

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



Seventy-eighth meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 3-8 February 2025

Compliance

Compliance matters

APPLICATION OF ARTICLE XIII IN ECUADOR AND PERU

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At its 77th meeting (SC77; Geneva, November 2023), pursuant to Article XIII of the Convention, the Standing Committee reviewed the information contained in document [SC77 Doc. 33.7](#) and recommended that Parties suspend trade in specimens of sharks and rays included in CITES Appendix II before the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP19) from Ecuador or with country-of-origin Ecuador. The recommendation was to take effect 120 days after the closure of SC77 unless Ecuador took measures to ensure the appropriate implementation of Article IV with respect to non-detriment findings (NDFs) and legal acquisition findings (LAFs) to the satisfaction of the Secretariat in consultation with the Chair of the Animals Committee, notably through establishing requirements for sustainable levels of trade, including by determining fishing capacity and by-catch.
3. The Standing Committee also agreed on additional recommendations on this matter regarding (see summary record [SC77 SR](#), agenda item 33.7):
 - the management of trade in specimens of sharks and rays;
 - imports of specimens of CITES-listed sharks and rays from Ecuador or with country-of-origin Ecuador since the listings in Appendix II came into effect;
 - legislation and the fight against fraud;
 - trade between Ecuador and Peru; and
 - reporting.
4. With regard to the recommendation on the appropriate implementation of Article IV, Ecuador shared three NDFs with the Secretariat in January and February 2024:
 - NDF for *Carcharhinus falciformis*;
 - NDF for *Isurus oxyrinchus* and *Isurus paucus*, focused mainly on *I. oxyrinchus* as *I. paucus* makes up less than 1% of the total reported shark catches; and
 - NDF for *Alopias pelagicus*, *A. superciliosus*, and *A. vulpinus*, focused mainly on *A. pelagicus* and *A. superciliosus* as *A. vulpinus* makes up less than 1% of the total reported shark catches.
5. In consultation with the Chair of the Animals Committee, the Secretariat reviewed the NDFs and shared its comments and questions regarding catch location, mortality, by-catch percentage and limits, size data, and justification of the export quotas with Ecuador. The questions were further discussed in an online meeting on 22 February 2024 with the CITES Management Authority (MA), Scientific Authority (SA) and the fisheries authorities of Ecuador, the Chair of the Animals Committee, and the Secretariat.

6. In consultation with the Chair of the Animals Committee, the Secretariat determined that some measures, in particular with respect to NDFs should be further elaborated, and information relating to fishing capacity and by-catch limits should be shared with the Secretariat. With regards to LAFs it was concluded that, as with NDFs, some measures in particular with respect to introduction from the sea should be further elaborated and shared with the Secretariat. The Secretariat therefore published Notification to the Parties No. [2024/043](#) informing all Parties that the recommendation of the Standing Committee that Parties suspend trade for commercial purposes in specimens of sharks and rays listed in CITES Appendix II before CoP19 from Ecuador or with country-of-origin Ecuador entered into effect as of 11 March 2024.
7. The Secretariat notes that Ecuador has a national prohibition on fishing of specimens of the genus *Mobula* since 2010 and of the genus *Sphyrna* since 2020. Of the shark and ray species listed prior to CoP19, the only species that are caught (as by-catch) and exported by Ecuador are the species covered in the three NDFs shared with the Secretariat (*Carcharhinus falciformis*, *Alopias* spp. and *Isurus* spp.).
8. In accordance with the SC77 recommendations, Peru extended an invitation to the Secretariat to conduct a technical assessment and a fact-finding mission to understand how their CITES Authorities are ensuring that shark and ray specimens and specimens of other aquatic species are imported and re-exported in compliance with the Convention. Considering that the matter involves both Peru and Ecuador, the latter accepted the proposal by the Secretariat to conduct a second technical assessment mission to Ecuador and also extended an invitation to the Secretariat. The mission to both countries took place from 24 September to 4 October 2024.
9. Peru had requested support from the Secretariat and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) on rules pertaining to CITES implementation, including introduction from the sea, fisheries, and the implementation of the Port State Measures Agreement. The mission in Peru was therefore conducted jointly with a representative of the Development Law Service of FAO. Meetings on aspects related to the implementation of the SC77 recommendations were attended only by the Secretariat; meetings and discussions pertaining to legislation, fisheries and landing of marine species were held jointly with FAO. A summary of the mission is included in the Annex to the present document.
10. The Secretariat thanks Ecuador and Peru for the excellent organization and cooperation in hosting the Secretariat and is grateful for the technical and logistical support provided in planning and coordinating the mission and the different site visits. The mission was supported by the generous contribution of the United States of America. The Secretariat appreciates the support provided in this regard.
11. As requested by SC77, Ecuador and Peru submitted their report on the implementation of the Article XIII recommendations. This document presents the recommendations of the Secretariat concerning the application of Article XIII to Ecuador and Peru, where relevant, based on these reports and on the conclusions of the mission to both Parties.
12. The Secretariat notes that contextual elements and information summarized concerning the mission of the Secretariat to Peru in 2022 and to Ecuador in 2023 (presented in document [SC77 Doc. 33.7](#)) remain pertinent. The present document focuses on the progress accomplished by both countries in the implementation of the recommendations of SC77.

Progress made in the implementation of Article XIII recommendations

Regarding management of trade in sharks and rays specimens

- a) *Parties suspend trade in specimens of sharks and rays listed on CITES appendix II before CoP 19 from Ecuador or with country-of-origin Ecuador. The recommendation shall take effect 120 days after the closure of SC77 unless Ecuador takes measures to ensure the appropriate implementation of Article IV with respect to non-detriment findings and legal acquisition findings to the satisfaction of the Secretariat in consultation with the Chair of the Animals Committee, notably through establishing requirements for sustainable levels of trade, including by determining fishing capacity and by-catch limits, and establishing trade quotas for sharks and rays based on available scientific data.*

Non-detriment findings (NDFs) – Ecuador

13. The Public Institute for Aquaculture and Fisheries Research (IPIAP), in its capacity as CITES SA of Ecuador for aquatic species, makes NDFs for shark species. IPIAP collects a wide range of data to inform the making of NDFs, including scientific data and literature on the species, landing information, biological sampling and results of the analysis of samples, morphometric and traceability studies. The NDFs are then evaluated in a

peer review system by a group of national and international interdisciplinary researchers with experience in shark assessment and biology, taking into account the CITES guidance concerning NDFs.

