

Minutes

INTERNATIONAL CITES SHARK CONFERENCE: "ARTICULATION OF EXPERIENCES AND STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTING THE INCLUSION OF SPECIES LISTED IN APPENDIX II"

November 25 – 27, 2014
Irotama Resort
Santa Marta-Colombia



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1. GENERAL INFORMATION

Date

November 25 - 27, 2014

City

Santa Marta - Magdalena - Colombia

Place

Irotama Resort
Kilometer 14, vía Ciénaga

Speakers

David Morgan, Jorge E. Kotas, Sara Fowler, Mariuxy García, Heins Bent, Stan Shea, Sebastian Hernández, Randall Arauz, Gustavo Lara, Maximiliano Bello, Rebeca Regnery, Alejandra Goyenechea, Gabriela Pineda, Juan Carlos Cantú, Tamesha Woulard.

2. Objective

To evaluate the monitoring and control mechanisms necessary to ensure the traceability of international trade in sub-products (fins and meat) from shark species listed in CITES Appendix II, and to define strategies for developing Non-Detriment Findings for species that have recently been listed.

2.1 Specific Objectives

- To identify monitoring, follow-up, and control strategies for the import and export of meat and fins from shark species included in CITES Appendix II, articulating the responsibilities and competencies of CITES administrative and scientific authorities, customs entities, and fisheries from each country.



- To define the actions and procedures necessary for the development of Non-Detriment Findings for the shark species recently included in CITES Appendix II, in accordance with the guidelines for Non-Detriment Findings.

- To provide CITES participant countries a method that incorporates the minimum elements required for the implementation of the inclusion of the species listed in Appendix II, including regulations regarding the traceability of trade in shark sub-products and the creation of Non-Detriment Findings for the shark species listed in CITES Appendix II.

3. Agenda

Day 1 – November 25, 2014

Time	Activity	Person	Methodology
08:00 09:30	Participant registration and materials handout.		
09:30 10:00	Introduction and conference opening.	Pablo Vieira, Vice-Minister of the Environment and Sustainable Development	Presentation Address
10:00 10:30	International trade within the CITES framework associated with customs codes, Traceability, and Non-Detriment Findings.	David Morgan, CITES Secretariat	Keynote Address
10:30 11:00	Snack		
11:00 11:30	Control in the trade of CITES species by the Law Application Office	Tamesha Woulard, USFWS	Keynote Address
11:30 12:00	Presentation	Maximiliano Bello, PEW	Keynote Address
12:00 12:30	Presentation	Rebeca Regnery, Humane Society - Alejandra Goyenechea, Defenders of Wildlife	Keynote Address
12:30 12:35	Group Photo		
12:35 14:00	Lunch		
14:00 14:30	Results from CITES Conference in Brazil	Jorge Eduardo Kotas, ICMBio, Brazil	Conference Results
14:30 15:00	Results from Guatemala CITES Conference	Gabriela Pineda, OSPESCA	Conference Results
15:00 15:30	Results from Germany CITES Conference	Sarah Fowler, Consultant from the German Government	Conference Results
15:30 16:00	International Experience – illustration of the traceability process in the fin trade in	Mariuxy García., Sub-Secretariat of	Keynote Address

Time	Activity	Person	Methodology
	Ecuador.	Fishing Resources, Ecuador	
16:00 16:30	Snack		
16:30 17:00	International Experience – illustration of trade and customs codes in Colombia	MADS (Heins Bent)	Keynote Address
17:00 17:30	Status of the shark fin trade in Hong Kong	Stan Shea, Bloom Association	Keynote Address
17:30 18:00	Close first day	Carlos Polo, AUNAP	Closing and introduction of activities for second day

Day 2 – November 26, 2014

Time	Activity	Person	Methodology
8:30 10:00	Shark Fin Identification Workshop Group 1: Customs Authorities, CAR, and Police Regimes and Advances in Application Workshop Group 2: Non-Detriment Findings for Sharks. Coordinated by CITES Scientific Authorities and Fishing Authorities.	PEW, Humane Society-Defenders Of Wildlife, ASOCARS, and MADS Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development, AUNAP, and INVEMAR	Forming work teams and carrying out activities for the evaluation of population status, definition of strategies regarding international shark trade, and creation of Non-Detriment Findings.
10:30 11:00	Snack		
11:00 12:30	Continuation Shark Fin Identification Workshop. Group 1: Customs Authorities, CAR Regimes and Advances in Application Workshop Group 2: Non-Detriment Findings for Sharks. Coordinated by CITES Scientific Authorities and Fishing Authorities.	PEW, Humane Society-Defenders Of Wildlife, ASOCARS, and MADS Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development, AUNAP, and INVEMAR	
12:30 14:00	Lunch		
14:00 16:00	Continuation Shark Fin Identification Workshop. Group 1: Customs Authorities, CAR, and Police Regimes and Advances in Application Workshop Group 2: Non-Detriment Findings for Sharks. Coordinated by CITES Scientific Authorities and Fishing Authorities.	PEW, Humane Society-Defenders Of Wildlife, ASOCARS, and MADS Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development, AUNAP, and INVEMAR	

Time		Activity	Person	Methodology
16:00	16:30	Snack		
16:00	18:00	Finalizing the creation of reports from work groups		

Day 3 – November 27, 2014

Time		Activity	Person	Methodology
8:30	9:15	Report Presentation and discussion on Work Group 1: International Shark Trade.	Group Representative	
9:15	10:00	Report Presentation and discussion Work Group 2: Non-Detriment Findings for Sharks.	Group Representative	
10:00	10:30	Snack		
10:30	12:30	Discussion of results and construction of method for traceability of international shark trade.	AUNAP, MADS, INVEMAR, Chancellor's Office, PEW, Humane Society, ASOCARS, and MADS	Discussion
12:30	14:00	Lunch		
14:00	15:00	Presentation of work group results for traceability	AUNAP, MADS, INVEMAR, Chancellor's Office, PEW, Humane Society, ASOCARS, and MADS	
15:00	15:30	Final conclusions and considerations regarding the results obtained.	MADS and CITES Secretariat	Discussion
15:30	16:00	Snack		
16:00	16:30	Close of workshop.	Elizabeth Taylor Jay (Director of Marine and Coastal Affairs MADS)	

4. Methodology

72 persons attended the conference concerning CITES sharks, including an international delegation of technical experts and scientific, fishing, and research authorities, and customs control entities from the continents and regions of Europe, Asia, North America, Latin America, and the Caribbean, and from Colombia, the following entities: MADS (Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development), the Chancellor's Office, AUNAP (National Authority on Aquaculture and Fishing), CORPAMAG (Regional Autonomous Corporation of Magdalena), INVEMAR (Institute of Marine and Coastal Research), and from ASOCARS (Association of Autonomous Regional Corporations and Sustainable Development), three support professionals for the taking of minutes, logistics, and a technical specialist in the subject.



To meet the conference's objectives, the following participation and collective construction methodologies were used.

On the first day of the conference, addresses were given by experts in the field, for the purpose of holding a discussion with participants on the viability of the strategies suggested, strengths, and weaknesses, which took place at the end of each address during the time allotted for questions and comments.

