

Dear CITES Secretariat,

We refer to the Notification to the Parties No. 2015/027: [Request for new information on fishery management measures for sharks.](#)

Please refer to Singapore's inputs below:-

a. available scientific data, such as stock assessment results;

Not available.

b. methodologies providing guidance for the making of non-detriment findings;

Not available.

c. challenges faced by Parties in implementing the new listings;

Sharks are generally not traded in whole body form, but as processed products, such as fillets, dressed meat or fins. It is challenging to identify and differentiate such parts and products of CITES-listed shark species from other shark species and for Customs or checkpoint officers to effectively enforce the CITES listing.

d. progress made to address such challenges;

Following the inclusion of several shark species under CITES App II which entered into effect on 14 September 2014, the Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority (AVA) implemented a shark surveillance program in October 2014 to monitor the import, re-export and transshipment of shark fins and to detect any possible non-compliance. It involves sampling of targeted shark's fin shipments for DNA tests by AVA's lab for species identification to verify that the species declared by the importer is correct. Each shipment of shark fins is required to be declared via the Customs TradeNet system and accompanied by additional CITES permits (for CITES-listed species). To engage the industry, AVA has had meetings with the traders and also issued circulars to the seafood traders and declaring agents to inform them of the new CITES listing of sharks and rays and to comply with CITES requirements. Due to the look-alike species of the fins traded, sometimes fins of CITES species are inadvertently included in the consignments. To enhance public awareness about CITES sharks and compliance by the industry, an advisory notice on CITES sharks and rays was also circulated at the fishery ports.

e. progress towards the adoption and implementation of National Plans of Action for Sharks, or other new information on trade in sharks and related matters; and

AVA is working towards the prohibition of live shark-finning practices and an NPOA for Sharks. The import, export and re-export of CITES-listed sharks and their parts/products, require proper CITES permits issued by the relevant CITES authorities of both the exporting and importing countries. We would allow import of shark and shark products for which their exports are permitted by the exporting countries. Under Singapore's Endangered Species (Import & Export) Act, anyone who imports, exports/re-exports, transships any CITES shark/ray species or their parts and products without CITES permits or possess, sell, offer or expose for sale, or display to the public any of these illegally

imported/acquired species shall be liable on conviction to a fine of up to S\$50,000 per scheduled CITES species (but not exceeding an aggregate of S\$500,000) and/or jail term of up to 2 years.

f. new legislation concerning the conservation and management of sharks and rays.

AVA is the national CITES authority responsible for the implementation and enforcement of CITES and wildlife policies in Singapore. The Endangered Species (Import and Export) Act (Amendment of Schedule) Notification 2014 was gazetted to align with the amendments of listing of sharks and rays, adopted at the CITES COP16. AVA is also the fisheries authority in Singapore. Our responsibilities include the licensing of fishing vessels and the engaging of relevant RFMOs to facilitate trade of fishery products and to combat IUU fishing practices.

Regards.

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