

Science, Service, Stewardship



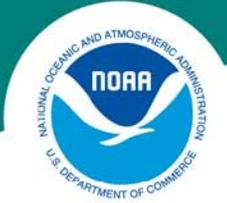
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)

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NOAA Fisheries Office of Protected Resources**

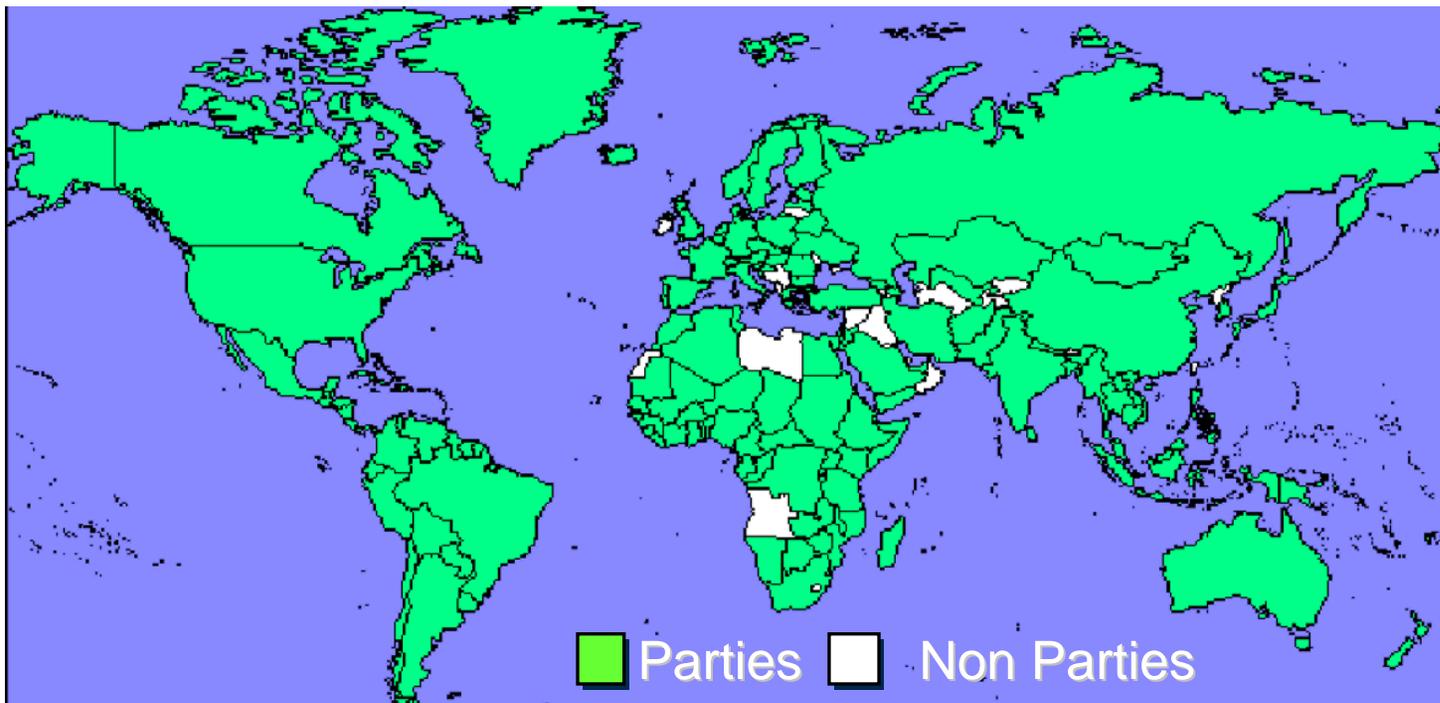
**HMS Advisory Panel Meeting
September 11, 2009**

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CITES Background

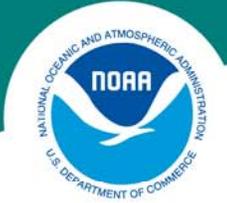
- Approximately 175 Parties
- Meet approximately every 2 years





