

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



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RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE REFINEMENT OF THE LIST OF SHARK SPECIES OF CONCERN
(DOCUMENT AC23 DOC. 15.2): AN EXAMPLE USING THE REQUEIM SHARK GROUP

1. The Annex to this document has been provided by the Management Authority of the United States of America.

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Background

In Resolution Conf. 12.6 on Conservation and management of sharks, the Animals 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. The Animals Committee made species-specific recommendations at the 13th and 14th meetings of the Conference of the Parties for improving the conservation status of sharks and the regulation of international trade in these species. Decision 14.107 states that the Animals Committee shall continue activities specified under Resolution Conf. 12.6, including refinement of the list of shark species of concern, in collaboration with FAO, taking account of those referenced in Annex 3 to document CoP14 Doc. 59.1, and shall report on these activities at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

While some work has been done towards the refinement of the list of shark species of concern, the United States believes that the current list is too extensive and lacks prioritization. Not all species on the list have benefited from recent evaluations of trade data or assessments of their status. Further, while the status of some species is considered poor, in some cases it has not been determined whether international trade is affecting their status. Thus, some species previously identified as species of concern may not warrant further consideration for listing under the Appendices. We have done an exercise in improving the list by using the requiem shark group as an example. This information document provides a review of the requiem shark group by examining trade levels, species status, and the presence or absence of current management plans. It is important to consider the species in this category individually due to the variation in life history parameters, different intrinsic rates of increase, and different catch and trade levels included within the complex. We suggest this classification may prove useful for identification and refinement of the other shark taxa on the list of species of concern.

Review of requiem sharks

(See documents CoP13 Doc. 35, Annex 2, paragraph 19 and CoP14 Doc. 59.1, Annex 3, paragraph 3 g.)

Some species in this group comprise a fairly large proportion of the fins that can be identified to species level in fin markets. These include the hammerheads *Sphyrna spp.*, shortfin mako, *Isurus oxyrinchus*, tiger shark, *Galeocerdo cuvier*, thresher sharks *Alopias spp.*, oceanic whitetip shark, *Carcharhinus longimanus*, silky shark, *C. falciformis*, dusky shark, *C. obscurus*, sandbar shark, *C. plumbeus*, and bull shark, *C. leucas*. In the following table these taxa are ranked from high concern to lower concern based on available trade data, species status determined using both IUCN Red List assessments and any other available assessment on species population status, availability of management through a fishery management body or domestic plan, and the impact of international trade on the taxon. The table was compiled by reviewing the references listed at the end of this document.

Table 1. Species in the Requiem Shark Category relatively ranked from greatest concern to least concern.

SPECIES	RELATIVE VOLUME IN TRADE	SIGNIFICANT PRODUCT IN TRADE	RELATIVE PRODUCTIVITY	GLOBAL IUCN RED LIST ASSESSMENT	FISHERIES MANAGEMENT	IS TRADE AFFECTING STATUS?
<i>Sphyrna spp.</i>	High	Fins	Low/Moderate	Endangered	Some national management exists	High quality fins discourage discarding. Second most abundant species in international trade in fins.
<i>Carcharhinus obscurus</i>	High	Fins	Low	Vulnerable	Specific national management plans exist	Although protected from harvest in some regions, fins are still documented in trade.
<i>Alopias sp.</i>	Moderate	Fins/Meat	Moderate	Vulnerable	None within RFMOs. Some national management exists	Lack of management and specific data collection warrant further monitoring. Specific international trade in fins documented and of high value.
<i>Isurus oxyrinchus</i>	Moderate	Fins/Meat	Moderate	Vulnerable	Atlantic Ocean-ICCAT (reduction in fishing mortality). Some national management exists	Specific international trade in fins documented and of high value.
<i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i>	Moderate	Fins/Meat	Moderate/High	Vulnerable	None within RFMOs. Some national management exists	Specific international trade in fins documented and of high value.
<i>Carcharhinus falciformis</i>	Moderate	Fins	Moderate	Near Threatened	Some national management exists	Specific international trade in fins documented and of high value.
<i>Prionace glauca</i>	High	Fins	High	Near Threatened	Atlantic Ocean-ICCAT but no specific management to date. Some national management exists	While blue shark fins comprise at least 17% of the overall market, current assessments finds harvest sustainable.
<i>Carcharhinus plumbeus</i>	High	Fins/Meat	Low	Vulnerable	Specific national management plans exist	Likely but domestic management plans are in place.
<i>Carcharhinus leucas</i>	Moderate	Fins/Meat	Low	Near Threatened	Some national management exists	Low levels of harvest in domestic fisheries.
<i>Galeocerdo cuvier</i>	Low	Fins	Moderate	Lower risk	Some national management exists	Least abundant species in fin trade. Low levels of harvest in domestic fisheries.

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