

Implementing new CITES listings of sharks and manta rays

Legality and Introduction from the Sea

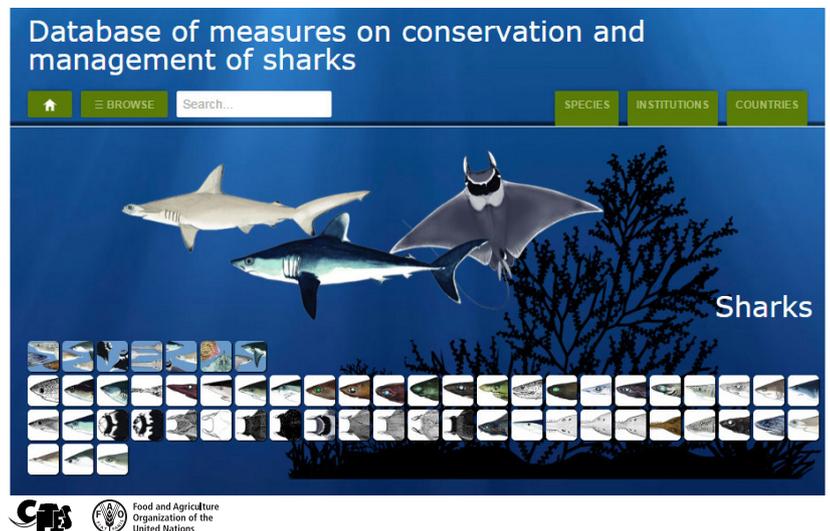


CITES regulates international trade in certain specified species to ensure that trade is legal, sustainable and traceable. The determination of **legality** (legal acquisition) for CITES-listed sharks and manta rays involves monitoring and compliance with applicable national fishery legislation and regional measures, including those adopted by Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs).

The CITES Secretariat cooperates with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to help ensure that Parties are aware of their legal obligations under the CITES provisions, and are able to integrate them into their fisheries legislation and management.

Activities supporting legality and IFS:

- The CITES Secretariat supported FAO's review and strengthening of national fisheries legislation by promoting the inclusion of CITES provisions for selected countries. For example, the Fisheries Bill of the Maldives, a framework Bill prepared in October 2015, contains CITES-related provisions in its guiding objective and principles, and provides explicitly for regulations on endangered and protected species
- The CITES Secretariat has developed standard presentation materials on Legal Acquisition Findings (LAF) and Introduction from the Sea (IFS), with a focus on CITES-listed sharks and manta rays. They targeted both CITES-oriented and fisheries-oriented audience, carried the logos of both CITES and FAO, and were used to ensure a coherent and consistent presentation of the issues by both partners
- Finally, a database of measures on conservation and management of sharks has been developed by the CITES Secretariat and FAO to enable countries to share information regarding various regional and national regulatory instruments, including conservation and management measures, plans of action, and national legislation



Outcomes and lessons

- ✓ Focusing on incorporating CITES-related provisions in existing fisheries laws is critical for ensuring sustainable and legal use. This was made possible by working with legal experts experienced in fisheries legislation at FAO and reaching out to countries that were about to undertake the process to review national fisheries legislation
- ✓ Encouraging the collaboration at the national level between the CITES Management Authorities and the fisheries authorities was challenging at times, but highly valuable as it helped promote coherence between CITES measures and fisheries regulatory instruments

Looking into the future...

- Need to further promote awareness of CITES provisions in parts of the fisheries community
- Need for a better overall understanding on the Introduction from the Sea as it relates to fisheries management

- LAF presentation:
https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/prog/shark/docs/6%20Legal%20Acquisition%20Finding_EN.pptx
- IFS presentation:
https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/prog/shark/docs/8%20Introduction%20From%20the%20Sea_EN.pptx
- Database of shark measures: www.fao.org/ipoa-sharks/database-of-measures/en/

