

Science, Service, Stewardship



Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)

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HMS Advisory Panel Meeting

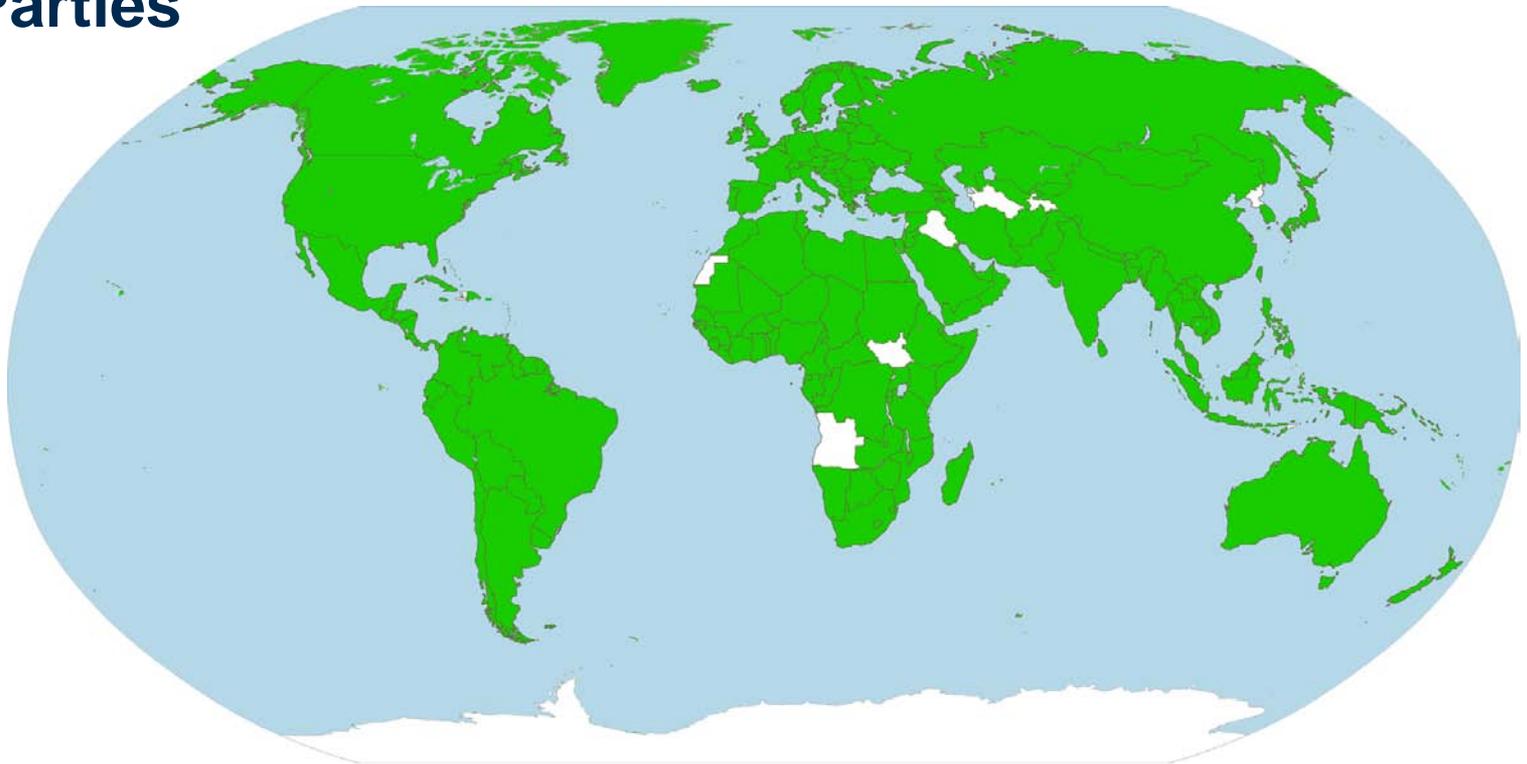
September 20, 2012

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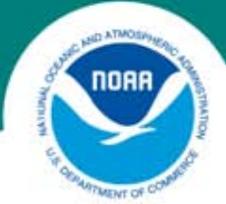


