

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

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 19th 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"¹, 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.

¹ <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.

COMMENTS OF THE SECRETARIAT

- A. The Secretariat and the Animal Committee's lead on the agenda item assisted the Chair of the Standing Committee and the Chair of the Animals Committee to merge the draft decisions on sharks, which are presented in Annex 4. As a consequence, the Secretariat recommends the deletion of Decisions 18.218 to 18.225 as they have been replaced by the merged draft decisions.
- B. However, in the light of recent developments, the Secretariat proposes some amendments in the table below with explanations:

DRAFT DECISIONS ON SHARKS AND RAYS (ELASMOBRANCHII SPP.) – ANNEX 4 TO THE PRESENT DOCUMENT	SECRETARIAT COMMENTS
<p>Directed to Parties</p> <p>19.AA Parties are encouraged to:</p> <p>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;</p> <p>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;</p> <p>ae) 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;</p> <p>be) <u>in accordance with Resolution Conf. 9.7 (Rev. CoP15) on <i>Transit and transshipment</i></u>, inspect, to the extent possible under their national legislation, shipments of shark parts and derivatives in transit or being transhipped, to verify the 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;</p> <p>ce) 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</p> <p>f) actively collaborate to combat illegal trafficking in sharks and ray products by developing mechanisms for coordination between source, transit, and destination countries.</p> <p>dg) consider if they are likely to be key beneficiaries from the guidance document(s) <u>reviewed under</u> provided by Decision 19.EE,</p>	<p>Draft decision 19.AA paragraph a) is included in Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP18), paragraph 12, which invites Parties to share through the Secretariat their experiences in implementing CITES provisions for listed shark species and the Secretariat believes that paragraph a) can be deleted.</p> <p>Paragraph b) was included in the draft decisions as a placeholder while the intersessional working group of the Standing Committee on sharks and rays was in progress. As the intersessional working group has reviewed the information provided by the Parties (compiled in AC31 Doc. 25 A2), the Secretariat believes that paragraph b) can be deleted.</p> <p>As Paragraph d) is from Resolution Conf. 9.7 (Rev. CoP15) on <i>Transit and transshipment</i>, the Resolution was added for ease of reference.</p> <p>The Secretariat recommends removing the phrase in paragraph e) as requests for donor support for tasks subject to external funding is addressed in the Resolution on <i>Financing and the costed programme of work for the Secretariat for the upcoming triennium</i>.</p> <p>The Secretariat recommends deletion of paragraph f) as the obligation for Parties to collaborate to combat illegal trade is detailed in Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP18) on <i>Compliance and enforcement</i> and applies to sharks and rays.</p>

paragraphs a) and b); if so, these 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.~~
- ab) 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;
- e) ~~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 in the light of the study entitled *Missing sharks: A country review of catch, trade and management recommendations for CITES-listed shark species* (see information document SC74 Inf. 24), proposed solutions to resolve the this issue of 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 in the future to the attention of the Animals Committee or Standing Committee, as appropriate; and~~
- ce) 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;

A request for the Secretariat to continue assisting in building capacity is included in Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP18) on *Conservation and management of sharks*, paragraph 2. The Secretariat stands ready to provide assistance on capacity building for legal and scientific issues as it relates to CITES-listed sharks and rays.

The Secretariat reported key findings from a study on the topic conducted by TRAFFIC to SC74 and proposes to continue the work on the issue by identifying feasible solutions.

<p>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;</p> <p>iii) conduct a study analyzing 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</p> <p>de) bring the results of the study in paragraph c) and any proposed solutions under paragraph b) to resolve this issue in the future and the results of activities in paragraphs c) i) to iii) to the attention of the Animals Committee or Standing Committee, as appropriate.</p>	<p>To reflect the changes in paragraph a) to d) in the present decision, the Secretariat proposes wording changes.</p>
<p>19.CC The Secretariat shall:</p> <p>a) issue a Notification to the Parties, inviting Parties to:</p> <p>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:</p> <p>A. the making of non-detriment findings;</p> <p>B. the making of legal acquisition findings;</p> <p>C. the identification and monitoring of CITES-listed shark products in trade, in source, transit, and consumer Parties; and</p> <p>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</p> <p>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;</p> <p>iii) highlight any questions, concerns or difficulties Parties are having in writing or submitting documentation on authorized</p>	<p>Draft decision 19.CC paragraph a) subparagraph i) is included in Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP18) paragraph 12, which invites Parties to share through the Secretariat their experiences in implementing CITES provisions for listed shark species. In addition, the Secretariat publishes all NDFs received from Parties on the CITES website in the Sharks and Rays Portal and in the Virtual College.</p> <p>The Secretariat considers that draft decision 19.CC paragraph a) subparagraph i) B, C, and D can also be deleted as Parties have already reported on these paragraphs in Notification No. 2020/016, and the intersessional working group of the Standing Committee on sharks and rays has reviewed the information (compiled in AC31 Doc. 25 A2).</p> <p>The Secretariat believes that draft decision 19.CC paragraph a) subparagraph iii) can be deleted as Resolution Conf. 11.17 (Rev. CoP 18) on <i>National reports</i>, paragraph 11, includes a clause urging Parties experiencing difficulties to</p>

