

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

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Nineteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties  
Panama City (Panama), 14 – 25 November 2022

Species specific matters

SHARKS AND RAYS (ELASMOBRANCHII SPP.)

1. This document has been submitted by the Standing Committee and the Animals Committee in consultation with the Secretariat and the Animal Committee's lead on the agenda item.
2. In Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP 18) on *Conservation and management of sharks*, the Conference of the Parties:
  13. DIRECTS the Animals Committee to periodically examine new information provided by range States on the implementation of the shark listings and other available relevant data and information;
  14. DIRECTS the Animals Committee to make species-specific recommendations, if necessary, on improving the conservation status of sharks and implementation of shark and ray listings;
  15. DIRECTS the Standing Committee to provide guidance on regulatory matters in connection to the implementation of the shark listings, including but not limited to the determination of legal acquisition, traceability and enforcement issues, as appropriate; and
  16. DIRECTS the Animals Committee and Standing Committee to report progress on shark and ray activities at the meetings of the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.
3. At its 18th meeting (CoP18, Geneva, 2019), the Conference of Parties adopted Decisions 18.218 to 18.225 on *Sharks and rays (Elasmobranchii spp.)*, as follows:

***Directed to the Parties***

**18.218** *Parties are encouraged to:*

- a) *provide information to the Secretariat in support of the study called for in Decision 18.221 paragraph a), in particular on any national management measures that prohibit commercial take or trade, and in response to the Notification called for in Decision 18.220;*
- b) *in accordance with their national legislation, provide a report to the Secretariat about the assessment of stockpiles of shark parts and derivatives for CITES-listed species stored and obtained before the entry into force of the inclusion in CITES in order to control and monitor their trade, if applicable;*
- c) *inspect, to the extent possible under their national legislation, shipments of shark parts and derivatives in transit or being transhipped, to verify presence of CITES-listed species and verify the presence of a valid CITES permit or certificate as required under the Convention or to obtain satisfactory proof of its existence; and*
- d) *continue to support the implementation of the Convention for sharks, including by providing funding for the implementation of Decisions 18.219, 18.221 and 18.222, and considering*

*seconding staff members with expertise in fisheries and the sustainable management of aquatic resources to the Secretariat.*

**Directed to the Secretariat**

**18.219** *Subject to external funding, the Secretariat shall continue to provide capacity-building assistance for implementing Appendix-II shark and ray listings to Parties upon request.*

**18.220** *The Secretariat shall:*

- a) *issue a Notification to the Parties, inviting Parties to:*
  - i) *provide concise summaries of new information on their shark and ray conservation and management activities, in particular:*
    - A. *the making of non-detriment findings;*
    - B. *the making of legal acquisition findings;*
    - C. *the identification of CITES-listed shark-products in trade; and*
    - D. *recording stockpiles of commercial and/or pre-Convention shark parts and derivatives for CITES Appendix-II elasmobranch species and controlling the entry of these stocks into trade; and*
  - ii) *highlight any questions, concerns or difficulties Parties are having in writing or submitting documentation on authorized trade for the CITES Trade Database;*
- b) *provide information from the CITES Trade Database on commercial trade in CITES-listed sharks and rays since 2000, sorted by species and, if possible, by product;*
- c) *disseminate existing guidance identified, or newly developed, guidance on the control and monitoring of stockpiles of shark parts and derivatives pursuant to Decision 18.224, paragraph b) by the Standing Committee; and*
- d) *collate this information for the consideration of the Animals Committee and the Standing Committee.*

**18.221** *The Secretariat shall, subject to external funding, and in collaboration with relevant organizations and experts:*

- a) *conduct a study to investigate the apparent mismatch between the trade in products of CITES-listed sharks recorded in the CITES Trade Database and what would be expected against the information available on catches of listed species; and*
- b) *bring the results of the study in paragraph a) to the attention of the Animals Committee or Standing Committee, as appropriate.*

**18.222** *The Secretariat, subject to external funding, is requested to collaborate closely with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to:*

