

Cooperation between FAO and CITES

Building capacity for implementing joint objectives in shark and manta ray fishery management



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

The main objective of the **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)** is achieving food security for all, with its implications for resource conservation and livelihoods: to make sure people have regular access to enough high-quality food to lead active, healthy lives. The FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department has a mission to strengthen global governance and the managerial and technical capacities of members and to lead consensus-building towards improved conservation and utilization of aquatic resources.

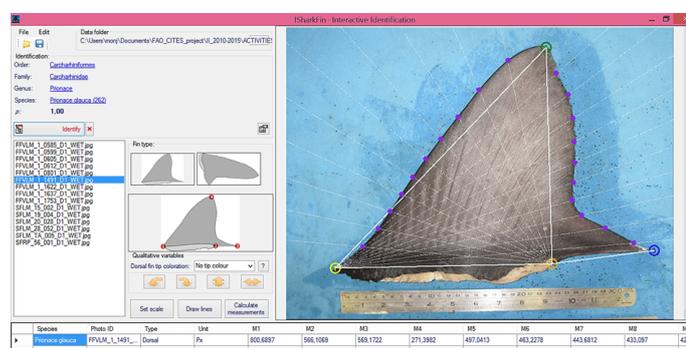
FAO works across the full 'seascape' of fisheries activity to assist in the delivery of sustainable fishery management; from governance, fishery and stock assessment, and markets to socio-cultural issues.

The FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) requested that scientific, legislative and administrative capacity be strengthened to allow states to implement CITES provisions for the species of sharks and manta rays listed at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (CoP16, Bangkok, March 2013).

FAO-CITES joint activities:

- Incorporating CITES-relevant aspects in the FAO fishery legislation review
- Supporting countries to develop/implement National Plans of Action for the conservation and management of sharks (NPOA-Sharks)
- Assessing shark fisheries management measures and development of NPOA-Sharks in the Caribbean
- Contributing shark traceability to the international discussion on fishery product traceability
- Raising awareness on CITES provisions in the discussion on catch certification schemes for fishery products and FAO Port State Measures Agreement
- Developing iSharkFin software (in collaboration with the University of Vigo, Spain) to identify shark products in trade
- Creating a database of measures for conservation and management of sharks
- Developing of national shark status posters for selected countries, showing fisheries trends, commodities, species in trade, management measures, implementation challenges and capacity needs

- **iSharkFin:** www.fao.org/ipoa-sharks/tools/software/isharkfin/en/
- **Database of measures:** www.fao.org/ipoa-sharks/database-of-measures/en/



Outcomes and lessons

- ✓ Close cooperation in a wide range of subject areas in the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department and FAO Development Law Service
- ✓ Many areas of synergy identified where CITES-related components can be incorporated into existing FAO programmes/projects
- ✓ Widened audience/influence base, both for CITES and for FAO
- ✓ Early planning of activities, regular communication on technical matters, and adaptive programming of activities to facilitate country needs was key to ensuring successful outcomes

Looking into the future...

The close collaboration between FAO and CITES showed that there are many technical areas where member states and CITES Parties can be supported to achieve FAO's mission on responsible and sustainable use of fisheries and aquaculture resources, while also implementing the CITES provisions. At the organizational level, both agencies worked well in value-adding to project outcomes.

There is a potential for further collaboration between FAO and CITES, particularly through supporting the managerial/technical capacities in the implementation of NPOA-Sharks, and in promoting consensus-building between CITES- and fisheries-related stakeholders at regional and national levels.

For more information about FAO and its activities:

- FAO: <http://www.fao.org/about/en/>
- FAO COFI: <http://www.fao.org/about/meetings/cofi/en/>



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