

TRAFFIC Recommendations on the Proposals to Amend the CITES Appendices at the 16th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties

Proposal #/ Proponent	Species covered by the proposal	Proposal	RECOMMENDATION
<p># 43</p> <p>Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark*, Ecuador, Honduras and Mexico</p>	<p><i>Sphyrna lewini</i>, <i>S. mokarran</i> and <i>S. zygaena</i> Scalloped Hammerhead Shark, Great Hammerhead Shark and Smooth Hammerhead Shark</p>	<p>Inclusion in Appendix II with the following annotation: The entry into effect of the inclusion of these species in CITES Appendix II will be delayed by 18 months to enable Parties to resolve the related technical and administrative issues</p>	<p>The Scalloped Hammerhead Shark <i>Sphyrna lewini</i>, Great Hammerhead Shark <i>S. mokarran</i> and Smooth Hammerhead Shark <i>S. zygaena</i> are species inherently vulnerable to over-exploitation. In addition to catches of adults, newborn and juveniles are captured in nursery zones throughout most of their ranges and their aggregatory behaviour permits greater targeting by fisheries. All three are targeted due to the strong demand and high value of their fins. They are also caught as a secondary catch in other fisheries, with both their fins and meat entering international trade.</p> <p>Hammerhead shark fins, while difficult to distinguish at the species level, as a whole are reported to be distinctive from those of other sharks and identifiable by non-specialists through the use of available identification guides. While some countries and Regional Fisheries Management Organizations have established regulations on the catch or finning of sharks, it is not clear how effective the implementation of these measures is or their measurable conservation benefit. Regulations will also need to deal with mitigation and avoidance of catch as these experience high at-vessel mortality with limited post-release survivorship.</p> <p>Only the Scalloped Hammerhead is proposed for listing under <i>Resolution Conf. (Rev. CoP15) Annex 2a Criterion A</i>, but it appears that all three species meet the decline criteria for Appendix II, with regulation required to ensure they do not become eligible for inclusion in Appendix I. Some populations appear already to meet the decline criteria for inclusion in Appendix I.</p> <p>The Great Hammerhead and Smooth Hammerhead are proposed for listing owing to look-alike issues as the fins of all three species are often traded with no sorting. Based on this and the difficulty of distinguishing the fins of the three species from each other, the Great Hammerhead and Smooth Hammerhead meet the criteria for inclusion in Appendix II (<i>Resolution Conf. (Rev. CoP15) Annex 2 b criterion A</i>). However, similar problems in distinguishing specimens in trade at the species level occur with other species of the Sphyrnidae Family not listed in CITES.</p> <p>It is recommended that a Decision of the Parties at CoP16 directs the Animals Committee to examine the merits of listing other species of Hammerhead sharks due to the difficulties in discerning the species in trade and therefore qualifying for inclusion in Appendix II for look-alike reasons (<i>Resolution Conf. (Rev. CoP15) Annex 2b Criterion A</i>). This could include species such as Winghead Shark <i>Eusphyrna blochii</i>, Mallethead Shark <i>Sphyrna corona</i>, Scoophead Shark <i>Sphyrna media</i>, Bonnethead Shark <i>Sphyrna tiburo</i> and Smalleye Hammerhead <i>Sphyrna tudes</i>.</p> <p>ACCEPT.</p>