CITES Background

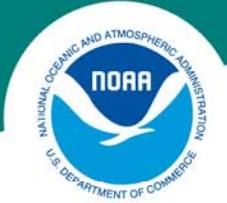
- US Fish and Wildlife Service is lead agency
 - NOAA Fisheries coordinates marine species
- Goal is to regulate international trade of species of animals and plants to ensure that commercial demand and international trade do not threaten their survival in the wild
- Basis for listing: biological status,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



CITES Background

- **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**
 - **Export permit requires findings that species was legally acquired and harvest is sustainable**



Timeline of Key Events

- Fall 2008: FWS requested information and recommendations on U.S. species proposals for 15th Meeting of Parties (CoP15)
 - FWS received hundreds of comments
- July 13 – Sept. 11, 2009: FWS solicited public comments on recommended U.S. species proposals for CoP15
- July – September 2009: Range state consultations on potential proposals
- September 15, 2009: Deadline for NOAA to submit proposals for interagency review and clearance



Timeline of Key Events

- October 14, 2009: Deadline for all member countries to submit U.S. species proposals and decisions to CITES Secretariat
- November 9-15, 2009: ICCAT Annual Meeting
- March 13-25 2010: CoP15 in Doha, Qatar



Public Recommendations for U.S.-Sponsored Proposals

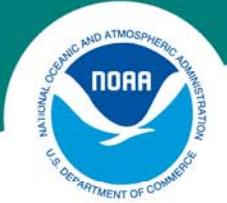
Sharks:

- Hammerheads
 - Requiem sharks
 - Tope shark
 - Shortfin and longfin mako sharks
 - Porbeagle shark
 - Spiny dogfish
 - ***NGO Recommendation: U.S. propose Appendix II listing***
- * **U.S. Government soliciting input on proposals to submit through September 11, 2009**



Public Recommendation for U.S.-Sponsored Proposals

- NOAA Fisheries regulates sharks domestically
- U.S. Government currently undecided on shark species
- U.S. Government soliciting information on:
 - Hammerheads (great, scalloped, and smooth)
 - Requiem sharks (sandbar, dusky, oceanic whitetip)
- International fin trade may be driving decline of these species



Other Country Proposals

Spiny Dogfish and Porbeagle

- May be proposed by Germany (on behalf of EU) for Appendix II
- Eastern Atlantic stocks poorly managed
- U.S. importers and exporters would be affected
- Proposed at last CoP



Other Country Proposals

North Atlantic Bluefin Tuna

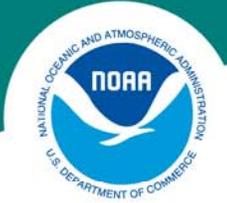
- May be proposed by Monaco for Appendix I
- Domestic trade permitted for bluefin tuna harvested within a nation's territorial seas and EEZ
- Commercial trade of bluefin harvested on the high seas would be prohibited



Inaccurate CITES Myths

- **Misconception:** Marine fish species listed in CITES Appendix I cannot be sold domestically within the U.S.
- **Truth:** *CITES Appendix I species that are harvested within U.S. waters may be sold domestically with appropriate documentation*

- **Misconception:** Marine fish species listed in CITES Appendix I cannot be harvested recreationally
- **Truth:** *CITES Appendix I species can be harvested by recreational fishermen in accordance with applicable law and regulations*



Inaccurate CITES Myths

- **Misconception:** Monaco proposal would ban trade of all tunas
- **Truth:** *The draft Monaco proposal does not contain a prohibition on look-alike species; for CITES to impose a ban on similar species, the proposal would have to identify look-alike species*
- **Misconception:** Trade of bluefin tuna within the EU market would not be affected by a listing in Appendix I
- **Truth:** *Due to EU CITES-implementing regulations, EU domestic trade would likely be restricted*



Inaccurate CITES Myths

- **Misconception:** CITES Appendix II is a ban on trade
- **Truth:** *CITES Appendix II does not ban trade; CITES Appendix II supports sustainable trade*

- **Misconception:** CITES Appendix II is a list of species that are prohibited in international trade
- **Truth:** *CITES Appendix-II species may be traded internationally if accompanied by appropriate permits*

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Questions?

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