14. Each of the three submitted NDFs includes two analyses to assess the sustainability of the catch in sharks using the size of the specimens landed. The first is a calculation of the total mortality rate using published information on growth parameters, length of sexual maturity, and the average size of the specimens landed, which provides indications on whether there is overfishing of the population. The second is an analysis of the sizes of the sharks that are landed by sex to calculate the percentage of individuals that exceed the size of sexual maturity in males and females. The NDFs also include the total landings of the species over the previous 10 years, depending on the species, to provide an overview of the offtake.
15. During the review of the three NDFs submitted by Ecuador, the Secretariat requested the following additional information:
 - the location of catch, whether the catch was from within the Economic Exclusive Zone (EEZ) (including territorial waters) of Ecuador or from areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ);
 - information on discard and release rate, if any, to obtain a better understanding of the total mortality;
 - information on domestic use of sharks and rays;
 - by-catch limit and/or mitigation measures;
 - the percentage of catch that are sharks and rays (by-catch percentage);
 - justification on the sustainability of catch in the species given that a high percentage of the landed individuals are juveniles; and
 - justification that the established export quotas are not detrimental to the species in the wild given that the total mortality rate shows that the catch in the recent years was not sustainable.
16. During the Secretariat's mission, Ecuador presented the updates it was preparing to the three NDFs referred to in paragraph 4 above. These updates covered:
 - the inclusion of catch location data;
 - the inclusion of the percentage of sharks caught alive and released, in the specific case of *C. falciformis*, based on mortality data from the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC). For the other species this information was not available;
 - the inclusion of data from 2022 on landings of by-catch;
 - information and plans for by-catch permissibility percentages;
 - the increase in the number of data collection sites to collect information on the size of landed sharks with the aim of gathering comprehensive information on landings across Ecuador to assess whether there is possible overfishing; and
 - the application of IATTC's recommendation to set the minimum catch size of 100 cm for *C. falciformis* to all fisheries (artisanal and industrial) to reduce the capture of juveniles.
17. The Secretariat notes that export quotas have been established based on NDFs and the total landing statistics and previous years' export data. Separate export quotas were set for wet weight (gutted, headless and finned) and for dried fins. These two quotas will be managed separately, as shark meat is consumed domestically whereas shark fins are not, i.e. all fins of landed sharks are exported.
18. Ecuador and the Secretariat had a further exchange regarding NDFs for these shark species during a follow-up meeting held online on 29 October 2024. After the deadline for documents for the present meeting, Ecuador shared revised and updated NDFs on *Carcharhinus falciformis* and *Isurus oxyrinchus* with the Secretariat. The Secretariat consulted the Chair of the Animals Committee on the two NDFs, and notes the progress made by Ecuador on updating the information and data in the NDFs as well as proposing by-catch limits for different fisheries. The Secretariat is providing feedback to Ecuador and requesting further information relating to the sustainability of the proposed export quotas and the implementation of the proposed by-catch limits.

Legal acquisition findings (LAFs)

19. Ecuador conducts legal acquisition findings by verifying compliance with national laws that regulate fisheries and the handling of by-catch resulting from fisheries activities. The Ministry of the Environment, Water and Ecological Transition (MAATE), as CITES MA, is responsible for making the LAFs for CITES-listed species. However, the Ministry of Production, Foreign Trade, Investment and Fisheries (MPCEIP) verifies compliance with fisheries regulations and transmits the information to MAATE.
20. After the inclusion of *Alopias* spp. and *C. falciformis* in Appendix II in 2017, MPCEIP and MAATE established a procedure for the validation of documents prior to issuing CITES permits and certificates to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Convention, including the making of LAFs. An Interministerial Agreement between MAATE and MPCEIP includes the procedure for issuing certificates of Introduction from the Sea (IFS) (see the section below on *Legislation*).
21. Under the national regulatory framework, traceability of fisheries activities and specimens is conducted through the Ecuadorian Single Window (Ventanilla Única Ecuatoriana – VUE) used to process applications for exports. This procedure can be summarized in six steps: i) permit application; ii) verification and traceability controls; iii) fisheries inspection; iv) payment order; v) payment of fees; and vi) notification of approval from MPCEIP to MAATE through the Single Advance Control Authorisation (Autorización Única de Control Previo - AUCP) sent to Customs via VUE. Pursuant to the Interministerial Agreement, MPCEIP conducts the verification of legal acquisition and notifies its conclusions to MAATE, as the CITES MA, for review and issuance of the CITES permits or certificates.
22. Ecuador has in place robust verification and traceability controls for vessels that have satellite monitoring systems (VMS) (industrial vessels). The information of the vessels (location, course, speed) is sent to the Satellite Monitoring Centre of the Undersecretariat of Fisheries Resources (Subsecretaria de Recursos Pesqueros), where monitoring, control and surveillance of fishing activity is conducted 24 hours a day, every day of the year. The Integrated System of Aquaculture and Fisheries (Sistema Integrado de Acuicultura y Pesca – SIAP) has been programmed with applicable fishing regulations, so automatic alarms are generated, alerting operators of any possible violations. Along with the alarms, an automatic email is sent to the owner of the vessel informing them of the possible violation requesting, if applicable, the owner to send evidence proving that it is not in breach of applicable fishing regulations within a certain time, before the operator of the Satellite Monitoring Centre confirms the fishing infringement. If the potential infringement is due to a loss of signal from the VMS, the vessel is ordered to return to port. If the infraction is due to a loss of signal from the VMS, the vessel must report its location, course and speed every hour until it reaches port. Administrative sanctions can be taken against offenders, which can include fines, confiscation of specimens, of fishing gear, or seizure of the vessel.
23. A Fisheries Inspector from the Directorate of Fisheries Control of the MPCEIP is present during the landing to verify compliance with fishing regulations. In case of specimens of Appendix II-listed species taken in the area beyond national jurisdiction, including sharks, the user must request an IFS certificate from MAATE. If no irregularities are found, the Fisheries Inspector will issue, through SIAP, the Fisheries Landing Monitoring and Control Certificate (Certificados de Monitoreo y Control de Desembarque de Pesca - CMCDP), which will certify the legality of the resources and allow them to enter the supply chain. In the case of sharks, the Inspector must also issue Shark Bycatch Mobilization Guides (Guías de Movilización de Pesca Incidental Tiburones - GMPIT). These documents will be valid for 48 hours for the mobilization of the resources and must be presented at the different roadside controls; after this time, the mobilization guides will only serve to justify possession at the storage site.
24. VUE is a module within the Ecuadorian electronic customs system 'ECUAPASS', which allows duly authorized companies to export sharks, their parts or derivatives, by submitting all required documents and standardized information through a single window. This system ensures compliance with all the requirements for obtaining an export authorization in the service called 'Authorization for the Export of Restricted Fishery Products: Sharks'. During the inspection, a minimum of 20% of the cargo is randomly selected, where each product is counted and weighed to estimate the number of individuals. In the case of log or fillet exports, a yield of 50-70% is obtained, while for dried fin exports, this value is obtained by weight of the fin set. At the end of the process, if MPCEIP is satisfied that requirements have been met, the Directorate of Fisheries Control notifies MAATE with detailed information on the completed procedure, thus verifying the legality of the acquisition. MAATE, as CITES MA, then reviews the information and issues the relevant permits or certificates.
25. The Secretariat is of the view that the procedures described above seem to satisfy the traceability requirements to conduct LAFs for the export of specimens of CITES-listed species. MAATE can use the

verifications made by MPCEIP as a basis for delivering an export permit, if it is satisfied that all other conditions of the Convention are fulfilled. In its report, Ecuador expressly stated that only specimens that meet the requirements of Article IV of the Convention are allowed for export. The situation is more complex concerning boats that are not equipped with the satellite monitoring system (VMS), for instance artisanal fisheries boats. In the absence of VMS, there is no monitoring of the fishing fleet, which makes it difficult to assess where the specimens have been caught. This absence of clear data on catch location renders the application of the IFS rules and the issuance of IFS certificates more difficult. Ecuador is encouraged to increase its monitoring of fishing activities by artisanal fleets, in order to ensure that the Convention is fully implemented for the catch of specimens of any CITES-listed species, regardless of the zone in which the specimens are caught.

