		2	No	Trophies				2

II. U.S. exports/reexports of CITES-listed great white shark, 2001-2010, by country of origin

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>CTRY ORIGIN</u>	<u>CTRY EXPORT</u>	<u>QUANTITY</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>TYPE SPECIMEN</u>	<u>PURPOSE</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>STATUS</u>	<u>NO. SHIPMENTS</u>
2001	None								
2002	None								
2003	None								
2004	None								
2005	None								
2006	None								
2007	None								
2008	Unknown	United States	1	No	Tooth	Commercial	Wild	Cleared	1
2009	None								
2010	Australia	United States	3	No	Bones	Exhibition	Wild	Cleared	1
2010	Australia	United States	300	No	Teeth	Exhibition	Wild	Cleared	1
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TOTALS			3	No	Bones				1
			301	No	Teeth				2

U.S. TRADE IN CITES-LISTED WHALE SHARK (*RHINCODON TYPUS*)

2003-2010

(Data taken from U.S. CITES Annual Report data)

Report compiled on 11/14/2011

NOTE: The whale shark was listed in CITES Appendix II on 02/13/2003

I. U.S. imports of CITES-listed whale shark, 2003-2009, by country of origin

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>CTRY ORIGIN</u>	<u>CTRY REEXPORT</u>	<u>QUANTITY</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>TYPE SPECIMEN</u>	<u>PURPOSE</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>STATUS</u>	<u>NO. SHIPMENTS</u>
2003	None								
2004	Malaysia		6	No	Soup	Commercial	Wild	Not cleared	1
2005	Taiwan		2	No	Live	Zoos	Wild	Cleared	1
2006	Taiwan		2	No	Live	Zoos	Wild	Cleared	1
2007	Taiwan		2	No	Live	Zoos	Wild	Cleared	1
2008	None								
2009	Taiwan	Canada	2	No	Bones	Scientific	Wild	Not cleared	1
2010	China		6	No	Medicinals	Personal	Wild	Not cleared	1
2010	Philippines		4	No	Scientific spec.	Scientific	Wild	Cleared	1
2010	South Africa		32	No	Bone pieces	Scientific	Wild	Cleared	1
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TOTALS			2	No	Bones				1
			32	No	Bone pieces				1
			6	No	Live				3
			6	No	Medicinals				1
			4	No	Scientific spec.				1
			6	No	Soup				1

II. U.S. exports/reexports of CITES-listed whale shark, 2003-2010, by country of origin

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>CTRY ORIGIN</u>	<u>CTRY REEXPORT</u>	<u>QUANTITY</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>TYPE SPECIMEN</u>	<u>PURPOSE</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>STATUS</u>	<u>NO. SHIPMENTS</u>
2003	None								
2004	None								
2005	None								
2006	None								
2007	None								
2008	None								
2009	None								
2010	None								
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TOTALS			None						

U.S. TRADE IN CITES-LISTED SAWFISH (PRISTIDAE) 2007-2010

(Data taken from U.S. CITES Annual Report data)
Report compiled on 11/14/2011

NOTE: The sawfish family Pristidae was listed in CITES Appendix I on 09/13/2007, except for *Pristis microdon*, which was listed in Appendix II on 09/13/2007 (for the exclusive purpose of allowing international trade in live animals to appropriate and acceptable aquaria for primarily conservation purposes)

I. U.S. imports of CITES-listed sawfish, 2007-2010, by species, then by country of origin

2007

SCIENTIFIC NAME	CTRY ORIGIN	CTRY REEXPORT	QUANTITY	UNIT	TYPE SPECIMEN	PURPOSE	SOURCE	STATUS	NO. SHIPMENTS
Pristis microdon	Australia		4	No	Live	Zoos	Wild	Cleared	2
TOTALS			4	No	Live				

2008

SCIENTIFIC NAME	CTRY ORIGIN	CTRY REEXPORT	QUANTITY	UNIT	TYPE SPECIMEN	PURPOSE	SOURCE	STATUS	NO. SHIPMENTS
Pristis microdon	Australia		2	No	Live	Zoos	Wild	Cleared	1
Pristis microdon	Unknown	United Kingdom	1	No	Bone	Personal	Wild	Not cleared	1
Pristis zijsron	Papua N. Guinea	Australia	1	No	Body	Personal	Wild	Cleared	1
TOTALS			1	No	Body				
			1	No	Bone				
			2	No	Live				

