CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA

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Twenty-eighth meeting of the Animals Committee
Tel Aviv (Israel), 30 August-3 September 2015

Species trade and conservation

Conservation and management of sharks [Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP16)]

SHARK GROUP REPORT

The attached information document has been submitted by Colombia, as the Chair of the intersessional working group on conservation and management of sharks, in relation to agenda item 17.*

* *The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat (or the United Nations Environment Programme) concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.*

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA

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SHARK GROUP REPORT

Document submitted by Colombia CITES Management and Scientific Authorities, Shark Group Leader.

The following is the shark Working Group report summited by the group chairman, considering the information of relevant matters presented by each country:

New Zealand

This Country supplied new information on shark fishery management measures, with particular emphasis on the shark species and manta rays that were included in Appendix II at CoP16, with an effective date of 14 September 2014.

a. Available scientific data, such as stock assessment results

101 studies of New Zealand chondrichthyan species were undertaken between 2008 and 2012. A summary of this research is available in Summary of Review of research and monitoring studies on New Zealand sharks, skates, rays and chimaeras, 2008−2012. (http://www.fish.govt.nz/NR/rdonlyres/4ED5B5E3-40D3-4719-9C76D03DE087FE0E/0/201321SummaryofReviewofresearchandmonitoringstudiesonNZsharks.pdf).

The complete details are available in Francis, M. P., Lyon, W. (2012). Review of research and monitoring studies on New Zealand sharks, skates, rays and chimaeras, 2008−2012.New Zealand Aquatic Environment and Biodiversity Report No. 102. 74 p. (http://fs.fish.govt.nz/Page.aspx?pk=113&dk=23093).

CITES-listed species

No new stock assessments have been carried out in New Zealand for CITES-listed shark or rays species (porbeagle sharks and smooth hammerhead sharks).

Porbeagle (*Lamna nasus*): Four new reports pertinent to porbeagle fisheries in New Zealand have become available in recent years:

- In 2013, Malcolm Francis reviewed the commercial catch composition of highly migratory elasmobranchs caught in New Zealand waters (http://fs.fish.govt.nz/Page.aspx?pk=113&dk=23489).

- In 2014, Francis estimated fin ratios and dressed weight conversion factors for selected shark species, including porbeagle (http://fs.fish.govt.nz/Page.aspx?pk=113&dk=23717) and Francis et al. provided an indicator-based analysis of the status of New Zealand blue, mako and porbeagle sharks (http://fs.fish.govt.nz/Page.aspx?pk=113&dk=23745).

- In 2015, Francis published new information on the size, maturity and age composition of porbeagle sharks observed in New Zealand tuna longline fisheries (http://fs.fish.govt.nz/Page.aspx?pk=113&dk=23785).

b. Methodologies providing guidance for the making of non-detriment findings

New Zealand's CITES Scientific Authority has prepared its pre-emptive non-detriment finding (NDF) for porbeagle shark (*Lamna nasus*) and smooth hammerhead shark (*Sphyrna zygaena*) following the German/ IUCN TRAFFIC model for making NDFs for sharks.

The NDFs review (i) porbeagle and smooth hammerhead shark ecology, including distribution, spatial distribution within New Zealand waters, habitat and food, biological characteristics, global conservation status and population status in New Zealand; (ii) fishing and trade pressures on porbeagle and smooth hammerheads; and (iii) existing management measures (e.g. New Zealand's National Plan of Action for Sharks (NPOA-Sharks) and Quota Management System (QMS), relevant legislation, regional fisheries management organizations and context). For both species, a modest level of exports and introductions from the seas is permitted where these species are taken as by-catch only.

The New Zealand Government has also collaborated with the Australian Government to provide advice to, and plan a NDF workshop for, Pacific Island colleagues on making NDFs for sharks, and on the development of a possible regional approach to making NDFs for certain shark.

c. Challenges faced by Parties in implementing the new listings

There have been difficulties in identification of imported dried shark fins where the skin has been removed.

d. Progress made to address such challenges

Shark experts are able to assist with shark identification but identifying small quantities of imported skinned shark fins is still challenging.

e. Progress towards the adoption and implementation of National Plans of Action for Sharks, or other new information on trade in sharks and related matters

There have been significant developments in New Zealand that aim to promote the conservation and sustainable use of shark populations.