- a) *verify that information about Parties' shark management measures are correctly reflected in the shark measures database developed by FAO (<http://www.fao.org/ipoa-sharks/database-of-measures/en/>) and, if not, support FAO in correcting the information;*
- b) *compile clear imagery of wet and dried unprocessed shark fins (particularly, but not exclusively, those from CITES-listed species) along with related species level taxonomic information to facilitate refinement of iSharkFin software developed by FAO;*
- c) *conduct a study analysing the trade in non-fin shark products of CITES-listed species, including the level of species mixing in trade products and recommendations on how to address any implementation challenges arising from the mixing that may be identified; and*

- d) *bring the results of activities in paragraphs a) to c) to the attention of the Animals Committee or Standing Committee, as appropriate.*

**Directed to the Animals Committee**

**18.223** *The Animals Committee, in collaboration with relevant organisations and experts, shall:*

- a) *continue to develop guidance to support the making of non-detriment findings (NDFs), in particular in data-poor, multi-species, small-scale/artisanal, and non-target (bycatch) situations, for CITES-listed shark species; and*
- b) *report the outcomes of its work under Decision 18.223, paragraph a) to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

**Directed to the Standing Committee**

**18.224** *The Standing Committee shall:*

- a) *develop guidance on the making of legal acquisition findings, and related assessments for introductions from the sea for CITES-listed shark species in the context of the implementation of Resolution Conf. 18.7 on Legal acquisition findings;*
- b) *develop new guidance or identify existing guidance on the control and monitoring of stockpiles of shark parts and derivatives, in particular for specimens caught prior to the inclusion of the species in Appendix II; and*
- c) *report its findings under Decision 18.224, paragraphs a) and b) to the 19<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

**Directed to the Standing Committee and Animals Committee**

**18.225** *The Animals Committee and Standing Committee shall analyse and review the results of any of the activities under Decisions 18.221 and 18.222 brought to their attention by the Secretariat, and with the support of the Secretariat prepare a joint report for the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the implementation of these Decisions.*

4. The present document fulfills the reporting obligations of the Animals Committee in Decision 18.223 paragraph b), which are found in paragraphs 10 to 12 and of the Standing Committee in Decision 18.224 paragraph c), which are found in paragraphs 13 to 16. It also presents, in accordance with Decision 18.225, a joint report of the Committees on the implementation of Decisions 18.221 and 18.222 and reflects the Committees' reporting obligations under Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP 18).

Mismatch in trade data in products of CITES-listed sharks (Decision 18.221)

5. In 2021, the Secretariat was made aware that TRAFFIC was undertaking a study on trade in sharks that could make a valuable contribution to the implementation of Decision 18.221. The Secretariat worked closely with TRAFFIC to collate relevant key findings from their study and presented these to the 74th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC74, Lyon, March 2022) in Annex 3 to document [SC74 Doc. 67.2](#). The Secretariat also provided the full study conducted by TRAFFIC as information document [SC74 Inf. 24](#).

Collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) (Decision 18.222)

6. With regards to Decision 18.222, paragraph b), FAO developed and refined iSharkFin and released version 1.4 in April 2021. An article on the software, entitled "Performance of iSharkFin in the identification of wet dorsal fins from priority shark species"<sup>1</sup>, was published in December 2021 and the full version is available upon request from the authors. The latest software is capable of identifying 13 shark species and one ray species currently listed in the CITES Appendices from photos of fins.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecoinf.2021.101514>

7. With regard to Decision 18.222, paragraph c), FAO is conducting a study analysing the trade in non-fin shark products of CITES-listed species. The study is expected to be published in the second half of 2022.

#### Non-detriment findings for shark species (Decision 18.223)

8. At its 31st meeting (AC31, online, June 2021), the Animals Committee considered document [AC31 Doc. 25](#) and its [addendum](#) by the Secretariat and established an in-session working group on sharks and rays (Elasmobranchii spp.) with a mandate to, *inter alia*, draft recommendations to integrate the development of non-detriment finding (NDF) guidance with the NDF workshop envisaged under Decision 18.132, paragraph c) i) (see summary record [AC31 SR](#)).
9. The Animals Committee agreed to submit the eight draft decisions contained in Annex 1 to the present document to the Standing Committee for its consideration. The Animals Committee further invited the organizers of the future workshop on NDFs to consider including a focus on sharks within the marine or aquatic species work stream to support the making of NDFs, in particular for data-poor, multi-species, shared and migratory stocks, small-scale artisanal, introduction from the sea and non-target (bycatch), recognising that sharks and rays are good examples of the challenges faced by Parties when preparing NDFs in these situations.

