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

Species specific matters

Aquatic species

Sharks and rays (Elasmobranchii spp.)

REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.

2. At its 19th meeting (CoP19; Panama City, 2022), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 19.222 to 19.227 on *Sharks and rays (Elasmobranchii spp.)* which are presented in Annex 1 to this document.

3. This document reports on the implementation of Decision 19.222, 19.223 and 19.224 directed to the Secretariat. It should be read in conjunction with the document submitted by the Chair of the Animals Committee on the implementation of Decision 19.225 in document SC78 Doc. 70.2 and the document submitted by the Standing Committee intersessional working group on sharks and rays on the implementation of Decision 19.226 in document SC78 Doc. 70.1.

4. Pursuant to Decisions 19.222 and 19.224, the Secretariat issued Notification to the Parties No. 2023/027 on 16 March 2023, inviting Parties to submit information related to conservation and management of sharks. Twenty-four Parties responded to the Notification and the Secretariat presented the information received, including copies of non-detriment findings (NDF) and conversion factors, to the 32nd meeting of the Animals Committee (AC32; Geneva, June 2023) in document AC32 Doc. 37 (Rev. 1). The Animals Committee invited the Secretariat to issue another Notification to the Parties inviting Parties to submit information on the same matters as the Notification issued in March 2023 and to report on the responses received to the 33rd meeting of the Animals Committee (AC33, Geneva, July 2024) (see summary record AC32 SR). The Secretariat published Notification to the Parties No. 2024/004 on 4 January 2024.

5. The following 17 Parties responded to Notification to the Parties No. 2024/004: Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, Colombia, European Union, Finland, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Senegal, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and United States of America. A non-governmental organization, Wildlife Conservation Society, also provided a response. The responses were shared with AC33 in Annex 2 to document AC33 Doc. 41 (Rev. 1).

Summary of responses received to Notification to the Parties No. 2023/027 and No. 2024/004

Parties' responses regarding Non-detriment findings (NDFs) and conversion factors

6. Australia, Brazil, Ecuador, El Salvador, Namibia and Japan shared NDFs with the Secretariat, which are available on the sharks and rays page on the CITES website and the CITES Virtual College NDF database. In addition, Guatemala shared conversion factors, which are also available on the sharks and rays page.

Legal acquisition findings (LAFs)

7. Australia, El Salvador, the European Union, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Morocco, Senegal, the Republic of Korea and the United States of America indicated that frameworks have been established to enable them to confirm the legality of shark acquisitions. Australia, Mexico, the Republic of Korea, Senegal and the United States of America have specific regulations and measures in place. Morocco introduced a traceability system for all marine species and the European Union indicated that a full traceability system of fisheries products across its territory has been put in place. Italy reported that it enforces the measures of the European Union and General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) for elasmobranch conservation in the Mediterranean. El Salvador has introduced verification procedures for shark acquisitions. Indonesia enforces data collection, permitting, and inspections to ensure quota compliance for shark species included in the CITES Appendices. Although Japan has reservations on shark species included in the CITES Appendices, it ensures that the Management Authorities can trace an export product back to its origin to confirm legality.

8. In Peru, the General Directorate of Policy and Regulatory Analysis in Fisheries and Aquaculture is developing verification models and regulatory projects to streamline CITES compliance for sharks and rays. Panama is conducting an analysis of authorized landing ports and necessary documents for legal acquisition findings. The legality of fishing activity in Spain is confirmed by a control system including the use of an Electronic Logbook on Board.

9. Colombia, Croatia and Honduras have prohibited the catch of sharks. Finland reported that there is no fishing of CITES-listed shark species in Finnish waters as sharks do not occur there, Finnish vessels are not involved in fishing on the high seas, and that there are no landings of sharks in Finnish ports.

Stockpiles

10. Regarding recording stockpiles of commercial and/or pre-Convention shark parts and derivatives, the Parties provided varied responses. El Salvador, Indonesia, Panama and Mexico engage in stockpile recording and/or inspection.

11. Australia, Finland, Spain and Sweden do not have stockpiles of pre-Convention shark products. Spain reports no stockpiles of pre-Convention shortfin mako, which is the second most caught species by weight. The United States of America and the United Kingdom do not record stockpiles of commercial or pre-Convention shark and rays.

Information from the CITES Trade Database on commercial trade in CITES-listed sharks and rays

12. In accordance with Decision 19.224, paragraph b), the Secretariat provides information from the CITES Trade Database on commercial trade in CITES-listed sharks and rays since 2010 sorted by species and by product. The overview is in Annex 2 and the raw data accessed on 31 October 2024 and covering the period 2010 to 2023 is in Annex 3 to the present document.

13. The information from the CITES Trade Database in this document is extracted from the raw data at the shipment level, as opposed to the aggregate records available on the web interface of the database (at https://trade.cites.org/) to show a fine-scale view of the trade in sharks and rays. The main findings since a similar report was provided to SC77 are as follows.

    a) The species most traded for commercial purposes are *Isurus oxyrinchus* and *Carcharhinus falciformis*, which make up the largest number of shipment records and the largest volume of specimens in trade.

    b) Despite having been recently listed at CoP19 with entry into effect on 25 November 2023, there are 57 one-state transactions (IFS) of blue shark, *Prionace glauca*, in the CITES Trade Database for 2023, adding up to 768 metric tons.

    c) The number of introduction from the sea transactions are increasing rapidly since the listing of Carcharhinidae spp. at CoP19. Even though the dataset from the annual reports of only 11 Parties have been included to date, the number of IFS transactions for 2023 equals that of the previous years reported by 29 Parties.

    d) While it varies by species, for trade transactions reported in kilograms, the overall reported total weight by importers is higher than that of exporters since 2018.

Implementation of Decision 19.223

Paragraph a) on capacity-building assistance for implementing Appendix-II shark and ray listings

14. Funding to provide capacity-building support to Parties has been secured thanks to the generous support of the European Union. The Secretariat appreciates the support provided in this regard. To date, Colombia, Nicaragua, Senegal, Somalia, the Solomon Islands and Yemen have requested technical support on making of NDFs for sharks and rays.

15. Prioritizing the Parties under Review of Significant Trade for sharks and rays, the Secretariat had discussions with the CITES Authorities of Yemen about an online discussion and training session with the fisheries authorities to better understand the situation on *Carcharhinus longimanus* and *Sphyrna lewini* in Yemen. Nicaragua has requested technical and financial support for the making of an NDF for *Sphyrna lewini* and the Secretariat will continue to engage Nicaragua on its request for support. The Secretariat is initiating discussions with each Party that has submitted a request to be able to provide targeted and tailored support.

16. The Secretariat has also provided bilateral technical support and guidance to various Parties on the implementation of the Convention on sharks and rays, including regarding LAFs, traceability, and NDFs. Parties supported include *inter alia*, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Japan, Mauritius, Oman, Peru, and South Africa.

Paragraph b) on liaising with relevant Regional Fisheries Management Organizations and Arrangements (RFMO/As)

17. The Secretariat has been in close contact with several Secretariats of RFMOs and other relevant organizations and appreciates the engagement and support received. The Secretariats of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) and the International Commission for the Conversation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) participated in the workshops on *Aquatic species listed in the Appendices* and *Non-detriment findings for specimens of Appendix-II species taken from areas beyond national jurisdiction*.

18. The 102nd meeting of the IATTC in Panama City in September 2024 adopted IATTC Resolution C-24-05 on *Conservation measures for the protection and sustainable management of sharks*[1]. This resolution is of interest to CITES Parties as it includes a list of shark species to be prioritized for research. Of the 18 species on that list, 15 species are included in CITES Appendix II: *Alopias pelagicus*, *A. superciliosus*, *A. vulpinus*, *Carcharhinus brachyurus*, *C. falciformis*, *C. galapagensis*, *C. longimanus*, *Isurus oxyrinchus*, *I. paucus*, *Lamna nasus*, *Prionace glauca*, *Rhincodon typus*, *Sphyrna lewini*, *S. mokarran*, and *S. zygaena*.

19. The Secretariat is also in discussion with the Secretariat of the Cartagena Convention on possible collaborations and synergies with the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife in the Wider Caribbean Region. The Secretariat of the Cartagena Convention attended AC33.

20. The Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS) of the UN Secretariat, as the interim Secretariat of the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement), presented online at the workshop on *Non-detriment findings for specimens of Appendix-II species taken from areas beyond national jurisdiction* about the possible linkages between the BBNJ Agreement and CITES NDFs. The Secretariat also presented at various workshops organized by DOALOS on the BBNJ Agreement and reports on these in document SC78 Doc. 49 on *Introduction from the sea.*

21. Furthermore, the Secretariat participated in the 8th Meeting of the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States' Ministers Responsible for Oceans, Inland Waters, and Fisheries held in September in Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania, and presented the latest developments in CITES that relate to fisheries. The Secretariat also presented online at the 7th General Assembly of African Platform for Regional Institutions in Fisheries, Aquaculture, and Aquatic Systems (Casablanca, 2024).

Paragraph c) on the study on the apparent mismatch between reported and expected trade in shark species

22. The Secretariat collaborated with TRAFFIC and Deakin University to conduct the further study on the apparent mismatch between the trade in products of CITES-listed sharks recorded in the CITES Trade

[1] https://www.iattc.org/GetAttachment/7101d6dd-24e2-428b-afe1-aab5f05726ae/C-24-05_Sharks%E2%80%93amends-and-replaces-Res.-C-23-07.pdf

Database and what would be expected against the information available on catches of listed species reported to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and tuna RFMOs, building on the study entitled "Missing sharks: A country review of catch, trade and management recommendations for CITES-listed shark species". The Secretariat presented the further study entitled "Deep diving into shark catch and trade mismatches" to AC33.

23. After AC33, it was brought to the Secretariat's attention that disaggregate data on by-catch is publicly available from the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) and the Secretariat has included a note on the study "Deep diving into shark catch and trade mismatches" to reflect this information.