A joint review of the NPOA-Sharks in 2008 was undertaken by the Ministry for Primary Industries, Department of Conservation and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, in collaboration with environmental and industry stakeholders, and with input via a public consultation process. The review highlighted that New Zealand has strong systems in place to conserve and manage sharks, including a number of fully protected shark species, and the majority (90%) of commercial catches managed under the QMS with catch limits and robust reporting and monitoring systems. However, opportunities for improvements were also identified, including in relation to improving the utilization of shark species that are caught.

A new NPOA-Sharks 2013 was adopted in January 2014: http://www.mpi.govt.nz/document-vault/1138

The purpose of the NPOA-Sharks 2013 is to maintain the biodiversity and the long-term viability of all New Zealand shark populations by recognizing their role in marine ecosystems, ensuring that any utilization of sharks is sustainable, and that New Zealand receives positive recognition internationally for its efforts in shark conservation and management. The overall approach is to use a science-based risk assessment framework to identify and appropriately manage risks to shark populations. The NPOA-Sharks 2013 contains goals and objectives covering:

Biodiversity and long term viability of shark populations - establishes a risk assessment approach, reviews of species characteristics and stock status to ensure that appropriate management and protection are applied to shark species; this may include catch limits and/or other controls on fishing under the Fisheries Act 1996, absolute protection under the Wildlife Act 1953, and/or protection of critical habitats.

- Domestic engagement and partnerships - information sharing between all stakeholders on the conservation and management of sharks, and to capture and reflect the social and cultural significance of sharks, including their customary significance to Maori.

- Non-fishing threats - measures to advance understanding and, where appropriate, management of threats to shark species which come from sources other than fishing.

- International engagement - measures to guide New Zealand's international engagement to promote conservation, protection and management of sharks.

- Research and information - measures to improve the information available to conserve and manage New Zealand's shark populations, including the development of recovery plans for protected shark species where necessary. Research objectives in this section are based on independent advice from a review of shark research undertaken since 2008.

- Utilization, waste reduction and the elimination of shark finning - measures to promote live release of sharks, encourage the full use of dead sharks, and to eliminate shark finning in New Zealand fisheries.

Elimination of shark finning

The finning of live sharks has been outlawed in New Zealand waters or by New Zealand vessels on the high seas under the Animal Welfare Act 1999, but the NPOA-Sharks 2013 aims to improve the use and minimize waste in New Zealand shark fisheries by developing and implementing best practice guidelines for the avoidance of bycatch, promoting the live release of bycaught shark species, developing and implementing best practice guidelines for the handling and release of live sharks, and by eliminating shark finning, which is defined in the NPOA-Sharks 2013 as "the removal of the fins from a shark and the disposal of the remainder of the shark at sea".

Since 1 October 2014 it has been illegal for a commercial fisher to remove the fins from any shark and discard the body of the shark at sea in New Zealand. The ban requires all shark fins to be landed attached to the body of the shark for all non-QMS species (i.e. including smooth hammerhead shark) and two QMS species (blue shark2 and spiny dogfish). In most cases, limited processing is allowed (e.g. removal of the head) but the fins will still need to be attached to the body through some portion of uncut skin.

For seven QMS species (including porbeagle shark) fishers are able to land shark fins separately to the body of the shark but only in accordance with a gazette fin to green weight ratio. The ratio means that the weight of fins for a species of shark landed for a trip will be compared to the green weight (whole weight) of that species of shark landed for that trip. For example, if sharks are landed that weigh a total of 100 kg and the gazette ratio is 3.50, the fins of that species landed must not weigh more than 3.5 kg. There is now a legal requirement that fins are separately stored and landed by species rather than in mixed-species lots.

