



## **CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP ON CITES APPENDIX II LISTINGS OF SHARKS AND MANTA RAY SPECIES**



### **REPORT SUBMITTED BY**

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## **CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP ON CITES APPENDIX II LISTINGS OF SHARKS AND MANTA RAY SPECIES**

**AUGUST 26 – 28, 2014**

**CHENNAI, INDIA**

Sharks are keystone species and their abundance and health are critical to the balance of the marine ecosystem. Recognizing the threat that many shark species face due to their utilization in trade, at the last Conference of the Parties (CoP16) to CITES, Parties agreed to list additional species of sharks and rays on the CITES Appendices.

Five shark species and all manta rays were added to Appendix II at CITES CoP16 in 2013. These include the oceanic whitetip shark; the porbeagle shark; scalloped, smooth and great hammerhead sharks; as well as the great and reef manta rays. These joined other sharks and rays (elasmobranchs) that had already been included in the CITES Appendices over the past decade.

The giant manta ray, the reef manta ray, the oceanic whitetip shark, the porbeagle shark and the smooth hammerhead shark are listed as vulnerable on the IUCN Red List. Further, the scalloped and great hammerhead sharks are listed as endangered, thereby considered to be facing a very high risk of extinction. Given that most of these shark species are highly migratory and traverse the waters of many nations, it is imperative that all such nations come together to form cohesive and structured plans for implementation of shark conservation measures.

The CITES Parties agreed to a deadline of September 14, 2014 for the implementation of these new appendix II listings in order to allow for CITES member nations to build capacity amongst their respective governments for the enforcement of these listings.

The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India, in collaboration with C.P.R. Environmental Education Centre (CPREEC) (a centre of Excellence of the MoEF&CC) and Humane Society International (HSI) India, organized the 'Capacity Building Workshop on CITES Appendix II listings of Sharks and Manta Ray Species' from 26-28 August, 2014 at Chennai. A total of 74 participants comprising of international and national participants as well as resource persons participated in the workshop (Refer Annexure -1 for the complete list of participants of the workshop).

### **Inaugural Session**

#### **Day 1 – August 26, 2014**

#### **Welcome Address by Dr. Nandita Krishna**

Dr. Nanditha Krishna, Director, CPREEC, Chennai, welcomed the delegates and the dignitaries to the workshop. Dr. Nanditha Krishna in her address said that sharks are keystone species and their survival is essential for the ecological health of seas and oceans. She applauded the initiative taken by CITES to protect sharks and rays through the recent listing. Dr. Krishna stressed on the important role played by the various stake holders including the Coast Guard in the protection of sharks. She said that sharks need to be protected not only because shark populations are depleting, but also to save them from the cruelty of finning. She stated that to this extent, shark conservation had an overlap between animal welfare and conservation issues. Concluding the address, she hoped that this workshop would build new capacity and methods for the conservation of shark species in the region.

### **Opening address by Mr. Tom DE-MEULENAER**

In the opening remarks, Mr. Tom DE-MEULENAER, