



Environment Environnement
Canada Canada

Canadian Wildlife Service
Ottawa, Ontario
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29 June 2015

Mr. John Scanlon
Secretary-General, CITES Secretariat
15, chemin des Amenomes
CH-1219 CHATELAINE—Geneva
Switzerland

Dear Mr. Scanlon,

In response to Notification No. 2015/027, please find our attached Canadian response.

Please contact Carolina Caceres at + 1 (819) 938-3951 or Carolina.caceres@ec.gc.ca if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Basile van Havre', with a large, sweeping flourish underneath.

Basile van Havre
Director, Population Conservation
Canadian Wildlife Service

c.c. Carolina Caceres, Manager, Species Assessment

Canadian Response to CITES Notification 2015/027 with Respect to Fisheries Management Measures for Sharks

The information below is provided by Canada in response to CITES Notification 2015/027. Parties are encouraged to submit new information on shark fishery management measures, with particular emphasis on information pertaining to the shark species that were included in Appendix II at CoP16 and the implementation of CITES provisions for trade in these species. Parties are asked to report on progress to the CITES Secretariat and at meetings of the Animals Committee [see Res. Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP16)].

CoP16 Appendix II Shark Listings

Porbeagle (*Lamna nasus*) was listed on Appendix II at CoP16. The listing entered into force on September 14, 2014.

The directed fishery for Porbeagle in Canada was suspended in 2013. Non-targeted retained harvest of Porbeagle is licensed in the Canadian tuna and swordfish longline fisheries, and in the groundfish fisheries (longline, gillnet and bottom trawl). All non-targeted, retained catch is reported with 100% dockside monitoring. The harvest of Porbeagle shark in Canada continues to decrease. The lowest landings ever reported in Canada, 9 tonnes, occurred in 2014. Harvest of Porbeagle in Canada is expected to continue to decrease in the near future due to the absence of a targeted fishery and the current low market value and low market demand for Porbeagle meat.

The CITES Scientific Authority issued a standing Non-Detriment Finding for Porbeagle products in August 2014 for 2014 and 2015. In developing the Non-Detriment Finding, the Scientific Authority used the CITES Non-Detriment Findings Guidance for Shark Species developed by Germany and TRAFFIC. All Canadian buyers and licence holders were notified of the new CITES export permit requirements prior to the date of implementation. Since implementation, there has been no export of any Porbeagle products from Canada to date. The Scientific Authority will review the Standing NDF in the fall of 2015 for 2016.

Domestic Fisheries Management Measures

Canada is looking at options to strengthen our regulation of shark fin imports through our domestic legislation, with the goal of ensuring all shark fins imported into Canada originate in jurisdictions which have strong, sustainable measures for the conservation and management of sharks.

Canada continues to undertake scientific research and produces science advice related to sharks. Recent scientific assessments include a recovery potential assessment for Northwest Atlantic Porbeagle (*Lamna nasus*), a stock assessment for Northwest Atlantic Spiny Dogfish (*Squalus acanthias*) and an assessment of the status and threats for North Atlantic Blue Shark (*Prionace glauca*).

Canada regularly reviews our management of all fisheries, and is currently working to identify ways in which we can strengthen our domestic management of sharks.

International Fisheries Management Measures

Canada has been a Contracting Party to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) since 1968. Parties to ICCAT are considering amendments to the Convention that would better address shark conservation and management.