#### Legal acquisition findings and stockpile control and monitoring for sharks (Decision 18.224)

10. Concerning implementation of Decision 18.224, paragraphs a) and b), the Standing Committee established an intersessional working group on sharks and rays (Elasmobranchii spp.) with the mandate, *inter alia*, to develop guidance on the making of legal acquisition findings and related assessments for introductions from the sea for CITES-listed shark species and to develop new guidance or identify existing guidance on the control and monitoring of stockpiles of shark parts and derivatives.
11. At its 74th meeting, the Standing Committee reviewed documents [SC74 Doc. 67.1](#), which presented the work of the intersessional working group on sharks and rays, [SC74 Doc. 67.2](#) by the Secretariat and [SC74 Doc. 67.3](#), which presented recommendations and draft decisions of the Animals Committee.
12. At SC74, the Standing Committee agreed to submit to CoP19 the draft decisions as proposed by AC31 (Annex 1) and further draft decisions proposed by the Standing Committee itself (Annex 2). The Standing Committee requested that the Chair of the Standing Committee and the Chair of the Animals Committee work with the Secretariat and the Animal Committee's lead on the agenda item to merge the draft decisions on sharks and finalize a single joint report to be submitted to CoP19.
13. The merged draft decisions on sharks and rays in track-changes are presented in Annex 3 and a clean version of the draft decisions is presented in Annex 4.

#### Recommendations:

14. The Conference of the Parties is invited to adopt the draft decisions contained in the Annex 4 to the present document.

DRAFT DECISIONS ON SHARKS AND RAYS (*ELASMOBRANCHII SPP.*)  
BY THE ANIMALS COMMITTEE SUBMITTED TO COP19

**Directed to Parties**

**19.AA** Parties are encouraged to:

- a) provide brief information (with an executive summary not exceeding 200 words, if the report exceeds four pages) to the Secretariat, in particular on any national management measures that prohibit commercial take or trade, and respond to the Notification called for in Decision 19.CC;
- b) in accordance with their national legislation, provide a brief report (with an executive summary not exceeding 200 words, if the report exceeds four pages) to the Secretariat about the assessment of stockpiles of shark parts and derivatives for CITES-listed species stored and obtained before the entry into force of the inclusion in CITES in order to control and monitor their trade, if applicable;
- c) respond to the Notification called for in Decision 19.CC and share available national conversion factors used when estimating live catch weight by species, fishery, and product form for more accurate reporting of shark and ray trade data by Parties and indicate whether and how these are used in the development of their non-detriment findings;
- d) inspect, to the extent possible under their national legislation, shipments of shark parts and derivatives in transit or being transhipped, to verify presence of CITES-listed species and verify the presence of a valid CITES permit or certificate as required under the Convention or to obtain satisfactory proof of its existence;
- e) continue to support the implementation of the Convention for sharks, including by providing funding for the implementation of Decisions 19.BB, 19.DD and 19.EE, and consider seconding staff members with expertise in fisheries and the sustainable management of aquatic resources to the Secretariat; and
- f) actively collaborate to combat illegal trafficking in sharks and ray products by developing mechanisms for coordination between source, transit, and destination countries.

**Directed to Secretariat**

**19.BB** Subject to external funding, the Secretariat shall continue to provide capacity-building assistance for implementing Appendix-II shark and ray listings to Parties upon request.

**19.CC** The Secretariat shall:

- a) issue a Notification to the Parties, inviting Parties to:
  - i) provide concise (with 200 word executive summary, if the report exceeds four pages) new information on their shark and ray conservation and management activities, in particular:
    - A. the making of non-detriment findings;
    - B. the making of legal acquisition findings;
    - C. the identification and monitoring of CITES-listed shark-products in trade, in source, transit, and consumer Parties; and
    - D. recording stockpiles of commercial and/or preConvention shark parts and derivatives for CITES Appendix-II elasmobranch species and controlling the entry of these stocks into trade; and

