



NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2022/040

Geneva, 24 May 2022

CONCERNING:

Proposals to amend Appendices I and II

Consultation with range States

1. This Notification is being published at the request of Israel.
2. Israel along with other co-sponsors is preparing to submit a proposal to CoP19 to include the family Rhinobatidae (guitarfishes) in Appendix II and wishes to consult with range states in accordance with Resolution Conf. 8.21 (Rev. CoP16) on *Consultation with range States on proposals to amend Appendices I and II*.

Background information

3. Shark-like rays are among the most threatened species of fishes globally. This is due to life history characteristics such as slow growth, late age at maturity, and low fecundity, combined with their being mostly being restricted to nearshore coastal habitat at relatively shallow depths that makes them very vulnerable to overfishing and habitat degradation.
4. There is apparently a large amount of international trade in the fins and skins (legal and illegal) of many of the proposed species, but it is very poorly documented, especially since it is difficult to distinguish their parts and derivatives from those of sharks and other shark-like rays.
5. Most of the species of shark-like rays have already been listed in the CITES Appendices. All the species of sawfishes (family Pristidae) are in Appendix I. All the wedgefishes (Rhinidae) and the giant guitarfishes (Glaucostegidae) are in Appendix II. However, the guitarfishes (family Rhinobatidae) have been overlooked, even though they share the same life history and habitat characteristics and are also subject to intense fishing pressure and international trade in their parts and derivatives.
6. The family Rhinobatidae contains 37 species of guitarfishes (see Table on the next page); 35 of the 37 species meet the biological criteria for listing in Appendix II as their populations are in decline, while 23 of them (62%) are classified by IUCN as endangered due to international trade and domestic exploitation, both legal and illegal. Due to the great difficulty in identifying parts and derivatives of guitarfishes, the proposal is to list the entire family Rhinobatidae in Appendix II, in accordance with Article II, paragraph 2 (b) of the Convention (the so-called "look-alike provision").
7. An Appendix-II listing of family Rhinobatidae will not stop legal trade in these species, but it will enable collection of better trade data and should ensure that legal international trade is not detrimental to the survival of these species and populations.

Range States of Rhinobatidae

8. Approximately 110 countries (over half the countries in the world) are range states for Rhinobatidae (see Table on the next page), therefore we have requested the Secretariat to issue a Notification to all Parties to assist with consultation. At this time, we would like to express our sincere thanks to the Secretariat for their cooperation.
9. We would appreciate comments on our proposal, and if possible, specifically on these questions, please:
 1. Do you think that an Appendix II listing will contribute to data collection on international trade in guitarfish specimens?
 2. How do you think the listing proposal will affect the conservation of living guitarfishes?
 3. Would your country be interested in being a co-sponsor of the proposal?
 4. Any other comments.

Responding to this consultation Notification:

10. All Parties are invited to send their responses to this Notification by 15 June 2022, directly to Israel's CITES Scientific Authority (not to the Secretariat), by e-mail to:

Dr. Simon Nemtzov
Israel's CITES Scientific Authority
E-mail addresses: simon@npa.org.il or snemtzov@gmail.com

Table. List of the 37 currently accepted valid species in the family Rhinobatidae, with their distribution, and latest IUCN Red List status and trend.