Amendments have also been made to allow fishers to return dead, unwanted sharks to the sea, while ensuring that they are reported and counted against the total allowable catch for the species and against a fisher's annual catch entitlement. As a likely result of the changes described above, little porbeagle shark is now being landed in New Zealand (approximately five tons of porbeagle shark were landed over the last eight months). No applications for the export of porbeagle shark or smooth hammerhead shark products from New Zealand have been received since the species became listed on Appendix II3.

The NPOA-Sharks 2013 will be fully reviewed again in 2017, with the intention of issuing a revised NPOA in 2018.

f. New legislation concerning the conservation and management of sharks and rays.

To support the NPOA-Sharks 2013, and especially the elimination of shark finning, the New Zealand Government made amendments to the Fisheries (Commercial Fishing) Regulations 2001, the Fisheries (Reporting) Regulations 2001 and Schedule 6 of the Fisheries Act 1996. It also issued the Fisheries (Shark fin to green weight ratio) Circular 2014 (Notice No. MPI 391) to provide allowable ratios between landed fin weights to landed green weight for seven shark species

(including porbeagle shark) with definition of which fins are to be included in the calculation, and the Fisheries (Conversion Factors) Notice 2014 (Notice No. MPI 392), which gives definitions and green weight conversions for different levels of dressing of fish, including sharks.

The legislative amendments that gave effect to the New Zealand shark finning ban are listed below:

Legislation	Change
Fisheries Act 1996	Changes to Schedule 6 to allow for return of dead blue, mako and porbeagle sharks to the sea
Fisheries (Commercial Fishing) Regulations 2001	• Interpretation section: Define 'shark' and 'fins naturally attached' • Create new regulation prohibiting shark finning • Part 3: Regulate requirement to separate fins by species • Part 6: Define offence level of finning regulation
Fisheries (Reporting) Regulations 2001	• Remove 'dried fins', 'dried fins by-product' (DSB), 'wet fins', 'wet fins by-product' (WSB) definitions • Update 'shark fins' (as by-product) definition (SHF) • Provide 'FNA' state code definition • Add new destination type code 'Z' (for reporting of dead mako, porbeagle and blue shark, with returns to be recorded against ACE) and amend destination type code 'X' to clarify only covers live returns and is not counted against ACE • Add new Part 6B to allow for the return of dead sharks of particular species
Conversion Factor Notice	• Remove 'fins' conversion factor and specific fin conversion factors for blue shark, mako shark and porbeagle shark. • Add in FNA conversion factor/s
Shark Finning Circular (new)	• List species for which a ratio is provided • Specify ratios for species/species groups

Elimination of shark finning in New Zealand fisheries Consequential amendments to fisheries regulations – initial position paper MPI Discussion Paper No: 2014/15 (http://www.mpi.govt.nz/news-resources/publications.aspx)

In March 2012, the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission adopted a prohibition on the taking of oceanic whitetip sharks. The New Zealand Government responded by passing the Wildlife (Oceanic Whitetip Shark) Order 2012, which amended Schedule 7A of the Wildlife Act (1953) to give oceanic whitetip sharks absolute protection throughout New Zealand fisheries waters.

PEOPLE 'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

The Chinese Government attached great importance to conservation of marine biological resources and environment, and also sustainable development of the industry. Before and after the new CITES listing of Sharks and Manta Rays came into force, a lot of work with pertinence has been carried out by the Bureau of Fisheries and Fisheries Law Enforcement, Ministry of Agriculture, and the Endangered Species Import and Export Management Office (CITES Management Authority).

Conduct Industry Survey

To get access to the comprehensive shark industry information in China including fishing, processing, trade, the main species of trade, product forms, sources of raw materials and sales, inventory and the others, current circulation of industry chain structure and trade supervision, to assess the status of shark resources, and to promote the establishment and improvement of the shark industry supervision mechanism, China fisheries and CITES authorities had taken several industry surveys in 2013 and 2014.

