

Response from Norway on shark questions

At its 15th meeting (Doha, 2010), the Conference of the Parties agreed that Parties should report on a number of subjects for discussion at the 20th and 26th meetings, respectively, of the Plants and Animals Committees, scheduled for March 2012. Additionally, the Plants Committee and Animals Committees at their 19th and 25th meetings respectively (Geneva, April and July 2011) agreed to request other information. For ease of reference the Secretariat has listed the items of information that are requested below.

Parties are invited to

- i) report on trade in specimens of these species and to provide information on the implementation of national or regional plans of action for sharks and other available relevant data and information on the species; [see Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP15)]

In the table presented below is the export numbers of *Squalus acanthias*, spiny dogfish, in the years 2007-2011, which represents the majority of international commercial trade of sharks from Norway at present. Trade in other shark species is marginal. For comparison, in the season 1990-1991 the amount of *Squalus acanthias* in trade was 6500 tons.

Year	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	(1990/1991)
Tons	563	651	497	477	216	(6500)

Norway has in place a temporary ban on commercial fishing of *Squalus acanthias*, *Cetorhinus maximus* (basking shark) and *Lamna nasus* (porbeagle). However, landing of bycatch is obligatory and these specimen might enter into trade.

- ii) submit a list of shark species (Class Chondrichthyes) that they believe require additional action to enhance their conservation and management, including if possible any concrete measures which they believe to be needed. The list should include a summary of additional supporting information;

There are at the moment no indications that there are other species in Norwegian waters in addition to the ones already mentioned above that would merit increased management due to changes in population status or harvesting. The three mentioned species of commercial interest are already under prohibition regarding directed harvest. Furthermore, Norway follows the resolutions in NEAFC for relevant bottom dwelling species and also ICCAT regarding bycatch of pelagic species.

- iii) advise whether they have domestic measures (e.g. laws or regulations) regulating the fishing, retention or landing of shark or ray species in their waters, and whether those measures apply to certain species only or to all species; and

Norway has in our aforementioned regulations banned commercial fishing of *Squalus acanthias*, *Cetorhinus maximus* (basking shark) and *Lamna nasus* (porbeagle), this regulation also imposes a ban on discarding any bycatch of shark species. The aim of registration of bycatch is to ensure monitoring of any bycatch, the use of bycatch and at the same time balancing against preventing commercial profit.

From 2012 NEAFC has adopted a general ban on fishing of the three aforementioned species in international waters and Norway is also bound by this decision. Nationally we are in the process of developing a NPOA-sharks. This will include the targets of the UN IPOA-sharks and the decisions by the RFMOs.

- iv) advise whether they have domestic measures (e.g. laws or regulations) regulating the import or export of shark parts and products (fins, meat, skin, organs, etc.) and, if so, what those measures are. [see the recommendations made at the 25th meeting of the Animals Committee]

Norway has no regulation of international trade in shark parts and products beyond decisions made in CITES and with the support of the Scientific Committee in FAO.