On the second day, November 26, a workshop was held where participants were divided into two work groups for the purpose of evaluating aspects of the traceability of international trade, and the creation of Non-Detriment Findings. Each work group was presented with specific case studies by experts for the purpose of analyzing and discussing them within the group, and the respective proposals and recommendations were recorded in a group report. The work groups consisted of the following:

- **Work Table 1. Shark Fin Identification:** At this table, participants worked with Customs Officials, CAR (Autonomous Regional Corporations), and Police. (The ASOCARS representative accompanied this group to act as secretary and take minutes for the work table.) The Training Lead was the PEW representative.
- **Work Table 2. Findings and Application Advances Workshop:** At this work table, applicants talked about topics related to Non-Detriment Findings for Sharks. This was coordinated by CITES Scientific Authorities and Fishing Authorities, who moderated and recorded the conclusions arrived at. Additionally, all participants from different countries were asked to present case studies for the purpose of evaluating and working with findings established.

On the third and last day, each work group presented a detailed report of activities performed and results obtained, and through discussion and plenary feedback, a method was defined in a guiding document for strategies on the traceability of international shark trade and the evaluation of shark populations through the creation of Non-Detriment Findings.

5. Agenda Development

5.1 Day 1 – November 25, 2014



5.1.1 1 Opening (Pablo Vieira - Vice-minister of the Environment, Colombia)

To open the socialization time, Iván Darío Valencia, advisor to the Office of International Affairs of the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development (MADS), welcomed participants and introduced the Vice-minister of the Environment and the CITES Secretary. Each of these thanked the participants and the entities that helped put the conference together, and described the objective, expectations, and importance of the conference.

Excerpts from the opening address by Dr. Pablo Vieira – Vice-minister of the Environment appear below.

.....Colombia has entered into a wide variety of international agreements and accords related to marine and coastal biodiversity, including the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Cartagena Convention, CITES, and the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Sharks from the Convention on Migratory Species.

Within the framework of agreements on the part of our country and in association with many of you, we have triumphed in the battle of old data in CITES COP16 in Thailand with the inclusion of the Oceanic White Tip Shark in CITES Appendix II; this decision was held to be an unprecedented historical success at the international level. It was also very gratifying for us to have played the role of protagonist as the co-nominator of proposals for the inclusion of other marine species in this appendix, such as the hammerhead shark, the mackerel shark, and Manta rays.

*Additionally, at CITES last COP in 2013, the country presented a special agenda featuring their work toward the conservation of the Queen Conch (*Strombus gigas*), a commercially threatened Caribbean species. This entailed a decision that was adopted in the convention's plenary and established actions coordinated with countries in the species' distribution area, many of whom are present here today. And finally, we presented for COP consideration the inclusion of various species of freshwater rays in Appendix II. At that time,*

this proposal was not approved, but we are doing the monitoring that we agreed to at the COP; a sample of this work includes the expert workshop on freshwater rays held in Bogota last month.

The preceding shows how we have convincingly reinforced our participation in CITES over the last few years in matters of hydrobiological, coastal, and marine resources.

Today as a member country of CITES, we feel very honored to be able to be the sponsors of INTERNATIONAL CITES SHARK CONFERENCE: "ARTICULATION OF EXPERIENCES AND STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTING THE INCLUSION OF SPECIES LISTED IN APPENDIX II," a conference that aggregates the efforts made previously by Brazil, Germany, and Guatemala, where we hope that, jointly with you, the experts in your respective countries, we can evaluate the control and monitoring mechanisms necessary to ensure the traceability of international trade in sub-products of the species included in Appendix II, primarily fins and meat. We are the spokespersons, but we recognize the forward strides many of your countries have made in these areas, and we invite you to share these experiences in the implementation of shark identification and the traceability of same with your colleagues and with us.

Likewise, I feel that we cannot leave this conference without defining strategies for the development of Non-Detriment Findings for this group of species, a management tool that is both highly valuable and essential.

We received with pleasure the enactment of the decisions related to sharks included in Appendix II last September 14. My dear friends, Colombia is deeply committed to this matter, and we want to invite you to join us in taking strong action to ensure compliance with each of these decisions; for this reason we wanted to connect with other players involved in the international trade of these species.

This conference, for the first time, brings together CITES administrative and scientific authorities, fishing authorities, and customs authorities from each country, for the purpose of performing a comprehensive analysis at both the regional and global levels, but also with the intent of proposing strategies to improve the management of these species in the international environment.

I wish everyone great success at the conference, and I thank you again for coming. Santa Marta welcomes you.

5.1.2 Address 1. International CITES Shark Conference: the Articulation of Experiences and Strategies for Implementing the Inclusion of Shark Species Listed in CITES Appendix II. (Dr. David Morgan – CITES Secretary)

Dr. David Morgan – CITES Secretariat, thanked everyone, and recognized Colombia's leadership and commitment to CITES. He recalled the listing of sharks and rays at COP 16. He made clear that it is the responsibility of the parties and other players to ensure that these initiatives work.



The topics broached during the presentation are listed below:

- History of shark proposals: begun by USA in 1994. A resolution to cooperate with the FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization) to collect information, headed by Panama, was adopted. In 1997, a decision for the effective application of that resolution was adopted. In 1999, the international shark action plan was adopted. In 2000 and 2002, concern over the lack of progress in the implementation of the Action Plan was expressed. In 2012, the FAO did a report on the implementation of the Action Plan and, unfortunately, discovered a lack of progress.
- The Parties have increased their concern for sharks. CITES has contributed to encouraging measures such as the Action Plan.
- Customs codes: products have considerably increased international trade.
- Traceability: two aspects will be considered: 1) reports on permits issued that are used 2) trade realized.
- Non-Detriment Findings (NDFs): explain what they are, and who should establish them (scientific authorities). He stressed that they are established with the best information available, using extra information if possible. They are only established by the national institutions of the parties, not by external entities, because it is the responsibility of the parties to ensure that trade is sustainable. He stressed the importance of taking the knowledge of indigenous communities and local shark fishermen into consideration.

- He brought up financial contributions from the EU for strengthening capacity. The project, led by the FAO, has held conferences in Africa, Asia, Brazil, Central America, and Australia. They have also studied the species' distribution status and key countries. FAO also works with OROPs (Regional Fishing Management Organizations). He showed a large list of CITES support at all the events that have been held for sharks since last year. He stated that Asia and Africa have an action plan formulated, and that countries have these traits in common: lack of effective management measures, limited knowledge and experience for identification in trade, lack of traceability mechanisms.
- Steps to follow: give support to major fishing and trade countries. Key participation from OROPs, timely monitoring through FAO activities. Better development of shark portal. Development of identification tool: SharkFin: this starts next year. It is going to be very important to work with Fishing Authorities, but we need to strengthen and complement existing measures, rather than duplicating them, for better shark conservation and management.

Questions:

Question from El Salvador's Representative: Will the codes proposed by the FAO change?

Response from CITES Secretary: For now, we cannot expect that common codes will be adopted at the international level.

Question from Ecuador's Representative: What is the possibility of using bar codes?

Response from CITES Secretariat: David Morgan stated that this is an area with many expectations because new technologies are being developed, but there are no specific instructions from the COP to implement that for sharks, though they are available for serpents. It is important to remember that new technology is expensive for everyone, but we are on the cusp of new technologies that will be sold over the next few years, which should not be so expensive.

5.1.3 Address 2. US Fish and Wildlife Service (Tamesha Woulard)

Dr. Tamesha Woulard from the US Fish and Wildlife Service began her address by indicating that they are a scientific and administrative authority, and are also responsible for compliance and application of the law.