Fishing capacity

26. Ecuador assessed their total fishing capacity for all fisheries and for shark by-catch. Ecuador has three types of fleets: i) industrial long liner vessels (nine vessels); ii) artisanal vessels (around 7,250 boats); and iii) motherships with collection vessels (200 vessels). Ecuador used the Peak-to-Peak Analysis methodology to estimate full capacity, comparing the catch per unit effort in the annual peaks between 2013 and 2023. Information was taken from official records of landing certificates. The analysis showed an average potential of all fishing vessels of $41,949 \pm 13,440$ tons per year across the three types of fleets, reflecting the maximum yield that could be achieved under optimal conditions, while shark by-catch remained constant at $10,990 \pm 3,092$ tons. The data showed that while fishing capacity for target species increased, by-catch stayed constant over the years.
27. The Secretariat notes that since its mission, Ecuador has finalised its estimation of the fishing capacity of the main Ecuadorian fishing fleets, including incidental landings of pelagic sharks, which provides important information in the context of the NDF. The Secretariat is therefore of the view that Ecuador has provided sufficient information on the fishing capacity of its fleets.

By-catch

28. The CITES SA prepared a report “Maximum Percentages of Permissibility of Shark Incidences in Ecuador’s Fishing Landings”. The report calculated the monthly percentage of shark by-catch incidents by using the total weight of sharks caught and the total catch of the vessels for each vessel type (artisanal and industrial) that uses longlines and gillnets. Using statistical analysis of historical averages for the period 2012-2022, three permissibility scenarios were developed concerning sharks, making it possible to establish by-catch limits adjusted according to the types of vessels (artisanal and industrial) and the fishing gear used (longline and gillnets).
29. The scenarios are 1. Establishing a limit of 30% without distinction of type of vessel; 2. Using the lower limit of the confidence interval of historic values adjusted for vessel type and fishing gear; 3. Based on historical average and seeking a progressive reduction in by-catch differentiated by type of vessel. In March 2024, the CITES SA delivered the report with its recommendation of the third scenario to the Fisheries Authority. The Fisheries Authority is analysing the feasibility and control mechanisms necessary to implement the scenario. The discussions on control mechanisms include data collection and analysis, warning systems to fishers when approaching the by-catch limit and the timing of each of these activities.
30. The CITES MA, SA and the Fisheries Authorities discussed the report and the scenarios with representatives of the artisanal and industrial fisheries, and the shark export sectors. This consultation process aims to involve key sectors in the understanding and application of the new guidelines, providing space for dialogue and feedback to promote compliance with the guidelines. Ecuador also reported that the mechanism for the implementation and enforcement of these new by-catch limits will be discussed at an upcoming stakeholder workshop.
31. Ecuador confirmed that the by-catch limits that were set, in addition to the increased efficiency of the fleets in terms of fishing capacity for target species (see above), should ensure a progressive reduction in by-catch. IPIAP is also adjusting the scenario to reflect an adaptive phase-down approach, prioritizing the sustainability and protection of these vulnerable species. Ecuador has thus determined by-catch limits as recommended by SC77 and is now moving towards implementation.

b) All importing Parties inform the Secretariat of the volumes of CITES-listed sharks and rays specimens imported from Ecuador or with country-of-origin Ecuador since the listings in Appendix II came into force.

32. In the CITES Trade Database, there are 658 entries for commercial trade in CITES-listed shark and ray specimens imported from Ecuador or with country-of-origin Ecuador reported by importers between 2012 to 2023. The Secretariat notes that Parties are not obliged to issue import permits of Appendix II-listed species and that data for 2023 only includes information from 11 Parties. No data is available in the CITES Trade Database for the period of the recommendation to suspend trade as annual reports for the transactions in 2024 are due on 31 October 2025.
33. Based on importer reported data, the main importer of shark and ray specimens for commercial purposes directly from Ecuador is Peru, followed by Spain, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China, and the United States of America (See Table 1 below). The species in trade are *Alopias pelagicus* (178 shipments), *Carcharhinus falciformis* (100 shipments), *A. superciliosus* (96 shipments), *Isurus oxyrinchus* (66 shipments) and one shipment each of *A. vulpinus*, *C. longimanus*, *Sphyrna lewini*, and *S. zygaena*.

Table 1. Based on importer reported data, the importers of shark specimens for commercial purposes from Ecuador.

Importing Party/region	Specimen type	Number of shipments	No. or volume in trade
Peru	Fins	271	419,624 kg
	dried fins	55	71,751 kg
	bodies	77	726,206 kg
Spain	bodies	27	407,657 kg
	bodies	1	195 bodies
Hong Kong SAR of China	Fins	10	19,544 kg
United States	Fins	3	42 kg

34. The volume of fins (in kilograms) imported by Peru from Ecuador in the period 2017-2023 based on records in the CITES Trade Database is shown below in Figure 1. In comparison to the same figure shown in document [SC77 Doc. 33.7](#), the figure now includes information from Peru, which was not available in the CITES Trade Database at the time of SC77. The Standing Committee noted the large discrepancy in 2021 between the volume of import by Peru and the volume of export by Ecuador. This discrepancy has been reduced due to Peru correcting an error in their annual report (see paragraph 38 below). The discrepancy between import and export for 2021 is 21,219 kg and for 2022 is 6,813 kg.

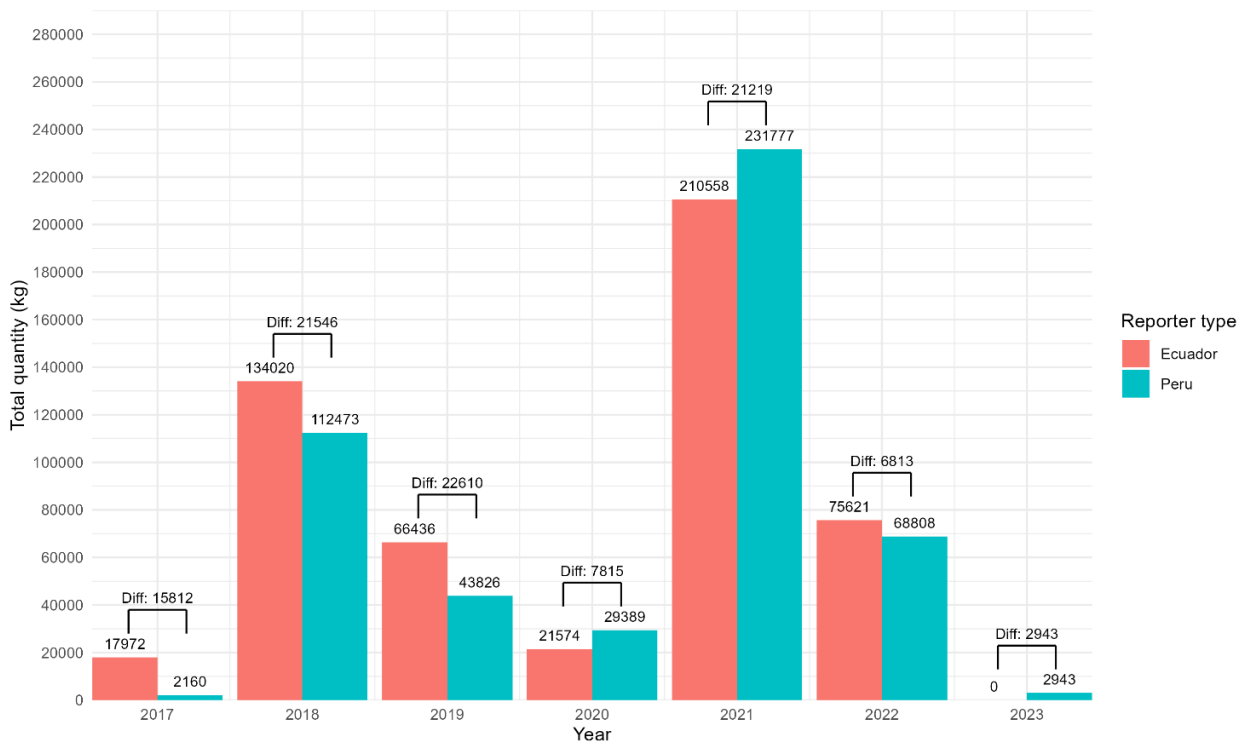


Figure 1. The total volume of fins recorded in the CITES Trade Database exported by Ecuador and imported by Peru. Data is missing for 2023 for Ecuador. The numbers above the bar show the total in kilograms and the numbers above the bracket show the difference between the reported values by Ecuador and Peru.

