

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



Fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Doha (Qatar), 13-25 March 2010

APPENDIX II LISTING PROPOSALS FOR SHARKS

The attached document has been submitted by United States of America*.

* *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.*

APPENDIX II LISTING PROPOSALS FOR SHARKS

APPENDIX II IMPLEMENTATION PHASE-IN AND CAPACITY BUILDING ASSISTANCE

With respect to its proposals to list hammerhead and oceanic white tip sharks under Appendix II, the United States extended the original 18 month delayed implementation period to 24 months to further aid parties in resolving any technical issues associated with implementation.

Furthermore, the United States has already provided capacity building assistance on shark identification, and is committed to providing resources and training during the 24-month time period to aid countries in developing implementation plans (<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/sharks.html#id>). Capacity building workshops for the collection of standardized, high quality data for shark fisheries in the Eastern Pacific Ocean have already begun. Shark capacity building workshops are being planned later this year for several West African countries as part of programs designed to increase scientific observations of fishing fleets. The United States is willing to work with other regions on technical assistance needs.

Guides to the identification of shark from multiple regions are already available on the FAO website (<http://www.fao.org/fishery/sidp/3,3/en>). A guide to the identification of shark fins was also published by The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). The United States is developing a fin guide that will be readily available prior to the start of the implementation period.

Some fins, such as those of the oceanic whitetip shark (which has a distinctive white tip), are quite easy to identify or are distinguishable from other species because of their shape and size. Below is a photograph from a great hammerhead shark (*Sphyrna mokarran*) dorsal fin compared to that of a tiger shark (*Galeocerdo cuvier*), which is not proposed for listing. Note the large triangular fin as it compares to fins of most sharks found in trade.



Sphyrna mokarran



Galeocerdo cuvier

APPENDIX II AND ECONOMIC ACTIVITY.

Appendix II does not limit fishing for a listed species and it **would not ban trade in that species**. Appendix II listing under CITES would require the collection of information on trade in a species, and allow trade that would not result in a detrimental impact on the species. These requirements would be economically beneficial, as they would provide scientific information needed to support understanding of the condition of shark stocks and limit adverse impacts of trade on shark populations upon which coastal states depend for food and their livelihoods.

In particular, Appendix II **would not limit harvesting for domestic or local consumption or use**. Continuing shark harvesting for domestic use and limiting harmful trade would serve to enhance food and long-term economic security so important to developing nations. Many nations recognized the need to better manage these shark stocks in view of findings by both the FAO and the IUCN that these species have experienced significant population declines and their condition is likely to deteriorate without further action. Should

additional management actions be taken, as was called for by many Parties, Appendix II requirements would complement any requirements that a coastal state or Regional Fishery Management Organization (RFMO) might implement for long-term sustainable management and use of shark species. However, as noted by ICCAT and other parties, no RFMO is comprehensively managing either hammerhead or oceanic white tip sharks.