SPRFMO
South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation

Ref: DC44-2019
Wellington, 12 March 2019

To: Ivonne Higuero
Secretary-General
CITES Secretariat
International Environmental House
Geneva, Switzerland

Subject: SPRFMO consultation on CoP18 proposals to amend CITES Appendix II

Dear Ms Higuero,

I am writing in response to your letter (reference IH/TDM/DR) in which you advise that the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES has received proposals to amend CITES Appendix II in relation to the following marine species:

- Include *Glaucostegus* spp.;
- Include *Isurus oxyrinchus* and *Isurus paucus*;
- Include *Rhinidae* spp.; and,
- Include *Holothuria (Microthele) fuscogilva, Holothuria (Microthele) nobilis* and *Holothuria (Microthele) whitmaei*.

Please find attached to this letter an additional document containing scientific data and information that we trust will assist the Parties to CITES in their consideration of the CoP18 proposals.

Yours sincerely,

Craig Loveridge
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18th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES

Colombo, Sri Lanka 23 May to 3 June 2019

Submission by the SPRFMO Secretariat

The Secretariat of the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO) is pleased to be able to provide the following information for consideration by the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (2019).

Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs)

SPRFMO while still being a relatively young RFMO has implemented very detailed reporting requirements. These requirements are fully described in CMM 02-2018 (Data-Standards). Briefly, CMM 02 requires that all Members and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties (CNCPs) annually submit data on fishing activities and the impacts of fishing to the SPRFMO Secretariat. These submissions can be grouped into the following categories:

a) Annual catch totals for all species caught during the year;
b) Data on fishing activities by fishing method and;
c) Observer collected information.

Annual catch data contains a total ""live weight" for each species caught within each FAO statistical area. Fishing activities data contains information on the date, time and location of estimated catches and discards (for all target, bycatch and other species of concern). Observer information generally contains similar information as fishing activity data and additionally includes biological and scientific information.

Along with marine mammals, seabirds and reptiles, and since January 2015, captures of other species of concern must be specifically identified and recorded in both fishing activity and observer information submissions. The SPRFMO definition of other species of concern does not include any of the currently proposed Appendix II species (refer Annex 14 of CMM 02).

It is also worthwhile noting that SPRFMO has prohibited the use of large-scale pelagic driftnets and all deepwater gillnets in its Convention Area as detailed in CMM 08-2019 (Gillnets).

The SPRFMO Secretariat has interrogated its databases for any catch records relating to the species proposed fir inclusion into CITES Appendix II and the results of that search are presented below (refer Annex I for a complete list of species codes that were used in the search).

Catches of proposed species from the SPRFMO Area

Currently the main fisheries operating in the SPRFMO Convention Area are the:

- Squid jig fishery operating on the eastern side of the Pacific which straddles into adjacent EEZs;
- Jack mackerel pelagic trawl/purse seine fishery operating on the eastern side of the Pacific which also straddles into adjacent EEZs;
- Bottom (including mid-water) trawl fishery operating on the western side of the Pacific targeting mainly Orange roughy and occasionally Alfonsinos;
- Bottom longline fishery operating on the western side of the Pacific catching various species including Morwongs, Yellowtail amberjacks, Bluenose warehou, Emperors and Hapuka;
- Exploratory toothfish fishery operating in the Tasman sea and also the mid-Pacific Ocean (south); and
- Exploratory potting fishery for lobsters and crabs in the mid-Pacific Ocean.

Annual catch totals

The SPRFMO annual catch totals extend back to 1965 and includes information for all of the main fisheries. An indication of the extensiveness of this series can be found on the Catch Information webpage of the SPRFMO website.

Of the species that are being proposed for inclusion in CITES Appendix II, only Shortfin Mako (*Isurus oxyrinchus*) and Longfin Mako (*Isurus paucus*) were present in SPRFMO annual catch totals as shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Annual catch totals for proposed Appendix II species

Reporting Member	Year	Capture Area	Species	Catch weight (kg)
Australia	2012	FAO 81 (High Seas)	Shortfin mako	210
Australia	2013	FAO 81 (High Seas)	Shortfin mako	220
New Zealand	2013	FAO 81 (High Seas)	Shortfin mako	136
Australia	2014	FAO 81 (High Seas)	Shortfin mako	131
New Zealand	2014	FAO 81 (High Seas)	Shortfin mako	664
Australia	2015	FAO 81 (High Seas)	Shortfin mako	244
New Zealand	2015	FAO 81 (High Seas)	Shortfin mako	500
New Zealand	2016	FAO 81 (High Seas)	Shortfin mako	320
Australia	2017	FAO 81 (High Seas)	Shortfin mako	67
Australia	2015	FAO 81 (High Seas)	Longfin mako	111

Fishing activities

By contrast the fishing activity data series is more detailed, but less extensive historically. This reflects the age of the organisation and the years in which CMMs or their precursors (voluntary interim measures) were adopted. It is important to note that the years for which SPRFMO holds fishing activity data varies by fishery. Squid fishing activity data are more recent (from 2012-17), data for the jack mackerel fishery encompasses 2008-17, while fishing activity data for bottom fisheries encompasses 2002-17.

Again, only two of the proposed species were present in SPRFMO's fishing activity data as shown in Table 2 (more detailed information is available in Annex II).

Table 2: Fishing activity estimates for captures of proposed Appendix II species

Fishery	Reporting Member	Years of capture	Capture Area	Species	Total catch (kg)
Bottom Longline	Australia	2015	FAO 81 (High Seas)	Longfin mako	111
Bottom Longline	Australia	2007-2015, 2017	FAO 81 (High Seas)	Shortfin mako	1,322
Bottom Longline	New Zealand	2008-2017	FAO 81 (High Seas)	Shortfin mako	3,330
Trawling	New Zealand	2010, 2011, 2016	FAO 81 (High Seas)	Shortfin mako	306

Summary

It can be seen from Tables 1-2 that the species which are proposed to be included into CITES Appendix II are either absent from, or rarely caught within the SPRFMO Area. None of the proposed species have ever been reported by either the Squid jigging fishery nor the Jack mackerel fishery; both fisheries operate on the eastern side of the Pacific in FAO area 87.

