

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES  
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



Sixty-sixth meeting of the Standing Committee  
Geneva (Switzerland), 11-15 January 2016

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Trade control and traceability

INCLUSION OF CITES-LISTED SPECIES IN THE HARMONIZED  
COMMODITY DESCRIPTION AND CODING SYSTEM

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At its 16th meeting (Bangkok, 2013), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decision 16.62 on *E-commerce of specimens of CITES-listed species* which is directed to the Standing Committee as follows:

*The Standing Committee shall, in collaboration with the Secretariat, liaise with the World Customs Organization with regard to the inclusion of CITES-listed species in the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System.*
3. In addition, Resolution 12.6 (Rev. CoP16) on the *Conservation and management of sharks* also requests Management Authorities to:

*to collaborate with their national Customs authorities to expand their current classification system to allow for the collection of detailed data on shark trade including, where possible, separate categories for processed and unprocessed products, for meat, cartilage, skin and fins, and to distinguish imports, exports and re-exports and between shark fin products that are dried, wet, processed and unprocessed fins. Wherever possible, these data should be species-specific.*
4. In the same Resolution, the Secretariat is instructed to:

*monitor discussions within the World Customs Organization regarding the development of a Customs data model, and the inclusion therein of a data field to report trade in sharks at species level, and to issue Notifications to the Parties concerning any significant developments.*
5. In document [SC65 Doc. 33](#), the Secretariat reported to the 65th meeting of the Standing Committee (Geneva, July 2014) on outcomes of efforts to liaise with the World Customs Organization in support of Decision 16.62.
6. In its report, the Secretariat noted its support to the Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) proposal on *Possible amendment to the nomenclature in respect of fishery products, agricultural products and fertilizers*, which was discussed at the 53rd Session of the Harmonized System Committee of the World Customs Organization (Brussels, 2014). The proposal covered four shark species included in the CITES Appendices and other species that were not included. The FAO proposal did not receive the requisite two-thirds majority required for a legal amendment to be provisionally adopted.
7. In light of the above, the Secretariat suggested to the Standing Committee that Parties may wish to share their experiences with the Secretariat in collaborating with their national customs authorities to expand their

current classification systems to allow for the collection of detailed data on shark trade. The Secretariat has not received information from Parties on the above.

8. The Secretariat has also been monitoring discussions within the World Customs Organization (WCO) regarding the development of a customs data model, and the inclusion therein of a data field to report trade in sharks at species level. At the time of writing, the Secretariat does not have new information to report.
9. The WCO started developing the 2022 edition of the Harmonised Commodity Description and Coding System (HS codes 2022) and has requested suggestions from member countries, on scope, headings and sub-headings for the review. Amendments to the HS codes 2022 should be recommended by the Council to the Contracting Parties of the International Convention on the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System on its session in June-July 2019. Parties wishing to draft amendments to the HS codes may wish to start their review for submission prior to June 2018.

#### Recommendation

10. The Standing Committee is invited to take note of this report.