

RECOGNIZING that many sharks are particularly vulnerable to overexploitation owing to their late maturity, longevity and low fecundity;

RECOGNIZING that there is a significant international trade in sharks and their products;

RECOGNIZING that unregulated and unreported trade is contributing to unsustainable fishing of a number of shark species;

RECOGNIZING the duty of all States to cooperate, either directly or through appropriate sub-regional or regional organizations in the conservation and management of fisheries resources;

RECALLING that a number of shark species are included in Appendices I and II;

NOTING the complexity of the implementation of CITES trade controls for shark trade, but also the notable successes in the implementation of the shark and ray listings;

RECALLING that in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Convention, international trade in CITES-listed sharks and their parts and derivatives shall only take place if it is legally acquired, non-detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild and properly reported;

CONCERNED that outstanding implementation challenges need to be addressed to ensure that international trade in CITES-listed sharks and their parts and derivatives is conducted and managed in accordance with the provisions of the Convention;

WELCOMING the availability of several guidelines and examples for the making of non-detriment findings (NDFs) for trade in CITES-listed sharks;

RECOGNIZING that the International Plan of Action on the Conservation and Management of Sharks (IPOA-sharks) was prepared by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in 1999 and that all States whose vessels conduct directed fisheries or regularly take sharks in non-directed fisheries are encouraged by FAO's Committee on Fisheries (COFI) to adopt a National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Shark Stocks (NPOA-Sharks);

NOTING that there has been slow progress with the development and implementation of NPOAs;

CONCERNED that insufficient progress has been made in achieving shark management through the implementation of IPOA-Sharks except in States where comprehensive shark assessment reports and NPOA-Sharks have been developed; and

WELCOMING the entry into force of the FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing in 2016 and recognizing the value it offers to improve compliance with CITES provisions for listed shark and ray species;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

1. INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to maintain close collaboration with FAO, Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) and Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs), the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) and other relevant international organizations to improve coordination and synergies in the implementation of CITES provisions for CITES-listed shark species;
2. ENCOURAGES the Secretariat and Parties to continue to assist in building financial and technical capacity in developing countries for shark and ray activities under CITES;
3. ENCOURAGES Parties to improve data collection and reporting (where possible by species and gear type), adopt management and conservation measures for shark species, and enhance

* Amended at the 15th, 16th, 17th and 18th meetings of the Conference of the Parties.

† For the purposes of this Resolution, the term "shark" is taken to include all species of sharks, skates, rays and chimaeras, in alignment with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks (IPOA-Sharks).

implementation and enforcement of these actions through domestic, bilateral, RFMOs or other international measures;

4. URGES Parties that are shark fishing States, that have not yet done so, to develop NDFs, as well as an NPOA, at the earliest opportunity or, when insufficient information is available, take steps to improve research and data collection at the species level on both fisheries and trade as a first step towards developing an NPOA Sharks and making NDFs, with a view to establishing long-term data collection on the status of shark and ray stocks;
5. INVITES Parties that engage in directed or non-directed shark fishing activities of shared stocks to collect and share, on a regional basis such as through RFMOs, RFBs or other regional collaborations, where they exist, data on effort, catches, live releases, discards, landings and trade (to species level and by gear type where possible), and make this information available to assist Scientific Authorities in the making of NDFs of such shared stocks;
6. ENCOURAGES Parties that are members of or Parties to other relevant international instruments, such as RFMOs, RFBs or CMS, to improve coordination between the respective national focal points, where appropriate, and work through the respective mechanisms of these instruments to strengthen research, training and data collection and improve coordination with activities under CITES;
7. FURTHER ENCOURAGES Parties to share information about stricter domestic measures pertaining to shark fisheries and trade, in particular zero export quotas or trade bans;
8. REQUESTS Management Authorities to collaborate with their national customs authorities to expand their current classification system to allow for the collection and reporting of detailed data on shark trade including, where possible, separate categories for processed and unprocessed products, for meat, cartilage, skin and fins, and to distinguish imports, exports and re-exports and between shark fin products that are dried, wet, processed and unprocessed fins. Wherever possible, these data should be species-specific;
9. INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to monitor discussions within the World Customs Organization regarding the development of a customs data model, and the inclusion therein of a data field to report trade in sharks at species level, and to issue Notifications to the Parties concerning any significant developments;
10. ENCOURAGES Parties, in close cooperation with FAO, RFBs and RFMOs, to undertake or facilitate continued research to improve understanding of the nature of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing concerning sharks, identify the linkages between international trade in shark fins and meat, and IUU fishing;
11. FURTHER ENCOURAGES Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental bodies to develop robust, low-cost tools and systems, where not already existing, to ensure that shark species, in particular CITES-listed species, are identified accurately at the first point of capture/landing, and undertake studies of trade in all shark products;
12. INVITES Parties to share through the Secretariat their experiences in implementing CITES provisions for listed shark species, in particular NDFs, legal acquisition findings and traceability systems;
13. DIRECTS the Animals Committee to periodically examine new information provided by range States on the implementation of the shark listings and other available relevant data and information;
14. DIRECTS the Animals Committee to make species-specific recommendations, if necessary, on improving the conservation status of sharks and implementation of shark and ray listings;
15. DIRECTS the Standing Committee to provide guidance on regulatory matters in connection to the implementation of the shark listings, including but not limited to the determination of legal acquisition, traceability and enforcement issues, as appropriate; and
16. DIRECTS the Animals Committee and Standing Committee to report progress on shark and ray activities at the meetings of the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.