35. In addition to the Parties/regions that have reported importing shark and ray specimens from Ecuador, Ecuador reports exports to Colombia. This includes two shipments in 2021 and three shipments in 2023 of *Alopias pelagicus* and *A. superciliosus* of meat and bodies adding up to 23,127 kg.
36. The main importer of shark and ray specimens with country-of-origin Ecuador for commercial purposes is Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China, followed by Singapore, and the Republic of Korea (see Table 2 below). The specimens with country-of-origin Ecuador are of *A. pelagicus* (71 shipments), *A. superciliosus* (55 shipments), *A. vulpinus* (1 shipment), *C. falciformis* (63 shipments) and *Isurus oxyrinchus* (24 shipments).

Table 2. Based on importer reported data, the importers and re-exporters of shark specimens for commercial purposes with country-of-origin Ecuador.

Re-exporter	Importer	Specimen type	Number of shipments	Volume in trade
Peru	Hong Kong SAR of China	Fin	138	199,352 kg
		dried fins	38	47,313 kg
Peru	Singapore	Fins	38	63,127 kg
Singapore	Hong Kong SAR of China	dried fins	1	2,000 kg
		Fins	1	411 kg
Spain	Republic of Korea	bodies	1	3,595 kg
		meat	1	5,093 kg

37. The MA for Peru (the Ministry of Production of Peru – PRODUCE) provided information on CITES import permits for shark specimens from Ecuador corresponding to the period 2017 to 2024 (January to July). Peru shared the total volume of shark specimens imported from Ecuador (Table 3), the breakdown of the imported shark specimens by specimen type (Table 4) and the breakdown of the imported specimens by specimen type and species (Table 5).

Table 3. The total volume of shark specimens imported by Peru from Ecuador, with 2021 being the year with the highest volume traded.

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 (JAN-JUL)
VOLUME TOTAL (kg)	2,160.00	112,473.10	43,826.10	29,389.00	813,680.05	216,054.15	235,026.97	124,880.00

Table 4. The total volume of shark specimens imported by Peru from Ecuador by specimen type.

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 (JAN-JUL)
DRY FINS	2,160.00	112,473.10	43,826.10	29,389.00	231,776.62	71,751.15	81,379.97	42,903.00
FINS FROZEN	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	1,100.00
BODIES/TRUNKS WITH FINS	----	----	----	----	----	----	27,000.00	51,377.00
BODIES/TRUNKS FINLESS	----	----	----	----	581,903.43	144,303.00	126,647.00	29,500.00
VOLUMEN TOTAL (kg)	2,160.00	112,473.10	43,826.10	29,389.00	813,680.05	216,054.15	235,026.97	124,880.00

Table 5. The total volume of shark specimens imported by Peru from Ecuador by specimen type and species.

	SPECIES	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
	<i>Alopias pelagicus</i>	2,116.00	95,775.20	35,774.10	22,702.00	178,406.18	53,531.85	55,695.17	7,190.00
DRY FINS	<i>Alopias superciliosus</i>	44.00	5,539.00	3,144.70	1,540.00	19,087.67	6,446.10	7,044.85	380.00
	<i>Alopias vulpinus</i>		0.10						
	<i>Carcharhinus falciformis</i>		11,158.80	4,907.30	5,147.00	28,494.25	9,677.50	15,982.00	1,650.00
	<i>Isurus oxyrinchus</i>					5,788.52	2,095.70	2,657.95	
	<i>Prionace glauca</i>								33,683.00
FROZEN FINS	<i>Prionace glauca</i>								1,100.00
FINNED BODIES/TRUNKS	<i>Prionace glauca</i>							27,000.00	51,377.00
	<i>Alopias pelagicus</i>					575,670.80	144,303.00	125,817.00	
BODIES/TRUNKS WITHOUT FINS	<i>Alopias superciliosus</i>					4,232.63		830.00	
	<i>Carcharhinus falciformis</i>					2,000.00			
	<i>Prionace glauca</i>								29,500.00
	VOLUMEN TOTAL (Kg)	2,160.00	112,473.10	43,826.10	29,389.00	813,680.05	216,054.15	235,026.97	124,880.00

38. Peru noted that, for the year 2021, the volume of dry fins imported by Peru from Ecuador is 231,777 kg and not 243,777 kg as was erroneously reported to the CITES Secretariat as noted at SC77. It appears that the discrepancy comes from CITES import permit no. 1873, in which an authorized volume of bodies was mistakenly registered as dry fins.

39. Peru indicated the following concerning the year 2024:

- In January 2024, before the CITES Secretariat issued Notification to the Parties No. 2024/043, the import of shark specimens from Ecuador (*Alopias pelagicus*, *Alopias superciliosus*, *Carcharhinus falciformis*, and *Prionace glauca*) was granted for a total volume of 33,247.00 kilograms. No import permits were issued in February 2024.
- Between March and July, the import of the specimens of *Prionace glauca* was granted for a total volume of 91,633.00 kilograms, taking into account that *P. glauca* is not included in the list of species included in Notification to the Parties No. 2024/043.

40. Peru has not imported any specimens of ray species from Ecuador.

41. Most of the importing Parties/regions for shark and ray specimens from Ecuador report the trade in their annual reports. Peru, the main importer, has shared their import data up to July 2024 with the Secretariat. Based on the data, the following observations can be made:
- a) The total export of shark and ray specimens from Ecuador reported in kilograms decreased from 893,981 kg in 2021 to 425,783 kg in 2022 as reported by Ecuador and 906,132 kg in 2021 to 346,530 kg in 2022 as reported by Peru.
 - b) The export of shark fins from Ecuador and import by Peru has decreased by 130,000 to 160,000 kg (depending on importer or exporter reported data) in 2022 in comparison to 2021.
 - c) The discrepancy in volume of fins reported by Peru and reported by Ecuador decreased from 21,219 kg in 2021 to 6,813 kg in 2022.
42. The Secretariat notes the strengthened collaboration between the MAs of Ecuador and of Peru to validate and confirm shipments of shark fins against CITES permits and is of the opinion that this practice will reduce the discrepancy seen between the volumes reported by Ecuador and Peru. Recommendation b) is thus fulfilled with regards to imports of shark and ray specimens from Ecuador to Peru. The Secretariat further notes that the majority of Parties importing shark and ray specimens from Ecuador or with country-of-origin Ecuador are reporting their imports in their annual reports. Recommendation b) thus appears implemented.

c) Ecuador strengthen CITES Scientific Authorities by developing their capacities and providing them with sufficient resources to carry out their work, including a population survey of internationally traded sharks and rays and other CITES-listed aquatic species for the purpose of making NDFs and establishing annual export quotas before authorizing any trade of specimens of CITES-listed sharks and rays species.

