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OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



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Species specific matters

Aquatic species

Sharks and Rays

SUMMARY OF PARTIES' RESPONSES TO NOTIFICATION 2017/031 ON THE *REQUEST FOR NEW INFORMATION ON SHARK AND RAY CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING LEGISLATION*

1. This information document has been submitted by the Secretariat in relation to agenda item 23: Sharks and Rays\*.
2. The document attempts to summarize the information contained in Parties' responses to notification 2017/031 on the Request for new information on shark and ray conservation and management activities, including legislation, which is contained in full in Annex 1 to document AC29 Doc. 23. To do so, the information contained in the 24 responses received was organized as bullet points (hereafter referred to as information elements) and classified into the categories "Governance", "Fisher(y)", "Stocks", "Markets" and "Socio-cultural", loosely following the Fishery Framework developed by FAO (Friedman *et al.*, in prep.). Information elements were further classified (when applicable) as 'Existing', 'New', and 'Future', according to whether the information provided is relating to actions, legislation, or information already existing, new, or to be implemented in the near future, respectively<sup>1</sup>.
3. Twenty one Parties reported on issues related to governance, followed by 16 Parties reporting on stocks, 12 on markets, 8 on fisher(y), and 4 on socio-cultural issues.
4. Overall, 259 information elements were collated. Of these, 116 refer to stocks, 104 to governance, 20 to markets, 12 to fisher(y), and 7 to socio-cultural related issues (see figure 1 below). Furthermore, of those 259 information elements, 132 refer to new information, 76 to existing information that is still relevant, and 14 to activities that are planned for the near future (see figure 2 below).
5. Challenges in implementing the existing and new CITES listings are specifically pointed out in 9 responses (Australia, Colombia, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Panama, Peru, United States). Particular issues mentioned frequently as challenges include: NDFs, in particular low data availability

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\* The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat (or the United Nations Environment Programme) concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.

<sup>1</sup>.Not all 259 information elements collated were, however, discriminated under this scheme, and some of them fitted into more than one of the three categories. It should be noted that, as responses and the information contained therein varied in detail, the number of information elements counted for analytical purposes in this document may not be directly comparable, but may nevertheless serve as a broad indicator. The two classification schemes applied in the Secretariat's analysis intend to provide a more comprehensive overview of the type of information collected. These schemes do not intend to discriminate the quality of Parties' responses in any way.

and shared migratory stocks, methods for bycatch & discard mitigation, species identification, traceability and fisheries monitoring, including artisanal fisheries. Other challenges noted include limited budget for data collection and monitoring, coordination both within governments and between governments and other stakeholders and mitigating socio-economic impacts of the implementation of the listings.

6. Measures taken by Parties to address some of the challenges listed above include: capacity building for authorities and industries, public consultations to collect inputs from stakeholders, fishers and traders, limiting the number of permits for national fleets, restricting fishing methods, establishing collaborations to strengthen domestic and international trade monitoring and traceability, and scientific assessments of the status of the marine species in question.
7. Fourteen Parties (Canada, Colombia, Croatia, European Union, Greece, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Panama, Peru, Slovenia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States) provide information on how bycatch is addressed in their respective fisheries in their responses, and 4 (Colombia, Mexico, Panama, Peru) on how they address the challenges regarding artisanal fisheries.
8. Six Parties (Australia, Colombia, Indonesia, Panama, Peru, United States) have reported on their national experience in the making of NDFs<sup>2</sup>.
9. Eleven Parties (Australia, China, Colombia, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Panama, Peru, United States, Uruguay) have reported on their National or Regional Plans of Action for the Conservation and Management of Shark and Ray species.
10. Several responses make reference to existing international and regional instruments, most importantly several RFMOs, CMS and its Shark MoU as well as SPAW.
11. Several responses included information on the conservation and management of Freshwater Stingrays (Potamotygonidae), some of which are listed on Appendix III by several range States, and on non-CITES listed species, particularly Blue Sharks (*Prionace glauca*) and Spiny dogfish (*Squalus acanthias*)<sup>3</sup>.

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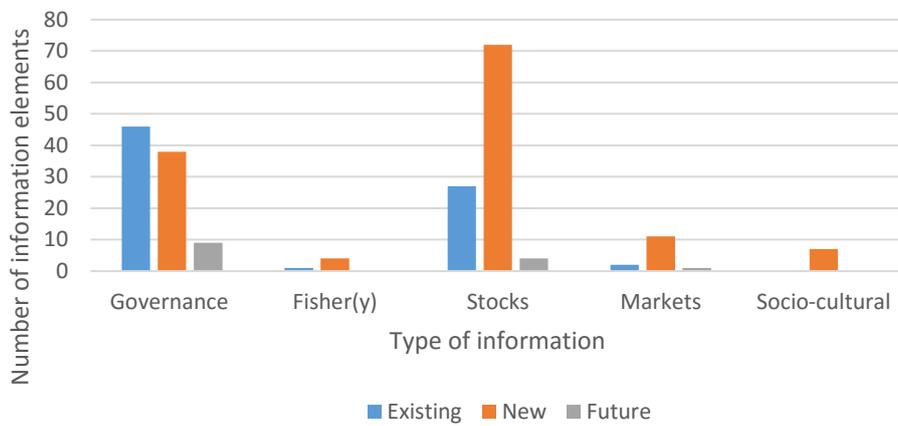
<sup>2</sup> Australia has a regional NDF template for Scalloped, Great and Smooth Hammerhead Sharks and Giant and Reef Manta Rays, Colombia has developed an NDF draft for *Sphyrna lewini*, which is currently undergoing revision; Indonesia is currently finalizing its NDF for Hammerhead Shark, and will subsequently develop the NDF for Oceanic Whitetip Shark, Silky Shark, Mobula Ray or Devil Ray, and Thresher Shark; Panama has an NDF for sharks and rays; Peru developed an NDF for *Sphyrna zygaena* and for Hammerhead Sharks; and the United States has an NDF for Hammerhead Shark and for Porbeagle.

<sup>3</sup> Other species mentioned: *Amblyraja radiata*, *Chiloscyllium punctatum*, *Dipturus batis*, *Hexanchus griseus*, *Isogomphodon oxyrinchus*, *Isurus oxyrinchus*, *Leucoraja ocellate*, *Malacoraja senta*, *Mustelus fasciatus*, *Mustelus schmitti*, *Raja clavate*, *Rhinobatos horkelii*, *Scyliorhinus caniculus*, *Squatina argentina* and *Squatina Guggenheim*.

