

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



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WHY SHARK AND MANTA RAY SPECIES WOULD BENEFIT
FROM A CITES APPENDIX-II LISTING

This document has been submitted by Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, the United States of America and the Member States of the European Union in relation to amendment proposals CoP16 Prop. 42, Prop. 43, Prop. 44, Prop. 46 (Rev. 1), Prop. 47 and Prop. 48 on sharks and manta rays.*

* *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.*



1. Sustainable International Trade Benefits Species Survival, Fisheries, and the Economies of the Parties that Rely on those Species:

- The shark and manta ray species proposed for inclusion in CITES Appendix II are in decline and CITES Appendix II is needed to ensure their exploitation for international trade is sustainable and continues to be economically profitable through time.
- Species included in CITES Appendix II are NOT prohibited from international commercial trade.
- CITES Appendix II regulates international trade in species to prevent them from becoming endangered.
- CITES Appendix II requires that the trade in these species is legal and sustainable.
- CITES provides an international framework to monitor and regulate international trade in marine species, even for specimens taken in areas beyond any national jurisdiction.

2. CITES Appendix II Complements RFMOs and Domestic Measures:

- CITES promotes legal and sustainable trade and RFMOs promote legal and sustainable harvest.
- RFMOs are limited in terms of their geographic scope and the species that they manage. CITES has global coverage of the international trade of listed species.
- An Appendix II listing could provide useful information and data to RFMOs and assist them in carrying out their mandate and RFMO data could assist with CITES findings.
- The CITES process of regulating trade (with 40 years of regulatory experience) through a series of permits can help to address illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing.
- By requiring species to be legally acquired, CITES listings support enforcement and compliance with RFMO and domestic management measures.
- Listing species in CITES promotes regional and international cooperation since importing and exporting countries work together and share the responsibility for ensuring sustainable trade.
- Sustainable fisheries can yield higher prices for products. Therefore, the implementation of the Appendix II listing can be advantageous for those committed to sustainable fishing, including RFMOs.

3. CITES Implementation:

- Non-Detriment Findings (NDFs) for Appendix II marine species can rely on successful “traditional” fisheries measures, based on stock assessments and management measures such as the setting of quotas or of technical measures like minimum landing sizes, specification of authorized fishing gears etc. Each Party remains free to apply the methodology and tools adapted to its specific situation.
- Existing fisheries management tools and information can assist in the implementation of a CITES Appendix II listing for marine species.
- There are a variety of guides and genetic tools available to assist in the identification of marine species that are currently being proposed for listing in CITES.

4. Capacity Building Will Be Promoted:

- Implementation of the marine species proposals in CITES will be facilitated through enforcement training and other capacity-building assistance.
- Capacity-building specifically focusing on the implementation of CITES for marine species will be made available after the CoP through the CITES Secretariat.
- The EU has provided the CITES Secretariat with 1.2 million euros for the implementation of CITES for marine species capacity-building efforts.

5. Substantial New Costs Will Not Be Incurred:

Range States and Importing States

- NDFs, the issuing of permits and enforcement measures, are routine actions for CITES authorities in range States.
- Two shark species proposed, porbeagle and scalloped hammerhead, are already included in CITES Appendix III. Parties that did not add these species to Appendix III, and are exporting these species, are already issuing certificates of origin. If listed on Appendix II, instead of certificates of origin, exporting countries would issue export permits. An NDF issued for these species by exporting countries would be the only new requirement.

Fishing Sector

- The only fisheries affected by a CITES listing are those supplying the international markets. Artisanal and small-scale fisheries supplying the domestic market for local consumption would not be affected by a CITES listing.
- The 18-month delayed implementation of the Appendix II listing for the shark species allows sufficient time to prepare for the necessary arrangements.