<p>trade data (e.g. which units are used in reporting trade) for the CITES Trade Database;</p> <p>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; <u>and</u></p> <p>e) invite non-Party, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organization observers to support Parties by providing concise information related to the above;</p> <p>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</p> <p>e) collate this information for the consideration of report to the Animals Committee and the Standing Committee, as appropriate.</p>	<p>seek assistance with the Secretariat. The Secretariat is ready to provide assistance to any Parties experiencing difficulties with reporting including on sharks and rays.</p> <p>The Secretariat is of the opinion that non-Party, IGOs and NGOs can provide information to the Secretariat at any time without the need of a decision.</p> <p>As draft decision 19.CC paragraph d) is linked to draft decision 19.EE paragraph b), which is suggested for deletion, this decision is also recommended for deletion.</p>
<p>19.DD Directed to the Animals Committee</p> <p>The Animals Committee, in collaboration with relevant organisations and experts, shall:</p> <p>a) continue to develop <u>review the NDF guidance to support resulting from the international expert workshop on NDFs as it relates to 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</u></p> <p>b) <u>review the information submitted by the Secretariat under paragraph d) of Decision 19.BB and paragraph c) of Decision 19.CC and;</u></p> <p>cb) <u>report the outcomes of its work under this the present Decision to the Standing Committee for incorporation into the report to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.</u></p>	<p>In light of the planned second international workshop on non-detriment findings which is expected to include a workstream on <i>NDFs for marine or aquatic species, including regional implications for shared species, introduction from the sea, and NDFs for marine or aquatic invertebrates</i>, the Secretariat believes that the Animals Committee could consider the outcomes of the workshop in lieu of developing the guidance itself.</p> <p>In draft decisions 19.BB and 19.CC, the Secretariat is asked to bring information to the Animals Committee, however, there is no decision directed to the Animals Committee to consider those reports. The Secretariat proposes language for such a decision.</p> <p>To streamline the reporting of work conducted under decisions on sharks and rays, the draft decision was edited to link it to draft decision 19.FF and produce one single report to CoP.</p>
<p>19.EE Directed to the Standing Committee</p> <p>The Standing Committee shall:</p> <p>a) develop guidance <u>review the revised Rapid Guide on the making of Legal Acquisition Findings, and related assessments for as it relates to trade in CITES-listed shark species caught in areas beyond national jurisdiction on the high seas (including introductions from the sea), including</u></p>	<p>Pursuant to Decision 18.123, paragraph d), the CITES International Workshop on legal acquisition findings (Oxford, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, 31 August to 1 September 2022) considered the revised Rapid Guide for the making of Legal Acquisition Findings, which was set out in the Annex to SC74 Doc. 40, as reported in document CoP19</p>

<p>engagement with RFMOs and any capacity building which might support their role in the making of LAFs – for CITES-listed shark species in the context of the implementation of Resolution Conf. 18.7 on <i>Legal acquisition findings</i> 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; <u>and</u></p> <p>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;</p> <p>e) 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;</p> <p>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) and include relevant information within the guidance called for by paragraph a) above; and</p> <p>be) report its findings under the present Decision to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.</p>	<p>Doc. 40, including as this relates to marine species. The Secretariat believes that the Standing Committee could consider the outcomes of discussions under this agenda item in lieu of developing parallel guidance itself.</p> <p>The term “high seas” was replaced with areas beyond national jurisdiction following the adoption of the use of the term at SC74.</p> <p>The Secretariat considers that this is a costly task that may not have immediate practical applications and suggestion deletion.</p> <p>Decision 19.CC paragraph c) was merged with paragraph a) to include it in the Standing Committee's review of the revised Rapid Guide on Legal Acquisition Findings.</p> <p>The information provided within the FAO's guidance on Catch Document Schemes was considered with other relevant information at the CITES International Legal Acquisition Findings workshop and these considerations have informed the proposed revised Rapid Guide on the making of Legal Acquisition findings.</p>
<p>19.FF Directed to the Standing Committee and the Animals Committee</p> <p><u>The Standing Committee shall:</u></p> <p>a) review the comments and recommendations provided by the Animals Committee and Standing Committee – and the Secretariat shall analyse and review the results of any of the activities under Decisions 19.AABB to 19.EEDD; and</p> <p>b) prepare a report with any necessary recommendations for improving the implementation of the Convention for sharks and rays for consideration by 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.</p>	<p>To streamline the reporting procedure to the Conference of the Parties on the various decisions directed to the Parties, Secretariat, and the Animals and Standing Committee, the Secretariat proposes new language.</p>

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) 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
 - iiic) 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 iiic) 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 iiic) 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) 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) 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.

The following table shows the tentative budget for the amended draft decisions as proposed by the Secretariat in its comments:

Decision	Activity	Indicative costs (USD) (excludes Programme Support Costs)	Source of funding
Decision 19.BB paragraph b)	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.	10,000 (USD 1,000 – 5,000 for trips depending on location) to attend relevant meetings (e.g. COFI, RSN, RFB meetings)	Extrabudgetary
Decision 19.BB paragraph d)	Subject to external funding, the Secretariat shall collaborate closely with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	USD 20,000 small technical study No budgetary implications	Extrabudgetary

	<p>taxonomic information to facilitate refinement of iSharkFin software developed by FAO;</p> <p>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</p>	<p>USD 50,000 – 100,000 large technical study</p>	
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