**Fig. 1 - Total information elements collated from the responses to Notif. 2017/031**



**Fig. 2 - Type of information received in response to Notif. 2017/031**



## Governance

<b>Australia</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The first NPOA for the Conservation and Management of Sharks (Shark-plan 1) was developed in 2004. Following its review, Shark-plan 2 was released in 2012. As Shark-plan 1, Shark-plan 2 is also based on the goals of IPOA-Sharks and provides an updated assessment of conservation and management issues concerning sharks in Australian waters. Shark-plan 2 is currently undergoing revision to assess performance and inform future directions.</li> <li>• The EPBC Act gives effect to CITES requirements domestically. Twelve species of sharks and rays are currently listed as ‘threatened’ under the Act. In total, twenty species of sharks and rays are treated as matters of national environmental significance under the EPBC Act.</li> <li>• The EPBC Act requires the Australian Government to assess the environmental performance of many fisheries (including those that take sharks) and to ensure that they are ecologically sustainable. To this end, an independent assessment of all export and all Government managed fisheries is also required.</li> <li>• Silky sharks and Mobula rays are protected under the EPBC Act, and cannot be legally exported. Products derived from shark species protected under CITES are subject to strict import and export protocols. Most species of sharks not listed on CITES do not require international wildlife trade permits for export from Australia.</li> <li>• There is legislation that allows border authorities to seize wildlife products at borders if suspected to be originating from regulated species, which allows for further investigation and species identification if necessary.</li> <li>• The Government manages some fisheries directly, while others are managed by state and territory governments. Shark finning is not allowed in fisheries managed by the Australian Government. Fishing operations that supply the market with fin and other shark products must operate in consistency with national, state or territory laws. Fisheries that fall under the jurisdiction of Queensland, Northern Territory, Western Australia, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, and Tasmania are managed under their own fisheries/resources acts, regulations, and management plans. These states/territories also have acts providing either for the legislative protection of listed threatened species or for fauna and flora that are threatened. None of those species are listed as threatened in Northern Territory, Western Australia, Victoria, South Australia, or in Tasmania. In New South Wales, <i>Sphyrna lewini</i> is listed as endangered and <i>S. mokarran</i> is listed as vulnerable.</li> <li>• Challenges regarding the new listings include traceability and species identification. Nevertheless, work is being done to ensure border authorities’ access to training and to species identification guides, and to ensure that industries improve the robustness of traceability mechanisms.</li> </ul>
<b>Bahamas</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sharks are a protected species within the EEZ. Fishing of any species is prohibited and possession of specimens and their by-products must be licensed.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fisheries regulations do not mention ray species.</li> </ul>
<b>Canada</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regularly reviews the management of all its fisheries and is currently identifying ways to strengthen its domestic management of sharks.</li> <li>• Implemented the new Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) requirement that prohibits: the removal of shark fins on board vessels fishing for NAFO managed stocks; and the retention on board, the transshipment and the landing of shark fins separate from the carcass.</li> <li>• In 2016, announced a mandatory fins-attached management measure for all pelagic sharks retained as by-catch, which will be fully implemented in all fisheries by March 2018.</li> <li>• Also in 2016, implemented catch limits on North Atlantic Blue Sharks (<i>Prionace glauca</i>).</li> <li>• In 2017, implemented the mandatory release of all live Porbeagle Sharks (<i>Lamna nasus</i>) in the swordfish and tuna fisheries. The release should be prompt and cause the least amount of harm to the shark.</li> <li>• The non-targeted retained harvest of Common Thresher Shark (<i>Alopias vulpinus</i>) is licensed in the Canadian tuna and swordfish longline fisheries and in the groundfish fisheries (longline, gillnet and bottom trawl).</li> <li>• As a contracting Party to ICCAT, implements the required annual survey of contracting parties to establish party compliance and implementation of ICCAT shark conservation and management measures.</li> <li>• The CoP17 listing for Thresher Sharks will be implemented by the October 2017 implementation date.</li> </ul>
<b>China</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intends to regulate shark and ray products when imported, exported or introduced from the sea according to the new decision of CoP17.</li> <li>• Intends to have fisheries authorities formulate supporting regulation to regulate domestic markets.</li> <li>• Intends to develop a National Plan of Action on Sharks.</li> <li>• Formulated and issued “the list of animals and their products prohibited or restricted to be traded” based on the new CITES appendix. All shark species in the appendix are included in this list.</li> <li>• The fisheries authority held the CoP17 new-listed shark and ray implementation symposium to inform related departments on the new decisions and requirements of CoP17, and to discuss their effective implementation.</li> </ul>
<b>Colombia</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the framework of the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment in the Wider Caribbean Region (SPAW), Colombia furthered the following recommendations, which were adopted in March 2017: to include <i>Pristis pectinata</i> in Annex II; and <i>Manta birostris</i>, <i>Manta alfredi</i>, <i>Manta sp. cf. birostris</i>, <i>Shyrna lewini</i>, <i>Sphyrna mokarran</i> and <i>Sphyrna zygaena</i> in Annex III.</li> <li>• Environmental protection measures for rays were monitored in the context of touristic practices.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regarding Freshwater Stingrays, the monthly monitoring of the global quota established for the resource in 2016 was carried out, corresponding to 20.000 units, reporting a 75% use.</li> <li>• Between 2016 and 2017 the Aquaculture and Fisheries National Authority has worked towards regulating shark and ray bycatch through: reducing the percentage of bycatch previously allowed in industrial fisheries; clarifying and updating its area of appliance and the types of fisheries obliged to comply with it; and controlling the export of species' byproducts. A new regulation should become available in the first semester of 2017.</li> <li>• There is a proposal on measures for the management and conservation of ornamental marine resources in Colombia (includes Chondrichthyan species such as <i>Chiloscyllium punctatum</i>). In 2017, the proposal will be reviewed in order to regulate the import and management of these species at the national level.</li> <li>• A proposal has been made on the disaggregation of the Harmonized System Codes, in which the CITES Appendix II sharks were included. These disaggregations, similar to those of other groups of threatened species, became effective on 1 January 2017.</li> <li>• Virtual meetings were held in the framework of the Techno-Scientific Committee of the Regional Plan of Action for Sharks for the Conservation of Sharks, Rays and Chimeras in the Southeast Pacific Region (CTC PAR Tiburones), to revise the status of progress of the Regional Plan of Action on Sharks and its articulation with the National Plans for the Conservation of Sharks. Colombia assumed the rapporteurship. The Follow-up Committee of the NPOA for Sharks met in 2016 (twice) and in 2017 (once) to analyze progress on the implementation of activities in each of its lines of action.</li> <li>• In the framework of CMS and its MoU on Sharks, Colombia participated in the meeting held in 2016 in Costa Rica, in which several shark and ray species were included into Appendices I and II.</li> <li>• Challenges identified regarding the new listings include: limited available information for complying with decisions; limited budget for assessing species status and for monitoring and controlling the implementation of the decisions; strengthening the inter-institutional articulation and defining competencies for the compliance with the decisions.</li> </ul>
<b>Croatia</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Alopias vulpinus</i>, <i>Cetorhinus maximus</i>, <i>Carcharodon carcharias</i>, <i>Lamna nasus</i>, <i>Mobula mobular</i>, <i>Pristis pectinate</i>, <i>Sphyrna zygaena</i> are strictly protected. Together with 16 other Elasmobranchii species, fishing, catching or disturbing these species is prohibited.</li> <li>• Has prepared an expert background document for the development of a Management Plan for the protection of cartilaginous fish.</li> </ul>
<b>European Union</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2009, the EU Plan of Action (EUPOA) was adopted for broadening the knowledge on shark fisheries and on sharks' ecological role, ensuring that directed fisheries are sustainable and that shark bycatch is properly regulated.</li> <li>• The EU is promoting and implementing science based conservation management of marine biological resources, including sharks, both in EU and non-EU waters, in line with the CFP principles. Policy tools being applied include the retention ban for certain species, strict fins-</li> </ul>