24. The study identified that the possible sources of mismatch are:

    a) the use of different units to report shark and ray trade within CITES Trade Database and others;

    b) underreporting of exports and IFS of CITES-listed shark and ray species;

    c) lack of clarity in the requirements of reporting under various scenarios of catch in the Economic Exclusive Zone (EEZ) of a Party and in areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ); and

    d) difference in reporting of catch from territories and provinces in different databases (under CITES, generally the Party reports all catch from its dependent territories and provinces, but in other databases each territory may report separately).

25. In addition to the recommendations emanating from the study and considered by the Animals Committee, the following implementation issues are highlighted in the study:

    a) Differences in the reporting of catch and trade data for dependent territories and provinces across different databases. Under CITES, Parties generally report catch from dependent territories and provinces collectively, while other databases often separate data by territory. This difference makes it difficult to compare data across databases, particularly as the CITES Trade Database aggregates data for some Parties but not for others. Furthermore, the geographical separation of territories from their State's administrative capital complicates tracking the origin of catch and exports, raising risks of double counting when both the State and its territories report catches.

    b) A lack of clarity of the reporting requirements of Parties for their catch in the EEZ of another Party could be contributing to the lower amount of trade in shark and ray recorded in the CITES Trade Database in comparison to the expected trade (agreement and clarity on such situations would be important to account for all international trade of catches in CITES-listed species):

        i) In the situation where vessels fishing in the EEZ of other nations under bilateral agreements land specimens of CITES-listed species in their own country (i.e. the country where the vessels belong to), the Secretariat is of the opinion that such scenarios are international trade and that the coastal state is the State of export and the State in which the catch is landed is the State of import; and

        ii) In the situation where vessels fishing in the EEZ of other nations under bilateral agreements then land specimens of CITES-listed species in a third country, the Secretariat is of the opinion that such scenarios are international trade and that the coastal state is the State of export and the State in which the catch is landed (i.e., the third country) is the State of import.

    c) On the one hand, there is substantial use of generic trade codes rather than the available code specific to sharks and rays when reporting to the UN Comtrade database. On the other hand, some Parties are augmenting their use of HS codes with additional digits. The Secretariat recalls paragraph 8 in Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP18) on *Conservation and management of sharks* that:

        REQUESTS Management Authorities to collaborate with their national customs authorities to expand their current classification system to allow for the collection and reporting of detailed data on shark trade including, where possible, separate categories for processed and unprocessed products, for meat, cartilage, skin and fins, and to distinguish imports, exports and re-exports and between shark fin products that are dried, wet, processed and unprocessed fins. Wherever possible, these data should be species-specific;

d) To further improve trade monitoring and understating of global demand for sharks and rays, the study showed that the introduction of species-specific trade codes to the UN Comtrade database could provide a more granular view of global shark and ray trade.

Paragraph d) on collaboration with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

26. Regarding the shark measure database, the Secretariat has initiated discussions with FAO to ensure complementarity with the newly launched CITES-LEX and to ensure that the information, including the database, is organized in a manner that is most useful to CITES Parties. The technical workshop on *Non-detriment findings for specimens of Appendix-II species taken from areas beyond national jurisdiction* also provided some guidance on the types of information that would be useful to Parties. The Secretariat has secured funding to conduct this work through the contribution of the European Union. The Secretariat appreciates the support provided in this regard.

27. No funds were secured to compile clear imagery of wet and dried unprocessed shark fins to facilitate refinement of the iSharkFin system and therefore no progress has been made in compiling new images of shark fins. The Secretariat notes that the images used to build iSharkFin have been useful in supporting other initiatives to develop digital identification tools for sharks such as FinFinder.

28. FAO published a series of reports on shark and ray non-fin commodities with case studies on India[2], Indonesia[3], Mexico[4] and Peru[5] in July 2024. These were in part funded by the CITES Secretariat thanks to the generous financial support of the European Union. These reports provide valuable information on the role of non-fin commodities derived from sharks and rays in fisheries and trade:

    a) There is a wide range of shark and ray non-fin commodities in international trade, which include both consumable and non-consumable commodities.

    b) Non-fin consumable commodities include meat as well as health and beauty supplements derived from oil and cartilage. Non-consumable commodities include fashion items such as shoes, bags, belts and wallets as well as commodities such as rostra, teeth, heads and jaw.

    c) Products such as liver oil, cartilage powder and other processed products may contain derivatives from multiple species and presents a challenge for CITES implementation as they are largely unidentifiable to the species level using visual techniques alone.

    d) Awareness of CITES regulations was low among stakeholders along the value chain and enhanced awareness was highlighted as an important step for better management of shark resources.

Recommendation from AC33

29. After consideration of the Secretariat's document AC33 Doc. 41 (Rev. 1), the Animals Committee adopted nine recommendations (see summary record AC33 SR) inviting the Secretariat to undertake several actions. The Secretariat provides updates on these recommendations agreed by the Animals Committee in the following paragraphs:

Engagement with RFMOs

30. The Secretariat welcomes the recommendation by the Animals Committee and has reported on its engagements with Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFB) and RFMO Secretariats in paragraphs 17-21.

Hosting the shark eNDF tool on CITES website

31. As requested by the Animals Committee, the Secretariat explored options to make the shark eNDF tool available on the sharks and rays portal of the CITES website to facilitate wider use. The Secretariat worked

[2] https://doi.org/10.4060/cd1631en

[3] https://doi.org/10.4060/cd1632en

[4] https://doi.org/10.4060/cd1633en

[5] https://doi.org/10.4060/cd1634en

with Blue Resource Trust (BRT) to identify two options, both of which have cost implications, and would require external funding:

a) Convert the eNDF tool to be compatible with and housed in the CITES website. This would involve a one-time cost for the conversion and integration as well as additional work for the Secretariat each time BRT updates the eNDF tool. This option will require regular financial and human resources if chosen.

b) Host the eNDF tool as an independent subdomain of the CITES website. This option would require a one-time cost for the establishment of the subdomain, which is comparable to the above option, plus monthly server maintenance costs. No edits to the current code of the eNDF tool will be required and changes made by BRT or other developers of NDF templates could be reflected on the eNDF tool without additional costs.

For both options, the generated data would be stored and hosted by the United Nations International Computing entre for data security purposes.

32. The Secretariat notes that, for either option, it is not involved in the development, writing, or editing of the eNDF tool, nor does it endorse or vet the tool or any proposed changes to it. If the hosting of the eNDF tool on the CITES website is deemed beneficial, the Secretariat is of the opinion that the second option would be preferable, as it avoids delays in reflecting changes made by BRT on to the eNDF tool hosted as a subdomain of the CITES website. Either option would require a Decision to request the Secretariat to implement the chosen option.

Liaising with RFMOs on the study

33. The Secretariat will share the study entitled "Deep diving into shark catch and trade mismatches" completed in accordance with Decision 19.223 paragraph c) with the RFMOs to bring it to their attention and to discuss the possibility of harmonizing data reporting to the extent possible. The Secretariat will also engage with the Secretariat of WCPFC to clarify the availability of publicly accessible disaggregate data as reported in paragraph 23 above. The Secretariat will report on its progress at the 20th meeting of the Conference of Parties.

Follow-up on discrepancies/lack of reporting in the CITES Trade Database

34. To be able to systematically follow up on mismatches in the database and follow up with Parties that appear to not be reporting exports of sharks and rays, the Secretariat proposes the following draft decisions:

Directed to the Secretariat

20.AA Subject to external funding, the Secretariat shall:

a) investigate mismatches and possible errors (e.g. differences in transactions reported by exporter/importer countries under the same permit; weights; species; etc.) in the CITES Trade Database and make corrections, where possible;

b) communicate with Parties that do not appear to be reporting exports of sharks and rays despite available information showing otherwise (i.e., trade only reported by importing countries) to determine the reason for underreporting and provide necessary support to encourage reporting; and

c) bring the results of activities in this present Decision to the attention of the Animals Committee or Standing Committee, as appropriate.

Trade records reported as captive-bred sharks and rays

35. The CITES Trade Database includes 10 shipments of sharks and rays between 2010 and 2023 that were reported by the exporting Party with source code "C". These shipments consisted of two shipments of *Sphyrna lewini* (total of 23 kg), three shipments for *Potamotrygon* species (total of 50 specimens), one shipment of *Alopias* spp. (total of 90 kg), three shipments of *Carcharhinus falciformis* (total of 4223 kg) and one shipment of *Rhynchobatus* spp. (total of 50 kg).

36. Given the small number of shipments with source code “C” from a small number of exporting Parties, these can be categorized as possible errors, and clarified pursuant to the proposed draft decision 20.AA above. As an initial assessment, the Secretariat reviewed the annual reports submitted by the Parties and is of the opinion that the shipments of live captive-bred *Potamotrygon* species are most likely accurately represented while the remaining seven shipments of skins and fins reported in kilograms are likely to be errors given the biology of the species and the volumes recorded. Further engagement will be made with the Parties as part of the decision once it has been adopted.

Additional guidance on reporting from ABNJ in the Guidelines for the preparation and submission for CITES annual reports

37. The Secretariat proposes additional guidelines on reporting of specimens taken from ABNJ in document SC78 Doc. 32.2 on *Revised* Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual reports *and* Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual illegal trade reports.

Addition of catch locations to annual reports

38. The Animals Committee invited the Secretariat to propose the expansion of reporting requirements for marine species to include catch locations, including the question on whether the expansion of reporting requirements for aquatic species should apply to the EEZ in addition to ABNJ, taking into account potential implementation challenges. At AC33, the Animals Committee considered three options of catch locations: 1. Ocean basins; 2. RFMO Convention areas, and 3. FAO Major Fishing Areas, and requested the Secretariat to propose options 1 and 3 to the Standing Committee.