43. Ecuador has designed an e-learning course hosted on the MAATE Virtual Platform, and presents an introduction to CITES, what the Convention is, how it operates and what it regulates, the use and application of CITES Appendices, the purpose of NDFs, as well as information on control and surveillance processes as applied in Ecuador. Since its launch in 2022, the course has been taken by 115 individuals, including staff of the scientific, control and surveillance authorities, as well as staff of other agencies such as the MPCEIP, for the application of CITES to hydrobiological species, and particularly shark species.
44. Different training tools and materials have also been developed and training sessions conducted, concerning sharks and shark fin identification as well as capacity-building for control entities, such as customs, navy and environmental police. More details are provided in subsequent sections of the present document.
45. As indicated above, IPIAP, as the SA of Ecuador for aquatic species, makes NDFs for shark species. The SA has been gathering data in order to produce the NDFs, expanding the number of landing sites to collect comprehensive information on the species and the size of catch, as well as using fishery observer data. Populations surveys remain to be conducted, although Ecuador collects catch data of sharks, which can provide an indirect measure of the population. Population assessments carried out in cooperation with Peru and/or other organizations such as IATTC, the Permanent Commission of the South Pacific (CPPS) or the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO), would also provide important information for NDFs. Progress can thus be noted in the recommendation c), and the Secretariat encourages Ecuador to take further steps to ensure its full implementation.

Regarding legislation and the fight against fraud

- d) Ecuador and Peru strengthen their regulatory frameworks for the management and trade of aquatic species by taking the appropriate measures to enforce the provisions of the Convention as provided in Article VIII, including by considering:*
- i) assessing the capacities, mandates and needs of the competent authorities in the fight against illegal trade, in order to strengthen the control of illegal trade in CITES-listed aquatic species and the fight against transnational organized crime related to the illegal trade in sharks, rays and other aquatic species, and, based on this assessment, strengthening the capacities of crime-fighting services in order to increase CITES controls, based on risk management strategies, including controls at border-crossing points, and to combat transnational organized crime involving fisheries.*
 - ii) creating a binational platform for cooperation and coordination among the competent authorities involved in the fight against crime, in order to strengthen the monitoring of trade in CITES-listed species and combat transnational organized crime related to the international trade in sharks and rays, as*

46. In order to strengthen the regulatory framework for the management and trade in aquatic species, both Ecuador and Peru are pursuing the following initiatives.

Legislation - Ecuador

47. Ecuador is revising Chapter V of the Regulations to the Organic Environmental Code, concerning the application of CITES, to ensure that Ecuador's legislation meets the CITES minimum requirements to be placed in Category 1 of the National Legislation Project. The revised legislation has been shared with the Secretariat which conducted a full legislative analysis in May 2024 (see also document SC78 Doc. 31.1 on *National laws for the implementation of the Convention*). The revised legislation is currently being reviewed by affected government agencies (customs, Fisheries Authority, Ministry of Interior) before being sent to the Secretariat of the Presidency for officialization by Executive Decree.
48. Since 1 April 2024, the Ecuador MA has started the issuance of IFS certificates. Although the Interministerial Agreement between MPCEIP and MAATE (described in paragraph 19 above) has not yet been signed, the agreed procedure is already being applied, since Ecuador's national regulation allows the direct application of CITES Resolutions and recommendations. The MPCEIP and MAATE collaborated under this Interministerial Agreement on the development of an IFS Certificate Issuance Guide, which will allow the implementation of a regulatory procedure for the management of sharks caught incidentally outside national jurisdiction, covering both duly accredited industrial and artisanal vessels.
49. Ecuador also reported that it had organized consultations with Australia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Spain, and the United States of America to exchange lessons learnt and best practices in implementing IFS, as well the making of NDFs and LAFs for hydrobiological species.

Inspections and controls – Ecuador

50. Since 2007, Ecuador has implemented a monitoring system that has been strengthened over the years by increasing the number of national fisheries inspectors. There are currently 263 fisheries inspectors who carry out the monitoring and control of the landing of hydrobiological species from artisanal and industrial vessels in approximately 255 fishing coves in Ecuador. Inter-institutional regulations and procedures have been disseminated and internal manuals have been developed detailing the specific actions to be taken by fisheries inspectors. The Financial and Economic Analysis Unit has been tasked with the analysis of financial transactions, based on information from companies that export sharks, to identify suspicious transactions that could be related to illicit activities. Such controls guarantee compliance with fishing regulations, whether related to exploitation of CITES or non-CITES species.
51. Additional controls are conducted in ports and landing centres. Verifications include checking the legality of catches, reported volumes, vessel licenses and permits, and compliance with transport and marking regulations. In coordination with the Ecuadorian Navy, maritime controls are conducted through satellite monitoring and patrols to verify the compliance with fishing areas restrictions, closures and catch quotas. Controls are also carried out on rivers and estuaries to verify that fishing activities comply with established regulations thus preventing illegal fishing.
52. Controls are also conducted at border crossings to combat transnational organized crime. When sharks or their parts are moved to the Ecuador-Peru border, the Directorate of Fisheries Control communicates to the Huaquillas Fisheries Inspectorate for inspectors to verify the passage of the products at the border and cooperate with the officials of the National Customs Service of Ecuador, if necessary. Control authorities of Ecuador and Peru have exchanged information on the illegal trade in sharks and their parts through clandestine crossings, to strengthen controls in both countries. The cooperation aims to identify individuals or companies engaged in these activities and bring them to justice.
53. Ecuador reported that it had conducted trainings for enforcement authorities such as customs, navy and environmental police, to strengthen their skills in the identification of shark species, including in situations where complete specimens are not available. One training in shark fin identification was conducted in Manta from 26 to 27 September 2024 with support from the International Fund for Animal Welfare. Another was organized on Wildlife Management and Trade in CITES, under the coordination of MPCEIP with support of MAATE. To support these actions, MPCEIP has launched a "[*Guide for the Identification of Teeth, Trunks and Fins of Sharks*](#)" in February 2024. Additional work is underway to develop more visual and comparative

pocket field guides, designed as practical and accessible tools to easily differentiate the main species, with a special focus on those listed in the CITES Appendices.

54. Different institutions involved in fighting transnational crime have also begun to cooperate more closely, and exchange experiences with Peruvian authorities with jurisdiction near the border in order to interact and define joint actions for the control of transboundary movements of shark specimens.

Legislation – Peru

55. Peru has been strengthening its regulatory framework for the management of and trade in aquatic species. The Peruvian legislation includes specific rules and procedures for the issuances of permits and certificates for import, export, and re-export of specimens of CITES-listed species. However, during its mission, the Secretariat noted that the legislation does not include specific rules for the issuance of IFS certificates. In June 2023, the Ministry of Production of Peru (PRODUCE), as CITES MA for Peru, requested technical assistance from the CITES Secretariat to provide advice on the preparation of a draft Supreme Decree governing the issuance of export or import permit and re-export certificates, and ensuring the legal origin and traceability of specimens of hydrobiological species. At the time of writing, Peru is collecting observations on the draft decree prior to publication and entry into force. Following exchanges with the Secretariat on the preparation of this Supreme Decree, Peru indicated during the mission that additional legislative work will be carried out to fully regulate IFS under Peruvian law.
56. Concerning the recommendation of SC77 to suspend trade with Ecuador which was published in Notification to the Parties No. [2024/043](#), PRODUCE as CITES MA for hydrobiological resources has suspended transactions for commercial purposes of shark and ray species listed in the CITES Appendices prior to CoP19 from Ecuador or whose country-of-origin is Ecuador by issuing two Directorial Resolutions declaring inadmissible any requests for import and re-export of shark specimens from Ecuador.