Shark and Manta Ray Implementation Training

Sharks and Manta Ray Species Implementation and Management Workshop was held in July 2014.The relevant stakeholders communicated on implementation process, regulatory responsibilities and other matters. After that China fisheries and CITES MA jointly issued the Notice on Sharks And Manta Ray Species Implementation Management, and

require the related fishing, processing and trade behavior of sharks and manta ray species listed in the CITES Appendix II, should apply for a license in accordance with the domestic law, the import & export, re-export should apply for CITES certificates.

Verification of Inventory on Pre-Convention Stocks

China Aquatic Products Processing and Marketing Alliance was authorized to organize experts to implement verification on the CITES Appendix II new listing sharks and manta rays species products inventory which were obtained before the convention in domestic markets. According to the industry survey and inventory on-site verification, Bureau of Fisheries and Fisheries Law Enforcement, Ministry of Agriculture issued the Notification on implementing the subsequent work late 2014, and grant Aquatic Wildlife Management and Utilization Permit to the qualified practitioner.

Strengthen Capacity Building

China fisheries and CITES authorities jointly issued The Notice On Further Improving the Sharks and Manta Ray Species Management in March 2015, and to clarify the regulatory process of the Appendix II listed sharks and manta ray species and their products obtained under a variety of circumstances, such as before convention, offshore and pelagic fishing, chartering, etc.

Public Awareness Raising Activities on Conservation and Management Measures

The CITES listing of Sharks and Manta Rays Trade Regulation posters were published and distributed to all related departments and companies. A promotion and publicity activity of shark conservation with the theme of Protecting Endangered Species and Sustainably Utilization of Marine Resources was held during the international fisheries exhibition in Xiamen in May, 2015. The activities aimed to popularize the shark conservation knowledge, to improve the public right cognition to sharks, to publicize shark regulatory policies, and to encourage lawful and reasonable management and utilization of aquatic resources.

The operation of regulation would face great challenges on shark industry chain including fishing, processing, and marketing, e.g. the great variety of shark species, the by-catch shark from offshore or pelagic fishery, the minimal proportion of shark production accounted in the national marine fishing, came to the Appendix II shark the proportion was even smaller, lack of statistics on shark in long-term and difficult to accurately assess the catches of sharks in China. Currently the worldwide has no effective by-catch reduction devices and rapid identification technology on shark species. All the above factors leads to a bunds of pressing problems during the new CITES listing of Sharks and Manta Rays implementation from the perspective of the government, the industry and the scientific research.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The Fish and Wildlife Service United States Department of Interior provide information on a few recent U.S. federal shark regulations that implement measures adopted by regional fishery management organizations (RFMOs) for shark species listed under CITES, as follows:

- U.S. National Plan of Action for Sharks (updated in 2014) (http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/ia/resources/publications/ccrflnpoa_sharks_2014.pdf)
- Final U.S. regulations to implement the measures that the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) adopted for oceanic whitetip, silky, and whale sharks (published 19 Feb. 2015) (https://federalregister.gov/a/2015-03388)
- Final U.S. regulations to implement the measure that the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) adopted for whale shark (published 18 Sept. 2014) (https://federalregister.gov/a/2014-22278).

In addition, the United States made positive Non-Detriment Findings for the export ofporbeagle shark Lamna nasus) and the three species of hammer head shark (Sphyrna lewini, S. mokarran, S. zygaena). Copies of these Non-Detriment Findings are attached.

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

International Affairs
5275 Leesburg Pike, MS: IA
Falls Church, VA 22041-3803

MEMORANDUM

JUN 18 2015

To: Chief, Division of Management Authority

From: Chief, Division of Scientific Authority Rosemarie Gnam

Subject: General advice for the export of wild *Sphyrna lewini* (scalloped hammerhead shark), *Sphyrna mokarran* (great hammerhead shark) and *Sphyrna zygaena* (smooth hammerhead shark) harvested in the commercial fishery by U.S. fisherman in the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico in the 2015 harvest season.