CITES Background

- **176 Parties**



 Parties  Non Parties



CITES Background

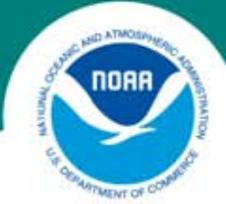
- **US Fish and Wildlife Service is lead agency**
 - **NOAA Fisheries provides guidance on marine species**
- **Goal is to regulate international trade of species of animals and plants to ensure that commercial demand and international trade do not threaten their survival in the wild**
- **Basis for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

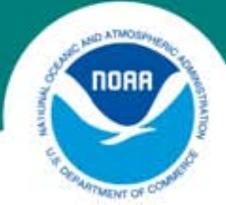
- **Appendix I:**
 - **Species threatened with extinction under CITES criteria**
 - **International commercial trade prohibited**
- **Appendix II:**
 - **Species vulnerable to overexploitation, but not at risk of extinction**
 - **International trade and harvest on the high seas is permitted and tracked**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



CITES Appendices

Appendix III:

- **Contains species protected in a country which has asked other CITES Parties for assistance in controlling the trade**
- **Assists country with implementation of its domestic laws**
- **Two shark species have been added to Appendix III effective Sept. 25, 2012:**
 - **Porbeagle – EU**
 - **Scalloped hammerhead shark – Costa Rica**
- **CITES documents will be required for these species**

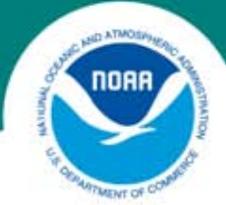


CITES Implementation

CITES Parties meet every 2-3 years to:

- **Review how the treaty is working**
- **Resolve policy issues**
- **Amend lists of protected species**
- **Work together to ensure wildlife trade is carried out in accordance with the Treaty**





Benefits of CITES

- **Establishes a legal framework to regulate international trade and prevent overexploitation**
- **Promotes cooperation since countries share responsibility to ensure trade is sustainable**
- **Promotes projects to assess population status of species in trade and effect of international trade**



Timeline of Key Events Before Next CITES Meeting

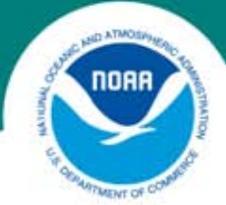
- **June 2011: FWS requested recommendations on U.S. species proposals for 16th Meeting of Parties (CoP16)**
- **April 2012 – June 2012: FWS solicited public comments on recommended U.S. species proposals for CoP16**
- **July 2012: Range state consultations were sent seeking information on hammerhead and oceanic whitetip sharks**
- **October 4, 2012: Deadline for all member countries to submit species proposals and decisions to CITES Secretariat**
- **March 3-14, 2013: CoP16 in Bangkok, Thailand**



Potential U.S. Marine Proposals

U.S. May Propose:

- **Oceanic whitetip shark – Appendix II**
- **International fin trade driving decline**
- **Recent studies show further decline in the Pacific and Indian oceans**
- **US offered proposal to list species at last CITES meeting**
- **CITES listing would complement RFMO measures in place**
- **Identifiable fins in trade**



Potential U.S. Co-Sponsored Proposals

Hammerhead sharks (scalloped, great, smooth)

- **Expect to be proposed by Honduras/Costa Rica/Brazil for Appendix II**
- **International fin trade driving decline; recent data point to greater need for conservation**
- **US offered proposal to list species at last CITES meeting**
- **CITES listing would complement ICCAT measure; lack of global management measures**
- **Identification guides are available to assist implementation**



Other Country Proposals

Porbeagle shark

- **Expect to be proposed by EU (on behalf of Germany) for Appendix II**
- **Eastern Atlantic stocks poorly managed**
- **U.S. importers and exporters would be affected**
- **Proposed at last two CITES meetings**
- **US supported proposal and will support at CoP16**
- **One vote short of passage at last CITES meeting**



Other Country Proposals

Freshwater sawfish

- **May be proposed by Australia for uplisting in Appendix I**
- **All other sawfish species are already in Appendix I**
- **US successfully proposed sawfish species for listing at CoP14**
- **US will support proposal at CoP16**



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Thank you

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