



NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT & PLANNING AGENCY

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Ref # 22/9

29 June 2015

Mr. John Scanlon
Secretariat- General
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
International Environment House
Chemin des Anémones
CH-1219 Châtelaine
Geneva, Switzerland

Dear Mr. Scanlon

Re: Request for New Information on Fishery Management of Sharks

The National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA) refers to notification No. 2015/027 dated 11 May 2015 regarding the captioned matter.

This serves to advise that Jamaica does not have a fishery for sharks and rays. However, NEPA and the Fisheries Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries are aware of shark and ray species being caught accidentally by fishermen. Over the past ten years, the Fisheries Division has recorded one report of a manta ray, which was caught in a fishing net. There is no current available data, such as; stock assessment results for sharks and rays.

The Endangered Species (Protection, Conservation and Regulation of Trade) Act (Amendment of Schedules) Order, 2015, which covers the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) species have been prepared. Please be informed that no CITES permits have been issued by the Natural Resources Conservation Authority, Jamaica's Management, to trade in these species.

The Licensing Authority under the Fishing Industry Act, the Fisheries Division issues Fishing Licences. All Fishing Licences specify the species of fish that can be targeted.

Jamaica has participated in the training programme on the identification of CITES listed sharks. The website for the iSharkFin, which is an expert system for the identification of shark fin species, has been distributed to the relevant stakeholders.

Yours sincerely
National Environment and Planning Agency

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Knight', written over a diagonal line that crosses through the signature area.

Peter Knight, JP
Chief Executive Officer/ Government Town Planner

c. Mr. André Kong, Director, Fisheries Division, Jamaica W.I.

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