

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



Twenty-fifth meeting of the Animals Committee  
Geneva (Switzerland), 18-22 July 2011

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF SHARKS – REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION  
OF NPOA-SHARKS AND REGIONAL PLANS, AND ON RELEVANT INFORMATION  
FROM THE RANGE STATES  
(agenda item 17)

Membership (as decided by the Committee)

Chair:	Regional representative of Oceania (Mr Robertson);
Vice-Chair:	Alternate representative of Asia (Mr Ishii);
Members:	Alternate representative of Asia (Mr Giam);
Party observers:	Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Germany, India, Japan, Kuwait, Poland, the Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Thailand, United States; and
IGOs and NGOs:	the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), the European Union, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), IUCN, Defenders of Wildlife, Fundación Cethus, Pew Environment Group, SWAN International, TRAFFIC, the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), WWF.

Mandate

In the context of Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP15) regarding provisions addressed to the Animals Committee, and taking into consideration document AC25 Doc. 17, including its Annex 1:

- a) Examine the information provided by range States in Annex 2 of document AC25 Doc. 17 on trade and other available relevant data and information;
- b) Develop species-specific recommendations, if necessary, on improving the conservation status of sharks; and
- c) Commence drafting a proposal for the Animals Committee report about progress on shark and ray activities for submission at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Recommendations

1. Requests that the Secretariat issue a Notification to all Parties inviting them to submit a list of shark species (Class Chondrichthyes) that they believe require additional action to enhance their conservation and management, including if possible any concrete measures which they believe to be needed. The list should include a summary of additional supporting information. The Secretariat should provide the information received [to the intersessional working group on sharks] for [subsequent] consideration at Animals Committee meetings.

2. Requests that the Secretariat continue to update the Animals Committee on developments related to the inclusion of standards found in the CITES Toolkit on e-permitting with the World Customs Organization data model, particularly with regard to fulfillment of Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP15) to report trade in sharks at the species level, where possible, and to report on product codes used for trade in sharks.
3. Requests that the Secretariat solicit input from Parties, based on the questions in the Annex to the present document, on:
  - a) whether they have domestic measures (e.g., laws or regulations) regulating the fishing, retention, and/or landing of shark or ray species in their waters, and whether those measures apply to certain species only or apply to all species; and
  - b) whether they have domestic measures (e.g., laws or regulations) regulating the import or export of shark parts and products (fins, meat, skin, organs, etc), and if so, what are those measures; and
  - c) provide that information to the Animals Committee and Parties.
4. Requests that the CITES Secretariat closely collaborate with the FAO Secretariat, pursuant to the MOU between the two Secretariats, regarding:
  - a) shark questionnaires to States, to avoid duplication of effort and in particular to maximize the likelihood of responses;
  - b) the elaboration of the current FAO review on the implementation of the IPOA–Sharks, in particular the inclusion of trade information and the provision of available information and other support to FAO for this purpose; and
  - c) review of RFMO shark regulations and their geographical coverage, including stock assessments, ecological risk assessments, conservation and management measures (including trade-related measures); and
  - d) report this information to the Animals Committee.
5. Requests that the Secretariat consult and closely collaborate with the Secretariat of the Convention of Migratory Species on shark issues, pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding between the two Secretariats, and report to the Animals Committee.

**Questionnaire for CITES Parties Engaged in Fishing and Trade of Sharks  
(Class Chondrichthyes) based on the Principles of the IPOA-Sharks**

Please provide a brief response (less than 200 words) to the following questions.

1. Ensure that shark catches from directed and non-directed fisheries are sustainable
  - Do you have national measures directed towards this goal? If so, please summarize these measures and the status of implementation.
  - Are you a member of any Regional Fishery Management Organizations (RFMOs) that have adopted measures for the conservation and management of sharks? If so, please summarize your implementation of or any difficulties with these measures.
  - Have you signed or ratified the Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing? What is the status of implementation of the agreement?
  - With regard to fisheries enforcement activities, describe the problems that you are observing.
2. Assess threats to shark populations, determine and protect critical habitats and implement harvesting strategies consistent with the principles of biological sustainability and rational long-term economic use
  - What data collection and research measures have you undertaken towards this goal?
3. Identify and provide special attention, in particular to vulnerable or threatened shark stocks
  - What measures do you have in place to reduce or eliminate take, mortality and/or trade of vulnerable or threatened shark species?
4. Improve and develop frameworks for establishing and coordinating effective consultation involving all stakeholders in research, management and educational initiatives within and between States
5. Minimize the unutilised incidental catches of sharks
  - Have you taken any measures and regulations towards this goal? If so, please summarize.
6. Contribute to the protection of biodiversity and ecosystem structure and function
7. Minimize waste and discards from shark catches, in accordance with Article VII.2.2(g) of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (for example, requiring the retention of sharks from which fins are removed)
  - Do you regulate shark finning (i.e., the removal and retention of fins from the shark and the discard at sea of the remainder of the carcass, live or dead)? If so, how?
8. Encourage full use of dead sharks
  - Have you taken any measures towards this goal? If so, please summarize (please cross-reference question #5). What is the status of implementation?
9. Facilitate improved species-specific catch and landings data and monitoring of shark catches
  - See question below.
10. Facilitate the identification and reporting of species-specific biological and trade data
  - To what extent do you require species-specific data reporting and monitoring of catches, landings, and trade of sharks? Please specify which taxa (family, genus, or species) of sharks are reported.
  - Please specify which product codes are used for the trade of sharks.