

023 - Improving the conservation and management of the silky shark, the thresher sharks and mobula rays

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ALARMED that the IUCN Shark Specialist Group estimates that one-quarter of shark species (sharks, skates, rays, chimaeras) are threatened with extinction, primarily due to overfishing;

AWARE that sharks play an integral role in marine ecosystems, and that many sharks have life-history characteristics that make them intrinsically susceptible to overfishing;

RECALLING Recommendation 5.144 *Conservation and management of threatened sharks* (Jeju, 2012), which recommended that Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) should consider inclusion on CITES Appendices of shark species that are subject to international trade;

CONCERNED that silky shark (*Carcharhinus falciformis*), thresher sharks (*Alopias* spp.) and mobula rays (*Mobula* spp.) are intrinsically susceptible to overfishing, traded internationally, and at great risk for population depletion due to insufficient controls on exploitation;

RECALLING that listing of species on CITES Appendix II does not prohibit trade, but rather ensures trade is controlled in order to avoid use incompatible with these species' survival;

COMMENDING the CITES Parties that sponsored and supported the listings of the porbeagle shark (*Lamna nasus*), oceanic whitetip shark (*Carcharhinus longimanus*), scalloped hammerhead shark (*Sphyrna lewini*), smooth hammerhead shark (*Sphyrna zygaena*) and great hammerhead shark (*Sphyrna mokarran*), and both species of manta ray (*Manta* spp.) on Appendix II at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CITES COP16, Bangkok, 2013);

RECOGNISING the global collective effort undertaken by the CITES Parties and Secretariat, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, and nonprofit organisations to ensure that countries have the tools needed to fully implement these listings and that only sustainable trade in these species continues; and

APPLAUDING the Governments of Sri Lanka, the Maldives and Fiji for proposing the Appendix II listings of silky shark, thresher sharks and mobula rays, respectively, at CITES COP17 (Johannesburg, September 2016);

The World Conservation Congress, at its session in Hawaii, United States of America, 1-10 September 2016:

1. REQUESTS all CITES Parties to support the inclusion of the silky shark (*Carcharhinus falciformis*), bigeye thresher shark (*Alopias superciliosus*), common thresher shark (*Alopias vulpinus*), pelagic thresher shark (*Alopias pelagicus*), and nine species of mobula rays (*Mobula* spp.) on Appendix II of CITES to ensure international trade in their products does not threaten their survival and sustainability, and, where needed, allow for the recovery of these species' populations, taking into account the status of the species in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species and other relevant information⁽¹⁾; and

2. URGES all shark and ray range States, market states, fishing States, other entities, and relevant Regional Fisheries Management Organisations to take into consideration all available sources of scientific data, advice, and assessments, including the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, and to adopt environmentally precautionary, science-based management measures with strong monitoring and enforcement controls to prevent illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, and to ensure that overfishing of silky shark, thresher sharks, and mobula rays does not occur and their populations are at sustainable levels.

(1) – see end of first operative paragraph: It is hereby affirmed that the support of the Congress for the inclusion of these species in CITES Appendix II does not in any way prejudice the independence, or determine the findings, of the IUCN/TRAFFIC Analyses of Proposals to Amend the CITES Appendices.