The following topics were included in her presentation:

- Presentation of CITES regulations for sharks in the USA.
- NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) is responsible for fishing activities.
- CITES permit process for sharks: two parts to the process: 1. Legal Acquisition Finding (Management Authority) (they have a diagram that explains how the process works, it is interesting to note that they already have regulations implemented for Introduction From the Sea. 2. NDF (scientific authority)
- Process for application of inspection law: The Endangered Species Act is the instrument that allows them to take application measures. An import/export license is required; the license serves to ensure monitoring of inventories of wildlife traded; the license must be renewed every year as long as the trade activity continues; it is an important tool, as you can go to any establishment and review their license at any time. They have designated ports for the import/export of CITES species; these ports have special inspectors for CITES species; they have non-designated ports on the borders with Canada and Mexico. Importers must notify the authority 48 hours in advance to obtain permission for the operation. That is the tool used to measure compliance with CITES regulations.

5.1.4 Address 3. Sharks in CITES, COP 16 (Maximiliano Bello – PEW)

He gave a presentation of the results from COP 16, which included the following topics:

- Results from COP 16
- Sharks: Why are they in trouble, and what are the management options?

- Sharks: Surprising Animals
- Shark are not like other fish species
- What are the threats to sharks?
- Live sharks are worth more
- How the countries of the world are protecting sharks
- How the countries in the Pacific protect sharks

From the conference, the following ideas stood out:

- He stressed that a single instrument is not enough; we cannot expect CITES or CMS (Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species) to do everything.
- He said that they have found many members (countries and organizations).
- Hong Kong will give a presentation on the market and another on fin identification.
- He stressed that sharks are seen as a threat, but that they are very valuable for some industries, such as tourism.
- He explained the specific characteristics of sharks: slow growth, late maturity, few offspring. This makes them very vulnerable and different from other marine species.
- One of the greatest threats is shark fin soup. It has placed the species in a critical situation, which has forced critical decisions to be made, but the idea is to avoid this type of situation. The problem is that demand is very high.
- 100 million dead sharks per year. 54% are listed as threatened at some level.
- Sharks are not just fishing; they have a role in the ecosystem, so there are other management possibilities.
- A video on PEW's work with various members on the subject was presented.

Questions

Question from Mexico's Representative: Have studies been done on how well field guides work? (in markets)

PEW Response: The topic of identification is critical. Stan Shea (Hong Kong) is going to present more on statistics and how the guide works in Hong Kong. The people who created the guide are creating other methods like DNA to make identification faster. In China, fin traders know exactly what species they are.

Customs Representative from Costa Rica: Stressed that inspections must be given enough time to ensure that identifications are done correctly.

5.1.5 Address 4. Humane Society International and Defenders of Wildlife (Rebecca Regnery and Alejandra Goyenechea)



5.1.5.1 Humane Society International (Rebecca Regnery)

She introduced the NGO, covering the following topics:

- Goals of Humane Society International
- Regional Offices
- Countries where the NGO operates
- Introduction of departments the NGO has
- Policy Changes
- Conventions and Treaties
- Wildlife Programs and Treaties
- Land Animal Program
- Marine Animal Program
- Transversal Axes

5.1.5.2 Defenders of Wildlife (Alejandra Goyenechea)

The presentation was based on the following points:

- Strategic Plan: Mission, conservation vision, and conservation focus.
- Places where the NGO operates
- What they protect
- Lawyers defending fauna
- International Law

- Sharks and rays
- Shark Fins
- Shark Identification Guides. These will be presented on the second day of the conference in the work group on identification. They are guides for fishermen, pocket, waterproof, useful for traceability.

5.1.6 Address 5. Brazil's Needs for the Implementation of CITES for Sharks (Jorge Eduardo Kotas – CEPSUL/ICMBio (National Center for Fishing and Conservation of Marine Biodiversity), Brazil)

The speaker gave an address on Brazil's needs for the implementation of CITES for sharks, in which the following topics were introduced:

- The primary and primordial need is for the implementation of a national monitoring program for fishing activities: an observer program, unloading and satellite tracking of vessels, and reinstating the fishing statistics program that expired in 2012 (paralyzed).
- Training for personnel from environmental agencies (IBAMA - Brazilian Institute of the Environment and Renewable Natural Resources, ICMBio) for identification.
- Knowledge of migratory routes for hammerhead sharks. They would like to send out a research vessel that could tag hammerhead sharks and other additional species. Monitoring from pups to adulthood.
- Genetic tracking. In Southeastern Brazil they have contact with the Universities of Sao Paulo and Santa Catarina, which could help in this area for a joint project.
- Legislation in Brazil (as it is now): they have regulations relating to the capture of sharks; the legislation exists, but compliance and application of the law are lacking. In Brazil, capture directed at sharks is not authorized. Sharks considered accompanying fauna and incidental fishing since 2011: if shark fishing is not permitted, why are steel lines permitted? Inter-ministerial guidelines from November 14, 2012, establish regulations for unloading, transport, storage, and shark trade procedures for the purpose of preventing finning.
- Action Plan Objective: reduce impact on threatened marine elasmobranchii species over 5 years:
 1. Improve fishing administration process to reduce impact
 2. Improve legal framework and its efficiency
 3. Increase the number and size of marine reserves to protect environments critical to the development of threatened species
 4. Reduce incidental capture and post-capture mortality

5. Educating fishermen and the public in relation to shark conservation and its importance to the marine ecosystem
 6. Proposing rules and regulations for licensing (hotels, drilling platforms)
 7. Implementation of the economic viability of tourist endeavors relating to sharks and other elasmobranchii
 8. Improve monitoring, control, and surveillance of shark capture and sub-products
 9. Increase knowledge of elasmobranchii populations, environments, and ecological processes
 10. Educate society concerning attacks that occur on the Brazilian coast
- A strategic group comprised of government and academic authorities will be responsible for the implementation of the Action Plan
 - There are states in Brazil that already prohibit the capture and trade of CITES species (hammerhead and white tip)

5.1.7 Address 6. Report from third regional conference on strengthening capacity for Non-Detriment Findings for CITES authorities and fishing in Central America and the Dominican Republic (Gabriela Pineda - OSPESCA).

OSPESCA (Central America Fisheries and Aquaculture Organization) gave a presentation covering the following topics:

- Countries that make up OSPESCA
- Regional technical group on sharks (GTRT, as abbreviated in Spanish) 2005-2011
- Actions within the PART framework - Central America
- Work Group on sharks and highly migratory species (GTEAM, as abbreviated in Spanish)
- Regional action plan for the classifying and conservation of sharks in Central America
- Publications
- Authorized unloading inspection form

From the conference, the following ideas stood out:

- Central America has been developing experience since 2004 when FAO wanted to do a project. Central America, at the OSPESCA level, created the Shark Work Group for the purpose of driving National Plans.
- In 2011, the group's [unknown] were broadened, leading processes and outlines for sharks and highly migratory species linked to sharks.
- They have held a series of regional activities: MdE with CPPS (Permanent Commission for the South Pacific)-AUNAP Colombia, MoU OSPESCA and CPPS, MoU with the University of the Andes.