Introduction from the sea – Peru

57. Peru reported that its shark fishing fleet is mainly composed of small boats with a hold capacity of less than 32 m³. These vessels are characterized by predominantly manual work and limited equipment for fish preservation. While these vessels are equipped with GPS devices to record the location of catch, they currently do not have satellite tracking systems for verifying their fishing locations. To address this issue, Peru plans to implement a comprehensive monitoring system for artisanal vessels in the long term, ensuring compliance with regulations and promoting sustainable fishing practices. While the geographical position of the catch needs to be indicated in the Shark Landing Certificates (Certificados de Desembarque de Tiburón), Peru reported that sharks are highly mobile species, and that some catches may exceptionally be made outside national jurisdiction, which would require IFS documentation. For this reason, it is essential to have adequate satellite monitoring systems to support these activities and ensure their legality.
58. As part of the Regional Action Plan for the Conservation and Management of Sharks, Rays and Chimaeras in the Southeast Pacific region of CPPS, Peru has prohibited the landing of loose fins since 2016. The same year, seasonal closures and maximum catch limits were also established for the hammerhead shark (*Sphyrna zygaena*) and have been enforced since then. The *Instituto del Mar del Perú* monitors shark and ray fisheries on the Peruvian coast, collecting data on biological and fishery aspects of the key elasmobranch species caught by artisanal fishers. This provides the necessary scientific basis for achieving the recommendations on fisheries management and conservation of these species. Peru has issued regulations prohibiting the extraction, landing, transport, retention, transformation and commercialization of CITES-listed chondrichthyan species, such as whale shark (*Rhincodon typus*), sawfish (*Pristis pristis*), and manta rays (*Mobula birostris*; *M. tarapacana*; *M. mobular*; *M. thurstoni*; and *M. munkiana*).
59. The Ministry of Environment of Peru as CITES SA has prepared 30 NDFs since the entry into force of the shark and rays listings, particularly on *Sphyrna zygaena*, *Alopias pelagicus*, *A. vulpinus*, and *Isurus oxyrinchus*. In each NDF, recommendations have been addressed to PRODUCE (CITES MA), among other key actors, on the export volume of dry fins, to strengthen the management and conservation of shark species. The Secretariat noted that some of Peru's NDFs rely heavily on historical volumes of landings and exports. Peru has started using catch per unit effort (CPUE) data as an indirect measure of the species' population in their NDFs. Incorporating other sources of data that provide more recent information on the status of the population would enable Peru to make more robust NDFs, ensuring the sustainability of its trade in sharks and rays.

60. Finally, Peru's SA has promoted the organization of capacity-building workshops on the identification of shark specimens included in the CITES Appendices. Efforts have been focused on key regions for the management of elasmobranchs, such as Tumbes (10 September), Lima (12-13 September) and Moquegua (17-18 September 2024); with more than 100 trained personnel, including members of the MA, enforcement authorities and other civil society stakeholders.

Inspections and controls – Peru

61. Through PRODUCE as CITES MA for hydrobiological species, Peru has also been carrying out inspection actions. The satellite tracking system (Sistema de Seguimiento Satelital para embarcaciones pesqueras - SISESAT) allows for 24-hour monitoring and surveillance of national and foreign-flagged large vessels. Electronic logging allows the fishing skippers or captains of fishing vessels to send information in real time regarding their fishing tasks and coves used. Finally, the Registry System for the Inspectors Programme (Sistema de Registros para el Programa de Inspectores) records all landings of hydrobiological resources. In terms of physical controls, Peru has an operational capacity of 489 inspectors distributed throughout the Peruvian coast, which control all landings of hydrobiological species.
62. The National Superintendence of Customs and Administration (Superintendencia Nacional de Aduanas y de Administración - SUNAT) increased its controls on both imports and exports by increasing the percentage of physical inspections on the Customs Declaration of Merchandise.
63. In addition, PRODUCE has also reinforced inspections through the development of joint operations that are carried out with the General Directorate of Captaincies and Coast Guards, SUNAT, the Specialized Prosecutor's Office in Environmental Matters, the National Police of Peru, and regional governments, among others. The following table provides the number of joint operations conducted by the Peruvian authorities:

Number of Joint Operations 2024										
Januar y	Februar y	March	April	May	June	July	Augus t	September	October	Total
277	348	351	295	317	288	349	341	311	255	3132

The Management Authority maintains close communication with the enforcement authorities in order to participate in joint operations, and for the identification of shark species or their parts and derivatives. Peru has observed a significant reduction in incidents of illegal trade since these reinforced controls have been put in place.

Bilateral cooperation – Peru and Ecuador

64. Peru and Ecuador reported that at the XVI Meeting of the Peruvian-Ecuadorian Neighborhood Commission (Comisión de Vecindad Peruano – Ecuatoriana)¹, held in June 2024, the two countries signed the Presidential Declaration of Lima. The Declaration includes the Lima 2024 Action Plan, which details the binational commitments to be fulfilled in 2025. Under the pillar on Productive, Commercial, Investment and Tourism Affairs, commitment 3 (c) focuses on “*Promot[ing] the implementation of good practices in both countries for the sustainable management of fisheries and aquaculture for the benefit of local populations*”. This commitment will be achieved through the implementation of traceability mechanisms to ensure the legal origin of specimens in fisheries and aquaculture. The implementation period runs until the second quarter of 2025.
65. Both countries are members of the IATTC and reported their commitment to the implementation of IATTC measures, including but not limited to the prohibitions related to the setting of nets on a school of tunas associated with a live whale shark (*Rhincodon typus*); prohibition of capture, retention or landing of oceanic whitetip sharks (*Carcharhinus longimanus*), silky sharks (*Carcharhinus falciformis*) and stingrays of the family Mobulidae; and procedures for the prompt release of other shark species. Similarly, by participating in the Binational Border Assistance Centre (Centro Binacional de Atención en Frontera), the two countries aim to implement an efficient and integrated system for managing and controlling two-way traffic at border crossings. This includes making standardized, systematized and digitized records and to have timely and reliable statistics, among others.

¹ Institutionalized in 2007 with the aim of consolidating initiatives of integration and mutual trust in areas such as infrastructure and connectivity, investment and tourism, security, environmental and energy.

66. One of the agreed commitments in the Lima 2024 Action Plan (see paragraph 64 above) is the “*Establishment of a platform for the exchange of information between the competent authorities in the monitoring and conservation of species included in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), with emphasis on sharks and rays*”. The responsible institutions are the CITES MAs of Ecuador and Peru with an implementation period running until June 2025. A meeting was held on 18 November 2024 to follow up on this commitment (among others) and the two countries are planning actions in the first quarter of 2025 to implement this commitment, which may include periodic technical meetings to strengthen the preparation of NDFs and LAFs; workshops to exchange knowledge on control and best practices; improvements in traceability mechanisms through technical cooperation, such as the development of satellite monitoring systems; and mechanisms for information-sharing. The Secretariat welcomes this progress and encourages Ecuador and Peru to implement the Lima 2024 Action Plan, establish the binational platform, and implement the jointly agreed commitments to ensure reinforced implementation of the Convention on both sides of the border.

iii) encouraging companies to use innovative technologies to track and monitor vessels, and to adopt best practices to avoid fishery products obtained from illegal fishing or illegal exploitation or illegally traded catch entering their supply chains.

