

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



Twenty-fifth meeting of the Animals Committee  
Geneva (Switzerland), 18-22 July 2011

Conservation and management of sharks

REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF NPOA-SHARKS AND REGIONAL PLANS,  
AND ON RELEVANT INFORMATION FROM THE RANGE STATES

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. In Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP15) *Conservation and management of sharks (Class Chondrichthyes)*, the Conference of the Parties, instructs the CITES Secretariat to inform FAO of the concerns of the CITES Parties regarding the significant lack of progress in implementing the IPOA-Sharks, and to urge FAO to take steps to actively encourage relevant States to develop NPOA-Sharks.
3. In July 2010, the FAO and CITES Secretariat jointly convened the *Workshop to review the application and effectiveness of international regulatory measures for the conservation and sustainable use of elasmobranchs* in Genazzano, Italy. This workshop was attended by experts from a range of geographic areas and sectors, including scientists, fisheries industry and representatives of the government. The workshop tried to outline the strengths and weaknesses of regulatory measures and to evaluate their effectiveness. If it is finalized in time, the final report of the workshop will be submitted as an information document at the present meeting.
4. During the 29th session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) that was held in Rome, Italy, in February 2011, the CITES Secretariat pointed out that the joint workshop in Genazzano showed that harvest-related measures and trade-related measures could and should be used in tandem, where appropriate, to ensure the successful management of fish.
5. In Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP15), the Conference also encourages Parties to obtain information on implementation of NPOA-Sharks or regional plans, and to report directly on progress to the CITES Secretariat and at future meetings of the Animals Committee, and "directs the Animals Committee to examine information provided by range States on trade and other available relevant data and information, and report their analyses at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties".
6. At its 15th meeting (Doha, 2010), the Conference of the Parties agreed that Parties should report on a number of subjects, including sharks, for discussion at the present meeting of the Animals Committee. The Secretariat listed these reporting obligations in Notification to the Parties No. 2010/027 of 24 August 2010.
7. By the reporting deadline of 15 January 2011 provided in that Notification, the Secretariat had received responses from the European Union (on behalf of 27 Parties), Canada, New Zealand, Peru and the United States of America. Australia informed the Secretariat that they will be unable to meet the reporting deadline and submitted their report on 10 March 2011. To assist the Committee, the Secretariat prepared a brief summary of responses from Parties in Annex 1 (excluding Australia) and the full text of all the responses is provided in Annex 2 to the present document (in the language in which they were received).
8. The Committee is invited to note the content of the present document and to examine the information provided by range States on trade and other available relevant data and information, and report their analyses at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Summary of responses received to Notification to the Parties No. 2010/027 by 15 January 2011

European Union	Canada	New Zealand	Peru	United States of America
<p><b>Parties are invited to report on trade in sharks and to provide information on the implementation of National Plans of Action for sharks or regional plans and other available relevant data and information on the species [Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP15)].</b></p>				
<p>The conservation of sharks and rays is addressed by the EU within the framework of the <i>European Union Plan of Action (EUPOA)</i> adopted in February 2009.</p> <p>In December 2009, the 2011-2013 Community programme for the collection, management and use of data in the fisheries sector was adopted. This programme implements particular actions for the IPOA-Sharks.</p> <p>In November 2010 a Public Consultation on the amendment of Council Regulation (EC) 1185/2003 on the removal of fins on board vessels was launched.</p> <p>The European Commission participated in the process of International Cooperation on Migratory Sharks under the CMS and presented several proposals on sharks at the annual meetings of International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). The European Commission is working with</p>	<p>Since March 2007, Canada has had a <i>National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks (NPOA-Sharks)</i> that was developed in accordance with the principles and provisions of the IPOA-Sharks.</p> <p>In addition, Canada also has a number of legislative measures that are relevant to managing and maintaining the long-term sustainability of shark populations and fisheries. These measures are consistent with the principles of the IPOA-Sharks as well as the <i>FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries</i>.</p> <p>Canada promotes the full utilization of all harvested marine resources by having the carcasses of sharks landed as well as the fins. Finning has been prohibited in Canada since 1994 by regulation under its Fisheries Act.</p> <p>It is difficult to quantify species specific exports of sharks from Canada.</p>	<p>New Zealand continues to progress implementation of its <i>National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks (NZ-NPOA)</i>, which was agreed in October 2008. Pursuant to commitments articulated in the NZ-NPOA, protection of various shark species was extended in 2010 through amendments to domestic legislation.</p> <p>New Zealand Ministry of Fisheries published a report regarding by-catch of basking shark in NZ fisheries.</p> <p>New Zealand has minimal trade in the three CITES-listed shark species.</p>	<p>Peru has been actively involved in creation of <i>Regional Action Plan for Conservation and Management of Sharks</i>.</p> <p>In 2009, the South Pacific Permanent Commission (CPPS) approved the text of the <i>Regional Action Plan for the Conservation and Management of Sharks Rays and Chimeras in South-East Pacific</i>. This Action Plan is being implemented in Peru under the auspices of the CPPS. A technical Committee was established to monitor its implementation.</p> <p>Since 2001, a number of national legal instruments relevant to managing and maintaining the long-term sustainability of populations and fisheries of sharks, rays and chimeras has been adopted in Peru.</p> <p>Several scientific papers on taxonomic classification and distribution of sharks and rays in Peruvian waters have been published.</p>	<p>The United States' <i>National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks</i> is currently being implemented consistent with the FAO's IPOA-Sharks.</p> <p>The U.S. has addressed the trade in shark fins pursuant to the <i>Shark Finning Prohibition Act</i> of 2000. In January 2011, the U.S. President signed the <i>Shark Conservation Act</i>. This act mandates that a national finning policy applies to shark species caught in all waters of the United States, including both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.</p> <p>A report on trade in CITES-listed shark species in the U.S. for the years 2000 – 2009 and the Shark Finning Report to Congress are provided in Annex II.</p>

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<p>FAO on a regional catalogue of sharks and rays of the North-East Atlantic and two Shark and Rays pocket guides.</p> <p>Some EU Member States are undertaking detailed scientific research for species that are most at risk in their waters.</p> <p>Average export of sharks, excluding dogfish, from the EU Member States during the period 2007 – 2009 was 3,134.7 tons.</p>			<p>Total export of sharks from Peru in the period 2003 – 2008 was 2,768 tonnes. During the same period, Peru exported an average of 146 t of shark fins per year, mainly to Asian markets.</p> <p>Non-governmental organizations through their monitoring programme for artisanal fisheries and accidental catches provide an important source of information for decision makers.</p>	