Mako sharks (predominantly shortfin) are occasionally caught in the high seas portion of FAO area 81 in the SPRFMO Bottom fisheries. These sharks have been reported mainly from the bottom longline fishery operated by both Australia and New Zealand.

It should be noted that while SPRFMO does have information on the exact date and position of many of the catches listed above they have not been released in this document due to SPRFMOs confidentiality requirements.

Further information may be requested from the SPRFMO Secretariat (secretariat@sprfmo.int).

Annex I: List of Marine and Aquatic species used to interrogate SPRFMO database holdings.

Proposal	CITES Species	CITES Common name	FAO 3A_CODE	Scientific_name	English_name	Family	Order
CoP18 Prop. 42	*Isurus oxyrinchus* and *Isurus paucus*	Mako sharks	SMA	*Isurus oxyrinchus*	Shortfin mako	Lamnidae	LAMNIFORMES
			LMA	*Isurus paucus*	Longfin mako	Lamnidae	LAMNIFORMES
			MAK	*Isurus* spp	Mako sharks	Lamnidae	LAMNIFORMES
CoP18 Prop. 43	*Glaucostegus* spp.	Guitarfishes	RBC	*Rhinobatos cemiculus*	Blackchin guitarfish	Rhinobatidae	RAJIFORMES
			RBR	*Rhinobatos granulatus*	Granulated guitarfish	Rhinobatidae	RAJIFORMES
			RBH	*Rhinobatos halavi*	Halavi ray	Rhinobatidae	RAJIFORMES
			RBM	*Rhinobatos obtusus*		Rhinobatidae	RAJIFORMES
			RBV	*Rhinobatos thouin*	Thouin ray	Rhinobatidae	RAJIFORMES
			RBQ	*Rhinobatos typus*	Giant shovelnose ray	Rhinobatidae	RAJIFORMES
			GUZ	*Rhinobatos spp*	Guitarfishes nei	Rhinobatidae	RAJIFORMES
CoP18 Prop. 44	*Rhinidae* spp.	Wedgefishes	RCA	*Rhynchobatus australiae*	Whitespotted wedgefish	Rhinobatidae	RAJIFORMES
			RCD	*Rhynchobatus djiddensis*	Giant guitarfish	Rhinobatidae	RAJIFORMES
			RCL	*Rhynchobatus luebberti*	African wedgefish	Rhinobatidae	RAJIFORMES
CoP18 Prop. 45	*Holothuria (Microthele) fuscogilva*, *Holothuria (Microthele) nobilis*, *Holothuria (Microthele) whitmaei*, *Holothuria (Microthele) sp. "pentard*	Sea cucumbers	HFF	*Holothuria fuscogilva*	White teatfish	Holothuriidae	HOLOTHUROIDEA
			HFN	*Holothuria nobilis*	Black teatfish	Holothuriidae	HOLOTHUROIDEA
			JDG	*Holothuria whitmaei*	Black teatfish	Holothuriidae	HOLOTHUROIDEA

Refer https://cites.org/eng/cop/18/prop/index.php

Annex II: Annual information on captures of interest in SPRFMO Fishing Activity Data

Fishery	Reporting Member	Year	Capture Area	Species	Total catch (kg)
Bottom Longline	Australia	2007	FAO 81 (High Seas)	Shortfin mako	35
Bottom Longline	Australia	2008	FAO 81 (High Seas)	Shortfin mako	120
Bottom Longline	New Zealand	2008	FAO 81 (High Seas)	Shortfin mako	70
Bottom Longline	Australia	2009	FAO 81 (High Seas)	Shortfin mako	95
Bottom Longline	New Zealand	2009	FAO 81 (High Seas)	Shortfin mako	360
Bottom Longline	New Zealand	2010	FAO 81 (High Seas)	Shortfin mako	350
Trawling	New Zealand	2010	FAO 81 (High Seas)	Shortfin mako	120
Bottom Longline	New Zealand	2011	FAO 81 (High Seas)	Shortfin mako	220
Trawling	New Zealand	2011	FAO 81 (High Seas)	Shortfin mako	160
Bottom Longline	Australia	2012	FAO 81 (High Seas)	Shortfin mako	210
Bottom Longline	New Zealand	2012	FAO 81 (High Seas)	Shortfin mako	320
Bottom Longline	Australia	2013	FAO 81 (High Seas)	Shortfin mako	220
Bottom Longline	New Zealand	2013	FAO 81 (High Seas)	Shortfin mako	150
Bottom Longline	Australia	2014	FAO 81 (High Seas)	Shortfin mako	131
Bottom Longline	New Zealand	2014	FAO 81 (High Seas)	Shortfin mako	600
Bottom Longline	Australia	2015	FAO 81 (High Seas)	Shortfin mako	244
Bottom Longline	New Zealand	2015	FAO 81 (High Seas)	Shortfin mako	350
Bottom Longline	New Zealand	2016	FAO 81 (High Seas)	Shortfin mako	650
Trawling	New Zealand	2016	FAO 81 (High Seas)	Shortfin mako	26
Bottom Longline	Australia	2017	FAO 81 (High Seas)	Shortfin mako	267
Bottom Longline	New Zealand	2017	FAO 81 (High Seas)	Shortfin mako	260
Bottom Longline	Australia	2015	FAO 81 (High Seas)	Longfin mako	111