Use of innovative technologies – Ecuador

67. In Ecuador, the Satellite Monitoring Centre was modernized in 2022 with new equipment, allowing for real-time and comprehensive monitoring of vessels including those with the capacity to reach the jurisdictions and territorial waters of other countries. It is now possible to observe navigation routes in detail and identify potential encounters between vessels on the high seas, which could indicate unauthorized transshipments. Fisheries Authorities are also making progress in the implementation of processes within the Integrated Aquaculture and Fisheries System (SIAP), progressively improving the traceability of fishery resources from their capture and landing in ports to the next stages in the production chain.

68. Meanwhile, private institutions such as the Manta Shipowners' Fisheries Production Association (ASOAMAN) are developing other initiatives to promote sustainable practices and efficient management, including joint efforts with the Fisheries Authority. Additional actions are carried out by the fishing sector at its own initiative. For instance, in 2024, ASOAMAN launched a pilot project to use the technological tool "Alon", developed by the Canadian company NAVCAST, for its vessels. Its main objective is to strengthen the fisheries management system through the improvement of traceability processes for target, secondary and incidental species (sharks) caught on board. The pilot project tests the applicability of the tool in ASOAMAN's longline mother boats and other boats that are part of its fleet. "Alon" works through a satellite communication system with global coverage, which is available 24 hours a day, every day of the year. It runs on solar energy, eliminating the need for electrical connections. It has an NFC card reader, which is used to tag caught specimens.

Use of innovative technologies – Peru

69. Peru has established the Fisheries and Aquaculture Traceability System (SITRAPESCA), a computer system through which agents throughout the production chain record and declare information on fishing, aquaculture and commercial aquarium activities. Such records cover the extraction, unloading, transport, marketing and processing of specimens, as well as aquaculture establishments and commercial aquariums. Peruvian legislation requires holders of artisanal fishing permits to progressively use SITRAPESCA. In this context, Peru approved "Guidelines for the use and operation of SITRAPESCA, by the holders of fishing permits for artisanal fishing vessels, smaller scale and larger scale". Meanwhile, as mentioned in previous sections, the satellite tracking system for fishing vessels (SISESAT) allows for the supervision of fishing vessels through the satellite tracking. An additional Supreme Decree adopted in 2023 mandated the installation of satellite tracking system equipment on formalized artisanal fishing vessels, based on the entry of new satellite suppliers on the market and subsequent reduction in costs for the acquisition of the equipment for artisanal boats.

70. These developments, associated with the procedures put in place in both countries to ensure traceability and legal acquisition, show important progress in Peru and Ecuador, in the development and use of new technologies to track and monitor vessels, and to adopt best practices to avoid fishery products obtained from illegal fishing or illegal exploitation or illegally traded catch entering their supply chains.

71. The Secretariat notes that both Ecuador and Peru have made good progress in the implementation of this recommendation and encourages both Parties to continue to develop and use innovative technologies, and

encourage companies to use such technologies, as precise data on catch location will allow for the full implementation of introduction from the sea.

Discussion and conclusions

72. Concerning the making of NDFs for sharks and rays, the Secretariat notes that Ecuador has taken a number of actions to ensure the sustainability of trade in sharks:

- The information requested by the Secretariat has been incorporated in the revised and updated NDFs, including the location of catch, by-catch percentage and mortality information, where available;
- The SA has enhanced data collection efforts at landing sites to obtain comprehensive data on landed sharks, including species, size and sex;
- The collected data are analyzed to assess the sustainability of the catch by calculating total mortality rates, overfishing risks and determining the percentage of captured sharks that are larger than the size of maturity;
- The NDFs are also complemented by new management measures such as minimum size of catch for *C. falciformis*;
- Ecuador has conducted a study on by-catch limit scenarios and has started engaging with stakeholders to discuss these limits.

However, the Chair of the Animals Committee and the Secretariat are requesting further information on the sustainability of the proposed export quotas and the timeline and details of the implementation of the by-catch limits. While progress has been made by Ecuador in the making of NDFs for sharks and rays compared to the situation reviewed at SC77, additional clarifications are therefore necessary before recommendation a) could be considered implemented.

73. With regard to the NDFs prepared by Peru, the Secretariat notes that information from historical volumes of landings, exports and CPUE data are used as an indirect measure of the abundance of the species. Incorporating other sources of data that provide more recent information on the status of the population would allow Peru to develop more robust NDFs on shark and ray species.

74. Concerning the recommendation encouraging all importing Parties to inform the Secretariat of the volumes of CITES-listed shark specimens imported from Ecuador, most Parties that import from Ecuador have reported the trade in their annual reports. Peru shared their import data up to July 2024 with the Secretariat. While discrepancy exists between volumes reported by Ecuador and importers, the Secretariat acknowledges that Ecuador and Peru are now working closely together to verify the species, volume and specimen type of the trade between the two countries which should reduce these discrepancies in the future. The Secretariat further notes that the majority of Parties importing shark and ray specimens from Ecuador or with country-of-origin Ecuador are reporting their imports in their annual reports. Recommendation b) thus appears implemented.

75. Concerning the strengthening of the CITES Scientific Authorities of Ecuador by developing their capacities and providing them with sufficient resources to carry out their work, including a population survey of internationally-traded sharks and rays and other CITES-listed aquatic species, progress has been made by Ecuador on the strengthening of its Scientific Authorities and the collection of data, but the Secretariat notes that populations surveys remain to be conducted. The Secretariat thus encourages Ecuador to take further steps to ensure the full implementation of recommendation c).

76. Concerning legal acquisition, Ecuador and Peru have put in place procedures to ensure the traceability of specimens caught. Significant progress has been achieved concerning industrial fleets, especially through the use of satellite monitoring systems. Yet, difficulties seem to remain with the artisanal fleets, which are not always equipped with such technologies. The two countries recognize that it might not always be possible to know the exact catch location, especially for boats that fish in both the EEZ and ABNJ. Nevertheless, the Secretariat notes that significant efforts are being made, in both countries, to increase the monitoring of artisanal fleets and ensure that artisanal boats are gradually equipped with satellite monitoring systems, which will allow for the full implementation of the Convention's provisions relating to introduction from the sea.

77. Concerning legislation, the Secretariat urges Ecuador to finalize the revision of its legislation to ensure that it meets the minimum requirements of CITES set out in Resolution Conf. 8.4 (Rev. CoP15) on *National laws for the implementation of the Convention* and in accordance with the guidance provided by the Secretariat under the National Legislation Project. The Secretariat also urges Peru to finalize its draft supreme decree

governing the issuance of export or import permits and re-export certificates and ensuring the legal origin and traceability of specimens of hydrobiological species, but also urges Peru to develop adequate measures for the implementation of IFS, in accordance with Articles III and IV of the Convention. The Secretariat remains available to support Peru in this process. It is important that both countries put in place adequate procedures for the issuance of IFS certificates for specimens of CITES-listed species caught in ABNJ.