- The idea is to be able to monitor good management actions respecting highly migratory populations in the most authorized way possible.
- Synergies with NGOs and other regional organizations have been formed.
- The regional plan has 8 action lines: research, monitoring and control, strengthening capacity, release of information, coordination between governments for cooperation, financial management.
- The NDF conference held in September 2013 with CITES Authorities and Fishing Authorities. There was dynamic exchange on countries' experiences in the implementation of the creation of NDFs. A method was established to provide regional monitoring between authorities.
- A second conference in March 2014 in Guatemala with fishing authorities and CITES.
- They wanted to share in group 2 how the regional dynamic was going in relation to the formulation of NDFs.
- The region validated the proposal by Germany and IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature). They found that many elements of Germany's proposal are useful for the region.
- It must be recognized that species management is not easy, but in the measure that information is collected, creation of NDFs is made easier.

Questions

Comment from Mexico's Representative: I want to state that Mexico wants to be more involved in OSPESCA's work because of its geographical nearness to the region. We would be interested in collaborating or participating as observers. We share stocks, and want to be able to work more closely because of this.

Response: We are open to collaboration with Mexico. OSPESCA is approaching Mexico to work with sharks and other species with Mexico, and this rapprochement is going very well with migratory species.

Question from David Morgan - CITES: What topics do regional protocols cover? What topics do you want to collaborate on with other countries?

Response: The region wants to make a way to create an NDF that serves the region, but it is not easy to establish a regional NDF. The steps have to be very well-defined; the idea is to create an NDF that is updated annually with the information being collected, as this close to the beginning the information is not as reliable, but with time this information can be increased to truly understand the status of populations.

Question from the PEW Representative: Current fishing levels are not sustainable and are detrimental to the population. What measures will be taken if this situation is confirmed?

Response: We have to continue collecting information to learn the status of the species. If the situation is confirmed, corrective measures must be taken. It is premature for the region to talk about this because there have been few studies. With international resources, they could be done

to move forward. National initiatives could also be used to make decisions if the countries themselves determine with their studies that populations are depleted in their sovereign territory.

Comment from Costa Rica's Representative: It is known that the hammerhead shark population is in serious danger globally; not taking measures until there is more information is going against the principal of caution.

Response: The work being done is in fact to implement the cautionary approach. It is important to indicate that Central America is not very active in the international shark trade; however, artisanal fishing is significant and is where most incidental fishing occurs.

Costa Rica: There is already enough information available to take measures.

5.1.8 Address 7. Report from Conference to Review NDF Shark Guidelines (Sara Fowler – Germany).

Dr. Sara Fowler presented the following topics in her address:

- CITES Non-Detriment Findings: Training for Shark Species
- Considerations when creating CITES Non-Detriment Findings
- Structure of Guidelines
- Development of the Process
- Case Studies
- Outline of NDF formulation process

From the address presented, the following excerpts were highlighted:

- They have developed a guide they hope will be of use for CITES Parties. It contains steps suggested to create an NDF at the Parties' convenience.
- Recognizing the role of RFMOs in this area.
- Considerations to keep in mind and suggestions from the experts:
 1. Create an NDF each year or when conditions change and the NDF is no longer relevant
 2. Ideally, the NDF is done before the species is exported or introduced by the sea.
 3. Traceability is needed from capture to the consumer
 4. Good communication between CITES and fishing authorities is necessary
 5. International coordination through joint creation of NDFs is important
 6. Parties should adopt standardized approaches to be able to compare NDFs.

- Guide Structure: divided into steps for the creation of an NDF, considering different scenarios. Includes worksheets to help Scientific Authorities (SA) to complete each step and is complemented by guide notes.
- At the August conference, 20 recommendations were agreed on. A version was translated to Spanish. It is available on the CITES web page.
- She explained the steps in the Guide:
 1. Look to see whether the species is listed under CITES
 2. Determine intrinsic biological vulnerability and concern for conservation (SA) Worksheets are used here
 3. Determine pressures on the species – Worksheets are used here and measure how much confidence the SA has in the information they have
 4. Existing management measures: this is the most important step because it determines whether or not what is being done mitigates the impact
 5. Determination of positive or negative NDF (SA)
 6. Additional measures.

5.1.9 Address 8. Ecuador's National Shark Action Plan - Traceability of Shark Fin Exports (Mariuxy García – Ecuador).

A presentation on the national shark action plan was given, which covered the following items:

- Objective: ensure sustainable management of sharks, rays, and chimaeras found in national waters. The plan is outlined in 2 executive decrees:
 - July 30, 2007: regulations for trade and capture of sharks. Regulatory measures such as prohibiting finning, the use of steel cable, protection of highly migratory species
- They have inter-ministerial payment agreements for shark fishing (duties for each specimen unloaded). For this purpose, inspectors were installed at each of the main fishing ports, and they have observers on the longline fleet. The inspectors must know the species unloaded, so there is a hiring and training process for all port personnel.
- They identified the need to take management measures for specific species. Cautionary measures for mantas and mobulas; their capture and sale is prohibited throughout national territory. They also identified that artisanal fishing was directed at very small individuals of the Sphyrna genus; now only 5 individuals may be caught for smaller vessels.
- Challenges in Plan Implementation: working to ensure that the field data collected is good quality and can be used as a basis for later evaluation and scientific work to be done. Sustainable management of fishing grounds has cost them; there are two clearly identified,

one that lasts eight months of the year between April and October (large pelagic, this is the largest shark capture) October - February (dolphinfish).

- Action plan has 4 lines: 1) information and monitoring system, 2) regulations, management, incentives, 3) control and monitoring (traceability), 4) education and awareness.
- Explained the job of fishing inspectors

Questions

Question from Brazil's Representative: Are there points defined to do inspections?

Response: Inspections are done at the company's address: Guayaquil, Santa Helena, Esmeraldas. A fishing inspector always goes with a shark plan technician.

Question from the Dominican Republic's Representative: When fins pass through customs, are they inspected or not?

Response: A fact control is done. When there is doubt concerning export documents, the presence of institutions that are focal points can be requested. All export processes require a goods limit process, which may or may not be intrusive.

Question: In that case, can more content than that indicated, or fins from another species, be included just before the inspection as a ruse?

Response: Yes, but generally the Fishing Institution seals the bags, which must then remain sealed.

Question from Colombia's PRETOMA Representative: In Ecuador, they import fins from Colombia and other countries. Are there controls on these goods?

Response: Speaker indicated that they do not know the processes for imports. Some distributors request to take the fins to Peru.

Question from Colombia's AUNAP Representative: How do you determine the price of each individual unloaded; are prior studies done to set the rate?

Response: Prior studies are not done to set the rate. A provisional NDF has been issued setting a price for the white tip shark.

5.1.10 Address 9. Evaluation of the International Shark Trade in Colombia (Heins Bent – Colombia).

A presentation on the evaluation of the international shark trade in Colombia was given, which covered the following topics:

- Global Shark Unloading

Shark unloading worldwide was illustrated. The fact that sharks are the object of capture in all the planet's seas and oceans was highlighted, as was the fact that the major unloading points are the Western Central Pacific, Southeastern Atlantic, and Eastern Central Pacific.

- Global Shark Fin Trade

In reference to that deriving from global shark capture, the primary product derived from sharks (fins) is exported by many countries worldwide to Hong Kong, where shark fin imports are concentrated. This is primarily due to the high demand for shark fin soup, which is common knowledge.