- ii) share with the Secretariat their NDFs and conversion factors used when estimating catch live weight through converting recorded shark landings and trade, where available, to post in the sharks and rays web portal;
  - iii) highlight any questions, concerns or difficulties Parties are having in writing or submitting documentation on authorized trade data (e.g. which units are used in reporting trade) for the CITES Trade Database;
- b) provide information from the CITES Trade Database on commercial trade in CITES-listed sharks and rays since 2010, sorted by species and, if possible, by product;
  - c) invite non-Party, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organization observers to support Parties by providing concise information related to the above;
  - d) disseminate new or existing guidance identified by the Standing Committee on the control and monitoring of stockpiles of shark parts and derivatives pursuant to Decision 19.GG, paragraph b); and
  - e) collate this information for the consideration of the Animals Committee and the Standing Committee.

**19.DD** The Secretariat shall, subject to external funding, and in collaboration with relevant organizations and experts:

- a) conduct a study to investigate the apparent mismatch between the trade in products of CITES-listed sharks recorded in the CITES Trade Database and what would be expected against the information available on catches of listed species; and
- b) bring the results of the study in paragraph a) and any proposed solutions to resolve this issue in the future to the attention of the Animals Committee or Standing Committee, as appropriate.

**19.EE** The Secretariat, subject to external funding, is requested to collaborate closely with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to:

- a) verify that information about Parties' shark management measures is correctly reflected in the shark measures database developed by FAO (<http://www.fao.org/ipoa-sharks/database-of-measures/en/>) and if not, support FAO in correcting the information;
- b) compile clear imagery of wet and dried unprocessed shark fins (particularly, but not exclusively, those from CITES-listed species) along with related species level taxonomic information to facilitate refinement of iSharkFin software developed by FAO;
- c) conduct a study analysing the trade in non-fin shark products of CITES-listed species, including the level of species mixing in trade products and recommendations on how to address any implementation challenges arising from the mixing that may be identified; and
- d) bring the results of activities in paragraphs a) to c) to the attention of the Animals Committee or Standing Committee, as appropriate.

***Directed to the Animals Committee***

**19.FF** The Animals Committee, in collaboration with relevant organisations and experts, shall:

- a) continue to develop guidance to support the making of non-detriment findings (NDFs) for CITES-listed shark species, in particular in data-poor, multi-species, small-scale/artisanal, and non-target (by-catch) situations, and for shared and migratory stocks, and introduction from the sea; and
- b) report the outcomes of its work under this Decision to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

***Directed to the Standing Committee***

**19.GG** The Standing Committee shall consider:

- a) developing guidance on the making of legal acquisition findings, and related assessments for introductions from the sea for CITES-listed shark species in the context of the implementation of Resolution Conf. 18.7 on *Legal acquisition findings*;
- b) developing new guidance or identifying existing guidance on the control and monitoring of stockpiles of shark parts and derivatives, in particular for specimens caught prior to the inclusion of the species in Appendix II; and
- c) report its findings under this Decision to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

***Directed to the Standing Committee and the Animals Committee***

**19.HH** The Animals Committee and Standing Committee shall analyse and review the results of any of the activities under Decisions 19.AA and 19.GG and with the support of the Secretariat, prepare a joint report for the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the implementation of these Decisions.

DRAFT DECISIONS ON SHARKS AND RAYS (ELASMOBRANCHII SPP.)  
BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE SUBMITTED TO COP19

**Directed to Secretariat**

**19.XX1** Subject to external funding, the Secretariat shall liaise with relevant RFMO/As to identify opportunities for capacity building with the same organizations, possibly in the form of attending meetings (where the RFMO/A permits such attendance) or by directly liaising with the Secretariat of the organization to provide this information to its membership and/or the provision of training. The aim of this exercise would be to share information to improve the knowledge of CITES in the workings of each relevant RFMO/A.