39. The most parsimonious amendment to the existing reporting scheme to include catch location information would be to expand source code “X” for specimens taken from ABNJ and to expand source code “W” for specimens taken from the EEZ. Source codes “X” and “W” could continue to be used for specimens without specific location data and the expanded “X” and “W” source codes would be used for specimens that have the more detailed location data.

40. For the option to expand the reporting to seven ocean basins, source codes “X” and “W” could be expanded as follows:

Location code	Area specified
X; W	ABNJ or EEZ
X-NP; W-NP	North Pacific
X-SP; W-SP	South Pacific
X-NA; W-NA	North Atlantic
X-SA; W-SA	South Atlantic
X-IO; W-IO	Indian Ocean

41. For the option to expand the reporting to 19 FAO Major Fishing Areas, source codes “X” and “W” could be expanded as follows:

Location code	Area specific
X; W	ABNJ or EEZ
X-18; W-18	Arctic Sea
X-21; W-21	Atlantic, Northwest
X-27; W-27	Atlantic, Northeast
X-31; W-31	Atlantic, Western-central
X-34; W-34	Atlantic, Eastern Central

Location code	Area specified
X-51; W-51	Indian Ocean, Western
X-57; W-57	Indian Ocean, Eastern
X-58; W-58	Indian Ocean, Antarctic and Southern
X-61; W-61	Pacific, Northwest
X-67; W-67	Pacific, Northeast
X-71; W-71	Pacific, Western Central

X-37; W-37	Mediterranean and Black Sea
X-41; W-41	Atlantic, Southwest
X-47; W-47	Atlantic, Southeast
X-48; W-48	Atlantic, Antarctic

X-77; W-77	Pacific, Eastern Central
X-81; W-81	Pacific, Southwest
X-87; W-87	Pacific, Southeast
X-88; W-88	Pacific, Antarctic

42. This change to include catch location information would necessitate no additional change in permits but may have an impact on the reporting template for annual reports as shown in the paragraph below.

43. The expansion of source code "X" and/or "W" would necessitate an update to the CITES Trade Database. The cost depends on how these expanded source codes will be reported in the annual reports. The first option is to use the existing field "source code" to report source codes "X" or "X-IO" or "W-47". The second option is to use the existing field "source codes" to report on the base source code "X" or "W" and add an additional column for "locations" to include "IO" or "47. As both options will be considered as tasks for the United Nations Environment Programme-World Conservation Monitoring Centre that are additional to the currently funded regular maintenance of the CITES Trade Database, the Secretariat would need to secure additional resources to make this update.

44. For the question on whether such reporting should apply to the EEZ in addition to ABNJ, the Animals Committee at their 32nd meeting requested the Secretariat to look into the feasibility of including catch locations into annual reports. This request stems from the discussion on selection of species for the Review of Significant Trade (RST) that are distributed over multiple ocean basins and therefore more information may be needed about the location to infer the population that is being harvested.

45. The benefits of expanding source code "W" would include improved clarity and precision in trade reported by Parties where catch in their EEZ could include catch from multiple oceans and in trade reported by Parties with dependent territories and provinces that have coastlines in different ocean basins.

46. From the implementation perspective, the expansion of source code "W" will only impact certain countries with coastlines spanning multiple oceans. These Parties will have to identify the corresponding ocean basin or FAO Major Fishing area of the catch from GPS coordinates, then also have the capacity to maintain traceability of the specimen, part or derivative through processing and packaging until export. For example, fins from sharks caught in different ocean basins will need to be tagged and tracked throughout processing and packaging to enable the accurate recording of weights on export permits for each source code (e.g. 200 kg for "W-SP" and 150 kg for "W-IO").

47. The Secretariat is of the opinion that, at the present time, the catch locations should only be applied to ABNJ and therefore source code "X". The added benefit of having catch locations of specimens taken from EEZ does not outweigh the possible implementation challenges for a small number of Parties that span multiple oceans.

48. For the ocean basin level, the following 20 countries may have coastlines in more than one ocean basin or have dependent territories in a different ocean basin (countries in bold are not Party to CITES): Argentina (South Atlantic Ocean, South Pacific Ocean), Australia (Indian Ocean, South Pacific Ocean), Brazil (North Atlantic Ocean, South Atlantic Ocean), Canada (Arctic Ocean, North Atlantic Ocean, North Pacific Ocean), Chile (South Atlantic Ocean, South Pacific Ocean), Denmark (Arctic Ocean, North Atlantic Ocean), Ecuador (North Pacific Ocean, South Pacific Ocean), Equatorial Guinea (North Atlantic Ocean, South Atlantic Ocean), France (Indian Ocean, North Atlantic Ocean, North Pacific Ocean, South Pacific Ocean); Indonesia (Indian Ocean, North Pacific Ocean, South Pacific Ocean), **Kiribati** (North Pacific Ocean, South Pacific Ocean), **Micronesia** (North Pacific Ocean, South Pacific Ocean), **Nauru** (North Pacific Ocean, South Pacific Ocean), Papua New Guinea (North Pacific Ocean, South Pacific Ocean), Russian Federation (Arctic Ocean, North Pacific Ocean), Sao Tome and Principe (North Atlantic Ocean, South Atlantic Ocean), South Africa (Indian Ocean, South Atlantic Ocean), United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (North Atlantic Ocean, South Atlantic Ocean, South Pacific Ocean, Southern Ocean), United States of America (Arctic Ocean, North Atlantic Ocean, North Pacific Ocean, South Pacific Ocean).[6]

49. For the FAO Major Fishing Areas, the following 40 countries may have coastlines in more than one FAO Major Fishing Area (countries in bold are not Party to CITES): Angola (34, 47), Argentina (41, 87), Australia

[6] *Flanders Marine Institute (2024). The intersect of the Exclusive Economic Zones and IHO sea areas, version 5. Available online at https://www.marineregions.org/ and https://doi.org/10.14284/699*

(57, 58, 71, 81), Brazil (31, 41), Canada (18, 21, 67), Chile (41, 87), China (61, 71), Colombia (31, 77, 87), Congo (34, 47), Costa Rica (31, 77, 87), Democratic Republic of the Congo (34, 47), Denmark (18, 21, 27), Egypt (37, 51), Fiji (71, 81), France (27, 31, 37, 41, 51, 57, 58, 71, 77, 81), Gabon (34, 47), Guatemala (31, 77), Honduras (31, 77), India (51, 57), Indonesia (57, 71), Japan (61, 71), **Kiribati** (71, 77), Malaysia (57, 71), Maldives (51, 57), Mexico (31, 77), Morocco (34, 37), Netherlands (27, 31), New Zealand (71, 77, 81), Nicaragua (31, 77), Panama (31, 77, 87), Philippines (61, 71), Portugal (27, 34), Russian Federation (18, 27, 37, 61, 67), South Africa (47, 51), Spain (27, 34, 37), Thailand (57, 71), Tonga (71, 77, 81), United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (27, 31, 37, 41, 47, 48, 77, 81), United States of America (18, 21, 31, 61, 67, 71, 77), and Viet Nam (61, 71).

50. For RST, the expansion of source code "X" would mean that the data analysis will result in the possible identification of an ocean basin/FAO Major Fishing area, as opposed to ABNJ, that might be subject to high levels of trade. The expansion of source code "W" would mean that the data analysis will result in the possible identification of a combination of species-ocean basin/FAO Major Fishing area. There would need to be some discussion on how this might be accommodated in the exiting RST process.

51. The Chair of the Animals Committee is currently tasked with drafting a decision inviting the Secretariat to consider the feasibility of adapting the existing RST process for sharks and rays that selects high priority species in international trade, then determines which stocks are affected, and includes range and fishing States with significant trade in the relevant stocks of concern (see Annex 4 to document SC78 Doc. 70.2). The expansion of source codes could be considered in this feasibility study to see if and how the added information could be used in the RST process.

Regarding Notifications on gulper sharks

52. At the request of the Animals Committee, the Secretariat issued Notification to the Parties No. 2024/088 of 12 August 2024 requesting information on gulper sharks (Centrophoridae spp.). Australia, Ireland, Japan, Mexico, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, Tunisia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (including the Cayman Islands), the United States of America, and TRAFFIC provided responses, which were shared with Parties via Notification to the Parties No. 2024/123 on 8 November 2024.

Recommendations

53. The Standing Committee is invited to:

    a) take note of the progress made on the implementation of Decisions 19.222, 19.223 and 19.224, which can be considered as fully implemented and therefore deleted;

    b) consider the two situations relating to reporting by a Party with specimens caught in the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) of another Party described in paragraph 25 b) and provide guidance on reporting requirements;

    c) consider the two options for the inclusion of the eNDF tool on the CITES website described in paragraph 31 and determine whether its implementation would be beneficial and, if so, invite the Secretariat to submit draft decisions to CoP20;

    d) review and submit draft decision 20.AA in paragraph 34 to include provisions to address discrepancies and lack of reporting based on the recommendations of AC33 for consideration at CoP20; and

    e) consider the information in paragraphs 38-51 on the inclusion of catch locations and the Secretariat's approach to incorporate this work in draft decision 20.FF in Annex 4 to document SC78 Doc. 70.2 by the Chair of the Animals Committee.

DECISIONS ON *SHARKS AND RAYS (ELASMOBRANCHII SPP.)*
ADOPTED BY THE 19TH MEETING OF THE CONFERNCE OF PARTIES

Directed to Parties

19.222 Parties are encouraged to:

a) in accordance with Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP18) on *Conservation and management of sharks*, 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 19.224;

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 19.224 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 (NDFs);

d) in accordance with Resolution Conf. 9.7 (Rev. CoP15) on *Transit and transhipment*, 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) seek external funding for a dedicated marine species officer and consider seconding staff members with expertise in fisheries and the sustainable management of aquatic resources to the Secretariat;

f) in accordance with Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP19) on *Compliance and enforcement*, actively collaborate to combat illegal trafficking in sharks and ray products by developing mechanisms for coordination between source, transit, and destination countries; and

g) consider if they are likely to be key beneficiaries from the guidance document(s) reviewed under Decision 19.226, paragraphs a) and b); if so, these Parties are strongly encouraged to participate in any Standing Committee working groups established to address Decision 19.226.