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Washington, D.C. 20240

MEMORANDUM

AUG 05 2014

To: Chief, Division of Management Authority

From: Chief, Division of Scientific Authority Rosemarie Gnam

Subject: General advice for the export and introduction from the sea of wild porbeagle shark (*Lamna nasus*) harvested in the commercial fishery by U.S. fisherman in the 2014 harvest season, opening on January 1, 2014.

Advice: *The Division of Scientific Authority (DSA) finds that the export and introduction from the sea of wild porbeagle shark harvested by U.S. fisherman in the 2014 harvest season is not detrimental to the survival of the species, provided that the harvest is in compliance with U.S. management plans in place for the species.*

MÉXICO

Mexico presents the latest information on the implementation of listings CoP16 (Bangkok, 2013) species of sharks and rays in Appendix II of CITES since its entry into force on September 12, 2014 to date:

1. **Available scientific data as the results of the evaluation of the population**:
   1.1 The INAPESCA scientific data come from different research projects that have been evaluated on shark populations and sustained management and protection measures, and have been developed in the Regional Centers for Fisheries Research (CRIP) in Ensenada, Mazatlán, Banderas Bay Manzanillo, Patzcuaro, Salinas Cruz, Tampico, Veracruz and Campeche and central offices. INAPESCA also supports the National Scientific Shark Observer Program operating since 2006 and 2014; 18 scientific observers were certified within Observer Program for Shark fishing in the Pacific Ocean, same that were accredited by INAPESCA and monitored fishing operations, evaluating compliance with the Official Mexican Standard NOM-029-PESC-2006 on responsible fishing of sharks and rays.

   1.2. The information generated by the INAPESCA (except the one that currently is in analysis process) is published in individual chapters on shark "Book of Sustainability and Responsible Fisheries in Mexico" in their editions from 98 to 2006 (SAGARPA, 2006).

2. Methodologies to provide guidance for development of preliminary Non-detriment findings (NDF)

21. As part of an international workshop on NDF for sharks, which was held from August 20 to 22 (2014) in Bonn, Germany. Mexico presented the case of fishing Scalloped Hammerheads in southeastern Mexico (Chiapas) (Tovar -Ávila and Castillo-Geniz, 2014). The main outcome of the workshop was to develop a road map for the development of NDF sharks listed in CITES (https://www.bfn.de/fileadmin/MDB/documents/service/skript358.pdf).

2.2 México's Scientific Authority (CONABIO) had a meeting in March 2015 (California, 2015) with experts and national fisheries authorities (INAPESCA, CICESE-Ensenada, CICIMAR-BCS and ECOSUR-Campeche) to adapt productivity and susceptibility (PSA) evaluation methods proposed by Patrick *et al.* (2010), and management (Lack *et al.,* 2014). PSA methodologies and risk management are semi-quantitative and can quickly assess the vulnerability of the species to exploitation pressures based on productivity (biology of the species), sensitivity (pressure use) and management (species management nationally).

2.3 The method agreed at the meeting referred to the preceding was applied for the "Mexican sharks listed on Appendix II of CITES Productivity Susceptibility and Management Assessment Workshop" (Held from July 8 to 10 /2015, District Federal, Mexico), attended by experts from all Mexican coasts, government agencies and civil society organizations. The main objectives was:

a) Evaluate 1) Productivity and susceptibility and 2) the risk management, the 4 Mexican shark species included in the CITES which are subject to fisheries and international trade in Mexico (Scalloped Hammerheads, Great Hammerheads, *S. zygaena* and *Carcharhinus longimaus*), on the following scales: 1) fishing, 2) littoral (Atlantic and Pacific) and 3) national;

b) Discuss and propose potential conservation and sustainable management for the species and fishing zones

c) Discuss and propose future action lines to have information on population sizes and trends for four species mentioned in the following scales: 1) fishing, 2) littoral (Atlantic and Pacific) and 3 national.

d) Establish conversion factors for body weight – fin (fresh and dry weight) for the four shark species included in CITES subject to fisheries and international trade in Mexico.

