

Science, Service, Stewardship



17th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)

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HMS Advisory Panel Meeting

September 8, 2016

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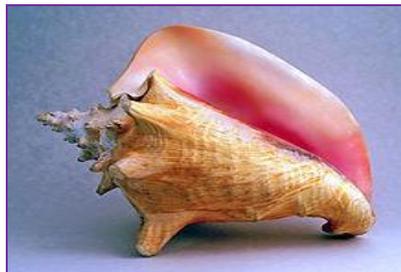
CITES Background

- **US Fish and Wildlife Service is lead agency**
 - **NOAA Fisheries provides guidance on marine species**
- **Goal is to regulate international trade of species of animals and plants to ensure that commercial demand and international trade do not threaten their survival in the wild**
- **Basis for listing: biological status, management, role of international trade**



Species are Listed in one of Three CITES Appendices

- Addition of a species to Appendix I or Appendix II requires a 2/3 majority vote of the Parties
- Addition of a species to Appendix III is a unilateral decision by the listing country





CITES Appendices

- **Appendix I:**
 - **Species threatened with extinction under CITES criteria**
 - **International commercial trade prohibited**
- **Appendix II:**
 - **Species vulnerable to overexploitation, but not at risk of extinction**
 - **International trade and harvest on the high seas is permitted and tracked; it is NOT prohibited**
 - **Export permit requires findings that species was legally acquired and harvest is not-detrimental**



17th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (CoP17)



- **Sept. 24 – Oct. 5, 2016 in Johannesburg, South Africa**
- **Several marine species proposals will be considered:**
 - ***Mobula* spp. (devil rays) – Appendix II**
 - **Silky shark – Appendix II**
 - ***Alopias* spp. (thresher sharks) – Appendix II**
 - **Bigeye thresher shark proposed for inclusion due to decline**
 - **Common & pelagic threshers proposed for inclusion since specimens in trade are similar in appearance to those of bigeye thresher**

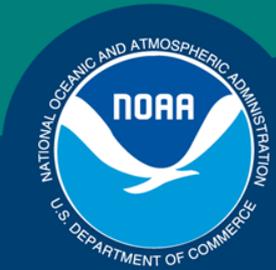


U.S. Positions on Marine Species Proposals

- ***Mobula* spp.** – U.S. will support (co-proponent)
- **Silky shark** – U.S. will tentatively support
- ***Alopias* spp.** – U.S. will tentatively support



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Thank you

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