

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
# 46 Brazil, Colombia and Ecuador	<i>Manta</i> spp. [NB the proponents place this genus in the family Mobulidae, but this is not in accordance with the standard nomenclatural reference adopted by the Conference of the Parties] Manta rays	Inclusion in Appendix II	<p>Manta rays, Genus <i>Manta</i>, are slow growing with low productivity making them particularly susceptible to over-exploitation. Manta rays also congregate at well-known aggregation sites and follow migratory pathways which allows for greater targeting of the species. Manta species are targeted predominantly for their highly valued gill plates which are traded internationally and also retained as valuable secondary catch for meat and skins. While there is limited catch and trade information available at the species level, there are indications of declines in sub-populations. The species appear to meet the criteria for inclusion in Appendix II in that regulation of trade may be required to ensure that harvest from the wild is not reducing the population to a level at which its survival might be threatened by harvesting or other influences (<i>Resolution Conf. (Rev. CoP15) Annex 2a Criterion B</i>).</p> <p>Manta gill plates are also traded under common trade names and in amalgamated shipments with those of Mobula Rays <i>Mobula</i> spp., which like manta rays are from the family Mobulidae. While there are guides that may assist non-specialists in identifying manta ray gill plates, implementation of the listing would require attention due to the nature of the products of the two genera being combined in trade.</p> <p>It is recommend that a Decision of the Parties at CoP16 directing the Animals Committee to examine the merits of listing other Devil Rays from the Family Mobulidae in the Appendices, including the listing of the Mobula Rays <i>Mobula</i> spp., due to the difficulties in distinguishing their traded gill plates from those of Manta Rays.</p> <p>ACCEPT</p>