78. Concerning enforcement, the Secretariat welcomes the efforts made by Ecuador and Peru to strengthen the capacities of their enforcement authorities (including customs), enhance expertise in shark identification, and implement border controls and joint enforcement actions. The Secretariat welcomes the adoption of the Lima 2024 Action Plan, which contains key commitments for both countries, notably the establishment of a platform for exchanging information on the monitoring and conservation of CITES-listed species, with emphasis on sharks and rays. The Secretariat notes the progress made by both Parties in the implementation of this recommendation and encourages Ecuador and Peru to continue their efforts to implement the Convention and combat illegal trade, to establish the binational platform, and to implement the jointly agreed commitments on both sides of the border, thus fully giving effect to recommendation d) i) and ii).
79. Finally, the Secretariat welcomes the initiatives developed by the fisheries sectors in both countries to support the development and use of new technologies for vessel tracking and monitoring, and to adopt best practices to prevent illegal fishing, illegal exploitation, and illegally traded catch from entering their supply chains. The Secretariat encourages Ecuador and Peru to continue these efforts to implement recommendation d) iii), particularly in monitoring of their artisanal fleets to ensure that all trade in specimens of CITES-listed species, whether caught by industrial or artisanal boats, are carried out in compliance with the Convention, including its provisions on introduction from the sea.

Recommendations

80. The Standing Committee is invited to consider the information contained in the present document and the following recommendations. The Standing Committee is invited to recommend that:

Regarding management of trade in sharks and rays specimens

- a) Parties continue to suspend trade in specimens of sharks and rays from Ecuador for *Carcharhinus falciformis*, *Alopias* spp. and *Isurus* spp. until Ecuador fully implements Article IV by establishing sustainable export quotas for these species to the satisfaction of the Secretariat in consultation with the Chair of the Animals Committee and inform the Secretariat of the timeline for implementation, and monitoring methodology, of by-catch limits and other mitigation measures, as appropriate;
- b) Ecuador share the information on the implementation of by-catch limits and other mitigation measures, as appropriate, to the 35th meeting of the Animals Committee;
- c) Ecuador take steps to conduct further work on population assessments in cooperation with Peru and/or other organizations such as the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, the Permanent Commission of the South Pacific and the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation, to gather additional information for non-detriment findings (NDFs) on shark species;

Regarding legislation

- d) Ecuador finalize the revision of its national legislation to ensure that it meets the minimum requirements of CITES set out in Resolution Conf. 8.4 (Rev. CoP15) on *National laws for the implementation of the Convention* and in accordance with the guidance provided by the Secretariat under the National Legislation Project;
- e) Peru, with the support of the Secretariat, as appropriate, ensure that its national legislation allows for the implementation of rules governing introduction from the sea, in accordance with Articles III and IV of the Convention;

Regarding controls, inspections and the fight against fraud

- f) Ecuador and Peru continue to develop and use innovative technologies, and encourage companies to use such technologies, to track and monitor vessels and smaller boats to ensure that the catch location of specimens of CITES-listed species is known, thus allowing for the full implementation of Articles III

and IV of the Convention, and to prevent illegally fishing, illegal exploitation or illegally traded catch from entering their supply chains;

- g) Ecuador and Peru continue to strengthen the capacities and mandates of their Management Authorities and of other authorities competent in the fight against illegal trade, in order to strengthen the control of illegal trade in CITES-listed hydrobiological species and the fight against transnational organized crime;
- h) Ecuador and Peru operationalize the binational platform for cooperation and coordination among the competent authorities involved in the fight against crime, in order to strengthen the monitoring of trade in CITES-listed species and to combat transnational organized crime in fishing activities, in accordance with paragraphs 9 a) and b), and Annex 3 of Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP19) on *Compliance and enforcement*; and

Regarding reporting

- i) Ecuador and Peru report to the Secretariat on progress made in the implementation of these recommendations 90 days before the 79th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC79), for the Secretariat to report on the application of Article XIII in Ecuador and Peru to the Standing Committee.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE SECRETARIAT'S MISSION TO ECUADOR AND PERU, September-October 2024

Following the missions of the Secretariat to Peru in 2022 and to Ecuador in 2023, the mission of the Secretariat to the two countries was carried out as follows:

From 24 to 27 September 2024, the Secretariat was in Quito, Ecuador, where meetings were held with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility (MREMH), the Ministry of the Environment, Water and Ecological Transition (MAATE) (CITES Management Authority), the Ministry of Production, Foreign Trade, Investment and Fisheries (MPCEIP) (CITES MA for marine and/or freshwater species), and the Public Institute for Aquaculture and Fisheries Research (IPIAP) (CITES SA for marine and/or freshwater species).

The Secretariat benefited from various presentations concerning the implementation of the recommendations of the Standing Committee. A first series of presentations covered: the progress made in the preparation of NDFs for *Alopias sp.*, *Isurus sp.*, and *Carcharhinus falciformis*; fishing capacity; by-catch limits and percentages of permissibility; the establishment of export quotas. A second series of presentations focused on progress made in the preparation of LAFs; the implementation of IFS rules and issuance of IFS certificates; the revision of Ecuador's CITES national legislation; the reinforcement of capacities of enforcement authorities; and actions taken to reduce illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. Finally, information was provided on joint initiatives involving both Ecuador and Peru, such as discussions held in the context of the Peruvian-Ecuadorian Neighborhood Commission (*Comisión de Vecindad Peruano – Ecuatoriana*) and Presidential Meetings and Cabinet of Ministers of Ecuador – Peru (*Presidenciales y Gabinete de Ministros de Ecuador – Peru*); work undertaken in the context of the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (CPPS); and initiatives put in place for the development and use of innovative technologies relating to fisheries management and monitoring.

The Secretariat was able to discuss with all authorities present and to discuss progress made by Ecuador in these areas, and in the implementation of the recommendations made by the Standing Committee at its 77th meeting. The mission concluded with another plenary meeting with all agencies.

From 30 September to 4 October 2024, the Secretariat conducted its mission to Peru. The mission opened in Lima, where the Secretariat, joined by the representative of FAO, met with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the National Service for Forestry and Wildlife (SERFOR) (CITES Management Authority for terrestrial wild species of flora and fauna), the Ministry of Production (PRODUCE) (CITES Management Authority for hydrobiological resources), the Ministry of the Environment (MINAM) (CITES Scientific Authority), the National Superintendence of Customs and Administration (SUNAT), and the Specialized Prosecutor's Office in Environmental Matters (FEMA).

During this opening segment, the Secretariat benefited from various presentations concerning the implementation of the Convention in Peru, the role of the various CITES Authorities, and a presentation on from the enforcement authorities of fight against fraud and illegal trade. Then, various presentations were made on the recommendations made by the Standing Committee: on the reinforcement of capacities of CITES Authorities, the reinforcement of national legislation, the development of joint activities with Ecuador and the establishment of the binational platform, and the development and use of innovative technologies relating to fisheries management and monitoring.

The Secretariat was able to discuss with all authorities present and to discuss progress made by Peru in these areas, and in the implementation of the recommendations made by the Standing Committee at its 77th meeting.

During the mission in Peru, two site visits were organised:

- a) A visit to the port of Pucusana, which is one of the local ports where sharks caught by Peruvian artisanal fishermen are allowed to be landed. The Secretariat was able to visit the premises and engage with representatives of the MA, SA, and port authorities to understand the procedures and traceability measures put in place to implement the Convention with regards to hydrobiological

species landed in Peru.

- b) A visit to the Customs holding facilities in Tumbes and the border crossing between Peru and Ecuador. During this visit, the Secretariat was able to visit the terminals/facilities where shark specimens from Ecuador are received, and to understand the customs processes and traceability controls in place in Peru. An on-site activity of shark fins identification was also conducted with representatives of the MA and SA.

The mission concluded with another plenary meeting with all agencies. The Secretariat also held a meeting with representatives of experts and non-governmental organizations working on issues related to sharks and rays.