

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



Twenty-second meeting of the Animals Committee
Lima (Peru), 7-13 July 2006

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF SHARKS

Membership (as decided by the Committee)

- a) The representative for Oceania (Chairman), the representative of Central South America and the Caribbean (Mr Jolon Morales) and the alternate representative for Asia (Mr Giam);
- b) Observers from Parties: Canada, China, Germany, Italy, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, Peru, the Republic of Korea, Spain and the United States of America; and
- c) Observers from intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations: Defenders of Wildlife, Earthtrust, European Community, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, IUCN-The World Conservation Union, OLDEPESCA, Ornamental Aquatic Trade Association, Ornamental Fish International, Sharkfin and Marine Products Association Ltd, Species Management Specialist and Swan International and WWF.

Mandate

1. Draft a report for CoP14 concerning the implementation of Decision 13.43 based on documents AC22 Doc. 17. 2 [relevant to paragraph a)], 17.3 [relevant to paragraphs b) and c)], including clear conclusions and recommendations.
2. In compliance with Resolution Conf. 12.6 and based on document AC22 Doc. 17.4 draft a report that identifies key shark species for consideration and possible listing under CITES;
3. Formulates species-specific recommendations on improving the conservation status of sharks and the regulations of international trade in these species.
4. Review the shark listing proposals and associated annotations and decisions presented in Annexes 1 to 4 to document AC22 Doc. 21.2, and give technical and scientific input.

Report of the Working Group

1. The Conference of the Parties has given a series of instruction to the Animals Committee in relation to the conservation and management of sharks. In Resolution Conf. 12.6 on Conservation and management of sharks, the Committee is directed to:

examine information provided by range States in shark assessment reports and other available relevant documents, with a view to identifying key species and examining these for consideration and possible listing under CITES;

and

make species-specific recommendations at the 13th meeting and subsequent meetings of the Conference of the Parties if necessary on improving the conservation status of sharks and the regulation of international trade in these species.

Decision 13.43, also states that:

The Animals Committee, taking account of the work of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on the conservation and management of sharks and on CITES implementation issues relating to listed marine species shall:

- a) review implementation issues related to sharks listed in the CITES Appendices with a view inter alia to sharing experiences that may have arisen and solutions that may have been found;*
- b) identify specific cases where trade is having an adverse impact on sharks, in particular those key shark species threatened in this way;*
- c) prepare a report on trade-related measures adopted and implemented by Parties that are aimed at improving the conservation status of sharks; and*
- d) report on the above at the 14th meeting of the Conference of Parties.*

2. At its 21st meeting (Geneva, May 2005), the Animals Committee established a working group and agreed to the following:
 - a) The Secretariat should issue a Notification to the Parties as drafted by the working group and amended by the Committee, to seek information relevant to point a) of Decision 13.43, with the responses to be reviewed by the working group.
 - b) The Secretariat should make CoP13 Doc. 35 on the Conservation and management of sharks available to the FAO Secretariat and to invite FAO to make use of any sections it felt would help contribute to the planned FAO Expert Consultation on the Implementation of the FAO International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks.
 - c) Parties should ensure that CITES Authorities consult with their fisheries agencies before the planned FAO Expert Consultation.
 - d) The working group should review both the list of species prepared at the 20th meeting of the Animals Committee (Johannesbourg, March-April 2004) and those listed in document CoP13 Doc. 13.35 with a final draft to be circulated before to the 22nd meeting of the Animals Committee.
 - e) The working group Chairman should liaise with the representative of the United States of America in order to determine the best way to advance work on the application of Customs codes to shark products.
 - f) The working group should continue its activities intersessionally by email and, subject to the availability of funds, at an intersessional meeting.
3. With the support of the United States of America and WWF International, the working group met at Slimbridge, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, from 4 to 6 April 2006. The working group was assisted by shark conservation and shark fisheries experts as listed in the minutes of the working group meeting (see document AC22 Inf. 3). The meeting was organized by the Shark Specialist Group of IUCN and chaired by the regional representative of Oceania.
4. The results of these three reviews and related recommendations were reported in documents AC22 Doc. 17.2, Doc. 17.3 and Doc. 17.4 respectively, with some delegates noting their reservations regarding parts of these documents.
5. The Working Group established at AC 22 considered these documents, the issues therein and the mandate provided by the AC and made the following recommendations.