Directed to the Secretariat

19.223 Subject to external funding, the Secretariat shall

a) continue to provide capacity-building assistance for implementing Appendix-II shark and ray listings to Parties, especially developing countries and small island developing states, upon request;

b) liaise with relevant Regional Fisheries Management Organizations and Arrangements (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) conduct a further study to look into 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, building on the study entitled Missing sharks: A country review of catch, trade and management recommendations for CITES- listed shark species and share both studies with proposed solutions to resolve this issue to the Animals Committee and Standing Committee, in a timely manner;

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 activities in this present Decision to the attention of the Animals Committee or Standing Committee, as appropriate.

19.224 The Secretariat shall:

a) issue a Notification to the Parties, inviting Parties to:

i) in accordance with Resolution Conf 12.6 (Rev. CoP18) on *Conservation and management of sharks*, 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 NDFs;

B. the making of legal acquisition findings (LAFs);

C. the identification and monitoring of CITES-listed shark-products in trade, in source, transit, and consumer Parties;

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

E. capacity-building needs to assist developing countries and small island developing states with reporting requirements; and

ii) share with the Secretariat their non-detriment findings (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) in accordance with Resolution Conf. 11.17 (Rev. CoP19) on *National reports*, 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 19.226, paragraph b);

e) share information concerning capacity-building needs of developing countries including the possibility of training workshops; and

f) collate this information for the consideration of the Animals Committee and the Standing Committee.

Directed to the Animals Committee, in collaboration with relevant organizations and experts

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

a) continue to develop guidance and review outcomes from the proposed international expert workshop on NDFs to support the making of 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;

b) review the information submitted by the Secretariat under paragraph e) of Decision 19.223 and paragraph f) of Decision 19.224 and;

c) report the outcomes of its work under the present Decision to the Standing Committee for incorporation into the joint report to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Directed to the Standing Committee

19.226 The Standing Committee shall:

a) review the revised *Rapid Guide on the making of legal acquisition findings*, and related assessments as they relate to trade in CITES-listed sharks species caught in areas beyond national jurisdiction (including introductions from the sea), and determine if more specific guidance is needed for CITES-listed-shark species, including engagement with RFMOs and any capacity-building which might support their role in the making of LAFs and related assessments;

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) review the FAO's on-going guidance on Catch Document Schemes, Port State Measures and any other measures to reduce Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) fishing;

d) in consultation with the Animals Committee, discuss challenges related to transport of biological samples for research and data collection purposes in the context of fisheries management including the context of the provisions on introduction from the sea in Resolution Conf 14.6 (Rev. CoP16) and make recommendations to CoP20; and

e) report its findings under the present Decision to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

19.227 The Standing Committee shall:

a) review the comments and recommendations provided by the Parties, the Animals Committee and the Secretariat under Decisions 19.222 to 19.225; and

b) prepare a report with any necessary recommendations for improving the implementation of the Convention for sharks and rays for consideration by the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

OVERVIEW OF THE CITES TRADE DATA ON CITES-LISTED SHARK AND RAY SPECIES

1. In accordance with Decision 19.224, paragraph b), information from the CITES Trade Database on commercial trade in CITES-listed sharks and rays since 2010, sorted by species and by product is provided in this Annex.

Overview

2. CITES trade records for Elasmobranchii spp. at the shipment level were downloaded from the CITES Trade Database for the period 2010 – 2023 on 31 October 2024. It contained 22,599 shipment records of Elasmobranchii spp. for the period of 2000 – 2024, of which 138 are of Appendix-I species, 14,577 are of Appendix-II and 7,884 are of Appendix-III listed species.

3 The deadline for submission for annual reports for 2023 was 31 October 2024 and therefore only reports from 11 Parties that submitted annual reports early have been included in the dataset downloaded from the CITES Trade Database. Data from 2023 were included in the overview shown below for comprehensiveness.

4. For Appendix-I species, where both import and export permits are required, there are 75 shipments reported by exporters and 63 shipments reported by importers. For Appendix-II species, there are 7,991 shipments reported by exporters and 6,586 shipments reported by importers.

5. Table 1 shows the number of submitted annual reports and the number of reported shipments for Elasmobranchii spp. listed in Appendix-II from exporters and importers. There are fewer records reported by the importing Parties than by exporting Parties for Appendix-II listed species as for species included in Appendix II, Parties are not obliged to issue import permits. However, several importing Parties do issue import permits (as stricter domestic measure) and repot on these in their annual reports.

Table 1. The number of submitted annual reports and the number of reported shipments on Elasmobranchii spp. listed in Appendix-II from exporters and importers for all source and purpose codes.

Year	Exporters		Importers	
	Number of reported shipments	**Number of submitted annual reports**	**Number of reported shipments**	**Number of submitted annual reports**
2010	13	8	15	7
2011	11	5	17	6
2012	24	11	11	6
2013	29	9	7	2
2014	53	20	190	5
2015	165	23	115	11
2016	187	20	125	15
2017	229	21	138	9
2018	696	32	481	15
2019	774	36	404	14
2020	1,135	36	1,376	15
2021	2,137	35	1,559	18
2022	2,321	29	1,676	19
2023	217	11	472	10

6. The Secretariat further notes that when interpreting the available CITES trade data, the Standing Committee should also take into account the increase in the number of species listed on the Appendicfes over time (Figure 1). As of 2023, there are 147 species of Elasmobranchii species listed in CITES, with 6 species in Appendix I and 141 species in Appendix II.

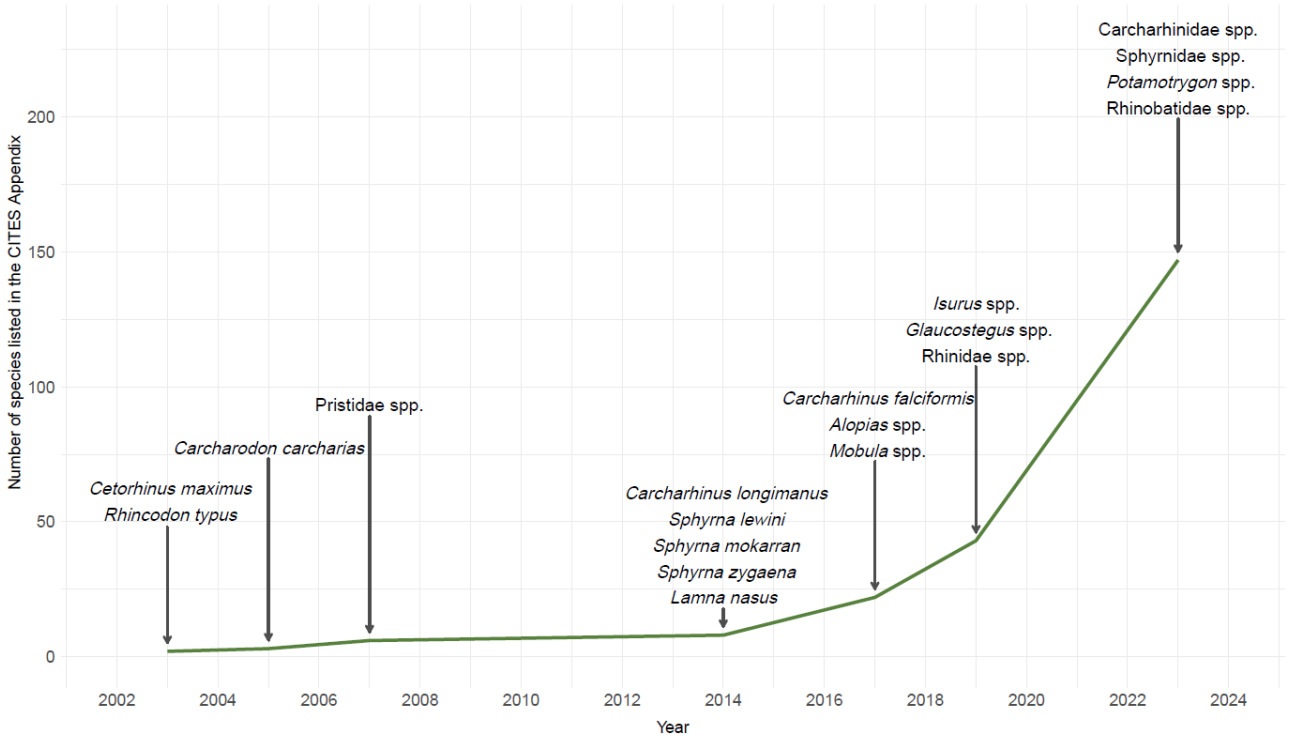

Figure 1. Shark and ray listing in CITES Appendices from CoP12 (listing coming into effect in 2003) to CoP19 (listing coming into effect in 2023).

Appendix-II species

7. When only Appendix-II species traded for commercial purpose (purpose code T) are considered, excluding source code I (seized specimens), C (bred in captivity), F (born in captivity) and O (pre-Convention specimens), the database includes 6,273 shipments reported by exporters and 5,359 shipments reported by importers. The shipments were categorized as import/export of specimens taken from exclusive economic zone (EEZ), one-state transactions (introduction from the sea – IFS) and two-state transactions of specimens taken from areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ) and re-export and export after IFS based on the following combination of fields:

   – records with "HS" as the exporter and no origin country were considered to be one-state transactions (IFS) whether it had source code "X" as specified in the *Guidelines* or source code "W";

   – records with source code "X", no origin country and a name of a Party in the exporter and importer fields were considered to be two-state transaction with specimens taken from ABNJ;

   – records with no origin country and an exporter that is not "HS" were considered to be an "import/export" transaction with specimens taken from EEZ; and

   – records with an origin country, whether it is "HS" or a Party, were considered to be "re-export" or export after IFS transactions.