A map was shown indicating the primary countries providing fins to the Asian market.

- Shark Resource Status (Exploitation Estimates)

It was mentioned that there is evidence of the status of shark resources where exploitation estimates are concerned. Shely Clarke's study estimating shark capture based on the international fin trade was highlighted, which provides an estimate that is 3 to 4 times greater than FAO capture reports.

- Methods

For the evaluation of international trade in shark resources in Colombia, official databases were reviewed to learn: National statistic that refers to information from INPA (National Institute of Fishing and Aquaculture), the FAO database, and the AGRONET database that contains information on customs codes.

Customs codes for shark resources and the value of imports and exports for each type of product were identified, and the volume in tons per year, destination country, and origin were recorded.

- Results

The results obtained indicated that in Colombia there are three (3) customs codes recording international trade in products derived from shark resources.

Concerning shark fin imports and exports in Colombia, it can be observed that, firstly, there are differences between the INPA (national statistic) values and the FAO and DANE-DIAN values. The FAO and DANE-DIAN values coincide, and indicate a downward trend.

Graphics on the exportation of shark fin in Colombia (destination countries) were presented indicating tons of shark fin exported to different countries, average monthly shark fin

exports to Hong Kong, average monthly shark fin exports to other countries, shark meat imports and exports in Colombia (countries of origin), value of shark meat imports in Colombia (countries of origin), value of shark meat exports in Colombia (destination countries).

➤ Conclusions

Official statistics associated with shark trade in Colombia show vast uncertainty in relation to the type of product (fins and meat) actually sold.

This shows that it is very likely that fins that are not dried or salted are sold under customs codes for frozen and fresh shark meat.

In the face of the generality of the information recorded, it is essential that Colombia create the mechanisms that will allow appropriate recording and monitoring of international trade by species (specific customs codes).



5.1.11 Address 10. The Shark Fin Trade in Hong Kong: Update and Status (Stan Shea – Hong Kong)

A presentation on the shark fin trade in Hong Kong was given, which covered the following topics:

- Shark Fin Imports
- Shark Fins: Processed vs. Unprocessed
- Comparison of Trade Cities with Respect to Shark Fins
- Shark Consumption Habits and Attitudes in Hong Kong
- Consumption of Related Shark Products
- What is the best time for shark fin soup?
- Acceptance of Not Serving Shark Fin Soup at a Wedding Reception
- Reasons Not to Consume Shark Fin
- Hotel that have Eliminated Shark Fin from their Menus
- Prognosis for the Shark Fin Trade

- Importance of Shark Fin Identification
- Our Culture, Our Food

The following ideas from the presentation were highlighted:

- Stable imports in the 1980's. From 1998 to 2010, the amount of import invoice was one thousand metric tons. In 2010, this amount dropped.
- A survey of consumption habits and attitudes in Hong Kong was taken: occasion of consumption of shark fin soup: wedding, birthday.
- Acceptance of not serving shark fin soup at a wedding: 49% say that is acceptable not to serve it.
- Reasons for not consuming shark fin: environmental concerns (the most important), cost, taste, health concerns, religious beliefs.
- The survey was performed in 2009, and is being done again.
- The Governments of China and Hong Kong prohibit consumption of shark fin soup at official banquets.
- Means of transport: maritime (main), air, other, land

Questions

Question from Belize's Representative: Is it possible to change mentalities and education in Hong Kong? In 5 or 10 years, will they think differently in Hong Kong?

Response: You do not attack the culture, you just increase awareness of sustainability. You do not know whether the culture is going to change or not, but you hope that people understand sustainability. You work with providers as well as consumers, so that they search for sustainable foods.

Question from Chile's Representative: The data you showed on fin exports to Hong Kong seem to show a noticeable drop. How would you explain this? What could it be due to?

Response: You do not really know, you do not have a specific response, it could be partially due to campaigns, hotels that prohibit shark dishes. However, it is also said that this drop has occurred in other countries. In 2014, they performed another survey, more than 56% of people said their consumption was stable. Stock pile: importers are not bringing in as much, waiting to see how the market will behave if additional stock is not imported, if stocks are maintained.

Question from Brazil's Representative: How many tons of fins are imported from Brazil in Hong Kong?

Response: Speaker indicated that this information would be sent.

5.1.12 Close of Day 1. Address on Methodology - Day 2 (Carlos Polo and Gustavo Lara-Colombia)

The discussion was interrupted by Carlos Polo and Gustavo Lara from Colombia, who gave an explanation of the methodology to be used on the second day of the conference.

They explained that there would be two work groups, in which the following topics would be discussed:

- 1) Fin Identification
- 2) NDFs

5.2 Day 2 – November 26, 2014

Participants were divided into the work groups and proceeded to work in two groups. The groups were given four questions to be resolved by group members in addition to the work group's topic, which were:

1. What training instruments have been identified as the greatest need for your region? (i.e., better coordination between authorities, shark and fin identification, personnel training, human resources...) How could these needs be met?
2. What needs does your country have for shark identification, creating a traceability mechanism, and later creating a Non-Detriment Finding?
3. Can you describe an instance of success or failure that authorities in your country have experienced with custody chains or traceability of fishing resources?
4. How can CITES help in the effective implementation of the listing of sharks in CITES, and what would be the most important steps?

5.2.1 Work Group 1. Fin Identification

For the work in group 1, the day was divided into three parts; the first of these, and the group's primary objective, was training in the identification of shark fins, primarily for customs control personnel from the countries fielding participants in this area. The second part consisted of a plenary activity focused on identifying problems and recommendations recognized in these sectors in relation to the control and monitoring of the shark species in CITES Appendix II.

During the last part, the group worked with the questions given to create another discussion time to jointly elaborate the pertinent responses and suggestions. The most important ideas were used as final conclusions.



5.2.1.1 Address 1. Presentation of Shark Identification Guides and the Appropriate Use and Employment (Juan Carlos Cantú, Defenders of Wildlife).

This presentation was started by tackling, in a general fashion, the current situation at the level of fisheries and trade in shark species, which has created a need to include an ever-larger number of species in management and conservation instruments, such as international agreements, regulations from various RFMOs, and other binding instruments, as is the case with CITES. All of this is done with the objective of counteracting current extraction rates for these species and seeking the appropriate sustainable use of the resource. It was stated that, to achieve these monitoring and management procedures, species identification is necessary to achieve extraction values that are as close as possible to reality.