2.4 Similar methods have been implemented by the INAPESCA in the chapter about "Mexican Sharks Ecological Risk" for the CITES Fisheries Importance Shark Book (Tovar-Avila et al., Forthcoming). Also, these methodologies have been used to assess populations of other species of sharks in the Gulf of California (Furlong-Estrada *et al.,* 2014).

3. Challenges that Mexico has faced in implementing CoP16 (Bangkok, 2013) listed shark

3.1. A greater commitment from the productive sector to report Shark species catches is required to improve for trade traceability.

3.2. Encourage the productive sector to respect reproductive periods for species sharks and rays.

3.3. Strengthen and increase the capacities of the CITES Law Enforcement Authority for verification of international trade for CITES enlisted species shark fins.

3.4. Coordination to facilitate the flow of information between fisheries (CONAPESCA and INAPESCA) and CITES Authorities.

3.5. Updated information on the size and population trends information for sharks.

4. Progress made to address the above challenges

4.1. Since 2013, Mexico has established the following closed seasons in order to protect sharks species during reproductive periods in both coasts of the country:

ZONE	LITORAL	PERIOD
I	Tamaulipas, Veracruz and Quintana Roo	From May 15 to June 30/2014, for the following years from May 1 to June 30.
II	Tabasco, Yucatán, Campeche	From May 15 to June 15/2014, for the following years from August 1 to 29.
III	Pacific Ocean	From May 1 to July 31.

4.2 CITES Authorities in conjunction with the CITES Interministerial Monitoring Committee in Mexico produced in June 2013, a roadmap for the implementation of Appendix II for Mexican sharks listed in CITES. The main items of this critical path are:

- Scientific data base for species listed in CITES
- Population monitoring
- Support and training materials to the target audience for specimens identification, they parts and sub products
- Chain production and dissemination of monitoring procedures for sustainable international trade
- Supervision and Inspection.

4.3 PROFEPA is part of the "Barcode of Wildlife", coordinated by the Mexican Network of Barcode of Life (Mexbol) consisting of several institutions of higher education and research. The aim is to give an additional tool for law enforcement in order to identify the species under international trade by genetic means, and serving on scientific and technical evidence in administrative and criminal proceedings. so far we have a breakthrough and building a library of genetic reference (the goal is to have 200 and 800 priority species like), as well as training courses for the staff of law enforcement; also have pilot tested sample identification of marine species like sharks to adapt processing times and findings to established legal deadlines. Funding comes from the Google Foundation, administered by the International Consortium for Barcode.

4.4 In 2014, we had the participation of 18 certified scientific observers from the shark fishing Observer Program in the Pacific Ocean, the same that were accredited by the INAPESCA and supervised trips fleet of medium height who started at the end of closure period established in 2014, evaluating compliance with NOM-029-PESC-2006, responsible fishing of sharks and rays.

4.5 During the December 2014 to April 2015 period, CONAPESCA gave eight training courses on applicable regulations in the shark species catch and identification by visual guides in eight Mexican states: Sinaloa, Sonora, Oaxaca, Campeche, Colima, Veracruz, Tamaulipas and Baja California. The courses were developed in collaboration with the Institute

National Capacity Building for the Rural Sector, AC (INCA Rural) has had the participation of 270 fishermen, with the purpose of improving the specific reports of hammerheads species catches, through visual signals and thereby improve traceability.

4.6 Mexico participated in the shark-NDF workshop held in November 24-28 2014 Santa Marta, Colombia, and which aimed to monitor the work of the previous workshops (such as the Bonn workshop, see par. 2.1), and its main results was the presentation of the "Isharkfin" which is software developed by FAO identification (one application to help identify shark fins through photographs). CITES Law Enforcement Authority (PROFEPA) is routinely using software "isharkfin" in shipments of shark fins which have CITES export permits and have been tested at major seaports and inland ports, international airports and borders.

5. Progress towards to the adoption and implementation of shark's national action plans, or other information on sharks trade and related issues:

5.1. Socialization of Sharks and Rays Fisheries Management Program workshops were conducted in October and November 2014, in the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea. In these workshops, 115 shark and ray fishery users participated in Tamaulipas, Veracruz and Campeche states, in these workshops issues related with the awareness for the respect of applicable regulations and the importance of accurate catch records by species in the Fisheries Journals and landings were addressed, also notified specifications for marketing resource in accordance with CITES.