**Directed to Standing Committee**

**19.XX2** The Standing Committee shall:

- a) develop guidance on the making of legal acquisition findings, and related assessments for trade in sharks caught on the high seas (including introductions from the sea) for CITES-listed shark species in the context of the implementation of Resolution Conf. 18.7 on *Legal acquisition findings* and its annexes 1 and 2. This guidance should include detailed descriptions and related graphics on specific scenarios regarding trade in CITES-listed shark species;
- b) develop new guidance or identify existing guidance on the control and monitoring of stockpiles of shark parts and derivatives, in particular for specimens caught prior to the inclusion of the species in Appendix II;
- c) report its findings under Decision 19.XX2 paragraphs a), b), d) and e) to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
- d) prepare information to support engagement with and capacity building of RFMO/As and include this information within the guidance called for by Decision 19.XX2 paragraph a); and
- e) review the FAO's guidance on Catch Document Schemes, pending publication (FAO. 2022. Understanding and implementing catch documentation schemes - A guide for national authorities. FAO Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries No. 14. Rome.), guidance the CITES Parties have agreed on traceability, relevant documents on the Secretariat's website on traceability ([https://cites.org/eng/prog/Cross-cutting\\_issues/traceability](https://cites.org/eng/prog/Cross-cutting_issues/traceability)) and include relevant information within the guidance called for by Decision 19.XX2 paragraph a).

**Directed to Parties**

**19.XX3** The Parties shall consider if they are likely to be key beneficiaries from the guidance document(s) provided by Decision 19.XX2 paragraphs a) and b); if so, the same Parties are strongly encouraged to participate in any Standing Committee working groups established to address Decision 19.XX2.



MERGED DRAFT DECISIONS ON SHARKS AND RAYS (ELASMOBRANCHII SPP.)

Deletions are shown in ~~strikeout~~ text, additions in underline text and text that were moved are shown in double underline text.

**Directed to Parties**

**19.AA** Parties are encouraged to:

- a) provide brief information (with an executive summary not exceeding 200 words, if the report exceeds four pages) to the Secretariat, in particular on any national management measures that prohibit commercial take or trade and respond to the Notification called for in Decision 19.CC;
- b) in accordance with their national legislation, provide a brief report (with an executive summary not exceeding 200 words, if the report exceeds four pages) to the Secretariat about the assessment of stockpiles of shark parts and derivatives for CITES-listed species stored and obtained before the entry into force of the inclusion in CITES in order to control and monitor their trade, if applicable;
- c) respond to the Notification called for in Decision 19.CC and share available national conversion factors used when estimating live catch weight by species, fishery, and product form for more accurate reporting of shark and ray trade data by Parties and indicate whether and how these are used in the development of their non-detriment findings;
- d) inspect, to the extent possible under their national legislation, shipments of shark parts and derivatives in transit or being transhipped, to verify presence of CITES-listed species and verify the presence of a valid CITES permit or certificate as required under the Convention or to obtain satisfactory proof of its existence;
- e) continue to support the implementation of the Convention for sharks, including by providing funding for the implementation of Decisions 19.BB, ~~19.DD~~ and ~~19.EE~~, and consider seconding staff members with expertise in fisheries and the sustainable management of aquatic resources to the Secretariat; ~~and~~
- f) actively collaborate to combat illegal trafficking in sharks and ray products by developing mechanisms for coordination between source, transit, and destination countries; and

**Directed to Parties**

~~19.XX3g)~~ The Parties shall consider if they are likely to be key beneficiaries from the guidance document(s) provided by Decision 19.XX2EE paragraphs a) and b); if so, the same Parties are strongly encouraged to participate in any Standing Committee working groups established to address Decision 19.XX2EE.

**Directed to the Secretariat**

**19.BB** Subject to external funding, the Secretariat shall

- a) continue to provide capacity-building assistance for implementing Appendix-II shark and ray listings to Parties upon request.

~~**Directed to Secretariat**~~

~~19.XX1~~ Subject to external funding, the Secretariat shall

- b) liaise with relevant RFMO/As to identify opportunities for capacity building with the same organizations, possibly in the form of attending meetings (where the RFMO/A permits such

attendance) or by directly liaising with the Secretariat of the organization to provide this information to its membership and/or the provision of training. The aim of this exercise would be to share information to improve the knowledge of CITES in the workings of each relevant RFMO/A.