	<p>attached policy, Total Available Catches (TAC) &amp; quotas, technical measures. The most relevant tools are the EU regulations assigning the annual fishing “quotas” in EU waters and for EU vessels which also provide for the prohibition to fish for and land certain species.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will provide financial support to the CITES Secretariat for the implementation of CITES for marine species (900 000€ for the period 2017-2020).</li> <li>• Has been actively engaged in the conservation and management of sharks in relevant international fora, RFMOs, and in organizations such as CMS.</li> </ul>
<b>Greece</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capture and trade of protected species is strictly prohibited. Besides the species protected under the EU Action Plan for the Conservation and Management of Sharks adopted in 2009, Greece has in place national legislation for the protection of Bluntnose Sixgill Shark (<i>Hexanchus griseus</i>) and 23 other species. Fishing and trade is prohibited for all of them.</li> <li>• Bycatch of protected species is not placed in the market.</li> </ul>
<b>Indonesia</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2009, 11 fisheries management zones were established through the gazetting of a regulation on regional fisheries, facilitating management by the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries.</li> <li>• Finalized its NPOA for the Conservation of Sharks and Rays, to be implemented from 2016 to 2020. The Plan commits to: improving the production, collection and management of trade data; reducing shark bycatch; developing and improving methods to avoid shark and ray bycatch, and to reduce mortality; conducting research and stock assessment; and establishing a National Working Group on Sharks and Rays Conservation and Management.</li> <li>• Strategies of the NPOA that have already been implemented include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The development of new regulations related to shark and ray conservation and management.</li> <li>• The improvement of human resources’ capacity in the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries.</li> <li>• The strengthening of law enforcement to combat illegal trade of sharks and rays.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Currently enacting laws on shark and ray conservation and management. Their regulations concern the following matters: Conservation of Living Resources and their Ecosystems (1990); Fisheries (2009); Preservation of Wild Flora and Fauna (1999); Utilization of Wild Animals and Plant Species (1999); Fish Resources Conservation (2007); Procedures of Fish and Fish Genetic Utilization (2010); Fishing Effort in High Seas (2012); Fishing Effort in Fisheries Management Zone in Indonesia (2012, 2013, 2014); Procedure to Determine the Protection Status of Fish Species (2013, 2016); Harvest and Capture and Distribution of the Specimens of Wild Plants and Animal Species (2003); Determination of Full Protection Status of Whale Shark (2013); Determination of Full Protection Status of Manta Rays (2014); Export Prohibition of Oceanic Whitetip Shark and Hammerhead Shark from Indonesia to Overseas (2014, 2015, 2016); Fishing Log Book (2014);</li> <li>• Between 2014 and 2017, 28 cases of trade in manta rays and sharks were taken to court.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Challenges regarding the new listings include the socio-economic pressure experienced by the Government at local and national level considering that Indonesia has the highest shark landings as well as one of the major shark fin exporters (Dent &amp; Clarke 2015). Thus, any policies related to shark and ray conservation and management need to consider these socio-economic aspects. However, to address this issue, several public consultations have been conducted to gather socio-economic inputs from stakeholders, fishers and traders.</li> </ul>
<b>Japan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The NPOA for Conservation and Management of Sharks (NPOA-Sharks) developed in 2001, was revised in 2009 and again in 2016, taking into consideration new management measures adopted by relevant international organizations and reflecting changes in the situation of the fisheries in Japan.</li> <li>Challenges identified regarding the new listings include the difficulty in releasing shark bycatch before boarding tuna catch in purse seine fisheries; and once boarded, separating it at sea. This leads to tremendous difficulties for CITES authorities in granting certificates/permits for bycatch prior to landing.</li> </ul>
<b>Mexico</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Has contributed to fisheries management through the development of technical guidelines.</li> <li>Since 2007, Official Norm NOM-PESC-029 has been in place, aiming to encourage the sustainable use of sharks and rays, and the protection of elasmobranch and other bycatch species (turtles, marine mammals and choke species). Operations have been implemented to inspect and monitor shark vessels, with special attention being given to protected areas.</li> <li>In the framework of ICCAT, Res. C-16-05 requires that purse seine vessels with Mexican flag comply with the safe release regulations for all sharks, except those retained onboard. Similarly, Res. C-16-06 establishes, inter alia, for Silky Sharks: the prohibition of retention onboard, transshipment, landing or storage of any body part of individuals captured by purse seine activity within the Area of the Convention; the prohibition of longline fisheries with no shark capture permits to exceed a 20% bycatch in this species; and the prohibition of multi-purpose vessels to exceed a 20% catch of individuals smaller than 1m.</li> </ul>
<b>Netherlands</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2016, proposed the listing of 8 species of sharks and rays on the SPAW protocol (<i>Pristis pectinata</i>, <i>Rhincodon typus</i>, <i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i>, <i>Manta birostris</i>, <i>Manta alfredi</i>, <i>Manta cf. birostris</i>, <i>Sphyrna lewini</i>, <i>Sphyrna mokarran</i> and <i>Sphyrna zygaena</i>). In March 2017, those species were accepted for listing. The sawfish has the highest level of protection (Annex 2), while the others are listed on Annex 3. All species are on the CITES Appendices.</li> <li>For the waters under Dutch sovereignty within the EU, the Netherlands is working to improve the status of sharks and rays within the framework of the European Common Fisheries Policy. For the waters under Dutch sovereignty outside the EU, the Netherlands has developed an International and Caribbean shark and ray strategy and conducted pilot projects to reduce bycatch of sharks.</li> <li>Is working in close cooperation with the island governments in the Caribbean to designate and operationalize a marine mammals and sharks sanctuary in the waters around the island of Saba and Bonaire. The protection of sharks and rays around the other Dutch Caribbean islands takes place through generic environmental and fisheries legislation. The prohibition of shark finning in the Caribbean remains an ambition.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FAO has initiated the process for a regional Plan of Action for sharks in the Caribbean region, which will be available in the second half of 2017.</li> </ul>
<b>Panama</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developed the Compendium of fisheries legislations of the Republic of Panama (2011).</li> <li>• In 2009, adopted the NPOA for the Conservation and Management of Sharks in Fisheries. PAN TIBURON 2010 is currently undergoing revision and updating.</li> <li>• The Environment Ministry is developing regulations for the sighting of Whale Sharks and rays.</li> <li>• National legislation on sharks and rays includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regulations for the snapper, grouper and shark fisheries (1992).</li> <li>• Ratification of ICCAT, which has prohibited the retention of species of the family Sphyrnidae caught in fisheries (except <i>S. tiburo</i>) (1998).</li> <li>• Prohibition of shark finning, and also of the use of marine mammal and turtle species as shark bait (2006).</li> <li>• Adoption of the NPOA for the Conservation and Management of Shark Fisheries in the Republic of Panama, which aims at increasing the shark resource, while protecting and using it sustainably in order to sustain the industrial and artisanal fisheries in the long run (2009).</li> <li>• Declaration of Whale Sharks as species of special national protection within the waters of national jurisdiction (2009).</li> <li>• Resolution establishing the requirements for the issuance of certificates for exporting shark fins (2011).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Challenges encountered regarding the new listings include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of inter-institutional human resources and lack of training on shark identification at the national level.</li> <li>• Limited amount of research on elasmobranchs at the institutional level, particularly on CITES listed species.</li> <li>• The Harmonized System Codes in Panama are general and the species included in the CITES appendices cannot be differentiated.</li> <li>• The license “Snapper, grouper and shark”, regulated under Executive Decree No. 49 of 20 July 1992, allows the capture of sharks.</li> <li>• Fixed landing points for artisanal fisheries are not defined at the national level.</li> <li>• There are no fishery traceability standards/norms.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• To address such challenges, some work has been done: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project to establish an Institutional Statistical Database with sectorial and biological information on aquatic resources.</li> <li>• ARAP limited the number of permits for the national fleet (2015).</li> <li>• There is a draft regulation for the national fleet using long lines in the EEZ, which indicates prohibition on the use of steel lines.</li> <li>• The Management Authority and ARAP seek to build staff’s capacity on the identification of fins from listed sharks.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Peru</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The NPOA for the Conservation and Management of Sharks, Rays and related species in Peru (2014) established 4 strategic lines of action that are being implemented since 2014 and until 2019.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National regulatory measures on management and conservation of sharks and rays have been adopted as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The prohibition of fishing <i>Manta birostris</i> with any fishing technique or gear in waters under national jurisdiction (2015).</li> <li>• The establishment of a national fishing season for Hammerhead Sharks (2016). Extractive activities outside this time period are prohibited.</li> <li>• The establishment of management measures for shark fisheries, prohibiting the landing of heads and fins detached from bodies for any shark species (2016).</li> <li>• In 2017, the Production Ministry authorized the exploratory fishing of sharks in order for the Instituto del Mar del Perú to develop an identification manual for sharks species that aids identification when heads are not attached to bodies.</li> <li>• The establishment of catch limits for hammerhead sharks (470 tones), applicable to extractive activities carried out by the artisanal fishery fleet (2017).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Challenges on the implementation of the new listings include: elaborating identification guides for the different shark and ray species (marine and continental) that help monitor and control the commercial chains of the species; and carrying out continuous scientific research that allows for the assessment of the populations' status, evaluating the necessity of proposing inclusions in CITES appendices.</li> </ul>
<b>Philippines</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are 17 Marine Protected Areas which are important conservation areas for sharks and rays.</li> </ul>
<b>Slovenia</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Among the occurring shark species, <i>Carcharodon carcharias</i> and <i>Cetorhinus maximus</i> are strictly protected. Fishing or any kind of disturbance or trade is prohibited.</li> <li>• On the basis of the Marine Fisheries Act, marine fisheries in Slovenia should be sustainable, allowing the natural self-renewal of species to maintain the long-term favorable status of all fish stocks, including sharks and rays. Commercial fisheries should be in accordance with European Union legislation and the Government's Fisheries Programme. The Programme includes <i>inter alia</i> assessing the fisheries sector, setting sustainable fishing activities, and objectives and policies for the protection and sustainable use of fish.</li> </ul>
<b>Spain</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Since 2016, ICAAT has managed Blue Shark fisheries in the Atlantic by establishing catch limits. The recommendation was proposed by the EU at the request of Spain.</li> </ul>
<b>Sweden</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fishing of cartilaginous species is not allowed. <i>Squalus acanthias</i>, <i>Dipturus batis</i>, <i>Cetorhinus maximus</i>, <i>Scyliorhinus caniculus</i>, <i>Lamna nasus</i> and <i>Raja clavata</i> are nationally protected, hence fishing is not permitted and if caught these species must be immediately released. Except for <i>Scyliorhinus caniculus</i>, the species above are also listed in Oskar in region II. Sweden has signed recommendations for these species and is obligated to implement measures towards their conservation and protection.</li> <li>• Has signed the MoU sharks, CMS.</li> <li>• The Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management has developed a knowledge-building action programme where current knowledge gaps could be addressed and remedied to later support national measures (e.g. designation of marine protected areas).</li> </ul>

