



NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2023/027

Geneva, 16 March 2023

CONCERNING:

Sharks and rays (Elasmobranchii spp.)

1. At its 19th meeting (CoP19, Panama City, 2022), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions [19.222 to 19.227 on Sharks and rays \(Elasmobranchii spp.\)](#) encouraging Parties to share information related to shark and ray conservation management. The relevant Decisions for this Notification are presented in the Annex.
2. Pursuant to Decision 19.222 paragraph a), the Secretariat hereby invites Parties to submit a brief report in accordance with [Resolution Conf. 12.6 \(Rev. CoP18\)](#) on new information on their shark and ray conservation management activities, in particular on any national management measures that prohibit commercial take or trade (with an executive summary not exceeding 200 words, if the report exceeds four pages) with a focus on the following topics:
 - A. the making of non-detriment findings (NDFs);
 - B. the making of legal acquisition findings (LAFs);
 - C. identification and monitoring of CITES-listed shark products in trade in source, transit and consumer Parties
 - D. recording of stockpiles of commercial and/or pre-Convention shark parts and derivatives for CITES Appendix-II elasmobranch species and controlling the entry of these stocks into trade; and
 - E. capacity building needs to assist developing countries and small island developing states with reporting requirements
3. Parties are invited to submit responses by email to info@cites.org with a copy to hyeon-jeong.kim@cites.org by **31 May 2023**.
4. Non-Party, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organization observers are also invited to submit concise information related to the topics in paragraph 2 by the same deadline.

Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

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Request for NDFs and conversion factors

5. Parties are also invited to share their non-detriment findings (NDFs) and conversion factors used when estimating catch live weight through converting recorded shark landings and trade by email to info@cites.org with a copy to hyeon-jeong.kim@cites.org.
6. The Secretariat will publish the NDFs and conversion factors as they are received on the [Sharks and rays web portal](#) as well as the [NDF database](#).

Reporting on trade in sharks and rays

7. The Secretariat takes the opportunity to highlight the changes to the Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual reports and annual illegal trade reports adopted at the 75th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC75, Panama City, November 2022), which impacts reporting on sharks and rays. Reporting of fins has been split into two separate trade term codes:
 - DFN (kg) for fin (dried) to denote dried fins and parts of fins (including flippers); and
 - FFN (kg) for fin (wet) to denote fresh, chilled or frozen fins and parts of fins (including flippers)
8. Parties are invited to highlight any questions, concerns or difficulties they are having in collecting or submitting documentation on authorized trade data (e.g. which units are used in reporting trade) for the CITES Trade Database to info@cites.org with a copy to hyeon-jeong.kim@cites.org.

Directed to Parties

19.222 Parties are encouraged to:

- a) *in accordance with Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP18) on Conservation and management of sharks, provide brief information (with an executive summary not exceeding 200 words, if the report exceeds four pages) to the Secretariat, in particular on any national management measures that prohibit commercial take or trade and respond to the Notification called for in Decision 19.224;*
- b) *in accordance with their national legislation, provide a brief report (with an executive summary not exceeding 200 words, if the report exceeds four pages) to the Secretariat about the assessment of stockpiles of shark parts and derivatives for CITES-listed species stored and obtained before the entry into force of the inclusion in CITES in order to control and monitor their trade, if applicable;*
- c) *respond to the Notification called for in Decision 19.224 and share available national conversion factors used when estimating live catch weight by species, fishery, and product form for more accurate reporting of shark and ray trade data by Parties and indicate whether and how these are used in the development of their non-detriment findings (NDFs);*
- d) *in accordance with Resolution Conf. 9.7 (Rev. CoP15) on Transit and transshipment, inspect, to the extent possible under their national legislation, shipments of shark parts and derivatives in transit or being transhipped, to verify presence of CITES-listed species and verify the presence of a valid CITES permit or certificate as required under the Convention or to obtain satisfactory proof of its existence;*
- e) *seek external funding for a dedicated marine species officer and consider seconding staff members with expertise in fisheries and the sustainable management of aquatic resources to the Secretariat;*
- f) *in accordance with Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP19) on Compliance and enforcement, actively collaborate to combat illegal trafficking in sharks and ray products by developing mechanisms for coordination between source, transit, and destination countries; and*
- g) *consider if they are likely to be key beneficiaries from the guidance document(s) reviewed under Decision 19.226, paragraphs a) and b); if so, these Parties are strongly encouraged to participate in any Standing Committee working groups established to address Decision 19.226.*

Directed to the Secretariat

19.224 The Secretariat shall:

- a) *issue a Notification to the Parties, inviting Parties to:*
 - i) *in accordance with Resolution Conf 12.6 (Rev. CoP18) on Conservation and management of sharks, provide concise (with 200 word executive summary, if the report exceeds four pages) new information on their shark and ray conservation and management activities, in particular:*
 - A. *the making of NDFs;*
 - B. *the making of legal acquisition findings (LAFs);*

- C. the identification and monitoring of CITES-listed shark-products in trade, in source, transit, and consumer Parties;*
 - D. recording stockpiles of commercial and/or pre-Convention shark parts and derivatives for CITES Appendix-II elasmobranch species and controlling the entry of these stocks into trade; and*
 - E. capacity building needs to assist developing countries and small island developing states with reporting requirements; and*
- ii) share with the Secretariat their non-detriment findings (NDFs) and conversion factors used when estimating catch live weight through converting recorded shark landings and trade, where available, to post in the sharks and rays web portal;*
 - iii) in accordance with Resolution Conf. 11.17 (Rev. CoP19) on National reports, highlight any questions, concerns or difficulties Parties are having in writing or submitting documentation on authorized trade data (e.g. which units are used in reporting trade) for the CITES Trade Database;*