

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



Twenty-third meeting of the Animals Committee
Geneva, (Switzerland), 19-24 April 2008

Conservation and Management of sharks

IDENTIFICATION OF SHARK SPECIES OF CONCERN THAT MAY REQUIRE
CONSIDERATION FOR INCLUSION IN THE APPENDICES IF THEIR
MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION STATUS DOES NOT IMPROVE

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. The Conference of the Parties has given a series of instructions to the Animals Committee in relation to sharks. In Resolution Conf. 12.6 on Conservation and management of sharks, the Committee is directed to:

examine information provided by range States in shark assessment reports and other available relevant documents, with a view to identifying key species and examining these for consideration and possible listing under CITES;

and to:

make species-specific recommendations at the 13th meeting and subsequent meetings of the Conference of the Parties if necessary on improving the conservation status of sharks and the regulation of international trade in these species.

Decision 14.107 also states that the Animals Committee:

shall continue activities specified under Resolution Conf. 12.6, including refinement of the list of shark species of concern, in collaboration with FAO, taking account of those referenced in Annex 3 to document CoP14 Doc. 59.1, and shall report on these activities at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

3. At its 21st meeting (Geneva, May 2005) the Animals Committee established an intercessional working group to address the conservation and management of sharks.
4. The activities carried out by the above mentioned working group were reported on at the 22nd meeting of the Animals Committee (Lima, July 2006) in documents AC22 Doc. 17.1 to Doc. 17.4 and at the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP14, The Hague 2007) in document CoP14 Doc. 59.1.
5. The table in the Annex to the present document provides a brief summary of recommendations presented at CoP13 and CoP14 regarding the shark species identified as species of concern that may

require consideration for inclusion in the Appendices if their management and conservation status does not improve.

6. At CoP14, with a view to facilitating discussions at the present meeting of the Animals Committee, the Conference of the Parties encouraged Parties to report progress in identifying endangered shark species that require consideration for inclusion in the Appendices, if their management and conservation status does not improve [in accordance with paragraph b] of Decision 14.104.
7. On 5 October 2007, the Secretariat issued Notification to the Parties No. 2007/033, requesting that the above-mentioned information be submitted for consideration by the Animals Committee. Annex 2 of document AC23 Doc. 15.1 contains the responses received by the deadline, in the language in which they were submitted.
8. The Committee is invited to discuss the progress made and decide on future activities, work plans and timelines for the implementation of Resolution Conf. 12.6 and Decision 14.107.

Summary of recommendations presented at CoP13 and CoP14 regarding the shark species identified as species of concern that may require consideration for inclusion in the Appendices if their management and conservation status does not improve (based on Annex 3 of CoP14 Doc. 59.1).

Species	Recommendations of the Animals Committee for CoP13	Recommendations of the Shark Working Group of the Animals Committee for CoP14
Spiny dogfish shark (<i>Squalus acanthias</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Range States and Regional Fishery Management Organizations should take steps to improve data collection and management. In particular, the United States and Canada are encouraged to link existing assessment programmes and establish bilateral, science-based management measures. b) Member States of the European Union (EU) are encouraged to seek and implement, via national and EU level measures, scientific advice on developing a conservation plan that allows the rebuilding of the stocks occurring and harvested in EU waters. c) In regions where information on stock status is poor, range States are encouraged to develop precautionary and adaptive management measures to ensure that catches are sustainable. d) Parties are encouraged to report catches, landings and trade data to FAO and to train Customs officials in using existing spiny dogfish codes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The Working Group endorsed AC recommendations for CoP13, which have not been implemented. b) Working Group participants are encouraged to undertake a technical analysis of the draft listing proposal circulated by Germany for consideration at the 22nd meeting of the Animals Committee. Parties are encouraged, before the end of September 2006, to present their comments on the validity and ease of implementation of this proposal for consideration by the proponent prior to the submission of the proposal to the European Union in October 2006. c) The Working Group noted the need to understand the special needs of implementing particular Appendix-II species listings for this shark species. Hence, the Working Group suggested that a review of the potential implementation issues surrounding an Appendix-II listing of <i>Squalus acanthias</i> or <i>Lamna nasus</i> might be useful to Parties.
Porbeagle shark (<i>Lamna nasus</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) ICCAT members are encouraged to collect and report data on catches and discards, as per ICCAT Resolution 95-2 which has yet to be complied with, and undertake stock assessments in order to develop management recommendations. Other relevant Regional Fishery Management Organizations are encouraged to establish and implement similar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The Working Group endorsed the AC recommendations for CoP13, which have not been implemented. b) Working Group participants are encouraged to undertake a technical analysis of the draft listing proposal circulated by Germany for consideration at the 22nd meeting of the Animals Committee. Parties are encouraged, before the end of September 2006, to present their comments on the validity and ease of