Keeping the preceding in mind, the guide was presented, highlighting the advantages and specifics of same, basic instructions for use and employment, and indicating that this tool was developed by region, creating 4 different brochures:

- Sharks of Mexico and Central America in the Pacific Ocean
- Sharks of Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean
- Sharks of South America in the Pacific Ocean (Image 1)
- Sharks of South America in the Atlantic Ocean

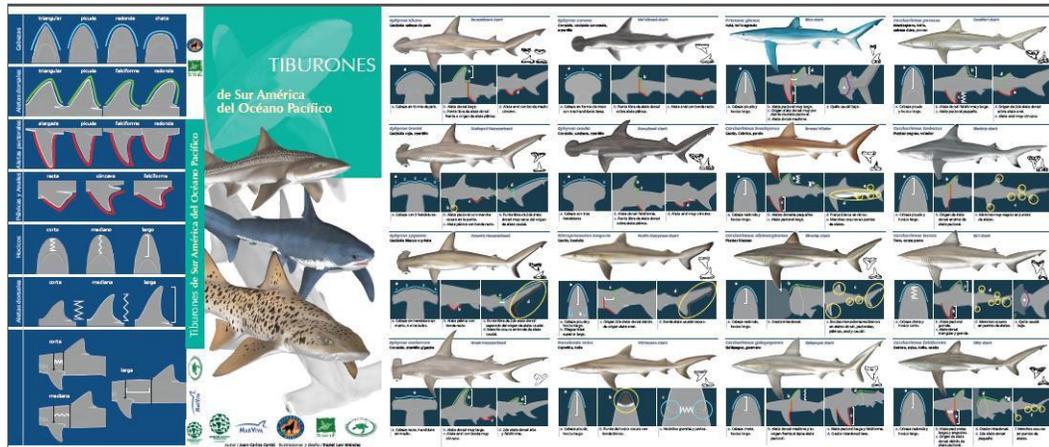


Image 1. Brochure for the identification of sharks presented by *Defenders of Wildlife* (South America, Pacific Ocean Region)

5.2.1.2 Address 2. Presentation of experiences with shark identification near Chile using molecular markers and Presentation of Shark Fin Identification Guide for species recently included in CITES II (Sebastián Hernández, PEW).

This section consisted of two parts; in the first, the speaker presented their experience with shark fin identification through specific molecular markers, which created significant time savings in species identification. Some examples were presented illustrating the challenges and difficulties involved in identifying very similar species within a specific family and how this became even more complicated when only the fins of these species were available. Photographic records of facilities for fin removal in Northern Chile were presented, and how this industry has been growing in recent decades was explained.

The second part of the Discussion focused on the presentation of the Shark Fin Identification Guide, which is focused on identification of species of interest, emphasizing identifying characteristics that allow species recently included in CITES Appendix II to be identified.



Image 2. Brochure for the identification of sharks presented by *Defenders of Wildlife* (South America, Pacific Ocean Region)

5.2.1.3 Address 3. Presentation of a Case of Fin Confiscation in Costa Rica (Randall Arauz, PRETOMA)

An instance of confiscation was presented where, thanks to collaboration with UPS Costa Rica, it was possible to examine a load in which a large number of fins from blue sharks (*Prionace glauca*) and other species, including oceanic white tip shark (*Carcharhinus longimanus*) were found; the sacks weighed approximately 40 kg, and in one of these approximately 230 dried fins from approximately 115 individual silky sharks, 3 hammerhead sharks, and 2 oceanic white tip sharks were found; it was estimated that the entire load would be consistent with the capture of between 4800 and 5000 individuals.

The load was valued at more than 90,000 dollars, and it was noted that the goods were organized very systematically, where they were separated by species and type of fin (pectoral, dorsal, etc., Image 3).



Image 3. Load of shark fins examined in Costa Rica.

5.2.1.4 Address 4. Presentation of IShark_Fin Program (Gustavo Lara, ASOCARS).

The IShark_Fin program, still in development, was presented and explained using practical examples for use and employ as an identification tool in the near future.

The speaker worked with two photos in particular, one of which was a CITES II species (*Sphyrna zyganena*), to demonstrate use and management of the program.

5.2.1.5 Work with Questions Given

In the second part of the work on day two, a discussion on the questions given was held, and the following responses and conclusions were generated:

1. **What training instruments have been identified as the greatest need for your region? (i.e., better coordination between authorities, shark and fin identification, personnel training, human resources...) How could these needs be met?**
 - Application and use of technological tools to digitally manage information. Quality visual material such as photographs to help identify species of interest.
 - For countries that require it, they should be able to get authorization from the CITES focal point in the processing of export processes through tools such as "Single Window," and an electronic CITES should be required, which could be managed using digital formats.
 - Create an electronic mechanism for strengthening, coordinating, and reconciling information between the environmental sector, fishing authorities, and customs authorities within the framework of CITES regulations.
 - Hold periodic meetings to introduce advances in different areas, as a general feedback exercise.

- Train fishermen, fishing authorities, and the pertinent institutions on the subject of importing, exporting, transporting, and trading in shark specimens and their identification.

2. What needs does your country have for shark identification, creating a traceability mechanism, and later creating a Non-Detriment Finding?

- Permanent and systematic updating of information related to trade, transport, fishing activities, use and management of fishing resources.
- Specialized training for the various links that interact in the supply chain.

3. Can you describe an instance of success or failure that authorities in your country have experienced with custody chains or traceability of fishing resources?

- The case of tuna fishing associated with dolphin fishing and the IDCP program (International Dolphin Conservation Program) was raised, where, thanks to reports and notes from fishing observers, a chain of custody from capture was created for species of interest.
- Based on this, the need to strengthen and coordinate with the various RFMOs for monitoring same was proposed.

4. How can CITES help in the effective implementation of the listing of sharks in CITES, and what would be the most important steps?

Providing support and financing for the activities and proposals listed in the previous responses.

5.2.1.6 Conclusions Group 1

- Strengthening alert systems for import and export procedures, to allow identification and monitoring of trade in CITES species.
- Strengthening aspects of traceability through species identification upon unloading through different tools such as forms from entities in the fishing sector.
- Coordinating work with different RFMOs so that monitoring of species information (i.e., for transfers) is made easier through the use of onboard observers' reports.
- Standardizing customs shipments at the regional level to facilitate and contribute to the traceability of CITES species.

- Identifying levels of internal consumption in different countries to strengthen control and monitoring at the level of the species of interest.
- Studying the possibility of creating a system of extraction permits for CITES species through the establishment of quotas, to facilitate the control and monitoring of species of interest.
- Strengthening coordination procedures between customs agents, CITES authorities, and other competent governmental institutions to verify the conditions established in the CITES permit.
- Seeking the help of international entities such as INTERPOL and other pertinent international entities such as UNEP (United Nations Environment Program), WCO (World Customs Organization), WTO (World Trade Organization), and NOAA in areas of control, monitoring, and trade.

5.2.2 Work Group 2. Non-Detriment Findings



A discussion was held based on the questions given; likewise, examples of management and regulatory actions were evaluated to make it easier for participating countries to create non-detriment findings; the management actions taken by Ecuador stand out, and the following Legislative Acts from their legislation were highlighted:

Executive Decree	Article	Description
Executive Decree No. 486, published in Gazette No. 137 of	5	The practice of "finning," defined as the capture of a shark exclusively to extract its fins

July 30, 2007		and discard its body into the sea, is prohibited.
Executive Decree No. 486, published in Gazette No. 137 of July 30, 2007	7	The State of Ecuador permits only the unloading of whole sharks captured as a result of incidental fishing performed by vessels registered with the Sub-Secretariat of Fishing Resources; said unloading must take place at the port authorities, located along the continental coastline, for the purpose of preparing to sell them. Removal of the fins may be done only on land, in the unloading docks located along the continental coastline.
Executive Decree 902		The State of Ecuador establishes as their policy the Conservation & Management of the Shark Resource, through the implementation of PAT-EC (1-02-2008).
Ministerial Agreement 001 of January 7, 2008		Establishes payment for Authorizations for incidental Shark fishing, acting duties for trade and export given by the SRP (Sub-Secretariat of Fishing Resources)

