

**CoP17 Prop 42. [Bahamas, Bangladesh, Benin, Brazil, Burkina Faso, the Comoros, the Dominican Republic, Egypt, the European Union, Fiji, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Maldives, Mauritania, Palau, Panama, Samoa, Senegal, Sri Lanka and Ukraine] Inclusion of Silky Shark *Carcharhinus falciformis* in Appendix II**

The Silky Shark *Carcharhinus falciformis* is a low productivity species with a global distribution in coastal and oceanic waters. It is widely caught, mainly as secondary catch in longline and purse seine tuna fisheries. Retention of catch is mainly to supply the shark fin trade and also for its meat. There is evidence of declines, some marked, in much of its range, attributed to overharvest, although there is a general lack of reliable data to confirm their extent. It would appear that the Silky Shark meets the criteria for inclusion in Appendix II in Annex 2a of Res. Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP16), as regulation of harvest for trade is required to ensure that the species is not reducing the population to a level at which it becomes threatened.

While some countries and Regional Fisheries Management Organizations have established regulations on the catch or finning of sharks, including banning the retention of Silky Sharks, the effectiveness and measurable conservation benefit of these measures is unclear. In RFMOs and countries which have banned the retention of Silky Shark, the species are still caught and suffer high mortality rates- as high as 80% in purse seine fisheries.

An Appendix II listing for the species would provide a much-needed platform for international co-operation to address unsustainable trade. It should also result in improved monitoring and reporting of catches in trade which would support the ability to make assessments of stock status and resultant management action to ensure the harvest is sustainable where it is legal.

**ACCEPT**