

Answers from the South America Atlantic Region on Regional Priorities and Next Steps

1. What tools from this workshop are the most useful for implementation of the CITES shark listings?
 - All the different tools presented during this workshop were useful for the monitoring and control of CITES species, as each has its own specific strengths. The FAO software is a very useful tool for quick identification of fins, and the possibility of being able to use it on tablets. This software could include more species than just those listed on CITES.
 - The fin identification guide by Demian Chapman also offers a simple procedure for identifying and separating dorsal fins from CITES shark species. It is important to consider that this guide only deals with dorsal fins as it will be necessary to monitor the other fins as well.
 - The procedure for genetic identification will help identify CITES shark products that are confiscated or detained by an authority. This requires laboratories in each country.

2. What plans do you have to share this information with the relevant government agencies in your country.
 - BRAZIL: distribution of guides to environmental inspectors and customs, who will have information in Portuguese for understanding them. It is important to work on political education on the topic of CITES sharks with the relevant ministries.
 - URUGUAY: Conduct training with all the stakeholders for the management and control of sharks in the country (Customs enforcement personnel, DINARA, RENARE)
 - COLOMBIA: an interagency workshop will be held to share the results of the workshop and define short and mid term actions.

3. What additional information is necessary for the effective implementation of the CITES shark listings?
 - It would be useful to create a standard model for making NDFs for marine species and specifically for sharks.
 - It is necessary to know the tariff codes associated with the trade of shark products in different countries in the region.

4. What are the most important next steps to prepare for effective implementation of the listings?
 - We should create formal regional communications mechanisms for effective implementation of sharks listed on CITES.

- Obtain the final version of the FAO software for identifying shark fins in order to test it in each country.
- Provide the countries with laboratories for genetic analysis the tissue samples of shark species listed on CITES.
- Create a detailed chain of custody for the commercialization of shark products for each country; for example in Brazil the companies (actors) involved in the export of these products are not known.
- It is important to channel the available funds from the EU to CITES to strengthen the capacity for the implementation of CITES shark listings; for example by providing laboratories.
- For the legal process, it is important to have the documentation to support software methodologies and genetic procedures.