8. The breakdown of the shipments by reporter type and type of trade is shown in Table 2 and Figure 2. The most commonly reported trade in sharks and rays is import/export of specimens taken from the EEZ followed by one-state transaction (IFS). Despite only 11 Parties' data being included for 2023, the number of one-state transactions for 2023 are similar to that of the previous years.

Table 2. Number of shipments reported by exporters and importers between 2010 and 2023 shown by type of trade.

Type of trade	Number of shipments (Exporter reported)	Number of shipments (Importer reported)
EEZ : import/export	5,448	3,532
ABNJ: one-state (IFS)	NA	1,377
ABNJ: two-state	13	75
Re-export	812	375

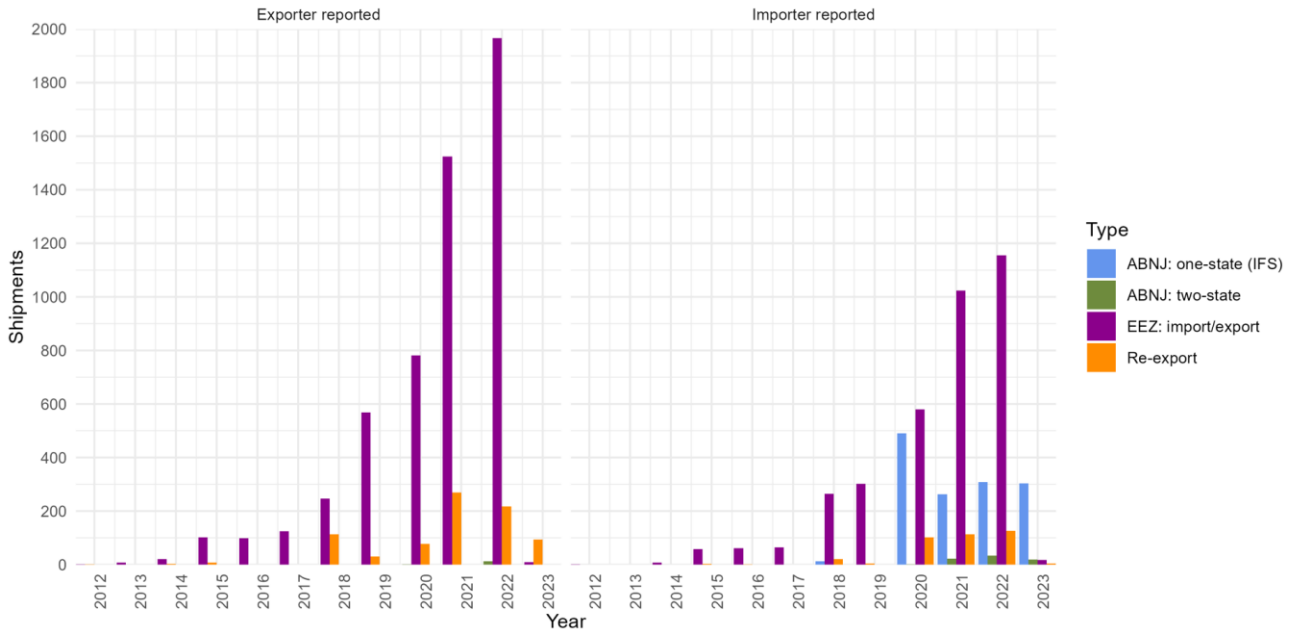

Figure 2. Number of shipments reported by exporters and importers between 2010 and 2023 shown by type of trade.

Trade based on the number of shipments

9. The rest of the Annex considers only 'direct' transactions with re-export, export after a one-state transaction and re-export after a two-state transaction excluded to avoid considering a shipment more than once. The breakdown of families of sharks and rays in commercial trade over time is shown in Figure 3 and the breakdown of species of sharks and rays shown in Table 3.

10. At the family level, Lamnidae spp. [*Isurus oxyrinchus* with 949 shipments reported by exporters, 855 shipments reported by importers and 1,268 records of one-state transactions (IFS)], Carcharhinidae spp. [*Carcharhinus falciformis* with 1,133 shipments reported by exporters, 835 shipments reported by importers and 6 one-state transactions (IFS)], and Sphyrnidae spp. (*Sphyrna lewini* with 611 shipments reported by exporters and 350 shipments reported by importers, *S. zygaena* with 465 shipments reported by exporters and 227 shipments reported by importers, *S. mokarran* with 263 shipments reported by exporters and 151 shipments reported by importers) are the most commonly reported (Table 3; Figure 3).

11. The majority of one-state transactions (IFS) are of Lamnidae species with *I. oxyrinchus* accounting for 1,268 records. Since the listing of Carcharhinidae spp. in 2023, records of *Prionace glauca* have been reported with a total of 57 one-state transactions (IFS) in 2023. The number of one-state transactions (IFS) for *I. paucus* accounting for 38 records and *C. falciformis* (6 shipment records), *Sphyrna lewini* (4 shipment records), *Alopias pelagicus* and *Alopias vulpinus* (each 2 shipment records) has not changed since the last report to AC33.

12. The breakdown of trade term code (i.e., specimen types) in trade are shown in Figure 4. Fins are the most commonly reported trade term code and the majority of this trade is reported in import/export transactions (3,239 shipments reported by exporters and 1,809 shipments reported by importers). Since the introduction of the two new codes, fin (dried) and fin (wet) to describe shark fin trade, there has been 866 shipments by exporters and 707 shipments reported by importers for fin (dried) and 45 shipment records of fin (wet).

13. Trade in bodies and meat also makes up a large number of shipment records and these records are reported in one-state transactions (IFS) as well as import/export records (Figure 3 middle panel). All introduction from sea transactions is of bodies (1,373 shipment records) except for one record of meat. This is expected as sharks are required to be landed whole in many Parties through international and regional fisheries-related agreements.

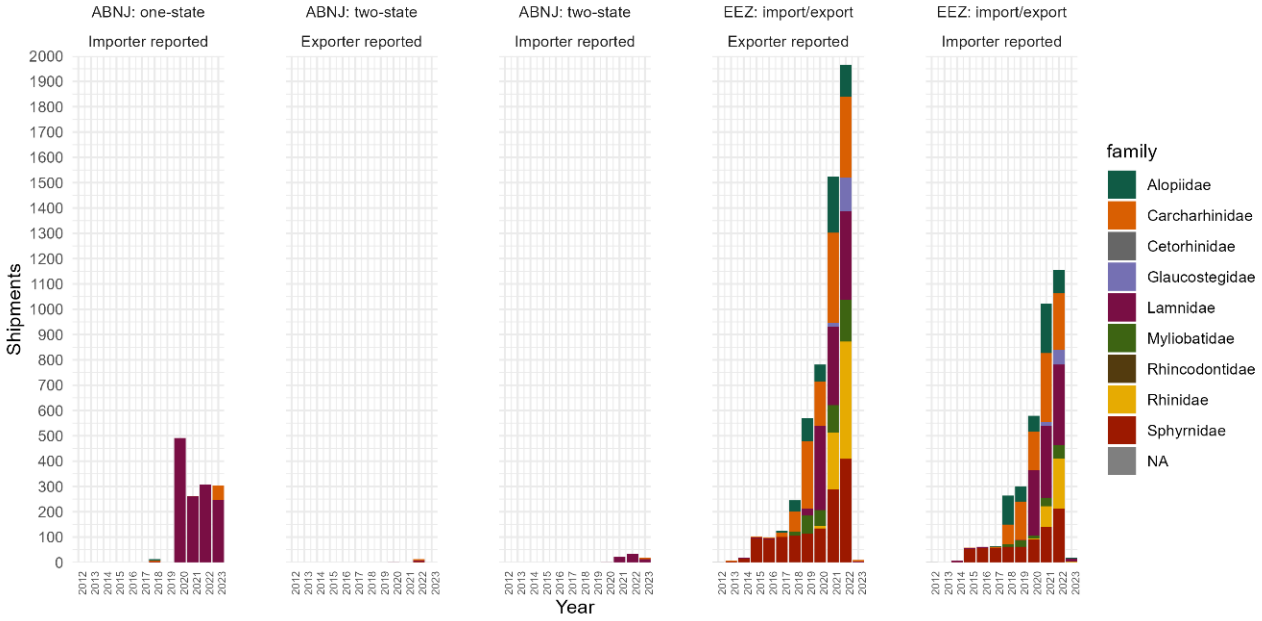

Figure 3. Number of shipments reported by exporters and importers between 2010 and 2023 colour-coded by family.

14. For the remaining trade terms, gill plates are also commonly reported for Myliobatidae species with 406 shipment records reported by exporters and 127 shipment records reported by importers. Skins (167 shipment records reported by exporter and 82 shipment records reported by importers) and live specimens (92 shipment records reported by exporters and 52 shipment records reported by importers) make up the next most reported trade term.

15. The most commonly trade species for skin are *C. falciformis* (71 shipment records reported by exporters and 39 shipment records reported by importers), *S. zygaena* (18 shipment records reported by exporters and 5 shipment records reported by importers), and *I. oxyrinchus* (14 shipment records reported by exporters and 1 shipment record reported by importers).

16. For live specimens, *S. lewini* (60 shipment records reported by exporters and 34 shipment records reported by importers), *Rhina ancylostomus* (11 shipment records reported by exporters and 6 shipment records reported by importers) and *Mobula hypostoma* (9 shipment records reported by exporters and 7 shipment records reported by importers) are the most reported species.

17. The species composition of trade in fin, body and meat has not changed since the last report for SC77 (see document SC77 Doc. 67.3). Many species were traded for their fins (Figure 4) with *C. falciformis, I. oxyrinchus, Sphyrna* spp., and *A. pelgaicus* being the most traded species for fins. Only one species so far, *I. oxyrinchus* has been reported with wet fins being in trade. Records for dried fins are similar to those reported under fins, but also includes several Rhinidae spp. (*Rhynchobatus australiae*, *R. luebberti*, *R springeri* and *Rhina ancylotomus*)

18. In comparison, the trade in bodies and meat is concentrated in one species, *I. oxyrinchus*. The trade in bodies and meat are mostly of *I. oxyrinchus*, followed *by A. pelagicus, C. falciformis* and *I. paucus.* With the new listing of Carcharhinidae spp., *Prionace glauca* bodies are also started to be reported (Figure 5).