Species, including author and year	Distribution ¹	IUCN Red List Global Status	IUCN Status trend
1. <i>Acroteriobatus andysabini</i> Weigmann, Ebert & Séret 2021	Madagascar	New species, not assessed	Unknown
2. <i>Acroteriobatus annulatus</i> (Smith 1841)	SE Atlantic O and W Indian O	VU	Decreasing ↓
3. <i>Acroteriobatus blochii</i> (Müller & Henle 1841)	SE Atlantic O from S Angola to Cape Town	LC	Stable —
4. <i>Acroteriobatus leucospilus</i> (Norman 1926)	SE Atlantic O and W Indian O	EN	Decreasing ↓
5. <i>Acroteriobatus ocellatus</i> (Norman 1926)	SE Atlantic O and W Indian O, South Africa and Mozambique	DD	Decreasing ↓
6. <i>Acroteriobatus omanensis</i> Last, Henderson & Naylor 2016	Sea of Oman	DD	Unknown
7. <i>Acroteriobatus salalah</i> (Randall & Compagno 1995)	Oman	NT	Decreasing ↓
8. <i>Acroteriobatus stehmanni</i> Weigmann, Ebert & Séret 2021	Socotra Island, Yemen	New species, not assessed	Unknown
9. <i>Acroteriobatus variegatus</i> (Nair & Lal Mohan 1973)	Arabian Seas; S India and Sri Lanka	CR	Decreasing ↓
10. <i>Acroteriobatus zanzibarensis</i> (Norman 1926)	Zanzibar Island, Tanzania	NT	Unknown
11. <i>Pseudobatos buthi</i> Rutledge 2019	Gulf of California	VU	Decreasing ↓
12. <i>Pseudobatos glaucostigma</i> (Jordan & Gilbert 1883)	E, C and SE Pacific O from Magdalena Bay, Mexico to Ecuador	VU	Decreasing ↓
13. <i>Pseudobatos horkelii</i> (Müller & Henle 1841)	SW Atlantic O from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, to N Argentina	CR	Decreasing ↓
14. <i>Pseudobatos lentiginosus</i> (Garman 1880)	W C Atlantic O from N Carolina, USA to Nicaragua	VU	Decreasing ↓
15. <i>Pseudobatos leucorhynchus</i> (Günther 1867)	E, C and SE Pacific O from Baja California, Mexico to Ecuador	VU	Decreasing ↓
16. <i>Pseudobatos percellens</i> (Walbaum 1792)	W, C and SW Atlantic O	EN	Decreasing ↓
17. <i>Pseudobatos planiceps</i> (Garman 1880)	S Mexico to N Chile incl. Galapagos Islands	VU	Decreasing ↓
18. <i>Pseudobatos prahli</i> (Acero P. & Franke 1995)	S Mexico to N Peru	VU	Decreasing ↓
19. <i>Pseudobatos productus</i> (Ayres 1854)	San Francisco, USA, to S Gulf of California, Mexico	NT	Decreasing ↓
20. <i>Rhinobatos albomaculatus</i> Norman 1930	Mauritania to Angola	CR	Decreasing ↓

¹ Abbreviations used in this column: C Central; E East or Eastern; N North or Northern; S South or Southern; O Ocean; W West or Western

Species, including author and year	Distribution ¹	IUCN Red List Global Status	IUCN Status trend
21. <i>Rhinobatos annandalei</i> Norman 1926	UAE and Iran to Bangladesh, incl. Sri Lanka	CR	Decreasing ↓
22. <i>Rhinobatos austini</i> Ebert & Gon 2017	W Indian O from KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa to C Mozambique	DD	Decreasing ↓
23. <i>Rhinobatos borneensis</i> Last, Séret & Naylor 2016	N Borneo, Malaysia	EN	Decreasing ↓
24. <i>Rhinobatos holcorhynchus</i> Norman 1922	KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa to Kenya	DD	Decreasing ↓
25. <i>Rhinobatos hynnicephalus</i> Richardson 1846	NW Pacific; Japan to Viet Nam, incl. Korea and China	EN	Decreasing ↓
26. <i>Rhinobatos irvinei</i> Norman 1931	Morocco to Angola, incl. Cape Verde	CR	Decreasing ↓
27. <i>Rhinobatos jimbaranensis</i> Last, White & Fahmi 2006	S Bali, Indonesia and W peninsular Malaysia	CR	Decreasing ↓
28. <i>Rhinobatos lionotus</i> Norman 1926	India to Myanmar, incl. Sri Lanka and Bangladesh	CR	Decreasing ↓
29. <i>Rhinobatos manai</i> White, Last & Naylor 2016	New Ireland, Papua New Guinea (species known from only 1 specimen)	LC	Stable —
30. <i>Rhinobatos nudidorsalis</i> Last, Compagno & Nakaya 2004	Mascarene Ridge, W Indian O (species known from only 1 specimen)	DD	Unknown
31. <i>Rhinobatos penggali</i> Last, White & Fahmi 2006	S Java, Bali and Lombok, C Indonesia	EN	Decreasing ↓
32. <i>Rhinobatos punctifer</i> Compagno & Randall 1987	N Red Sea to Sea of Oman and Persian Gulf	NT	Decreasing ↓
33. <i>Rhinobatos ranongensis</i> Last, Séret & Naylor 2019	Myanmar	VU	Decreasing ↓
34. <i>Rhinobatos rhinobatos</i> (Linnaeus 1758)	E Atlantic O and Mediterranean Sea; from S Bay of Biscay to Angola	CR	Decreasing ↓
35. <i>Rhinobatos sainsburyi</i> Last 2004	NW Australia	LC	Decreasing ↓
36. <i>Rhinobatos schlegelii</i> Müller & Henle 1841	NW Pacific O; Japan to Taiwan, incl. Korea and China	CR	Decreasing ↓
37. <i>Rhinobatos whitei</i> Last, Corrigan & Naylor 2014	C and S Philippines	CR	Decreasing ↓