	<p>programmes.</p> <p>b) Canada and the United States are encouraged to enhance existing management for their shared stock by establishing a cooperative, bilateral research and fisheries management programme.</p> <p>c) The World Customs Organization (WCO) is urged to establish a harmonized international code for porbeagle sharks.</p>	<p>implementation of this proposal for consideration by the proponent prior to the submission of the proposal to the European Union in October 2006.</p>
<p>Freshwater stingrays (family Potamotrygonidae)</p>	<p>a) Range States for species of the family Potamotrygonidae should jointly examine cross-border trade that may be facilitating illegal trade and consider Appendix-III listings, where appropriate, to control illegal exports.</p> <p>b) the document should be revised, with the addition of more species abundance, distribution and trend data, and submitted at CoP13 or AC21.</p>	<p>a) Encourage the voluntary submission of import and export data by the ornamental fish industry, possibly using a similar protocol to that used for the collection of data in the Global Marine Aquarium Database.</p> <p>b) Ensure that the ornamental fish trade industry is made aware of the annual export quota for each species from range States.</p> <p>c) Note and learn lessons from the development of the Marine Aquarium Council and, if appropriate, develop a mechanism to address the issues of freshwater ray conservation.</p> <p>d) A CITES Appendix-II listing or other effective export and import control of quotas per species is recommended for consideration by the Animals Committee and Parties within reasonable time, considering the existence of endemic and transboundary populations and that their restriction to freshwater environments makes these stingrays more vulnerable to environmental impacts than marine species.</p> <p>e) The European Union might consider whether it could be beneficial to list these species on Annex D of the Council Regulation on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora by regulating trade therein (import notifications are required for Annex-D-listed species).</p>
<p>Sawfishes (family Pristidae)</p>	<p>Parties that are or have been range States for Pristidae should undertake, as a matter of urgency, a review of the status of these species in their coastal waters, rivers and lakes, and, if necessary, introduce conservation and trade measures to reduce extinction risk.</p>	<p>Parties should note that there is evidence of international trade in sawfish species, that such trade in these 'Critically Endangered' species (IUCN Red List, 2006) is highly likely to be detrimental to their continued survival, and that all former and remaining range States should consider as a matter of urgency providing these species with strict legal protection,</p>

		utilizing all relevant legislation to enforce this protection, and control their trade. The World Association of Zoos and Aquaria (WAZA) should be notified of the Animals Committee's/Parties' concern regarding these species.
Gulper sharks (<i>Centrophorus</i> spp.)	Parties should support the recommendation of the FAO Deep Sea Workshop in December 2003 that "a precautionary approach to the management of these and other deep sea species is absolutely essential", including monitoring of catches, landings and trade at species level, preparation of good identification guides, improved use of observers, and development of standard carcass forms to improve reporting, which should include both the species and their products.	The Working Group endorsed the AC recommendation made at CoP13.
School, tope or soupfin shark (<i>Galeorhinus galeus</i>)	Range States should request FAO's assistance with developing a capacity building workshop for this species in order to train managers from States where coastal shark fisheries are not being managed. This would also serve as a case study for the management of other coastal shark fisheries.	A capacity-building workshop should be held and stock assessments carried out, as a matter of urgency in order to improve the management and monitoring of this species. The Working Group also urged range States to improve their monitoring of fishing of and trade in this species.
Requiem sharks (including: hammerheads, genus <i>Sphyrna</i> ; shortfin mako, <i>Isurus oxyrinchus</i> ; tiger shark, <i>Galeocerdo cuvier</i> ; threshers, <i>Alopias</i> spp.; oceanic whitetip shark, <i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i> ; silky shark, <i>C. falciformis</i> ; dusky shark, <i>C. obscurus</i> ; sandbar shark, <i>C. plumbeus</i> ; and bull shark, <i>C. leucas</i>)	The Animals Committee recommends that range States pay particular attention to the management of fisheries and trade in these taxa, including undertaking reviews of their conservation and trade status.	The Animals Committee should draw the attention of FAO, Parties and RFBs to these species so that they may be prioritized for more accurate recording in catches, landings and trade.
Guitarfishes, shovelnose rays (order Rhinobatiformes) (e.g. common guitarfish, <i>Rhinobatos rhinobatos</i> ; blackchin guitarfish in Guinea Bissau, West Africa; giant guitarfish, <i>Rhinobatos cemiculus</i>)		Range States should, as a matter of urgency, undertake reviews of fisheries, landings and trade of these species, where possible review the status of stocks, and ensure that steps are taken to introduce and apply any relevant legislation to enforce protected status.

<p>Devil rays (family Mobulidae - e.g. the bentfin devilray, <i>Mobula thurstoni</i>)</p>		<p>The Animals Committee should draw the attention of FAO, Parties and RFBs to these species, so that they may be prioritized for more accurate recording in catches, landings and trade, for example by inclusion in logbooks and identification guides for whole rays and, to the greatest extent possible, their products.</p>
<p>Leopard sharks (<i>Triakis semifasciata</i>)</p>		<p>The European Union should consider adequate measures to support the United States of America's domestic legislation for the management of this species. The Shark Working Group of the Animals Committee requested the Ornamental Aquatic Trade Association (OATA) to inform its members of the legal status of the species and to report on levels of trade.</p>