

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



Twenty-sixth meeting of the Animals Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 15-20 March 2012 and Dublin (Ireland), 22-24 March 2012

RESPONSE TO NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES NO. 2011/049

The following information document has been submitted by Montenegro in relation to agenda item 16*.

* *The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat or the United Nations Environment Programme concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.*

MONTENEGRO
GOVERNMENT OF MONTENEGRO
AGENCY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
02 No. D- 3434/3
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VP

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REPLY FILE

CITES Secretariat

- John E. Scanlon, Secretary-General -

International Environment House
11 Chemin des Anemones
CH-1219 Chatelaine, Geneva
Switzerland

- Information to be submitted for the 20th meeting of the Plants Committee and the 26th meeting of the Animals Committee -

Dear Mr. Scanlon,

The Montenegrin Management Authority in consultation with the relevant Scientific Authority wishes to inform, regarding Notification no.2011/049 relating to the information which is needed to be submitted for the 20th meeting of the Plants Committee and the 26th meeting of the Animals Committee, that:

In recent years it has been noted that the percentage of cartilaginous fish in trawl catches has been significantly decreased. Cartilaginous fish were present in 32 percent of the total trawl catch during the 1970-2000 period, while today that percentage dropped to 20 percent. Sharks

are predominantly accidentally caught by bottom trawl, long-line, and nets and are often not the target trawl species. Thus, due to the absence of the target monitoring of cartilaginous fishes in Montenegrin waters, there is very little biological data on the different species of sharks, while the existing data are mainly related to the accidental catch of individual fishers.

In accordance with the **Decision on putting under protection certain plant and animal species** ("Official Gazette of Republic of Montenegro 76/06") the following species of sharks are placed under protection in Montenegro due to their vulnerability and scarcity:

-*Cethorinus maximus* Gunnerus, 1975,

Carharodon carharias Linnaeus, 1758

In accordance with the **Order on the minimum size allowed for hunting**, which is part of the Law on Marine Fisheries and Marino culture ("Official Gazette of Republic of Montenegro 56/09") the following species of sharks are allowed to be caught:

- *Mustelus mustelus* Linnaeus 1758,
- *Mustelus nunculatus* Risso 1827

Research of demersal resources in the Northern Mediterranean (MEDITS survey), which was conducted between 1994 and 1999. at depths of 10-800 meters, indicates the presence of the *M.mustelus* species in 111 (2 %) of 6336 moves hampered.

Presence of this species on the continental shelf of the Adriatic Sea, which was found in the "Hvar" expedition between 1948 and 1949, shows almost the same percentage. Studies that have been done on the coast of Italy from 1985 to 1998 showed that the percentage of the *M.mustelus* species in trawl catches were 21,9 %. The largest concentration of the population was found in the southern Adriatic Sea and around the coast of Sicily. On the IUCN list this species is designated as "vulnerable", while for the *M.punctatus* species there is the lack of data.

So far there are no special measures to protect these two species of sharks, and in our waters their catch is allowed. For *M.mustelus* the smallest size allowed for harvesting is 75 cm, while for *M.punctatus* it is 60 cm. In accordance with the same Order, the catch of *Squalus acanthias* Linnaeus 1758 is allowed. The minimum catch size allowed is 65 cm. This species is placed in the IUCN's list as "vulnerable".

As for the *Lamna nasus* Bonaterre 1788 species , the opinion of the Montenegrin Scientific Authority is that the inclusion of this species in the CITES Appendix III of the Convention is justified because of the declining trend of its population in the Adriatic, and the fact that the central part of the Adriatic Sea is one of the main feeding areas of the Mediterranean population of this species.

Out of the several species of sharks that have been commonly caught in recent years with long-lines, including *Hexanchus griseus* Bonnaterre 1788, and *Prionace glauca* Linnaeus 1758, as well as those which were usually found in our trawl catches, which are *Squalus acanthias* and

Scyliorhinus canicula Lineatus 1758 , we suggest that the protection of *Prionace glauca* must be a priority because its population is endangered. In Croatia it has been included in "The red book of marine fishes of Croatia" as a sensitive species. In recent years, the sightings have been very rare due to the vulnerability of the species. The natural habitat of this species is in the South Adriatic waters and the species has a slow and complex reproduction cycle.

Sincerely,

DIRECTOR

Daliborka Pejovic



Daliborka Pejovic