~~19.DD~~ The Secretariat shall, subject to external funding, and

- ~~a)~~ in collaboration with relevant organizations and experts, conduct a study to investigate the apparent mismatch between the trade in products of CITES-listed sharks recorded in the CITES Trade Database and what would be expected against the information available on catches of listed species; and

~~19.EE~~ The Secretariat, subject to external funding, is requested to

- d) collaborate closely with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to:
  - ia) verify that information about Parties' shark management measures is correctly reflected in the shark measures database developed by FAO (<http://www.fao.org/ipoa-sharks/database-of-measures/en/>) and if not, support FAO in correcting the information;
  - ib) compile clear imagery of wet and dried unprocessed shark fins (particularly, but not exclusively, those from CITES-listed species) along with related species level taxonomic information to facilitate refinement of iSharkFin software developed by FAO; and
  - iiie) conduct a study analysing the trade in non-fin shark products of CITES-listed species, including the level of species mixing in trade products and recommendations on how to address any implementation challenges arising from the mixing that may be identified; and
- d) ~~bring the results of activities in paragraphs ia) to iiie) to the attention of the Animals Committee or Standing Committee, as appropriate.~~

~~19.DD~~ ~~b)~~ bring the results of the study in paragraph ca) and any proposed solutions to resolve this issue in the future and the results of activities in paragraphs d) ia) to iiie) to the attention of the Animals Committee or Standing Committee, as appropriate.

**19.CC** The Secretariat shall:

- a) issue a Notification to the Parties, inviting Parties to:
  - i) provide concise (with 200 word executive summary, if the report exceeds four pages) new information on their shark and ray conservation and management activities, in particular:
    - A. the making of non-detriment findings;
    - B. the making of legal acquisition findings;
    - C. the identification and monitoring of CITES-listed shark-products in trade, in source, transit, and consumer Parties; and
    - D. recording stockpiles of commercial and/or pre-Convention shark parts and derivatives for CITES Appendix-II elasmobranch species and controlling the entry of these stocks into trade; and
  - ii) share with the Secretariat their NDFs and conversion factors used when estimating catch live weight through converting recorded shark landings and trade, where available, to post in the sharks and rays web portal;
  - iii) highlight any questions, concerns or difficulties Parties are having in writing or submitting documentation on authorized trade data (e.g. which units are used in reporting trade) for the CITES Trade Database;
- b) provide information from the CITES Trade Database on commercial trade in CITES-listed sharks and rays since 2010, sorted by species and, if possible, by product;

- c) invite non-Party, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organization observers to support Parties by providing concise information related to the above;
- d) disseminate new or existing guidance identified by the Standing Committee on the control and monitoring of stockpiles of shark parts and derivatives pursuant to Decision 19.GGHH, paragraph b); and
- e) collate this information for the consideration of the Animals Committee and the Standing Committee.

**19.FFDD Directed to the Animals Committee**

The Animals Committee, in collaboration with relevant organisations and experts, shall:

- a) continue to develop guidance to support the making of non-detriment findings (NDFs) for CITES-listed shark species, in particular in data-poor, multi-species, small-scale/artisanal, and non-target (by-catch) situations, and for shared and migratory stocks, and introduction from the sea; and
- b) report the outcomes of its work under this Decision to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

**19.GGEE Directed to the Standing Committee**

~~The Standing Committee shall consider:~~

- ~~a) developing guidance on the making of legal acquisition findings, and related assessments for introductions from the sea for CITES-listed shark species in the context of the implementation of Resolution Conf. 18.7 on *Legal acquisition findings*;~~
- ~~b) developing new guidance or identifying existing guidance on the control and monitoring of stockpiles of shark parts and derivatives, in particular for specimens caught prior to the inclusion of the species in Appendix II; and~~
- ~~c) report its findings under this Decision to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.~~

**~~19.XX2 Directed to Standing Committee~~**

The Standing Committee shall:

- a) develop guidance on the making of legal acquisition findings, and related assessments for trade in sharks caught on the high seas (including introductions from the sea) for CITES-listed shark species in the context of the implementation of Resolution Conf. 18.7 on *Legal acquisition findings* and its annexes 1 and 2. This guidance should include detailed descriptions and related graphics on specific scenarios regarding trade in CITES-listed shark species;
- b) develop new guidance or identify existing guidance on the control and monitoring of stockpiles of shark parts and derivatives, in particular for specimens caught prior to the inclusion of the species in Appendix II;
- dc) prepare information to support engagement with and capacity building of RFMO/As and include this information within the guidance called for by ~~Decision 19.XX2~~ paragraph a) above;
- ed) review the FAO's guidance on Catch Document Schemes, pending publication (FAO, 2022. *Understanding and implementing catch documentation schemes - A guide for national authorities*. FAO Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries No. 14. Rome.), guidance the CITES Parties have agreed on traceability, relevant documents on the Secretariat's website on traceability ([https://cites.org/eng/prog/Cross-cutting\\_issues/traceability](https://cites.org/eng/prog/Cross-cutting_issues/traceability)) and include relevant information within the guidance called for by ~~Decision 19.XX2~~ paragraph a) above; and
- ee) report its findings under the present ~~Decision 19.XX2~~ paragraphs a), b), d) and e) to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