Likewise, a representative from the General Customs Office of Costa Rica presented Resolution RES-DGA- 001-2014, which modifies the codes to include the new species of wild Fauna and Flora, as listed in CITES Appendix II, the following being established for Oceanic White Tip and Hammerhead Sharks:

0302.81.00.10	- - -Tiburón Martillo Sphryna sp. (lewini), Tiburón Punta Blanca Oceánico (Carcharhinus longimanus)
0303.81.00.10	- - - Tiburón Martillo Sphryna sp. (lewini), Tiburón Punta Blanca Oceánico (Carcharhinus longimanus)
0304.59.00.11	- - - - Tiburón Martillo Sphryna sp. (lewini), Tiburón Punta Blanca Oceánico (Carcharhinus longimanus)
0304.99.00.21	- - - - Tiburón Martillo Sphryna sp. (lewini), Tiburón Punta Blanca Oceánico (Carcharhinus longimanus)
0305.71.00.10	- - - Tiburón Martillo Sphryna sp. (lewini), Tiburón Punta Blanca Oceánico (Carcharhinus longimanus)

Mexico's National Fishing Institute presented a case study on the Southern Pacific Hammerhead Shark. In this area, there is artisanal fishing directed at Sharks. The study showed intrinsic biological factor values such as: Average size at sexual maturity (medium-low to medium vulnerability), Average size at which 50% of group reaches maturity (medium to medium-high vulnerability), Longevity (medium to high vulnerability), Maximum Size (medium-high vulnerability), Natural Mortality Rate (medium-high vulnerability), Fertility (high vulnerability), Reproduction Rate (medium vulnerability), Geographical Distribution

(medium vulnerability), Habitat Vulnerability (high vulnerability); demonstrating the high impact on hammerhead sharks in the area. The study also analyzed other factors, such as conservation measures, fishing pressure on the species, pressure from trade activities, and existing management measures.

The Fish and Wildlife Service with the United States Department of the Interior presented a memorandum from the General Guide for the export and introduction from the sea of the Shark *Lamna nasus*, exploited during commercial fishing activity by United States fishermen in the 2014 season. This memorandum showed that activities involving the extraction, capture, export, and trade of the Shark *Lamna nasus* did not cause detriment to the survival of the species, and that these activities were in compliance with management plans made for the species.



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Washington, D.C. 20240



MEMORANDUM

AUG 05 2014

To: Chief, Division of Management Authority

From: Chief, Division of Scientific Authority *Rosemarie Fran*

Subject: General advice for the export and introduction from the sea of wild porbeagle shark (*Lamna nasus*) harvested in the commercial fishery by U.S. fisherman in the 2014 harvest season, opening on January 1, 2014.

Advice: The Division of Scientific Authority (DSA) finds that the export and introduction from the sea of wild porbeagle shark harvested by U.S. fisherman in the 2014 harvest season is not detrimental to the survival of the species, provided that the harvest is in compliance with U.S. management plans in place for the species.

We will review and re-issue a general advice for porbeagle shark annually, in an effort to be responsive to new data and information that may become available.

Questions Given:

1. **What training instruments have been identified as the greatest need for your region? (i.e., better coordination between authorities, shark and fin identification, personnel training, human resources...) How could these needs be met?**
2. **What needs does your country have for shark identification, creating a traceability mechanism, and later creating a Non-Detriment Finding?**

Chile: has worked on species identification training with onboard observers, fishing inspectors, feels that other actors require training as well (users, etc.). Identification guides suitable for field use are required, such as the guides

developed and distributed by Defenders of Wildlife, but the recommendation is that each country develop these guides with species of national interest. Has a functional fishing statistics record system at the species level.

Brazil: i. Training in species and fin identification for scientific personnel and general personnel related to the shark resource, tailored to different users. ii. Needs to reactivate fishing statistics and improve same (making the records by species). iii. Traceability – there are some mechanisms but others need to be created that complete the traceability chain from capture to export. iv. Scientific studies on the areas of growth, movements, things that support the establishment of protected areas for vulnerable periods of life and processes.

Ecuador: Need for inter-institutional cooperation at the national level. Has biological information generated from fishing data. Has processes and materials for training in species identification for personnel responsible for data generation. Identified the need to create a procedures manual for topics related to the export of shark products, and a consolidated manual for all actors involved in the process. One idea is to create the NDF within the framework of the CPPS, or at least to include the topic within the CPPS action framework. Work is required on the creation of specific customs codes for fins by species.

Colombia: Lacks cooperation between management, research, and other entities. Lacks training for all actors related to shark management and trade. Needs guarantees on the continuity of fishing monitoring programs and unification of data in a single national management system (the system exists, but has not been completely implemented). Needs to split and specify customs codes, making them specific to different products and species.

Venezuela: Fishing statistics have been reported up to now as shark resource, without specifying the species; needs training processes for species identification at all levels, as well as fin identification training processes. Identified the need for procedures manuals for customs authorities, not specific to sharks, but for CITES species in general; the creation of these manuals is a priority. Needs mechanisms that allow them to speed up processes. Needs scientific studies on the biological and ecological aspects of populations, in addition to data from fisheries, for a proper evaluation of population status.

Peru: Has unloading information by species, but only since 1997, and at a few ports only on the coast. Fin export information is provided at a general level, not by species, with ambiguous codes. Needs constant training on shark topics for all actors related to shark management. Personnel is insufficient.

Argentina: Has a body of onboard observers, but needs training for agents monitoring unloading.

Summary of Important Aspects:

- Training in species and fin recognition: permits quality and precision of data to be improved, as well as traceability mechanisms for trade
- Inter-institutional cooperation – information flow for creation of NDFs
- Procedures manual for traceability that is useful for all actors involved in the supply chain (from capture to export) – appropriate knowledge and management of procedures involved in species trade
- Customs codes: need to create specific codes for shark species and products.

3. How can CITES help in the effective implementation of the listing of sharks in CITES, and what would be the most important steps?

- Creating a CITES site to share information related to CITES species, especially scientific information that could be used for evaluations and the creation of NDFs.
- An important step for implementation is doing population evaluations that allow quotas to be defined. – CITES could help in cooperation with FAO (and maybe with other conventions) to create projects that result in stock evaluations, as well as research on aspects of biology and ecology for CITES shark species.
- The issuance of conditional NDFs is a window of opportunity for obtaining information.
- Specific training workshops on use of the NDF guide, with practical exercises that allow everyone to understand step-by-step use of the guide.
- Training on CITES trade database management so that countries have the ability to understand and manage that data.

5.3 Day 3 – November 27, 2014

The reports from the two work groups were presented, which included responses to the questions given and conclusions from the topics discussed.

5.3.1 Address 1. Group 1 Report - Shark Fin Identification (Tarsis Alcantara - Dominican Republic)

The results from the questions given were presented and are shown below:

➤ **What training instruments have been identified as the greatest need for your region? (i.e., better coordination between authorities, shark and fin identification, personnel training, human resources...) How could these needs be met?**

- Application and use of technological tools to digitally manage information. Quality visual material such as photographs to help identify species of interest.
- For countries that require it, they should be able to get authorization from the CITES focal point in the processing of export processes through tools such as "Single Window," and an electronic CITES should be required, which could be managed using digital formats.
- Create an electronic mechanism for strengthening, coordinating, and reconciling information between the environmental sector, fishing authorities, and customs authorities within the framework of CITES regulations.
- Hold periodic meetings to introduce advances in different areas, as a general feedback exercise.
- Train fishermen, fishing authorities, and the pertinent institutions on the subject of importing, exporting, transporting, and trading in shark specimens and their identification.