Recommendations

DIRECTED TO PARTIES

1. When considering new CITES listing proposals, Parties should take note of the CITES implementation difficulties, in particular for making Non Detriment Findings for commercially traded marine species, such as for shared stocks, migratory species and those introduced from the sea. Enforcement difficulties should also be considered as species are generally traded in parts (meat, fins, cartilage, etc).
2. Noting the progress on ID manuals and other identification techniques already being made by Parties (e.g. Australia and UK), the Animals Committee should encourage Parties to develop further identification tools and manuals for parts and products from listed and unlisted shark species, and make these available to the Secretariat for translation, publication and circulation of shark identification manuals into relevant languages.
3. Major shark fishing Parties (the 20 States that together catch 80% of world landings of sharks and rays) should identify opportunities to improve, in consultation with FAO, their species-specific monitoring and reporting of catch, bycatch, discards, market and international trade data and to report on progress in this respect to the 23rd and 24th meetings of the Animals Committee.
4. Parties that are key shark fishing and trading States, in collaboration where appropriate through Regional Fisheries Bodies and with the FAO, to review or develop a five-year IPOA-Sharks implementation programme with specific targets for data collection and management action and to report on progress to the 23rd and 24th Meetings of the Animals Committee.
5. Considering that international trade is having a detrimental effect upon the sawfishes Pristidae, Parties are encouraged to consider the merits of a listing on the appropriate Appendix of CITES.
6. The United States of America should assess the population status and trade information on the leopard shark *Triakis semifasciata* for consideration of a possible listing under CITES Appendix III with appropriate annotation.
7. Those Parties landing and exporting the following species and their products to request and adopt management advice from national and regional fisheries bodies in order to ensure that this exploitation and trade is sustainable, and to report to the 24th meeting of the Animals Committee on the measures adopted, levels of landings and exports, and the status of these stocks and fisheries, so that the AC can continue to make species-specific recommendations to meetings of the Conference of the Parties if necessary on improving the conservation status of sharks and the regulation of international trade in these species:
 - a) Genus *Centrophorus* Gulper sharks
 - b) *Galeorhinus galeus*, School, tope or soupfin shark
 - c) Requiem sharks Carcharhinidae
 - d) Order Rhinobatiformes, Guitarfishes or Shovelnose rays
 - e) Devil rays, Family Mobulidae

DIRECTED TO THE SECRETARIAT

8. The Secretariat to send out a revision of Notification 2005/044 on implementation of listings, focusing specifically on obtaining more case studies on the development of non-detriment findings and identification tools and manuals for marine fish/shark species, through consultation between Parties' Scientific and Fisheries Authorities, and to present these together with the relevant outputs from the proposed Mexican Non-Detriment Findings Workshop (scheduled to take place in late 2007) to the AC for analysis prior to its 24th meeting.

9. Provided that external funding is available and in consultation with FAO, to contract a consultant to prepare an analysis of the catches, production, markets, catch reporting arrangements, trade codes for shark products and export and import data for major shark fishing and trading Parties and other entities (including Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs)) and to report on progress to the 23rd and 24th Meetings of the Animals Committee.
10. The Secretariat to liaise with Range States¹ for family Potamotrygonidae, relevant Regional Fisheries Bodies, FAO and the ornamental fish industry to facilitate the organization of and seek external funding for a regional workshop that will report back to the 23rd Meeting of the Animals Committee. This workshop will review the distribution and status of the wild populations of these taxa, the role of captive breeding, trade records, determine methods for setting sustainable species and stock-specific catch quotas and other regulations in consultation with all relevant range States, jointly examine cross-border trade that may be facilitating illegal trade, and develop a cooperative strategy for monitoring and regulating trade within South America and to other States while taking into consideration the contribution of captive breeding to *in situ* conservation.
11. The Secretariat shall, under the MOU with FAO and in consultation with the appropriate CITES Committees, bring to the attention of the FAO Secretariat the Animals Committee's concerns regarding the exploitation and international trade of shark species and develop and implement a joint working programme as follows, reporting progress to subsequent Meetings of the Animals Committee and Conferences of the Parties:
 - i) Encourage bi-lateral and multi-lateral co-operation between Parties to enhance law enforcement and fishery management implementation.
 - ii) Encourage improved dialogue between CITES, FAO and Regional Fisheries Bodies on shark conservation, management and international trade issues.
 - iii) To undertake analyses and associated research activity, in consultation with RFBs, in order to determine the quantities of sharks that are discarded at sea, their estimated chances of survival in major fisheries and sea areas, and hence total shark mortality arising from discards and mitigation measures, possible. Such analyses should, where possible, be undertaken at species level as well as for different sea areas and fisheries.
 - iv) Hold a joint workshop on the implementation of commercially-harvested marine fish/shark listings, taking into account the outputs of the Mexican Non-Detriment Workshop, with particular emphasis on providing guidance on the development of Non-Detriment findings for marine fish/sharks, including shared, migratory, straddling and high seas stocks. (Should such a workshop be held and report before COP14, then it would be able to inform potential debates at COP 14 on shark species listings.)
 - v) Hold a capacity-building workshop using *Galeorhinus galeus* both as a case study for stock assessment and management measures for internationally-traded shared migratory coastal shark stocks, and in order to improve the management, monitoring and regulation of trade in this species.

DIRECTED TO THE SECRETARIAT AND PARTIES

12. To promote and adopt the use of a simple standardised set of commodity codes for the shark products from both CITES-listed and non-listed species that most commonly enter trade in order to differentiate between fresh/frozen and dried, processed and unprocessed meat and fin products.

¹ Major trading States are Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela; other Range States are Argentina, Bolivia, French Guyana, Guyana and Suriname