2009

SCIENTIFIC NAME	CTRY ORIGIN	CTRY REEXPORT	QUANTITY	UNIT	TYPE SPECIMEN	PURPOSE	SOURCE	STATUS	NO. SHIPMENTS
Anoxypristis cuspidate	Australia		100	Mg	Fins	Scientific	Wild	Cleared	1
Pristidae	Unknown	Germany	1	No	Carving	Exhibition	Pre-CITES	Cleared	1
Pristis clavata	Australia		100	Mg	Fins	Scientific	Wild	Cleared	1
Pristis microdon	Australia		100	Mg	Fins	Scientific	Wild	Cleared	1
Pristis zijsron	Australia		1	No	Bone	Exhibition	Pre-CITES	Cleared	1
Pristis zijsron	Australia		100	Mg	Fins	Scientific	Wild	Cleared	1
TOTALS			1	No	Bone				
			1	No	Carving				
			400	Mg	Fins				

2010 – No Imports

II. U.S. exports/reexports of CITES-listed sawfish, 2007-2010, by species, then by country of origin

2007 – No exports/reexports

2008 – No exports/reexports

2009 – No exports/reexports

2010

<u>SCIENTIFIC NAME</u>	<u>CTRY ORIGIN</u>	<u>CTRY REEXPORT</u>	<u>QUANTITY</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>TYPE SPECIMEN</u>	<u>PURPOSE</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>STATUS</u>	<u>NO. SHIPMENTS</u>
Pristidae	Unknown	United States	1	No	Leather product	Exhibition	Pre-CITES	Cleared	1
Pristis zijsron	Australia	United States	1	No	Bone	Exhibition	Pre-CITES	Cleared	1
TOTALS			1	No	Bone				
			1	No	Leather product				

Table 1: Shark species of concern listed in CoP14 Doc. 59.1, Annex 3

Species listed in CoP14 Doc. 59.1 and/or AC24 Doc.14.1.	FAO's list of primary species for monitoring of fisheries and trade ¹	Action taken under CITES
Spiny dogfish shark <i>Squalus acanthias</i>	Nominated by Spain, Argentina, Japan	Considered and rejected for listing in Appendix II at CoP14; have entered range State consultation prior to consideration at CoP15
Porbeagle shark <i>Lamna nasus</i>	Nominated by Spain	
Freshwater stingrays Family Potamotrygonidae	-	Decision 14.109. New AC recommendations proposed.
Sawfishes Family Pristidae	Nominated by the United States of America	Listed in the CITES Appendices
Gulper sharks genus <i>Centrophorus</i>	Nominated by Sri Lanka	
School, tope, or soupfin shark <i>Galeorhinus galeus</i>	Nominated by Argentina	Decision 14.114 not yet implemented.
Guitarfishes, shovelnose rays Order Rhinobatiformes	Four species nominated by West African CSRP (Commission sous-régionale des pêches) (7 States)	
Requiem and pelagic sharks	Many species nominated	Some reviewed in AC24 Doc. 14.1
Devil rays Family Mobulidae	-	
Leopard sharks <i>Triakis semifasciata</i>	-	
Species reviewed in AC24 Doc. 14.1	-	
Hammerhead sharks <i>Sphyrna</i> spp	Nominated by eight States & West African CSRP (7 States), China (Hong Kong SAR)	
Dusky shark <i>Carcharhinus obscurus</i>	Nominated by the United States of America	
Thresher sharks <i>Alopias</i> spp.	Nominated by Panama, Sri Lanka, Indonesia	
Shortfin mako <i>Isurus oxyrinchus</i>	Nominated by Hong Kong, Spain, the United States of America, Japan	
Silky shark <i>Carcharhinus falciformis</i>	Nominated by China (Hong Kong SAR), Sri Lanka, Indonesia	
Oceanic whitetip shark <i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i>	Nominated by Panama	
Blue shark <i>Prionace glauca</i>	Nominated by China (Hong Kong SAR), Spain, Panama, Ghana, the United States of America, Japan	
Sandbar shark <i>Carcharhinus plumbeus</i>	Nominated by China (Hong Kong SAR), the United States of America	
Bull shark <i>Carcharhinus leucas</i>	-	
Tiger shark <i>Galeocerdo cuvier</i>	Nominated by Ghana	

¹ AC24 Inf. 6. Report of the FAO Technical Workshop on Status, Limitations and Opportunities for Improving the Monitoring of Shark Fisheries and Trade (Advance copy). FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Report No. 897. Appendix IV