<p><b>United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>British Virgin Islands:</b> The Virgin Islands Fisheries (Protected Species) Order 2014 was gazetted into legislation in May 2014. This Statutory Instrument prohibits fishing, selling and mutilation of sharks and rays within the Virgin Islands fishery waters.</li> <li>• <b>Ascension Island:</b> The Ascension Wildlife Protection Ordinance, which protects shark and ray species in Ascension waters, entered into force in 2016. Commercial fishing vessels wishing to fish in Ascension waters must record all catch in the Catch Report Form, which must include both captures and fates of all species (i.e. fish, birds and turtles) whether kept onboard, discarded dead or released alive. Vessels are additionally required to carry de-hookers and dip-nets on board to support the live release of incidentally-caught seabirds, turtles and sharks. Vessels are not to undertake shark finning and any sharks retained must still have their fins attached. Vessels are not allowed to retain on board any Bigeye Thresher, Hammerhead, Shortfin Mako or Oceanic Whitetip Sharks (caught either within or outside of the EFZ) and all attempts should be made to return them to the sea alive.</li> </ul>
<p><b>United States of America</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Since the US NPOA for the Conservation and Management of Sharks (NPOA-Sharks) in 2001, much progress has been made to conserve sharks and improve their management. A report published in 2014 presents some of the US's achievements in the implementation of the NPOA-Sharks.</li> <li>• Under the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act, the US is required to strengthen international fisheries management organizations and to address IUU fishing and bycatch of protected living marine resources. It was further amended in 2011 by the Shark Conservation Act to improve the conservation of sharks domestically and internationally.</li> <li>• The NMFS annually publishes a Shark Finning Report to Congress that: identifies nations whose vessels conduct shark finning; details the extent of the international trade in shark fins; describes and evaluates progress; sets forth a plan of action; includes recommendations for measures to ensure that the actions of the US are consistent with other legislation on sharks; and provides a summary of ongoing research.</li> <li>• The NMFS issued a final rule to list 6 foreign marine elasmobranch species under the US Endangered Species Act (<i>Isogomphodon oxyrhynchus</i>, <i>Rhinobatos horkelii</i>, <i>Mustelus fasciatus</i>, <i>Mustelus schmitti</i>, <i>Squatina Guggenheim</i>, and <i>Squatina argentina</i>). Regulations were published to implement the final determination to list all species as endangered under ESA, except for the narrownose smoothhound shark, as threatened.</li> <li>• Between 2016 and 2017, the following new shark measures have been adopted by NMFS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An amendment to the 2006 Consolidated HMS Fishery Management Plan: Atlantic Shark Management Measures. The purpose is to end overfishing on and rebuild the dusky shark stock.</li> <li>• Commercial Retention limit for Blacknose Sharks and Non-Blacknose Small Coastal Sharks in the Atlantic Region. It aims to reduce discards of non-blacknose SCS while increasing the utilization of available Atlantic non-blacknose SCS quota and aid in rebuilding and ending overfishing of Atlantic blacknose sharks.</li> <li>• Sea Import Monitoring Programme (SIMP), a risk-based traceability programme requiring the importer of record to provide and report key data – from the point of harvest to the point of entry into the US commerce – on an initial list of imported fish and fish products identified as particularly vulnerable to IUU fishing and/or seafood fraud, including sharks.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Challenges regarding new listings include understanding the nature of US involvement in the trade, and informing stakeholders about the new listings and their requirements for trade under CITES. However, the US is engaging in outreach to those that may be impacted by the new listings, providing information to fishery management advisory councils in the US, US State fish and Wildlife agencies, shark fin dealers, and commercial fishers, and providing updated information on their website. They are also working with Enforcement Authorities to prepare for inspection and clearance of these shipments.</li> </ul>
<b>Uruguay</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Several measures are implemented to ensure the conservation of Condrychthians in Uruguayan fisheries. There are national and international provisions that prohibit the capture, retention on board, transshipment, storage and commercialization of some species, which apply to all Uruguayan flag vessels and to ships with third flag with permission to operate in waters under national jurisdiction.</li> <li>The capture of <i>Carcharhinus falciformis</i>, <i>Alopias superciliosus</i> and <i>Alopias vulpinus</i> is prohibited. There are regulations for the conservation of <i>Lamna nasus</i>. Finning of all cartilaginous fish species (sharks, rays and chimeras) is prohibited within the Argentinian Uruguayan Common Fisheries Zone (ZCPAU).</li> <li>Has a NPOA for the Conservation of Chondrichthyans and Marine Birds (PAN-Condriictios), last revised in 2015. The NPOA includes all implemented measures to reduce the impacts on the most vulnerable Chondrichthyan populations, and also the proposed measures to mitigate those effects.</li> <li>There is a law on Responsible Fisheries and the Development of Aquaculture (law No. 19.175 of 20 December 2013).</li> <li>A survey was given to the Secretariat of UNEP/CMS in 2014, on the measures adopted at the national level and implemented by the OROP's (ICCAT) for the management and conservation of sharks.</li> </ul>
<b>Fisher(y)</b>	
<b>Bahamas</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rays are not target species in fisheries.</li> </ul>
<b>Canada</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pelagic sharks (including Common Thresher Shark) are not target species in fisheries.</li> <li>All non-targeted, retained catch of Common Thresher Sharks is reported with 100% dockside monitoring.</li> </ul>
<b>Colombia</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2016, AUNAP carried out inspection visits on landings to check compliance with the regulations on sharks and rays, and to assess finning activity and bycatch. No abnormal activities were reported as result.</li> <li>In 2016, carried out a spatio-temporal characterization of the activity of industrial and artisanal fisheries fleets that take sharks in the Colombian Pacific and Caribbean. The research also looked into the socio, economic, and cultural aspects associated to the shark value chain.</li> </ul>