19. In Figure 6, the trade as reported by exporters is visualized between Parties with the arrow pointing from exporter to importers and the lines between the countries showing the terms (i.e. specimen type) in trade with the thickness representing the relative number of shipments. China is the largest importer by number of shipments of fins from a large number of countries. Sri Lanka is the major exporter of gill plates to China.

Table 3. Number of shipments reported by exporters and importers between 2010 and 2023 shown by type of trade and by species.

Type	Family	Taxon	Number of shipments (importer reported)	Number of shipments (exporter reported)
ABNJ: one-state (IFS)	Alopiidae	*Alopias pelagicus*	2	-
		Alopias vulpinus	2	-
	Carcharhinidae	*Carcharhinus falciformis*	6	-
		Prionace glauca	57	-
	Lamnidae	*Isurus oxyrinchus*	1,268	-
		Isurus paucus	38	-
	Sphyrnidae	*Sphyrna lewini*	4	-
ABNJ: two-state	Carcharhinidae	*Carcharhinus falciformis*	4	4
		Prionace glauca	3	-
	Lamnidae	*Isurus oxyrinchus*	66	6
		Isurus paucus	2	-
	Sphyrnidae	*Sphyrna lewini*	-	3
EEZ: import/export	Alopiidae	*Alopias pelagicus*	321	297
		Alopias spp.	36	38
		Alopias superciliosus	135	165
		Alopias vulpinus	40	57
		Alopiidae spp.	-	1
	Carcharhinidae	Carcharhinidae spp.	1	3
		Carcharhinus falciformis	835	1,133
		Carcharhinus longimanus	52	82
		Carcharhinus spp.	-	1
		Prionace glauca	-	7
	Cetorhinidae	*Cetorhinus maximus*	1	1
	Glaucostegidae	Glaucostegidae spp.	-	1
		Glaucostegus cemiculus	3	-
		Glaucostegus granulatus	1	1
		Glaucostegus halavi	4	-
		Glaucostegus obtusus	1	1
		Glaucostegus spp.	35	63
		Glaucostegus thouin	6	19
		Glaucostegus typus	22	65
	Lamnidae	*Carcharodon carcharias*	5	11
		Isurus oxyrinchus	855	949
		Isurus paucus	15	60
		Isurus spp.	-	2
		Lamna nasus	11	15
	Myliobatidae	*Mobula birostris*	7	12
		Mobula hypostoma	7	9
		Mobula japanica	28	124
		Mobula mobular	9	28
		Mobula spp.	51	105
		Mobula tarapacana	36	145
		Myliobatidae spp.	-	1
	Rhincodontidae	*Rhincodon typus*	-	1
	Rhinidae	*Rhina ancylostomus*	54	142
		Rhynchobatus australiae	81	183
		Rhynchobatus djiddensis	30	45
		Rhynchobatus laevis	30	65
		Rhynchobatus luebberti	31	130
		Rhynchobatus palpebratus	6	-
		Rhynchobatus spp.	14	47
		Rhynchobatus springeri	36	86
	Sphyrnidae	*Sphyrna lewini*	346	608
		Sphyrna mokarran	151	263
		Sphyrna spp.	6	12
		Sphyrna zygaena	227	465
		Sphyrnidae spp.	3	4
	NA	Lamniformes spp.	-	1

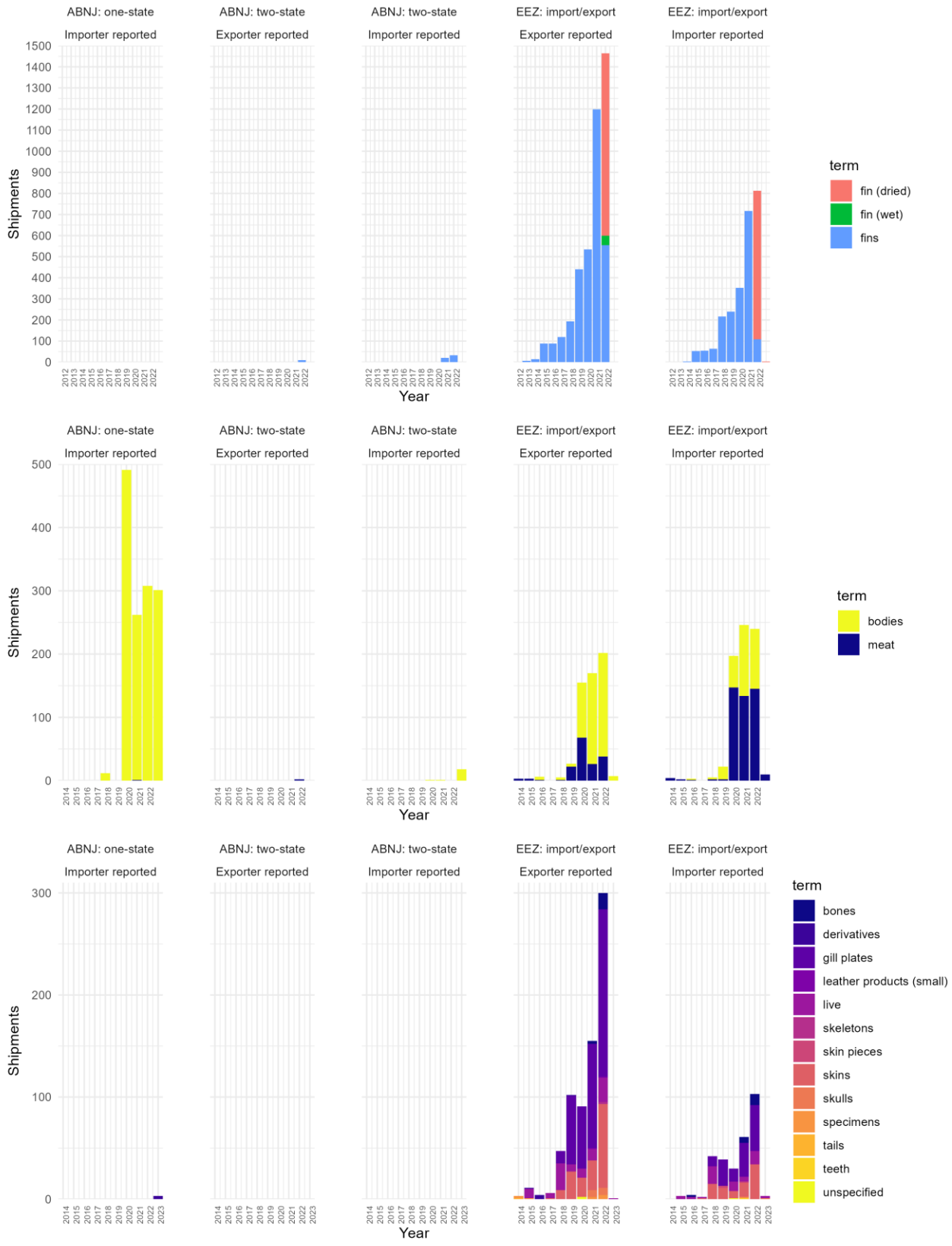

Figure 4. Number of shipments reported by exporters and importers between 2010 and 2023 coloured by the trade term code provided in the shipment record. The top panel shows various “fin” related trade term, the middle panel shows “bodies” and “meat, and the bottom panel shows all other trade term code provided in the shipment record.

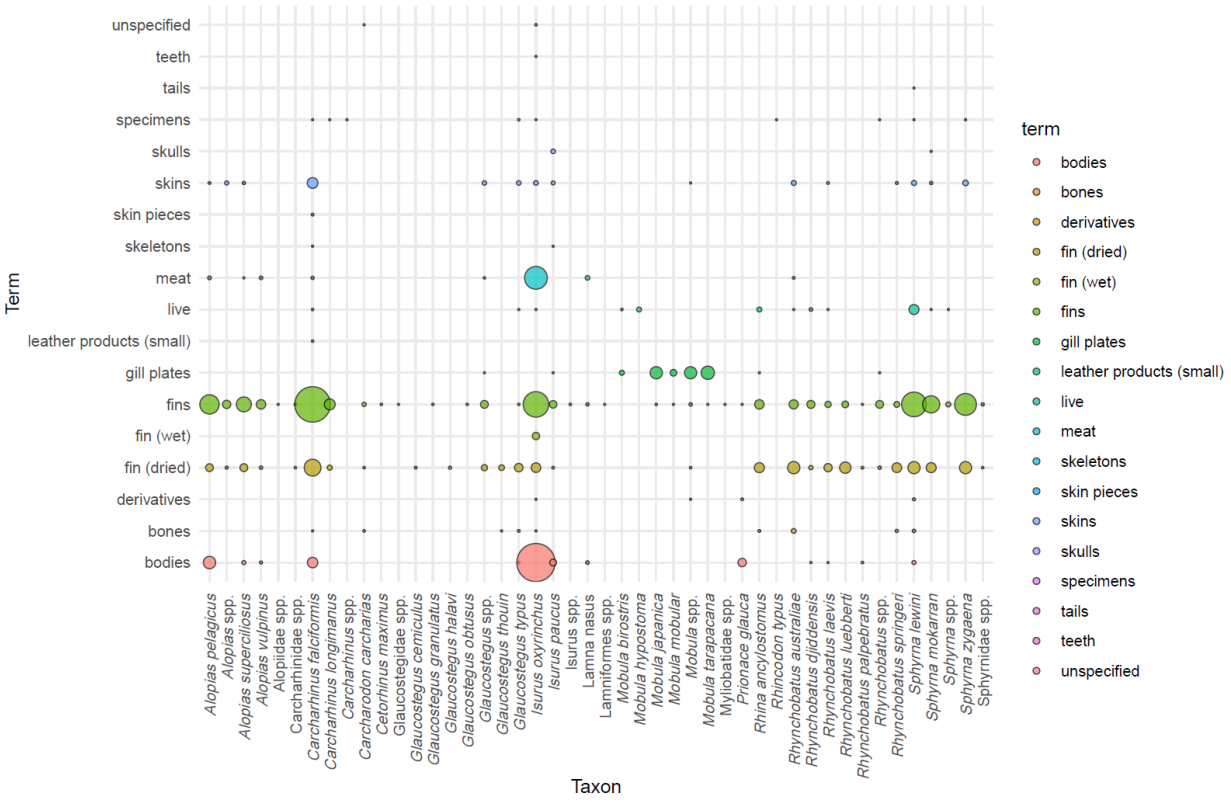

Figure 5. Number of recorded commercial trade transactions in different type of specimens of shark and ray species listed in CITES Appendix II.

