

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 conservation and trade

Aquatic species

Addendum to harks and rays (Elasmobranchii spp.)

ADDENDUM

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. The Secretariat noted redundancies in the draft decisions contained in documents [SC78 Doc. 70.1](#), [SC78 Doc. 70.2](#) and [SC78 Doc. 70.3](#), in particular in the draft decisions on the Notification to the Parties. To facilitate the consideration of the draft decisions, the Secretariat has consolidated them, in consultation with the Chair of the Animals Committee and the Chair of the Standing Committee intersessional working group on sharks and rays. This consolidation shows the entire proposed scope of work on sharks and rays (Elasmobranchii spp.) for the next intersessional period.
3. The Standing Committee is invited to either consider the draft decisions in each of the documents or to consider the consolidated draft decisions in this addendum.

CONSOLIDATED DRAFT DECISIONS ON SHARKS AND RAYS (*ELASMOBRANCHII SPP.*)

Directed to Parties

20.AA 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, including new or updated national plans of action for sharks, that prohibit commercial take or trade [*draft decision 20.AA a) in document SC78 Doc. 70.2 by the Animals Committee*];
- b) respond to the Notification called for in Decision 20.BB including sharing any non-detriment findings (NDFs) and conversion factors used when estimating catch live weight through converting recorded shark landings and trade, where available, ~~and~~ any other scientific information on sharks and rays and share their experience in implementing CITES provisions for listed shark and ray species, in particular current challenges [*consolidation of draft decision 20.AA b) from document SC78 Doc. 70.2 by the Animals Committee and draft decision 20.XX3 a) from document SC78 Doc. 70.1 by the intersessional WG on sharks and rays*];
- c) consider if they are likely to be key beneficiaries from the guidance document(s) reviewed under Decision 20.EE, paragraphs a) and c); if so, these Parties are strongly encouraged to participate in any Standing Committee working groups established to address Decision 20.EE [*draft decision 20.XX3 b) from document SC78 Doc. 70.1 by the intersessional WG on sharks and rays and Decisions renumbered due to consolidation of the decisions*]; and
- d) 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 [*draft decision 20.AA c) in document SC78 Doc. 70.2 by the Animals Committee*].

Directed to the Secretariat

20.BB 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 [*draft decision 20.BB a) in document SC78 Doc. 70.2 by the Animals Committee*]:
 - A. the making of NDFs;
 - B. the identification of CITES-listed shark-products in trade;
 - C. the monitoring of export data of CITES-listed shark, parts and derivatives, and any suitable remedial measures applied to limit the export of specimens in order to maintain each species throughout its range at a level consistent with its role in the ecosystem;
 - D. capacity-building needs; 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, and any other scientific information on sharks and rays, to post in the sharks and rays web portal [*draft decision 20.BB a) in document SC78 Doc. 70.2 by the Animals Committee*];

- iii) share with the Secretariat their experience in implementing CITES provisions for listed shark and ray species, in particular [*draft decision 20.XX1 a) from document SC78 Doc. 70.1 by the intersessional WG on sharks and rays*]:
 - A. challenges related to CITES permitting process including but not limited to the making of non-detriment findings and legal acquisition findings; and
 - B. 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);
- 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 at the shipment level [*draft decision 20.BB b) in document SC78 Doc. 70.2 by the Animals Committee*];
- c) invite non-Party, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organization observers to support Parties by providing concise information related to the above [*draft decision 20.XX1 b) from document SC78 Doc. 70.1 by the intersessional WG on sharks and rays and draft decision 20.BB c) in document SC78 Doc. 70.2 by the Animals Committee*]; and
- d) collate this information for the consideration of the Animals Committee and the Standing Committee, as appropriate [*consolidation of draft decision 20.XX1 c) from document SC78 Doc. 70.1 by the intersessional WG on sharks and rays and draft decision 20.BB d) in document SC78 Doc. 70.2 by the Animals Committee*].

20.CC 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 [*draft decision 20.CC a) in document SC78 Doc. 70.2 by the Animals Committee*];
- b) liaise with relevant Regional Fishery Bodies (RFB) including 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 RFB 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 [*draft decision 20.CC b) in document SC78 Doc. 70.2 by the Animals Committee*];
- c) collaborate closely with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to 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 [*draft decision 20.CC c) in document SC78 Doc. 70.2 by the Animals Committee*];
- d) seek to collaborate with Parties and organizations to establish a repository to hold imagery under a Creative Commons license of wet and dried unprocessed shark, parts and derivatives (particularly, but not exclusively, those from CITES-listed species) along with related species level taxonomic information to facilitate refinement of automated species identification development through a range of novel technologies [*draft decision 20.CC d) in document SC78 Doc. 70.2 by the Animals Committee*]; and
- e) 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 [*draft decision 20.AA from document SC78 Doc. 70.3 by the Secretariat*];
- f) 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 [*draft decision 20.AA from document SC78 Doc. 70.3 by the Secretariat*]; and

- g) bring the results of activities in this present Decision to the attention of the Animals Committee or Standing Committee, as appropriate [*draft decision 20.CC e) in document SC78 Doc. 70.2 by the Animals Committee and draft decision 20.AA c) from document SC78 Doc. 70.3 by the Secretariat*].

Directed to the Animals Committee

20.DD The Animals Committee shall [*draft decision 20.DD in document SC78 Doc. 70.2 by the Animals Committee*]:

- a) review the information collated by the Secretariat under Decision 20.BB and the results of activities described under Decisions 20.CC; and
- b) make recommendations to the Standing Committee, as appropriate.

Directed to Standing Committee

20.EE The Standing Committee shall [*draft decision 20.XX2 from document SC78 Doc. 70.1 by the intersessional WG on sharks and rays*]:

- a) consider if there is a need to 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;
- b) 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;
- c) in consultation with the Animals Committee, review challenges and consider the need for the development of further appropriate mechanisms, including guidance, 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 CoP21; and
- d) report its findings under the present Decision to the 21st meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

20.FF The Standing Committee shall [*draft decision 20.EE in document SC78 Doc. 70.2 by the Animals Committee*]:

- a) review the comments and recommendations provided by the Parties, the Animals Committee and the Secretariat under Decisions 20.AA, 20.BB, 20.CC and 20.DD [*amended to include all Decision numbers*]; and
- b) prepare a report with any necessary recommendations for improving the implementation of the Convention for sharks and rays for consideration by the 21st meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

DRAFT DECISIONS ON THE *FEASIBILITY OF AN ADAPTED RST PROCESS FOR SHARKS AND RAYS*

[Draft decision 20.FF and 20.GG in document SC78 Doc. 70.2 by the Animals Committee]

Directed to the Secretariat

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

- a) draft a report that envisions an adapted Review of Significant Trade process for sharks and rays, which would:
 - i) select high priority species in international trade in accordance with Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP18) on *Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species*;
 - ii) determine the stocks that are affected for the selected species; then
 - iii) identify range and fishing States with significant trade for the relevant stocks of concerns; and
- b) provide the Animals Committee with the report with the implications and feasibility of implementing such a process and any amendments that may be necessary to Resolution Conf 12.8 (Rev. CoP18) on *Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species*.

Directed to the Animals Committee

20.BB The Animals Committee shall review the report by the Secretariat under Decision 20.FF and make recommendations to the Standing Committee, as appropriate.