<b>Croatia</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shark and ray species that are not strictly protected, or that appear only occasionally, are not target species in fisheries.</li> <li>• Has carried out bycatch monitoring through the National Stranding Network.</li> </ul>
<b>Greece</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sharks are not target species in fisheries.</li> <li>• The pelagic shark species contained in the Circular 4531/83795/20-7-2016 and the Elasmobranchii species included in CITES Annex II are being monitored through on-board observations on a sample basis and landings are fully recorded.</li> </ul>
<b>Panama</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Challenges encountered regarding the new listings include the absence of a continuous comprehensive information system that contains a significant percentage of the country's fisheries and statistical data by shark species by region of the Aquatic Resources Authority, both for artisanal and industrial fleets.</li> </ul>
<b>Slovenia</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sharks are not target species in fisheries.</li> </ul>
<b>United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ascension Island:</b> Two licenses were sold (and inspected onboard for any sharks caught) in 2015/2016. None were sold in 2016/2017.</li> </ul>
<b>Stocks</b>	
<b>Australia</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Held 2 Oceania regional workshops (in 2013 and 2014) to support the implementation of the Hammerhead Shark listings. The workshops focused on the principles of making scientifically robust NDFs, including data collection requirements. After the workshops, a methodology for regional data collection and a framework for undertaking an NDF was developed, including the production of a regional NDF template for Scalloped, Great and Smooth Hammerhead Sharks and Giant and Reef Manta Rays. The development of NDFs for shark and ray species were also discussed at the CITES Regional Workshop in Fiji (29 May-2 June 2017).</li> <li>• Has supported the exchange of information on the NDF development process by making the Australian NDF for Hammerhead Shark available through the CITES shark and ray portal.</li> <li>• There is a minor take of Thresher Sharks in Australian Government managed waters. Following CITES requirements, an NDF will be necessary for export once the listing comes into effect.</li> <li>• In 2014, 5 shark species harvested in Australian waters and included in CITES Appendix II were assessed.</li> <li>• Current research activities include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Northern Australia hotspots for the recovery of threatened euryhaline species.</li> <li>• A national assessment of the status of White Sharks.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Defining the connectivity of Australia’s Hammerhead Sharks (examines the state of knowledge, and is using tagging and genetic sampling to study the population’s connectivity, size and trend).</li> <li>• A close-kin mark-recapture estimate of the population size and trend of east coast Grey Nurse Shark.</li> <li>• Shark (and ray) Action Plan.</li> </ul>
<b>Canada</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently, Canada lands approximately 2 sharks per year.</li> <li>• Canada is now updating and revising reported Atlantic landings and discards of Shortfin Mako, Porbeagle, and Blue Sharks to ICCAT. Updated landings have been submitted to ICCAT for their 2017 assessment of the Shortfin Mako.</li> <li>• Has ongoing scientific research on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Post-release mortality of Shortfin Mako Shark (<i>Isurus oxyrinchus</i>) to improve the estimation of total mortality as bycatch.</li> <li>• Re-surveying the Porbeagle Shark population for comparisons with data from 2007 and 2009 surveys, and to update the population assessment.</li> <li>• Assessment of the recovery potential for Winter Skate (<i>Leucoraja ocellata</i>).</li> <li>• Stock status update for Thorny Skate (<i>Amblyraja radiata</i>), Smooth Skate (<i>Malacoraja senta</i>) and Atlantic Spiny Dogfish (<i>Squalus acanhias</i>).</li> <li>• Identification of important habitat for Pacific Basking Shark (<i>Cetorhinus maximus</i>).</li> <li>• Evaluation of allowable harm for White Shark (<i>Carcharodon carcharias</i>).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Colombia</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Between 2013 and 2016, updated the Red book of Marine Fish of Colombia. The analysis included 34 cartilaginous species, of which 10 species of sharks and 6 of rays were categorized as threatened, 11 as near threatened and 7 as data deficient.</li> <li>• In 2016, as a result of inspections at industrial and artisanal landing sites, the Fisheries and Agriculture Secretariat of San Andrés reported no capture of sharks or rays that reported.</li> <li>• In 2016, carried out an Ecological Risk Assessment of the effects of fisheries on the species of sharks and rays associated to the fisheries of San Andrés Archipelago, Providencia and Santa Catalina. The goal was to determine the populations’ vulnerability to the effects of fisheries. Subsequently, 2 workshops were organized to evaluate the different criteria used in the assessment.</li> <li>• In 2016, a workshop was held for drafting NDFs for Colombia’s CITES listed sharks. Following the workshop, a preliminary NDF proposal for <i>Sphyrna lewini</i> was developed, and it is now undergoing revision.</li> <li>• Shark quotas have been established for artisanal fisheries activity for the Continental Colombian Caribbean (125 tons) and for the Pacific coast (350 tons).</li> </ul>
<b>Croatia</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shark and ray species that are not strictly protected, or that appear only occasionally, appear only as occasional bycatch.</li> </ul>

