



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Silver Spring, MD 20910

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To whom it may concern:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of new import and export requirements for porbeagle shark (*Lamna nasus*) and scalloped hammerhead shark (*Sphyrna lewini*) products beginning September 25, 2012.

The Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) issued a notification on June 27, 2012 informing CITES Parties that several Member States of the European Union requested the inclusion of porbeagle shark (*Lamna nasus*) in Appendix III. The notification also informs CITES Parties that Costa Rica has requested the CITES Secretariat include scalloped hammerhead shark (*Sphyrna lewini*) in Appendix III. The notification can be found at <http://www.cites.org/eng/notif/2012/E044.pdf>.

CITES is an international treaty to prevent species from becoming endangered or extinct because of international trade. Under this treaty, countries (referred to as Parties) work together to regulate the international trade of animal and plant species and ensure that this trade is not detrimental to the survival of wild populations.

CITES Appendix III includes species protected by a CITES Party that has requested assistance from other CITES Parties to control and monitor international trade of the species. Any CITES Party may add a native species to Appendix III unilaterally, provided that the Party has domestic laws to protect the species. In accordance with the Convention, inclusion of these species in Appendix III shall take effect 90 days after the notification, on September 25, 2012.

To lawfully export a specimen of an Appendix III species, the Party that included the species in Appendix III must issue a CITES export permit. If a country other than the country that listed the species in Appendix III, such as the United States, exports that specimen, it must issue a **CITES certificate of origin** stating that the specimen originated from its country. Beginning September 25, 2012, export of U.S.-origin *Lamna nasus* and *Sphyrna lewini* specimens from the United States will require a CITES certificate of origin from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). In the case of re-export of an Appendix-III specimen, a **CITES re-export certificate** issued by the country of re-export is required.

Due to the CITES listing, these species will no longer be exempt from requirements for importation, exportation, and transportation of wildlife under 50 CFR Part 14 and must be declared to and receive clearance from FWS prior to release by U.S. Customs and Border Protection upon import or prior to export. Importers and exporters of these species are also required to obtain an import/export license from FWS.



Information for commercial importers and exporters of wildlife and wildlife products is available at <http://www.fws.gov/le/ImpExp/CommWildlifeImportExport.htm>, including information on how to obtain an import/export license, designated ports for wildlife, declaration requirements, and user fees. Please contact the FWS Office of Law Enforcement (<http://www.fws.gov/le/ContactUs.cfm>) for any additional information about clearance procedures at ports of entry and exit. You may visit <http://www.fws.gov/international/permits/how-to-apply.html> or contact the FWS Division of Management Authority (<http://www.fws.gov/international/contact-us.html>) for information about obtaining a CITES certificate of origin or re-export certificate.

Sincerely,



Angela Somma
Chief, Endangered Species Division
National Marine Fisheries Service