

The United States Fish & Wildlife Service  
*International Affairs*



**CITES**



CITES = Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

Agreement among governments, entered into force July 1, 1975

Currently, 183 countries and the EU are Parties to CITES

The purpose of CITES is to regulate the international trade in wild fauna and flora to ensure that it is legal and biologically sustainable



# IMPLEMENTATION OF CITES

- THE PURPOSE OF CITES IS TO ENSURE THAT INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN WILD FAUNA AND FLORA IS LEGAL AND **SUSTAINABLE**.



## Misconceptions about CITES

- *CITES regulates domestic trade*

With some exceptions, CITES addresses only international trade

- *The CITES Appendices are a listing of the world's endangered species*

The CITES Appendices include species that are or may be affected by international trade



# How CITES Works:

## The Appendices



Appendix I (about 1,000 spp.):

- Species threatened with extinction
- No commercial trade
- Requires both an import permit and an export permit

Appendix II (about 30,000 spp.):

- Species vulnerable to overexploitation but not at risk of extinction
- Commercial and non-commercial trade allowed
- Permits/certificates required for export, but not for import



Appendix III (about 300 spp.):

- Purpose is to address legal origin, not sustainability
- Species protected by at least one country that has requested assistance to help regulate trade
- Can be listed unilaterally, at any time



## How CITES works

CITES regulates the export, re-export, and import, and introduction from the sea, of live and dead animals and plants, and their parts and derivatives, of species listed in its Appendices.

International trade is regulated based on a system of permits and certificates that:

- are only issued if certain conditions are met;
- must be presented when leaving or entering a country



**CITES** Permits are issued when two findings are made as required by the Treaty:

- THE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY MAKES A **LEGAL ACQUISITION FINDING** THAT THE SPECIMENS TO BE EXPORTED WERE LEGALLY ACQUIRED IN ACCORDANCE WITH NATIONAL LAWS;

**AND**

- THE SCIENTIFIC AUTHORITY MAKES A **NON-DETRIMENT FINDING**. A NON-DETRIMENT FINDING (NDF) IS A CONCLUSION BY A SCIENTIFIC AUTHORITY THAT THE EXPORT OF SPECIMENS OF A PARTICULAR SPECIES WILL NOT IMPACT NEGATIVELY ON THE SURVIVAL OF THAT SPECIES IN THE WILD.





# CITES COP19 PROPOSALS – SHARKS



- **REQUIEM SHARKS (*CARCHARHINIDAE SPP.*):** INCLUDE IN APPENDIX II. PROPOSONENTS: BANGLADESH, COLOMBIA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, ECUADOR, EL SALVADOR, EUROPEAN UNION, GABON, ISRAEL, MALDIVES, PANAMA, SENEGAL, SEYCHELLES, SRI LANKA, SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC, UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND. **OUTCOME:** VOTE HELD WITH AMENDMENT BY PANAMA FOR 12 MONTH DELAY IN IMPLEMENTATION. YES – 88 NO – 29 ABSTAIN – 17 U.S. VOTE = YES **OUTCOME:** PROPOSAL ADOPTED WITH THE NEEDED TWO-THIRDS OF PARTIES VOTING TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL WITH NOTE IN SUMMARY RECORD ON JAPAN’S CONCERN. (EFFECTIVE DATE - NOV. 25, 2023)
- **HAMMERHEAD SHARKS (*SPHYRNIDAE SPP.*):** INCLUDE IN APPENDIX II: PROPOSONENTS: BRAZIL, COLOMBIA, ECUADOR, EUROPEAN UNION, PANAMA. THE UNITED STATES SUPPORTED THE PROPOSAL TO INCLUDE THE BONNETHEAD (*SPHYRNA TIBURO*) IN CITES APPENDIX II AND THE REMAINING SPECIES IN THE FAMILY SPHYRNIDAE DUE TO THEIR SIMILARITY IN APPEARANCE TO THE SPHYRNIDS THAT ARE CURRENTLY INCLUDED IN APPENDIX II. **OUTCOME:** ADOPTED BY CONSENSUS. (EFFECTIVE DATE - FEB. 23, 2023)
- **GUITARFISHES (*RHINOBATIDAE SPP.*):** INCLUDE IN APPENDIX II. PROPOSONENTS: ISRAEL, KENYA, PANAMA. **OUTCOME:** VOTE HELD . YES – 101 NO – 14 ABSTAIN – 13. U.S. VOTE = YES. PROPOSAL ADOPTED WITH THE NEEDED TWO-THIRDS OF PARTIES VOTING TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL. (EFFECTIVE DATE -FEB. 23, 2023)





## CONTACTS:

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**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION.**