<b>Germany</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commissioned a study on the conservation status of <i>Elasmobranchii</i> (sharks and rays) in German waters (EEZ and coastal waters) of the North and Baltic Sea, between 2013 and 2016. The study documented recent and historic data on the existence and on population size of <i>inter alia</i> the Basking Shark (very rarely seen), Spiny Dogfish (rarely seen) and Porbeagle (not seen). The study identified fisheries, habitat change, pollutants and climate change as main threats, and the establishment of effective marine protected areas as important conservation measures.</li> </ul>
<b>Greece</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The pelagic shark species contained in the Circular 4531/83795/20-7-2016 and the Elasmobranchii species included in CITES Appendix II are being monitored in fisheries. There is some minor bycatch in shark species in certain fisheries. Rare captures have been reported in the past in longline fisheries targeting large pelagic species, like swordfish and tunas.</li> </ul>
<b>Indonesia</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Has undertaken broad national consultations regarding NDFs. Two national workshops have been conducted (March and April 2017) to discuss the NDFs for listed sharks and rays. The Government has agreed on the proposed format of the NDF template to be used in developing national NDFs for CITES-listed species and is currently finalizing the NDF for Hammerhead Shark. Following this, Indonesia will develop the NDF for Oceanic Whitetip Shark, Silky Shark, Mobula Ray or Devil Ray, and Thresher Shark. Furthermore, the sustainability of the trade in these species is continuously being monitored. Indonesia is interested in any assistance that strengthens the Government's capacity to produce NDFs.</li> <li>Has conducted research on sharks and rays to find management and conservation alternatives. That research includes the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Characteristics of chondrichthyan diversity in Western Indonesia (Adrim &amp; Fahmi, 2007).</li> <li>Elasmobranch diversity of Kalimantan Waters (Fahmi &amp; Adrim, 2007).</li> <li>Length frequency distribution, body length relationship, clasper length and sex ratio of silky shark (<i>C. falciformis</i>) (Dharmadi et al., 2007).</li> <li>The contribution of rays in the danish seine fisheries operating at the Java Sea (Fahmi et al., 2008).</li> <li>Elasmobranchs in Southern Indonesian fisheries: the fisheries, the status of the stocks and management options (Blaber et al., 2009).</li> <li>Shark and rays in Indonesia (Fahmi, 2010).</li> <li>Fisheries and biological aspects of Stingray, <i>Mobula japonica</i> caught from south of Java (Dharmadi et al., 2011).</li> <li>The elasmobranch nursery area of Jakarta Bay (Fahmi, 2012).</li> <li>Biology of silky shark <i>Carcharinus falciformis</i> (Carcharhinidae) in the eastern Indian Ocean, including an approach to estimating age when timing of parturition is not well defined (Hall et al., 2012).</li> <li>Review of shark fishery status and its conservation measures in Indonesia (Directorate of Conservation and Marine Biodiversity, 2013).</li> <li>Fisheries management and conservation of sharks in Indonesia (Dharmadi et al., 2015).</li> <li>Assessing Indonesian manta and devil ray populations through historical landings and fishing community interviews (Lewis et al., 2015).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