6. New legislation on sharks and rays conservation and management

6.1. CONAPESCA is coordinating the amending process for the NOM-029-PESC-2006, Mexican Official Standard shark and rays responsible fisheries law, which sets standards for sustainable use of elasmobranchs in the Mexican federal waters. Modification to the Official Mexican Normative is in the response to the comments phase and project modifications made to the during the public consultation, same that will be endorsed by the Technical Working Group, the Subcommittee on Responsible Fisheries and the Committee Agriculture and food National Standards Advisory SAGARPA, for its publication in the Official Gazette.

COLOMBIA

Colombia presents the main activities carried out, according to the commitments:

a. Summary of main events.

I. International Shark Workshop: Between of November 25 to 27/2014, Colombia Host the *CITES International Sharks Workshop: Articulation of experiences and strategies for implementing the inclusion of species in Appendix II*. The workshop was attended by representatives of 25 countries, 6 organizations, the CITES Secretariat, and 17 representatives of the country. The main objective was to assess the monitoring and control mechanisms necessary to ensure traceability of international trade of shark species and their products (fins and meat) included in CITES Appendix II, and define strategies for the development Non detrimental Findings for the newly listed species.

II. Freshwater stingrays Expert Workshop: This Workshop took place in Bogota, Colombia, on October 28 and 29/2014. The workshop was attended by representatives of 12 countries including expert ichthyologist's and CITES Scientific and Management Authorities.

III. Assessment and mitigation Workshop of the implications of the CITES appendices inclusion. Attended by members of CITES working group and livelihoods. The purpose was to conduct a dialogue on the implementation of CITES decision 16.25 to enhance a quick guide with tools and guidelines prepared by the General Secretary of OAS and CITES.

IV. First phase CITES II shark fins Identification campaigns. Attended by Control and monitoring Authorities (AUNAP, ICA, CARs) in marketing and high trading Cities.

V. Trade codes associated with marine and coastal resources Workshop, with emphasis in CITES Appendices I and II Shark Species Products (Fins and body). Attended by Environmental, Fishing and Trade Control authorities. The purpose is to develop a proposal for the decoding of the trade codes for Sharks products, because actually they are very wide and general.

VI. Training Workshop for shark identification through its Fins, using the ISHARKFIN tool, developed by FAO. Attended by Environmental, Fishing and Trade Control authorities.

b. Other Activities

I. **Colombian Chondrichthyans meeting**. The purpose is to provide scientific and technical knowledge on fish species (with emphasis on sharks and rays), through the development of research projects and the strengthening of inter-institutional relations, in order to provide necessary basis for the conservation of these resources. Develop environmental education programs on fish species (particularly sharks and rays), to generate attitudes toward conservation and scientific advice and / or technical support processes through the formulation, implementation and evaluation of research, conservation and use of fishery resources projects.

II. Conformation of the Colombian Chondrichthyan researchers Network. The purpose is to create a socialization space of all issues related to the investigation of the cartilaginous fishes (researchers, projects, publications, etc.) and make available the information generated in the Country, to all users, serving as a starting point and context for those who wish to advance in any investigation (see: http://www.squalus.org/redcondrictios/). Also creating a virtual documentation center for sharks and rays, (See: http://www.squalus.org/biblioteca.html).

III. Through the Colombian Fishing Authority (AUNAP) there was an increase in the effort to improve collection of specific statistical information on sharks, through the creation of the Fisheries Statistical Service information protocol application

(SEPEC) and Fishery Observer Program (POPC), which will strength the digital databases for generating scientific information in assessing shark populations.

IV. Through the Colombian Fishing Authority (AUNAP) in 2015, the second stage of the identification and prioritization of potential critical habitats for sharks and rays project was carried out, in the Seaflower Biosphere Reserve (San Andres, Old Providence and Santa Catalina Archipelago).