

Implementing new CITES listings of sharks and manta rays

Sustainability: Non-detriment findings and Sustainable Fisheries



CITES regulates international trade in certain species to ensure legality, sustainability and traceability.

In ensuring sustainability, the Parties must make a Non-Detriment Finding (NDF) (i.e., a science-based biological sustainability finding that takes account of the role of the species in its ecosystem).

The making of NDFs can be challenging and the sharing of knowledge and experience is valuable for all Parties.

CITES Resolution Conf. 16.7 on Non-Detriment Findings recognizes that the sharing of guiding principles and experience for making such findings would improve the implementation of the Convention. Robust NDFs underpin sustainable trade and fisheries.

Activities supporting NDFs:

- Feasibility assessment to use shark fin size as a complementary regulatory measure for sharks in trade
- Training course for West African countries to improve species identification, sampling and reporting on sharks and manta rays (with the Secretariat of the **International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas**; see **factsheet # 7**)
- Shark landing data collection and analysis in the framework of NDFs in Southeast Asia, with associated training (with the **Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center**; see **factsheet # 8**)
- Regional collaboration in stock data collection and making of NDFs for Oceania (with the **James Cook University Centre for Sustainable Tropical Fisheries and Aquaculture**; see **factsheet # 6**)
- Improving knowledge of the stock status of Oceanic whitetip and Hammerhead sharks in the Indian Ocean for the making of NDFs (with the Secretariat of the **Indian Ocean Tuna Commission**; see **factsheet # 9**)

- Sustainability presentation: <https://cites.unia.es/cites/file.php/1/trainers/5-sustainability.pptx>
- Interested in other information material: https://cites.org/eng/prog/shark/Information_resources_from_Parties_and_other_stakeholders



Outcomes and lessons

- ✓ Parties have started to compile and share data in national as well as regional contexts in support of making NDFs
- ✓ Increased awareness of CITES issues in relevant fishery management and scientific communities (e.g. departments of fisheries), where data is mostly being collected and used

Looking into the future...

- Continued need to assist Parties in making NDFs, in particular where data availability is low, catches are mainly artisanal, and sharks and rays are caught as by-catch and/or are part of shared stocks
- For shared stocks, further explore the feasibility of developing regional approaches for making NDFs, in collaboration with Regional Fisheries Management Organizations
- Continue developing practical tools that can assist Parties in verifying whether specimens in trade come from sustainably managed fisheries



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