- Pelagic shark fisheries of Indonesia's Eastern Indian Ocean Fisheries Management Region (Fahmi & Dharmadi, 2015).
- Growth, mortality and exploitation estimates of silky shark (*Carcharinus falciformis*) landed in Banyuwangi, East Java (Damora & Yuneni, 2015).
- Species and total catch of sharks of Southern Central Java waters (Setiawan & Nugroho, 2015).
- Diversity of shark species landed in TPI Bom Kalianda, South Lampung (Parluhutan & Imaniar, 2015).
- Shark enumeration in Muncar Fishing Port, Banyuwangi (Harlyan et al., 2015).
- Species composition, length distribution and sex ratio of sharks landed in East Java, Bali, NTB, NTT (Nurcahyo et al., 2015).
- Size distribution and sex ratio of silky shark (*Carcharinus falciformis*) in the Southern Nusa Tenggara Barat Waters (Chodrijah & Faizah, 2015).
- Population parameters as catch indicator status scalloped hammerhead shark (*Sphyrna lewini*) in Java and Borneo Waters (Muslih et al., 2015).
- Shark species monitoring in Lampung, Banten, Jakarta, West Java, and Central Java (Parluhutan & Irnawati, 2015).
- Bycatch shark recording in nusantara fishing port Brondong (Fuad et al., 2015).
- Some biological aspects of mobulid rays in tuna fisheries in South of Java Indian Ocean (Novianto et al., 2015).
- Temporal distribution of reef manta (*Manta alfredi*) in the waters of Karang Makassar, Komodo National Park, East Nusa Tenggara (Ichsan et al., 2015).
- Shark emergence analysis through baited remote underwater video (BRUV) method (Hastuti, 2015).
- Identification of whale shark (*Rhyncodon typus*) in Talisayan waters, Berau District, East Kalimantan Province (Yusma et al., 2015).
- The occurrences of whale shark (*Rhyncodon typus*) in coastal Probolinggo, East Java (Noviyanti et al., 2015).
- Shark and ray supply chains in NTB (West of Nusa Tenggara) and NTT (East of Nusa Tenggara) (Prabuning et al., 2015).
- Shark consumption level in Jakarta, Surabaya and Makasar (Ariyogagautama et al., 2015).
- Tracking the shark trade in Banggai Islands Central Sulawesi (Zamrud et al., 2015).
- The challenges of blue economy implementation in East Lombok: review of the use and protection of sharks and rays (Suryawati & Triyanti et al., 2015).
- Law strengthening on the protection of shark and ray for sustainable fisheries in Indonesia (Aldilah & Sunyowati, 2015).
- Level of chance spotted of shark and manta in Labuan Bajo and Gili Matra for management support information (Prabuning et al., 2015).
- Fish management model for hammerheads (*Sphyrna* spp.) in Nusantara Lamongan Fishing Ports, East Java (Rudianto & Asmufi, 2015).
- Age, growth and maturity of the pelagic thresher *Alopias pelagicus* and the scalloped hammerhead *Sphyrna lewini* (Drew et al., 2015).
- Catch composition and some biological aspects of shark in Western Sumatera Waters of Indonesia (Dharmadi et al., 2016).
- Population parameters of scalloped hammerhead shark (*Sphyrna lewini* Griffith & Smith, 1834) caught from southern Nusa Tenggara waters (Sentosa et al., 2016).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crossing lines: a multidisciplinary framework for assessing connectivity of hammerhead sharks across jurisdictional boundaries (Chin et al., 2017).</li> <li>• The Government continues to conduct research to obtain information on the socio-economic aspects related to shark and ray fisheries in selected locations with high production and landing data in order to provide more inputs for policy generation and to improve the quality of data produced.</li> <li>• Challenges regarding the new listings include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data insufficiency for policy-making related to shark and ray conservation and management. Monitoring and data collection are necessary considering that Indonesia has 1/3 of the world's shark population. Nevertheless, to address this matter, the Government has been working in close relation to universities, research agencies and NGOs to improve data collection and population assessments.</li> <li>• National data production for sharks and rays is recorded in large species groups (Carcharinidae, Sphyrnidae, Alopiidae, lihat statistik) rather than in species specific ones, limiting the accuracy of species-based data for creating NDFs for the new listed species. Yet, MMAF through the Data and Information Centre is currently working to optimize fisheries landing database including sharks and rays.</li> <li>• The limited information on critical habitat for sharks and rays. The identification of critical habitat is still in process.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Japan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Silky Shark is a common bycatch by purse seine vessels. Even though they must be released or discarded by Conservation and Management Measures introduced by WCPFC, it seems to be impossible to release or discard every single individual before landing. Japan is interested in understanding how other Parties are dealing with this issue.</li> </ul>
<b>Mexico</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the Gulf of Mexico and in the Caribbean Sea, approximately 40 different species of shark are captured in artisanal fisheries.</li> <li>• Published a compilation of technical information on species of commercial importance.</li> <li>• Has been implementing the research component of the NPOA for the Management of Sharks, Rays and Related Species (PANMCT) by carrying out research activities in the Atlantic (such as the development of the Database for Scientific Observers onboard the Tuna Fleet in the Gulf of Mexico, and the analysis of the distribution patterns of shark bycatch in longline fisheries) and in the Pacific (such as experiments with different types of fishing hooks and baits in shark fisheries, and assessments on shark population status through onboard scientific data collection).</li> <li>• As preparation for the entry into force of the new listed shark species, the Scientific Authority, together with a group of experts from different institutions, joined a Virtual Workshop to assess <i>Alopias</i> spp. and <i>Cacharhinus falciformis</i> at the national level. The results of the workshop will be compiled in a chapter of the book "Tiburones mexicanos en la CITES" (currently being edited) and may later contribute to the making of NDFs.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One of the elements considered in the making of NDFs is found in the methodology of Management Risk Assessment and of Productivity and Susceptibility Assessment, adopted by Mexico's Fisheries.</li> <li>• One of the challenges identified regarding the implementation of the new listings is the lack of information for producing NDFs.</li> </ul>
<b>Netherlands</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There will be a joint assessment of Porbeagle Shark (<i>Lamna nasus</i>) between ICES and ICCAT in 2019.</li> <li>• Challenges identified regarding the new listings include the formulation of NDFs for wide-ranging species. Nevertheless, FAO has organized an expert meeting on this issue.</li> </ul>
<b>Panama</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• During 2014, the industrial international fleet landed 651 tons of shark, and in 2015 that number was significantly inferior. The industrial national fleet landed 10.9 tons of shark and 3.1 tons of ray in 2014; and 13.1 tons of shark and 186 kg of ray in 2015.</li> <li>• In 2016, the artisanal fleet using hand line reported 11 tons of elasmobranch (sharks and rays) landings; using longlines, 25.3 tons; using gillnets, 55.8 tons; and the vessels with unidentified gear 14.7 tons.</li> <li>• Issued a negative NDF for sharks and rays.</li> <li>• Several studies and work projects have been carried out on the theme of sharks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sharks resource assessment in Panama's fisheries (1999).</li> <li>• Analysis of the fisheries situation in the Gulf of Chiriquí and the Gulf of Montijo (2006).</li> <li>• Assessment of the artisanal shark fisheries in the southwest coast of the Gulf of Montijo, Puerto el Nance Provincia de Veraguas (2008).</li> <li>• Guidelines for the sustainable management of shark resources in the Tropical Eastern Pacific region (Costa Rica – Panamá - Colombia – Ecuador) (2009).</li> <li>• Report on the status of the Tropical Eastern Pacific sharks (Costa Rica – Panamá - Colombia – Ecuador) (2010).</li> <li>• Historical and institutional analysis of the fisheries sector in Panama (2010).</li> <li>• Biological fisheries assessment of elasmobranchs captured in artisanal fisheries in the Gulf of Chiriquí (2011).</li> <li>• Impact of artisanal fishery on the decrease of shark populations in Panama's Oriental Pacific (2011).</li> <li>• Proposals on the use of fishing techniques that allow to reduce shark bycatch (2011).</li> <li>• Report of the workshops with fishermen associated to shark fisheries and the importance of the resource as part of their fisheries dynamics (2011).</li> <li>• Study of the fisheries communities in Panama's Pacific coast to assess the problems associated to shark fisheries and to establish conservation strategies (2013).</li> <li>• General information and assessment of the population status of the sharks in the waters of the Republic of Panama (2013).</li> <li>• Identification of shark breeding areas and their area of influence in the Gulf of Montijo as conservation and fisheries management strategies (2013).</li> <li>• Characterization of shark catch in artisanal fisheries in the mangroves of David, Gulf of Chiriquí, Panama's Pacific (2015).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The artisanal fishery in the National Park of Coiba and its zone of influence (2016).</li> </ul>
<b>Peru</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developed the NDF on <i>Sphyrna zygaena</i> for the year 2016. For this NDF, the Maximum Sustainable Yield estimated was of 498 tons of whole animal weight (for 2015 and 2016). This value should be considered as the maximum catch limit. The annual catch levels at which the biomass reduction risk is minimized, but an increase is generated over time, is 482 tons.</li> <li>The Production Ministry has instructed the Sea Institute of Peru to execute population studies on <i>Manta birostris</i>, in order to better understand the population's status.</li> <li>Work already done includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identification guide on Freshwater Stingrays of the Peruvian Amazon, in which 10 species of the family Potamotrygonidae are described.</li> <li>Identification guide for sharks of commercial value in Peru (2015).</li> <li>Field guide for the identification of sharks in artisanal fisheries in Peru (2015).</li> <li>An updated checklist of Chondrichthyans from the southeast Pacific of Peru (2015).</li> <li>What barcode sequencing reveals about the shark fishery in Peru (2015).</li> <li>Technical report on Identification and registry of the main hydrobiological resources of Peru according to DNA barcode (2015).</li> <li>Assessment of the information on shark fisheries in the northern part of the country. This information was used for the development of the NDF for Hammerhead Sharks.</li> <li>Report on the fisheries activity and assessment of the Hammerhead Shark, <i>Sphyrna zygaena</i> (2017).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Slovenia</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shark species appear as occasional bycatch.</li> <li>There is no stock assessment for shark and ray species.</li> </ul>
<b>Sweden</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2015, 11 cartilaginous fish species were nationally red-listed. To protect them more efficiently, more knowledge is needed on population status, propagation and ecology of all occurring shark and ray species.</li> </ul>
<b>United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2015, funded the initial phase of the Spurdog Bycatch Avoidance Programme, which is working to eliminate high levels of dead discards, reduce fish mortality, continue stock recovery, and avoid potential 'choke' species under the landing obligation. In 2016, the next phase of the Programme began. This pilot project requires fishermen to provide real-time, daily reports of their Spurdog bycatch. This information is used to produce advisory maps, using a 'traffic-light' system to inform fishers of areas where there is a risk of encountering this species.</li> <li><b>Ascension Island:</b> Is currently conducting shark tagging research to understand shark movements. So far, Galapagos, Tiger and Blue Sharks have been tagged. By the end of May 2017, tagging will be occurring at the seamounts (likely to be Silky Sharks).</li> </ul>

