

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



Fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
The Hague (Netherlands), 3-15 June 2007

Committee I

Sharks

DRAFT DECISIONS OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

This document has been prepared by a working group chaired by New Zealand on the basis of documents CoP14 Doc. 59.1 and 59.2 and following discussions in the fourth session of Committee I.

1. Implementation and effectiveness issues

Directed to Parties:

- 14.xx When considering or developing proposals to include shark species in the CITES Appendices, Parties are encouraged to consider factors affecting implementation and effectiveness, including those identified in Res. Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP 13) Annex 6; in particular:
- a) non-detriment findings for commercially-traded marine species, including situations involving target and bycatch fisheries, and for shared stocks, migratory species and introductions from the sea;
 - b) monitoring and enforcement practicalities, given that sharks are generally traded in parts (meat, fins, cartilage, *etc.*); and
 - c) the likely effectiveness of listing, particularly when bycatch fisheries or non-fishery anthropogenic issues are involved.
- 14.xx Parties are encouraged to continue developing manuals and guides for the identification of sharks and shark products in trade and to make these available to other Parties and FAO through the CITES Secretariat before the 15th Meeting of the Conference of Parties to CITES.

Directed to the Secretariat:

- 14.xx The Secretariat shall distribute a Notification to the Parties on implementation of listings for shark species. This will focus specifically on obtaining from Parties' Scientific and Fishery Authorities case studies on the development of non-detriment findings for shark species, and will collate and summarise these for provision to the Non-Detriment Findings expert workshop to be held in Mexico.

2. Commodity codes

Directed to the Secretariat:

- 14.xx The Secretariat shall distribute a Notification to the Parties requesting them to provide details of their commodity codes for fish products (e.g. fresh/chilled, frozen and dried, processed and unprocessed, meat, oil, skin, cartilage and fins), imports, exports and re-exports, for both CITES-listed and non-listed species, collate the responses and report back to the 23rd Meeting of the Animals Committee.

Directed to Parties:

- 14.xx Parties are encouraged to:
- a) where they exist, use their commodity codes for traded fish products in order to differentiate between fresh/chilled, frozen and dried, processed and unprocessed, shark meat, oil, skin, cartilage and fin products, imports, exports and re-exports, for both CITES-listed and non-listed species, and
 - b) report progress to the 23rd and 24th Meetings of the Animals Committee on implementation of Resolution Conference 12.6 paragraph 10.
- 14.xx Parties are encouraged to use the existing species-specific FAO catch data recording fields for the reporting of shark catches and discards, and to work within FAO to amend these if required so as to achieve a more accurate picture of shark mortality through fishing.

3. Species-specific reviews and recommendations

Directed to the Animals Committee:

- 14.xx The Animals Committee shall continue activities specified under Resolution 12.6, including refinement of the list of shark species of concern, in collaboration with FAO, taking account of those referenced in CoP 14 Doc. 59.1 Annex 3, and shall report on these activities to the 15th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Directed to Parties:

- 14.xx Parties landing and exporting products from shark species of concern identified by the Animals Committee are encouraged to:
- a) improve liaison between their CITES and Fisheries Authorities,
 - b) ensure that levels of [exploitation and] international trade are not detrimental to the status of these species,
 - c) report at the 24th and 25th meetings of the Animals Committee on the fisheries, environmental and trade management measures adopted, levels of landings and exports, and the status of these stocks and fisheries.

4. South American freshwater stingrays

Directed to the Secretariat:

- 14.xx The Secretariat shall liaise with, as a minimum, the key range States¹ of the family Potamotrygonidae (South American freshwater stingrays), relevant Regional Fishery Bodies, FAO and the ornamental fish industry to facilitate the organization of and seek external funding for a regional workshop that will report to the 23rd or 24th meeting of the Animals Committee. This workshop will:
- a) review the distribution and status of the wild populations of this taxon, the role of captive breeding and trade records;
 - b) advise on the development of methods for ensuring the sustainable utilisation of and trade in these species;
 - c) in consultation with all relevant range States, jointly examine cross-border trade that may be facilitating illegal trade; and
 - d) develop a cooperative strategy for monitoring and regulating trade within South America and to other States, taking into consideration the contribution of captive breeding to *in situ* conservation.

Directed to the Animals Committee:

- 14.xx The Animals Committee shall consider the outputs of the South American freshwater stingray workshop and, in consultation with workshop participants, shall make any necessary species-specific recommendations to Range States and to the 15th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties on improving the conservation status and regulation of international trade in these taxa.

5. Capacity-building

Directed to the Secretariat:

- 14.xx The Secretariat, in consultation with the Steering Committee of the Non-Detriment Findings expert workshop to be held in Mexico, shall seek to ensure that this workshop considers the development of non-detriment findings for sharks, including shared, migratory, straddling and high seas stocks.
- 14.xx The Secretariat shall liaise with FAO and regional fisheries bodies to explore the organization of and seek external funding for a capacity building workshop on the conservation and management of sharks. This workshop should:
- a) consider the outputs of the Mexican Non-Detriment Findings expert workshop;
 - b) use *Galeorhinus galeus* as a case study for stock assessment and management measures for internationally-traded shared migratory coastal shark stocks, and develop recommendations for improving the monitoring, regulation and management of trade in this and other shark species;
 - c) consider tools and approaches for the development of assessments and non-detriment findings for shark species and for the monitoring and regulation of trade in these species;
 - d) consider tools and approaches to determine whether specimens are of legal origin; and

¹ Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela (other Range States are Argentina, Bolivia, French Guyana, Guyana, Surinam)

- e) develop recommendations for the consideration of the 23rd or 24th meeting of the Animals Committee.

Directed to Parties:

- 14.xx When making non-detriment findings for CITES-listed shark species, Scientific Authorities are encouraged seek advice from relevant scientific, research and management bodies.
- 14.xx Parties are encouraged, through their delegations to COFI, to call on FAO to facilitate greater support for countries whose capacity to assess and manage their shark fisheries is limited, and to provide the resources necessary for FAO to undertake this work.

6. IPOA–Sharks

Directed to Parties:

- 14.xx Shark fishing and trading entities, particularly the major fishing or trading entities¹, are strongly encouraged to identify opportunities to:
 - a) improve, in cooperation with FAO and relevant fisheries management bodies, the monitoring and reporting of catch, bycatch, discards, market and international trade data, at the species level where possible,
 - b) establish systems to provide verification of catch information,
 - c) report on their progress at the 23rd and 24th meetings of the Animals Committee, and
 - d) implement the FAO IPOA–Sharks as a matter of priority, where they have not done so.
- 14.xx Parties are strongly encouraged to request through the FAO and regional fishing management organizations where appropriate that these organizations develop and implement Regional Shark Plans and associated measures to assist in species identification and monitoring, as called for in the IPOA–Sharks, by mid-2009 in order to report to the 15th Meeting of the Conference of Parties.

7. Illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing

Directed to Animals Committee:

- 14.xx Animals Committee shall examine and report on linkages between the trade in shark fins and meat and IUU shark fishing activities, including where possible:
 - i. the main species of shark taken by IUU fishing; and
 - ii. the relative importance of fins compared to meat in trade arising from IUU fishing.

¹Based on the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) 2004 data, the top 20 shark fishing areas and entities, in descending order of catch, are: Indonesia; the European Union, India, Spain, Taiwan Province of China*; Mexico*; Argentina; the United States of America*; Thailand; Pakistan; Japan*; Malaysia*; France; Brazil; Sri Lanka; the Islamic Republic of Iran; New Zealand; the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; Nigeria; and Portugal. Only those marked with * have currently implemented National Plans of Action for Sharks.