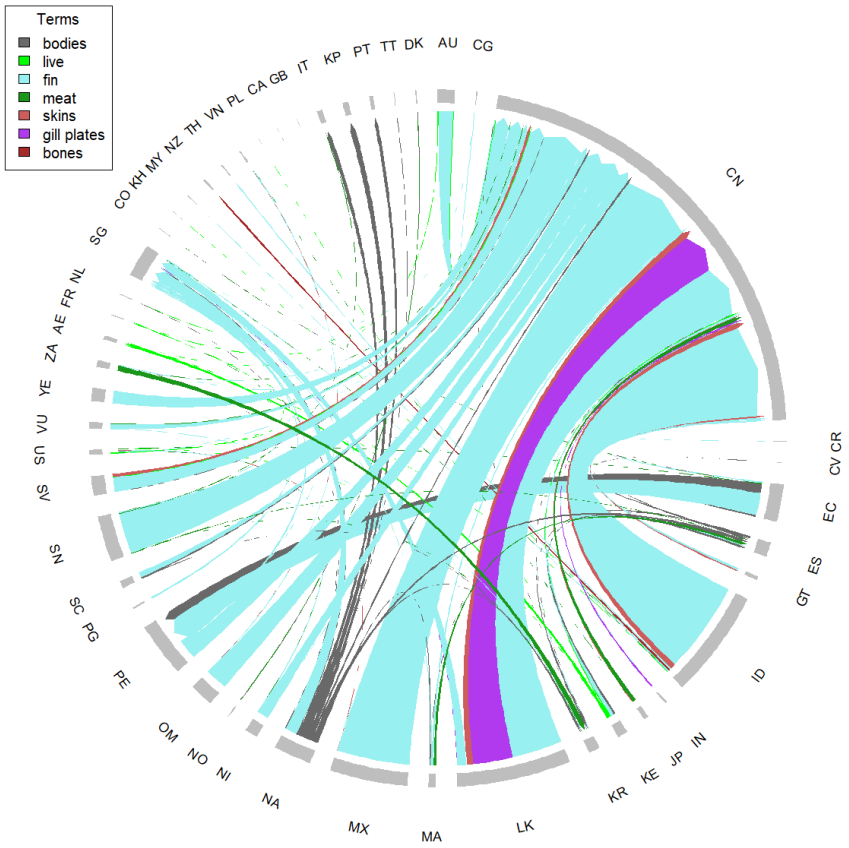

Figure 6. Directionality of commercial trade reported by exporters in number of shipments between 2010 and 2023 of sharks and rays listed in CITES Appendix II. The arrows show the direction of trade, the colours of the arrows show the specimen in trade and the thickness of the arrows shows the relative volume in trade. Single shipments and specimen types with few records (tail, unspecified, derivatives, specimens, teeth, skeletons, skin pieces and leather products

(small)) were excluded in the graph for legibility. Country names are shown in two-letter ISO code. “CN” shows combined data for Mainland China, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China, and Taiwan Province of China.

Trade based on records reported in weight

20. For trade reported in kilograms, the greatest volume of trade is in specimens of Lamnidae species (*I. oxyrinchus*) with a large proportion of it being one-state transactions [IFS; 8,856 metric tons reported as one-state transactions (IFS); 5,157 to 5,564 metric tons as import/export transactions of specimens taken from the EEZ depending on the reporter type]. The second and third largest volume of trade recorded in kilograms is for *C. falciformis* and *A. pelagicus* (Figure 7 and Table 4). Since being listing in 2023, 768 metric tons of *Prionace glauca* has been reported as one-state transactions (IFS), along with 108 metric tons of export/import of specimens taken from EEZ and 62 metric of two-state transactions.

21. The volumes of sharks and rays are reported between years 2020 to 2022 is relatively stable with ranges between 2,000 – 3,000 metric tons. For year 2023 with limited information, there are already similar levels of one-state transactions (IFS) in comparison to the previous years. The volume of trade reported by importers exceeded that of the volume reported by exporters in 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 (Figure 7).

22. The majority of the trade in volume is made up of trade in bodies, meat and fins (Figure 7 bottom panel). Almost all of the introductions from the sea transactions reported in kilograms are of bodies, while the trade records reported as import/export of sharks and rays in kilograms are split between bodies (*I. oxyrinchus, C. falciformis*, *A. pelagicus* and *Prionace glauca*), meat (*I. oxyrinchus*) and fins (C*. falciformis, I. oxyrinchus, A. pelgaicus* and *S. zygaena*).

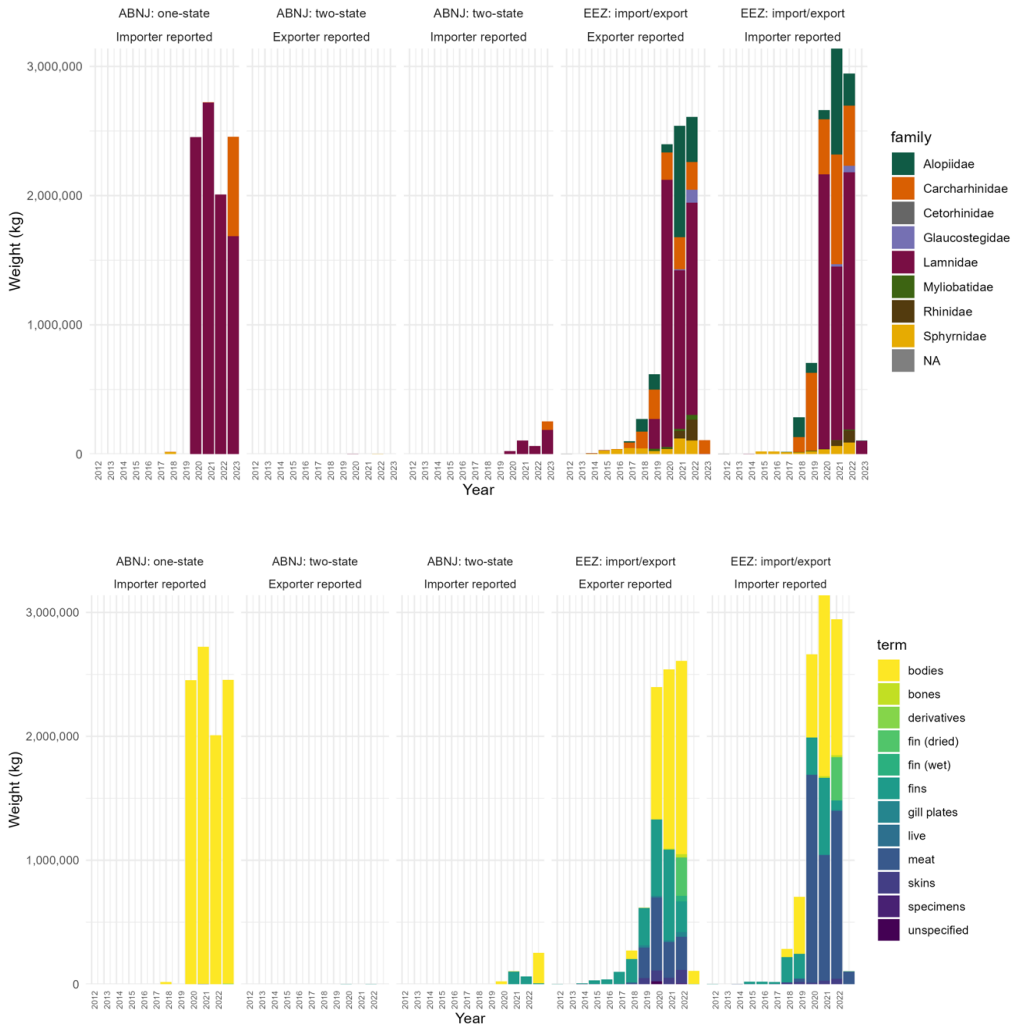

Figure 7. Volume of commercial trade reported by exporters and importers that was recorded in kg between 2010 and 2023 of sharks and rays listed in CITES Appendix II. The top panel shows the information colour-coded by Family of Elasmobranchii species and the bottom panel shows the information colour-coded by specimen type.