➤ **What needs does your country have for shark identification, creating a traceability mechanism, and later creating a Non-Detriment Finding?**

- Permanent and systematic updating of information related to trade, transport, fishing activities, use and management of fishing resources.
- Specialized training for the various links that interact in the supply chain.

➤ **Can you describe an instance of success or failure that authorities in your country have experienced with custody chains or traceability of fishing resources?**

- The case of tuna fishing associated with dolphin fishing and the IDCP program was raised, where, thanks to reports and notes from fishing observers, a chain of custody from capture was created for species of interest.
- Based on this, the need to strengthen and coordinate with the various RFMOs for monitoring same was proposed.

➤ **How can CITES help in the effective implementation of the listing of sharks in CITES, and what would be the most important steps?**

- Providing support and financing for the activities and proposals listed in the previous responses.

✓ **Conclusions Group 1:**

- Strengthening alert systems for import and export procedures, to allow identification and monitoring of trade in CITES species.
- Strengthening aspects of traceability through species identification upon unloading through different tools such as forms from entities in the fishing sector.
- Coordinating work with different RFMOs so that monitoring of species information (i.e., for transfers) is made easier through the use of onboard observers' reports.
- Standardizing customs shipments at the regional level to facilitate and contribute to the traceability of CITES species.
- Identifying levels of internal consumption in different countries to strengthen monitoring and follow up at the level of the species of interest.
- Studying the possibility of creating a system of extraction permits for CITES species through the establishment of quotas, to facilitate the control and monitoring of species of interest.
- Strengthening coordination procedures between customs agents, CITES authorities, and other competent governmental institutions to verify the conditions established in the CITES permit.
- Seeking the help of international entities such as INTERPOL and other pertinent international entities such as UNEP, WCO, WTO, and NOAA in areas of control, monitoring, and trade.

5.3.2 Address 2. Group 2 Report – Non-Detriment Findings (Carlos Polo - Colombia)

The results obtained on the second day of the conference from group 2 were presented, and the topics covered and conclusions from same appear below:

Collecting Information

- Create the identification and training tools necessary to supply specific information for each species (in fishing and trade)
- Continue standardization and collection of information through authorized Biological Sample and inspection and unloading (FID, as abbreviated in Spanish) forms, as this constitutes one of the main tools for the review and updating of NDFs.
- Creation of a procedures manual for traceability that is useful for all actors involved in the supply chain (from capture to export) –

appropriate knowledge and management of procedures involved in species trade.

Management and Control Measures

- Continue with preparation and implementation of National and Regional Action Plans for the management and conservation of sharks in the Central American isthmus that include action lines for the monitoring and management of the species. This should be the main tool for creating NDFs.
- Strengthen regulation and control mechanisms throughout the supply chain (from origin to export) for shark species listed in CITES.
- The need for implementing additional regulation and management measures for the capture and trade of infant and juvenile sharks.
- Encourage better coordination and communication between government organizations (fishing, metropolitan areas, and SAs, CITES Customs Agents); Codified Agreements (for example, MOU) for the designation of points of contact within agencies and departments.
- Nationally, countries should coordinate the revision of customs and health codes for the Shark species and products listed between institutions. Likewise, coordinating and facilitating the flow of information for the creation of NDFs.
- Improvements in control and monitoring strategies in seas, maritime ports, air, and trade points (imports and exports).
- Request that the FAO consider using a minimum shark fin length as a management tool.

Participation, Training, and Support Areas

- Continue promoting the exchange of experiences and information about NDF creation processes (Mexico and USA).
- The support that the CITES Secretariat can generate, headquartered in Geneva, cooperative and technical assistance agencies from the United States (DOI-FWS-NOAA) and NGOs focusing on the priorities and method defined for the region in the process that has been implemented for creating NDFs.
- Training on species and sub-product (meat and fins) recognition for the species listed, which allows the quality and precision of data to be improved, as well as traceability mechanisms for trade.
- Provide technical assistance in the creation of National Shark Action Plans, as well as in methodologies for ecological risk and stock evaluations.
- Promote the use of the German NDF guide as a useful tool; likewise, inform the FAO of this NDF tool and encourage its use in training development.

5.3.3 Closing Address (Elizabeth Taylor, Director of Marine and Coastal Affairs and Aquatic Resources, MADS)

The speaker thanked conference participants, international visitors, and national representatives (a total of 72 people) in the name of the Government of Colombia.

The speaker began by giving a special thank you to the CITES Secretariat and their representative, David Morgan, Manager of the convention's Scientific Services Team, for their unconditional support in the preparation and development of this conference. She likewise thanked the United States Government, Pew, Defenders of Wildlife, Humane Society, and Conservation International Colombia for their financial and technical support of this conference. She thanked the representatives from fishing, customs, environmental, and research authorities from the various countries: Germany, Spain, China, Indonesia, United States, Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Antigua and Barbuda, Granada, Dominican Republic, Cuba, Belize, Honduras, Costa Rica, Panama, Venezuela, Suriname, Brazil, Ecuador, Peru, Chile, Uruguay, Argentina, and Colombia.

She stated that when they were in Thailand raising and defending these proposals, they left feeling rather optimistic about COP 16, having at the time only a preliminary idea of what implementing these measures would mean. She added that today it can be said with certainty that implementing these measures will require a lot of effort, dedication, and commitment from all CITES parties, and that the reality is that success would not be possible without inter-institutional coordination and willing collaboration between all countries, and that this is one of the mechanisms that can be used to strengthen alliances. This conference is the continuation of the efforts by many countries and organizations to strengthen the abilities of everyone involved to demonstrate that the implementation of the CITES sharks regulations included in Appendix II last year is in fact possible.

She stated that during the three days of the conference, various countries presented their experiences with conservation, trade, and Non-Detriment Findings for the Shark species listed in Appendix II. Likewise, work tables were held where species identification was performed using fins, and experiences and/or case studies were analyzed during the Non-Detriment Findings procedures performed.

She highlighted some of the conclusions from the work tables, such as:

- The need to standardize customs shipments at the regional level to facilitate and contribute to the traceability of CITES species.
- Identifying levels of internal consumption within different countries to strengthen the control and monitoring of species of interest.
- Continuing the creation and implementation of national, regional, and international strategies for the management and conservation of sharks, including action lines and

serving as the main tool for the creation of Non-Detriment Findings.

- Continue promoting the exchange of experiences and information on NDF creation processes and training on species and sub-product (meat and fins) recognition for the species listed, which allows the quality and precision of data to be improved, as well as traceability mechanisms for trade.

In closing the conference, she reflected that there is a long road to travel, and admonished everyone not to let their guard down when they returned home, to continue working hard with the strong commitment evident in everyone present, to continue using knowledge to create teaching experiences in others and expand the network of people on the planet who show concern, and especially, do something for the sustainability of living species, including the human race.

She invited those interested to attend the CITES conference on the Queen Conch, "*Strombus gigas*," to be held on San Andrés Island in February 2015.

She thanked Irotama Resort, the work team from Colombia, translators, and participants.



6. List of Participants

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COUNTRY	NAME	POSITION	E-MAIL
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Photographic Record