**19.HHFF** *Directed to the Standing Committee and the Animals Committee*

The Animals Committee and Standing Committee shall analyse and review the results of any of the activities under Decisions 19.AA and ~~to 19.FFGG~~ and, with the support of the Secretariat, prepare a joint report for the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the implementation of these Decisions.

MERGED DRAFT DECISIONS ON SHARKS AND RAYS (ELASMOBRANCHII SPP.)

**Directed to Parties**

**19.AA** Parties are encouraged to:

- a) provide brief information (with an executive summary not exceeding 200 words, if the report exceeds four pages) to the Secretariat, in particular on any national management measures that prohibit commercial take or trade and respond to the Notification called for in Decision 19.CC;
- b) in accordance with their national legislation, provide a brief report (with an executive summary not exceeding 200 words, if the report exceeds four pages) to the Secretariat about the assessment of stockpiles of shark parts and derivatives for CITES-listed species stored and obtained before the entry into force of the inclusion in CITES in order to control and monitor their trade, if applicable;
- c) respond to the Notification called for in Decision 19.CC and share available national conversion factors used when estimating live catch weight by species, fishery, and product form for more accurate reporting of shark and ray trade data by Parties and indicate whether and how these are used in the development of their non-detriment findings;
- d) inspect, to the extent possible under their national legislation, shipments of shark parts and derivatives in transit or being transhipped, to verify presence of CITES-listed species and verify the presence of a valid CITES permit or certificate as required under the Convention or to obtain satisfactory proof of its existence;
- e) continue to support the implementation of the Convention for sharks, including by providing funding for the implementation of Decision 19.BB, and consider seconding staff members with expertise in fisheries and the sustainable management of aquatic resources to the Secretariat; and
- f) actively collaborate to combat illegal trafficking in sharks and ray products by developing mechanisms for coordination between source, transit, and destination countries.
- g) consider if they are likely to be key beneficiaries from the guidance document(s) provided by Decision 19.EE, paragraphs a) and b); if so, the same Parties are strongly encouraged to participate in any Standing Committee working groups established to address Decision 19.EE.

**Directed to the Secretariat**

**19.BB** Subject to external funding, the Secretariat shall

- a) continue to provide capacity-building assistance for implementing Appendix-II shark and ray listings to Parties upon request.
- b) liaise with relevant RFMO/As to identify opportunities for capacity building with the same organizations, possibly in the form of attending meetings (where the RFMO/A permits such attendance) or by directly liaising with the Secretariat of the organization to provide this information to its membership and/or the provision of training. The aim of this exercise would be to share information to improve the knowledge of CITES in the workings of each relevant RFMO/A.
- c) in collaboration with relevant organizations and experts, conduct a study to investigate the apparent mismatch between the trade in products of CITES-listed sharks recorded in the CITES Trade Database and what would be expected against the information available on catches of listed species; and bring the results of the study and any proposed solutions to resolve this issue in the future to the attention of the Animals Committee or Standing Committee, as appropriate; and
- d) collaborate closely with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to:

- i) verify that information about Parties' shark management measures is correctly reflected in the shark measures database developed by FAO (<http://www.fao.org/ipoa-sharks/database-of-measures/en/>) and if not, support FAO in correcting the information;
  - ii) compile clear imagery of wet and dried unprocessed shark fins (particularly, but not exclusively, those from CITES-listed species) along with related species level taxonomic information to facilitate refinement of iSharkFin software developed by FAO;
  - iii) conduct a study analysing the trade in non-fin shark products of CITES-listed species, including the level of species mixing in trade products and recommendations on how to address any implementation challenges arising from the mixing that may be identified; and
- e) bring the results of the study in paragraph c) and any proposed solutions to resolve this issue in the future and the results of activities in paragraphs d) i) to iii) to the attention of the Animals Committee or Standing Committee, as appropriate.

