

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

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Fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties  
Doha (Qatar), 13-25 March 2010

The attached document has been submitted by New Zealand.\*

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\* *The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat or the United Nations Environment Programme concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.*

Paragraphs marked with a ● bullet point are proposed amendments to the recommendations made in CoP15 Doc 53

#### DRAFT DECISIONS OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

##### ***Directed to range States of species in the family Potamotrygonidae (South American freshwater stingrays)***

15.xx Range States of species in the family Potamotrygonidae are encouraged to:

- a) Note the findings and conclusions of the freshwater stingrays workshop (AC24 Doc. 14.2), and increase their efforts to improve data collection on the scale and impact of the threats facing stingray species and populations from collection for ornamental trade, commercial fisheries for food, and habitat damage.
- b) Consider implementing or reinforcing national regulations regarding the management and reporting of capture and international trade of freshwater stingrays for all purposes, including commercial fisheries for food and ornamental trade, and standardizing these measures across the region, for example through existing South American intergovernmental bodies.
- c) Consider the listing of endemic and threatened species of freshwater stingrays (Potamotrygonidae) in CITES Appendix III as needing the cooperation of other Parties in the control of trade.

##### ● ***Directed to the Standing Committee***

● ~~15.xx The Standing Committee shall, in consultation with the Animals Committee and FAO, assess any benefits that may be gained by discussing elements of Article 11.2.2 of these Guidelines, for example catch and trade certification schemes, with the involvement of representatives from Parties, relevant regional fisheries organizations and the fishing industry, the shark product industry, retailers and the IUCN Shark Specialist Group and other specialists and stakeholders~~

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO RESOLUTION CONF. 12.6 OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

NB: Text to be deleted is ~~crossed out~~. Proposed new text is underlined.

**Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP15) Conservation and Management of Sharks (Class Chondrichthyes)**

RECOGNIZING that 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;

NOTING that IUCN – The World Conservation Union’s Red List of Threatened Species ~~(2000)~~ (2009.2) lists ~~79~~ 181 shark taxa ~~(from the 10 per cent of taxa for which Red List assessments have been made);~~

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

NOTING the contents of: Report of the technical workshop on the status, limitations and opportunities for improving the monitoring of shark fisheries and trade. Rome, 3–6 November 2008. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Report No. 897 (an advanced copy of which was circulated as AC24.Inf 6) and FAO (2009) Responsible fish trade. FAO Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries. No. 11. Rome, FAO.

NOTING that, through the adoption of Resolution Conf. 9.17 and Decisions 10.48, 10.73, 10.74, 10.93, 10.126, 11.94 and 11.151, 12.47-12.49, 13.42, 13.43 and 14.101-117, Parties to CITES have previously recognized the conservation threat that international trade poses to sharks;

~~NOTING that two shark species are currently listed in Appendix III of CITES~~ the increasing number of shark species included in the CITES Appendices;

WELCOMING the report adopted at the 18th meeting of the Animals Committee that noted that CITES should continue to contribute to international efforts to address shark conservation and trade concerns;

NOTING that States were encouraged by FAO to have prepared NPOAs for sharks by the COFI 24th session held in 2001;

NOTING that there is a significant lack of 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;

CONCERNED that the continued significant trade in sharks and their products is not sustainable;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

~~AGREES that a lack of progress in the development of the FAO IPOA-Sharks is not a legitimate justification for a lack of further substantive action on shark trade issues within the CITES forum;~~

INSTRUCTS the CITES Secretariat to raise with 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;

~~DIRECTS the Animals Committee to continue activities specified under Decision 11.94 beyond the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and to report on progress at the 13th meeting of the Conference of Parties;~~

~~DIRECTS the Animals Committee to critically review progress towards IPOA-Sharks implementation (NPOA-Sharks) by major fishing and trading nations, by a date one year before the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES;~~

~~□ DIRECTS the Animals Committee to examine information provided by range States on trade and other available relevant data and information and report their analyses to the 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties; with a view to identifying key species and examining these for consideration and possible listing under CITES;~~

~~□ ENCOURAGES Parties to obtain information on implementation of NPOA-Sharks or regional plans, from their fisheries departments, and to report directly on progress to the CITES Secretariat and at future meetings of the Animals Committee;~~

~~□ URGES FAO COFI and Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) to take steps strengthen their efforts to undertake the research, training, data collection, data analysis and shark management plan development outlined by FAO as necessary to implement the IPOA-Sharks;~~

~~□ ENCOURAGES Parties to assist in building financial and technical capacity in developing countries for shark and ray activities under CITES, and for contribute financial and technically to the implementation of the IPOA-Sharks;~~

URGES Parties which are shark fishing States but have not yet implemented an NPOA-Sharks, to develop their own NPOAs at the earliest opportunity and take steps to improve research and data collection on both fisheries and trade as a first step towards their Shark Plans, particularly the necessity to improve the collection of catch and trade data at the lowest taxonomic level possible (ideally by species);

~~□ FURTHER URGES Parties to improve their outreach to RFMOs and achieve by greater consultation between their Fisheries and Environment Departments in order to discuss CITES activities with the these bodies appropriate RMFOs of which they are members;~~

~~□ ENCOURAGES Parties to improve data collection, management and conservation measures for shark species, included in the Annex to the present Resolution implementing, enhancing and enforcing these actions through domestic, bilateral, RFMOs or other international measures;~~

~~□ DIRECTS the Animals Committee to 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;~~

~~□ RECOMMENDS that Parties continue to identify endangered shark species that require consideration for inclusion in the Appendices, if their management and conservation status does not improve;~~

REQUESTS Management Authorities to collaborate with their national Customs authorities to expand their current classification system to allow for the collection 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.

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 a species level, and to issue Notifications to the Parties concerning any significant developments;

ENCOURAGES Parties, in close cooperation with FAO 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;

ENCOURAGES Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental bodies to undertake studies of trade in shark meat, including prices in major fish markets in order to better identify the shark products that are driving IUU fishing; and

□ DIRECTS the Animals Committee to report progress on shark and ray activities at the meetings of the Conference of the Parties

□ Annex

Shark species of concern

<u>Squalus acanthias (Spiny dogfish shark)</u>
<u>Lamna nasus (Porbeagle shark)</u>
<u>Family Potamotrygonidae (Freshwater stingrays)</u>
<u>Family Pristidae (Sawfishes)</u>
<u>Genus Centrophorus (Gulper sharks)</u>
<u>Galeorhinus galeus (School, tope, or soupfin shark)</u>
<u>Order Rhinobatiformes (Guitarfishes, shovelnose rays)</u>
<u>Requiem and pelagic sharks</u>
<u>Family Mobulidae (Devil rays)</u>
<u>Triakis semifasciata (Leopard sharks)</u>
<u>Sphyrna spp. (Hammerhead sharks)</u>
<u>Carcharhinus obscurus (Dusky shark)</u>
<u>Alopias spp. (Thresher sharks)</u>
<u>Isurus oxyrinchus (Shortfin mako)</u>
<u>Carcharhinus falciformis (Silky shark)</u>
<u>Carcharhinus longimanus (Oceanic whitetip shark)</u>
<u>Prionace glauca (Blue shark)</u>
<u>Carcharhinus plumbeus (Sandbar shark)</u>
<u>Carcharhinus leucas (Bull shark)</u>
<u>Galeocerdo cuvier (Tiger shark)</u>