

Answers from the Mexico and Central America group on Regional Priorities and Next Steps

- Identification guides: some guides already exist and can be used to start collecting data. Other tools are still being developed like for example the software, to identify the most important species in the region. Bring DNA equipment into the region and provide technical training. A priority is having identification tools for the species. It is necessary to train the relevant Authorities in what is CITES. To conduct national workshop and a regional workshop to discuss what is CITES. **Make interagency agreements in each country, involving all the stakeholders in the marketing chain, to clarify procedures for sharks.**

Set clear rules for how to proceed and how to advance with getting the information.

NPOA, as each country differs in catches by species or by action plan, to implement or create a Regional Action Plan, to identify, monitor, and control landings using a standardized method (form approved by the Region), pilot plan starting in the main ports for shark landings.

México; because it is not possible to track the entire artisanal fleet, landings are reported as shark, another tool is the logbooks which indicate the number of sharks and the weight, this is not implemented in the entire country. There is no existing capacity in terms of personnel to do surprise checks, each country must gradually overcome problems with data.

Have landing protocols for vessels with the largest landings, to have a basis to start generating data.

The guidelines that were presented were not unique, there are more that exist in the region and in some countries, in addition to regulations for landing sharks, we should also think about identification of skin, trunks and other byproducts in addition to using these guides, for fishing, landings, trade and the whole chain of custody. Should it include juveniles?

Use guides that exist for example in Mexico on trunks and add species to them for the rest of the region, including Cuba.

Do an analysis of trade in the region, how sharks are traded, how many, how they are landed, where they are sold and how, from fishing to export.

Start with national workshops to start with an idea of what is done in each country, the fishing authority can share information on its processes, and the other stakeholders can

provide information on the actions they take. Each country should review its legislation to ensure that in principle it can conduct this international trade.

Take the example of Ecuador with political will at a high enough level to involve all the agencies by taking it to the international arena. There are two levels, national and international, on which agreements can be promoted, with RFMOs, each country should review its needs for this type of alliances, cooperation, etc.

Questions and Answers

What tools from this workshop will be most useful to implement the CITES shark listings in your country?

1. The Pew and Defenders guides are a priority for implementing the control necessary for September 2014.
2. Each country should review the Ecuador model to see if it is applicable, revise the tariff codes.
3. Implementation of any of the guides should be accompanied by capacity building to ensure proper use.
4. Distribution of guides in the region, the 4 Defenders guides in digital format, etc.
5. The use of DNA identification to support identification, at least one team per country.

What is your plan for sharing this information with the relevant agencies in your country?

1. National meeting, identify and involve stakeholders from the entire chain of custody, through a review from fishing to export, in this meeting review procedures and abilities in each country.

What additional information is needed for effective implementation of the CITES shark listings?

1. Traceability and legal procedure, where in principle there is a fishing permit, a completed logbook, a landings form and/or sales form, an invoice with the fishing permit number, a document for each step of the chain, fishing, sale, export. Protocol. Now there is a harmonized form for the Central American region, this should be used

in countries that do not have one. With this information, we can generate information for then assigning quotas. Using mahogany as an example, once we have the information we can make changes to ensure sustainability. Start with an evaluation process; use the silky shark process used by ICCAT as an example.

What do you believe are the most important next steps to prepare for effective implementation of these listings?

1. First step is interagency coordination through national workshops, then continue with NDFs, monitoring through a pilot plan, capacity building, distribution of identification guides, collecting data, using export and trade records for shark byproducts. Work with harmonized tariff codes to track trade in sharks.
2. Designate ports for exportation.

Extra

Finance and Cooperation

Each country should look for where they are already equipped for the verification and coordination, to identify resources, control trade, etc.

Work with the region to request funds as a region with clear needs of the region.

Strengthen the regional action plans.

Better species identification could lead to better prices for the fishermen....

Look for sources of funds for CITES implementation