



The Endangered Species Import and Export Management Office of the People's Republic of China

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From: Dr. Meng Xianlin, Executive Director General
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Dear Mr. Meulenaer,

I am writing to you in response to the CITES Notification to the Parties No. 2015/027 concerning Request for new information on fishery management measures for sharks. On behalf of CITES Management Authority of China, I herewith provide with you the following information.

The Implementation of New CITES listing of Sharks and Manta Rays in China

The Chinese Government attached great importance to conservation of marine biological resources and environment, and also sustainable development of the industry. Before and after the new CITES listing of Sharks and Manta Rays came into force, a lot of work with pertinence has been carried out by the Bureau of Fisheries and Fisheries Law Enforcement, Ministry of Agriculture, and the Endangered Species Import and Export Management Office (CITES Management Authority).

Conduct Industry Survey

To get access to the comprehensive shark industry information in China including fishing, processing, trade, the main species of trade, product forms, sources of raw materials and sales, inventory and the others, current circulation of industry chain structure and trade supervision, to assess the status of shark resources, and to promote the establishment and improvement of the shark industry supervision mechanism, China fisheries and CITES authorities had taken several industry surveys in 2013 and 2014.

Shark and Manta Ray Implementation Training



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Sharks and Manta Ray Species Implementation and Management Workshop was held in July, 2014. The relevant stakeholders communicated on implementation process, regulatory responsibilities and other matters. After that China fisheries and CITES MA jointly issued the Notice on Sharks And Manta Ray Species Implementation Management, and require the related fishing, processing and trade behavior of sharks and manta ray species listed in the CITES Appendix II, should apply for a license in accordance with the domestic law, the import & export, re-export should apply for CITES certificates.

Verification of Inventory on Pre-Convention Stocks

China Aquatic Products Processing And Marketing Alliance was authorized to organize experts to implement verification on the CITES Appendix II new listing sharks and manta rays species products inventory which were obtained before the convention in domestic markets. According to the industry survey and inventory on-site verification, Bureau of Fisheries and Fisheries Law Enforcement, Ministry of Agriculture issued the Notification on implementing the subsequent work late 2014, and grant Aquatic Wildlife Management and Utilization Permit to the qualified practitioner.

Strengthen Capacity Building

China fisheries and CITES authorities jointly issued The Notice On Further Improving the Sharks and Manta Ray Species Management in March 2015, and to clarify the regulatory process of the Appendix II listed sharks and manta ray species and their products obtained under a variety of circumstances, such as before convention, offshore and pelagic fishing, chartering, etc.

Public Awareness Raising Activities on Conservation and Management Measures

The CITES listing of Sharks and Manta Rays Trade Regulation posters were published and distributed to all related departments and companies. A promotion and publicity activity of shark conservation with the theme of Protecting Endangered Species and Sustainably Utilization of Marine Resources was held during the international fisheries exhibition in Xiamen in May, 2015. The activities aimed to popularize the shark conservation knowledge, to improve the public right cognition to sharks, to publicize shark regulatory policies, and to encourage lawful and reasonable management and utilization of aquatic resources.

The operation of regulation would face great challenges on shark industry chain including fishing, processing, and marketing, e.g. the great variety of shark species, the by-catch shark from offshore or pelagic fishery, the minimal proportion of shark production accounted in the national marine fishing, came to the Appendix II shark



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the proportion was even smaller, lack of statistics on shark in long-term and difficult to accurately assess the catches of sharks in China. Currently the worldwide has no effective by-catch reduction devices and rapid identification technology on shark species. All the above factors leads to a bunds of pressing problems during the new CITES listing of Sharks and Manta Rays implementation from the perspective of the government, the industry and the scientific research.

In case any further information or clarification is needed, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely yours,

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