<b>United States of America</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is an NDF for Hammerhead Shark (2016) and for Porbeagle (2017).</li> <li>• Work conducted includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shark research by NFMS.</li> <li>• Status of Common Thresher Sharks, <i>Alopias vulpinus</i>, along the West Coast of North America (2016).</li> <li>• Completion of an updated assessment of Dusky Shark (<i>Carcharhinus obscurus</i>) (2016).</li> <li>• The 2016 Annual Report on Research Regarding Highly Migratory Species (HMS) and their Fisheries in the North Pacific Ocean.</li> <li>• An assessment of Sandbar Shark (<i>Carcharhinus plumbeus</i>) is currently underway.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Markets</b>	
<b>Australia</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International trade data for the 3 Hammerhead Shark species from September 2014 to March 2017 indicates that exported Hammerhead product was almost entirely made up of fins of Scalloped, Great and Smooth Hammerhead shark.</li> <li>• Between September 2014 and March 2017, 12 live Scalloped Hammerhead Sharks were exported from Australia to the UAE. The quantity of Great Hammerhead fin exported has shown an increasing trend (141.04 kg in 2014/15, 550.05kg in 2015/16 and 721.04kg in 2016/17). Exports of Smooth Hammerhead fin occurred in 2015/16 (65.67kg) and in 2016/17 (5.55kg). Exports of Scalloped Hammerhead fin are only recorded as occurring in 2016/17 (141.41kg). The harvested amount falls well below the limits set under the 2014 Australian hammerhead shark NDF.</li> <li>• No export has been recorded for Mobula rays.</li> </ul>
<b>China</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plans to verify (register and regulate) product stocks obtained before the Convention. <i>Mobula</i> spp. products would be verified in May and shark products in October.</li> <li>• Has not received applications for export, import, or IFS, hence there are no examples of NDFs.</li> </ul>
<b>Croatia</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has not imported/exported CITES listed shark species.</li> </ul>
<b>France</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issued 4 permits for cartilaginous fish (2 for <i>Charcharodon carcharias</i>; 2 for <i>Pristis pristis</i>) between 2013 and 2016.</li> </ul>
<b>Greece</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shark-like species landings can be traced through the national official statistics portal and the corresponding auction market sale slips portal. According to these records, the quantities reported are insignificant.</li> </ul>
<b>Indonesia</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Challenges regarding the NEW listings include the time and costs associated to the identification of listed shark- and ray-derived products. However, collaborations have been established with partners to strengthen domestic and international trade monitoring and traceability.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The main importing destinations of shark and ray products are China, Hong Kong, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. The total export of shark products to these destinations was 594.113 Kg in 2014, 26.132 Kg in 2015, and 522.730 Kg in 2016.</li> </ul>
<b>Latvia</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is no trade in CITES listed shark and ray species.</li> <li>Cosmetic and medicinal products of <i>Squalus acanthias</i> (although not a listed species) imported from Russia and Ukraine are often found in the international market.</li> </ul>
<b>Mexico</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Between the entry into force of the NEW listings until April 2017, the total amounts of dry fins (in tons) that were legally exported from Mexico were: 15.154 of <i>Sphyrna lewini</i>, 3.355 of <i>S. mokarran</i> and 20.597 of <i>S. zygaena</i>.</li> </ul>
<b>Netherlands</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All information on catches and trade is reported to ICES and the EU via the DATRAS system.</li> </ul>
<b>Panama</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Has provided export numbers corresponding to international service vessels fishing outside Panama's EEZ. The numbers refer to non-finning and to shark fin export certificates, including the following species: <i>Carcharhinus limbatus</i>, <i>Prionace glauca</i>, <i>Sphyrna corona</i>, <i>Carcharhinus porosus</i>, <i>Carcharhinus leucas</i>, <i>Alopias superciliosus</i>, <i>Sphyrna lewini</i>, <i>Prionace glauca</i>. Furthermore, a consultant has been contracted to improve the database on fisheries and trade numbers.</li> <li>To address challenges encountered regarding the NEW listings, performed an assessment of the trade in marine species included in CITES appendices based on Harmonized System Codes as a mechanism to reduce fishing and illegal trade in Panama.</li> <li>256 tons of shark were exported by one company alone in 2015.</li> </ul>
<b>Slovenia</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are no records of imports/exports of CITES listed shark or ray species.</li> </ul>
<b>United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Issued 25 import permits and 12 re-export permits were between May 2015 and May 2017.</li> <li><b>Ascension Island:</b> There is no trade in sharks or rays, and there have been no incidents or reports of any illegal CITES seizures.</li> </ul>
<b>Socio-cultural</b>	
<b>China</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Held a training course for capacity building in administration and industry (included species' identification in trade and industry management).</li> <li>Published a NEW-listed species' poster and held an exhibition on their conservation and regulatory policy, encouraging the rational legal use of aquatic resources.</li> </ul>

<b>Colombia</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organized, in 2016, meetings and talks to build capacity of relevant entities on relevant species and to establish better monitoring and control mechanisms. Examples include a workshop for developing capacity on the identification of sharks through their fins, and the V Colombian Meeting on Chondrichthyans (Bogotá), where researchers interested in species of Colombia and Latin America exchanged knowledge and experiences.</li> <li>In the Archipelago of San Andres, Providencia, and Santa Catalina work was carried out with relevant authorities, tourist service providers and communities in order to build awareness and to inform on good practices.</li> <li>Several activities were carried out focusing on the conservation of threatened species, including sharks (awareness workshops, murals, music videos, press releases, etc.).</li> </ul>
<b>Croatia</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Distributed educational materials to fishermen for cartilaginous fish identification.</li> </ul>
<b>Sweden</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Produced an identification guide on North Sea sharks and rays to encourage reporting by fishermen and fishery inspectors, and to inform on the status of threatened species.</li> </ul>