Table 4. Volume of trade (kg) reported by exporters and importers between 2010 and 2023 shown by type of trade and by species

Type	Family	Taxon	Total weight in kg (importer reported)	Total weight in kg (exporter reported)
ABNJ: one-state	Alopiidae	*Alopias pelagicus*	870	-
		Alopias vulpinus	685	-
	Carcharhinidae	*Carcharhinus falciformis*	6,309	-
		Prionace glauca	768,640.02	-
	Lamnidae	*Isurus oxyrinchus*	8,855,754.81	-
		Isurus paucus	12,978.86	-
	Sphyrnidae	*Sphyrna lewini*	14,301	-
ABNJ: two-state	Carcharhinidae	*Carcharhinus falciformis*	4,034.3	565
		Prionace glauca	62,320	-
	Lamnidae	*Isurus oxyrinchus*	374,958.45	666
		Isurus paucus	307.9	-
	Sphyrnidae	*Sphyrna lewini*	-	1,560
EEZ: import/export	Alopiidae	*Alopias pelagicus*	1,217,417.94	1,310,292.95
		Alopias spp.	11,027.91	16,132.38
		Alopias superciliosus	87,556.56	84,445.36
		Alopias vulpinus	61,087.66	89,189.66
		Alopiidae spp.	-	200
	Carcharhinidae	Carcharhinidae spp.	207	453
		Carcharhinus falciformis	2,444,372.90	1,039,919.65
		Carcharhinus longimanus	19,591.64	33,603.91
		Carcharhinus spp.	-	54.3
		Prionace glauca	-	107,933
	Cetorhinidae	*Cetorhinus maximus*	576.3	605.6
	Glaucostegidae	Glaucostegidae spp.	-	84.5
		Glaucostegus cemiculus	170	-
		Glaucostegus granulatus	202	202
		Glaucostegus halavi	310.35	-
		Glaucostegus obtusus	30	30
		Glaucostegus spp.	44,509.02	58,682.45
		Glaucostegus thouin	405.11	1,130.36
		Glaucostegus typus	20,035.78	48,086.97
	Lamnidae	*Carcharodon carcharias*	331.29	3,808.46
		Isurus oxyrinchus	5,564,222.60	5,157,712.93
		Isurus paucus	1,528.66	8,771.5
		Isurus spp.	-	36
		Lamna nasus	2,036.7	2,026.84
	Myliobatidae	*Mobula birostris*	1,165.5	2,050
		Mobula japanica	5,428.25	28,106.95
		Mobula mobular	1,387.9	5,212
		Mobula spp.	8,090.85	24,909.75
		Mobula tarapacana	5,333.7	27,139.95
		Myliobatidae spp.	-	183
	Rhinidae	*Rhina ancylostomus*	5,116.15	10,561.68
		Rhynchobatus australiae	68,046.00	82,999.67
		Rhynchobatus djiddensis	6,138.16	10,555.5
		Rhynchobatus laevis	4,859.62	8,398.43
		Rhynchobatus luebberti	17,951.35	68,109.95
		Rhynchobatus palpebratus	107,29.3	-
		Rhynchobatus spp.	3,908.15	14,105.03
		Rhynchobatus springeri	18,180.32	28,161.86
	Sphyrnidae	*Sphyrna lewini*	139,188.8	192,929.27
		Sphyrna mokarran	31,206.83	47,715.85
		Sphyrna spp.	5,634.38	1,157.01
		Sphyrna zygaena	94,392.276	200,209.31
		Sphyrnidae spp.	2,516.4	1,080.4
	NA	Lamniformes spp.	-	390

23. Between 2010 and 2023, *Isurus oxyrinchus* is the most traded species by weight being traded as meat, bodies and fins (Figure 8). *Alopis pelagicus* and *Carcharhinus falciformis* are the second and third most traded in weight with similar volumes of fins and bodies. Since the listing at CoP19, trade in bodies of *Prionace glauca* is being recorded.

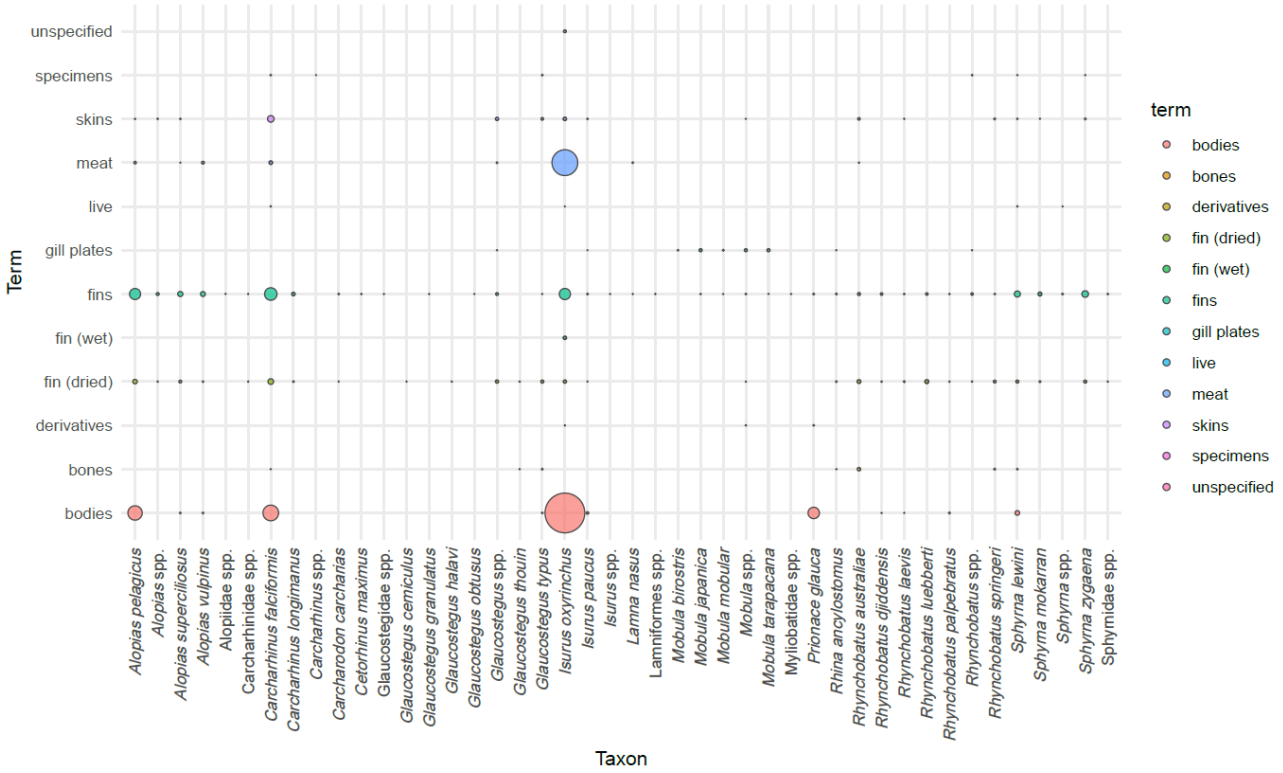

Figure 8. Volume of commercial trade transactions in different type of specimens of shark and ray species listed in CITES Appendix II.

24. When examining the trade between importer and exporters, Namibia is one of the main exporters of bodies in weight followed by Ecuador. China is the main importer of fins by weight from a number of different countries (Figure 9).

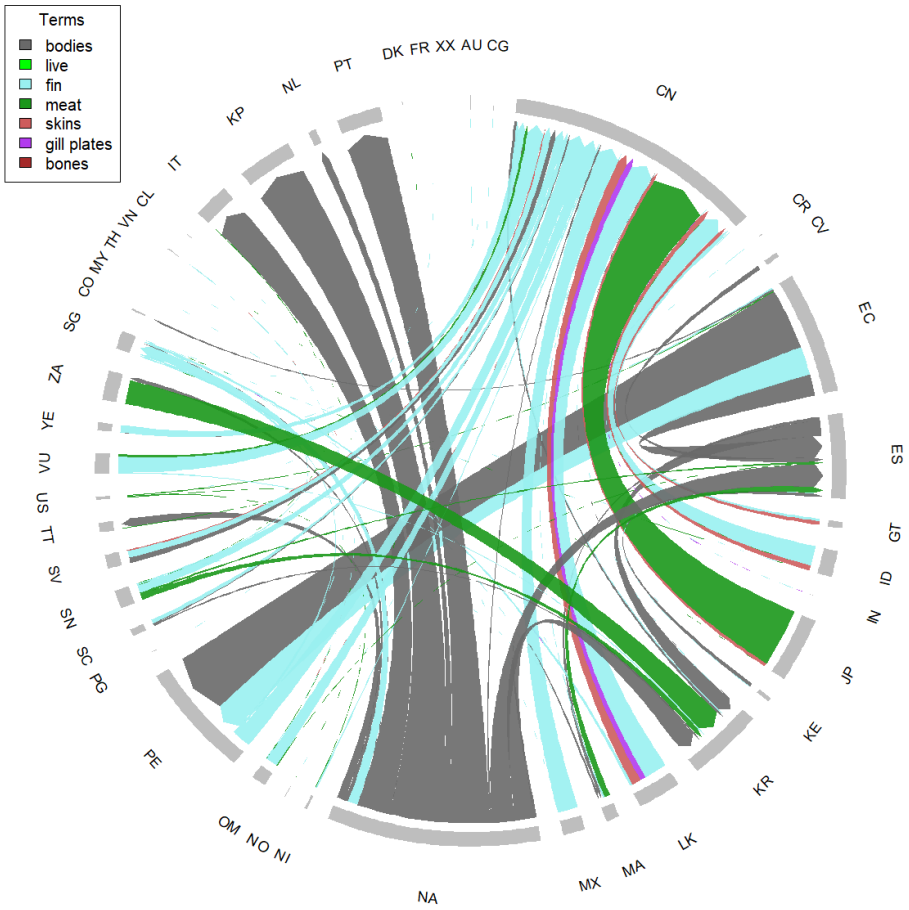

Figure 9. Directionality of commercial trade reported by exporters that was recorded in kg between 2010 and 2023 of sharks and rays listed in CITES Appendix II. The arrows show the direction of trade (exporter to importer), the colours of the arrows show the specimen in trade and the thickness of the arrows shows the relative weight of shipments in trade. Shipments with an aggregate volume of less than 500 kg and and specimen types with few records (tail, unspecified, derivatives, specimens, teeth, skeletons, skin pieces and leather products (small)) were excluded in the graph for legibility. Country names are shown in two-letter ISO code. “CN” shows combined data for Mainland China, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China, and Taiwan Province of China.