**19.CC** The Secretariat shall:

- a) issue a Notification to the Parties, inviting Parties to:
  - i) provide concise (with 200 word executive summary, if the report exceeds four pages) new information on their shark and ray conservation and management activities, in particular:
    - A. the making of non-detriment findings;
    - B. the making of legal acquisition findings;
    - C. the identification and monitoring of CITES-listed shark-products in trade, in source, transit, and consumer Parties; and
    - D. recording stockpiles of commercial and/or pre-Convention shark parts and derivatives for CITES Appendix-II elasmobranch species and controlling the entry of these stocks into trade; and
  - ii) share with the Secretariat their NDFs and conversion factors used when estimating catch live weight through converting recorded shark landings and trade, where available, to post in the sharks and rays web portal;
  - iii) highlight any questions, concerns or difficulties Parties are having in writing or submitting documentation on authorized trade data (e.g. which units are used in reporting trade) for the CITES Trade Database;
- b) provide information from the CITES Trade Database on commercial trade in CITES-listed sharks and rays since 2010, sorted by species and, if possible, by product;
- c) invite non-Party, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organization observers to support Parties by providing concise information related to the above;
- d) disseminate new or existing guidance identified by the Standing Committee on the control and monitoring of stockpiles of shark parts and derivatives pursuant to Decision 19.EE-, paragraph b); and
- e) collate this information for the consideration of the Animals Committee and the Standing Committee.

***Directed to the Animals Committee***

**19.DD** The Animals Committee, in collaboration with relevant organisations and experts, shall:

- a) continue to develop guidance to support the making of non-detriment findings (NDFs) for CITES-listed shark species, in particular in data-poor, multi-species, small-scale/artisanal, and non-target (by-catch) situations, and for shared and migratory stocks, and introduction from the sea; and

- b) report the outcomes of its work under this Decision to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

***Directed to the Standing Committee***

**19.EE** The Standing Committee shall:

- a) develop guidance on the making of legal acquisition findings, and related assessments for trade in sharks caught on the high seas (including introductions from the sea) for CITES-listed shark species in the context of the implementation of Resolution Conf. 18.7 on *Legal acquisition findings* and its annexes 1 and 2. This guidance should include detailed descriptions and related graphics on specific scenarios regarding trade in CITES-listed shark species;
- b) develop new guidance or identify existing guidance on the control and monitoring of stockpiles of shark parts and derivatives, in particular for specimens caught prior to the inclusion of the species in Appendix II;
- c) prepare information to support engagement with and capacity building of RFMO/As and include this information within the guidance called for by paragraph a) above;
- d) review the FAO's guidance on Catch Document Schemes, pending publication (FAO. 2022. Understanding and implementing catch documentation schemes – A guide for national authorities. FAO Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries No. 14. Rome.), guidance the CITES Parties have agreed on traceability, relevant documents on the Secretariat's website on traceability ([https://cites.org/eng/prog/Cross-cutting\\_issues/traceability](https://cites.org/eng/prog/Cross-cutting_issues/traceability)) and include relevant information within the guidance called for by paragraph a) above; and
- e) report its findings under the present Decision to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

***Directed to the Standing Committee and the Animals Committee***

**19.FF** The Animals Committee and Standing Committee shall analyse and review the results of any of the activities under Decisions 19.AA to 19.FF and, with the support of the Secretariat, prepare a joint report for the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the implementation of these Decisions.

TENTATIVE BUDGET AND SOURCE OF FUNDING  
FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS OR DECISIONS

According to Resolution Conf. 4.6 (Rev. CoP18) on *Submission of draft resolutions, draft decisions and other documents for meetings of the Conference of the Parties*, the Conference of the Parties decided that any draft resolutions or decisions submitted for consideration at a meeting of the Conference of the Parties that have budgetary and workload implications for the Secretariat or permanent committees must contain or be accompanied by a budget for the work involved and an indication of the source of funding. The Secretariat proposes the following tentative budget and source of funding.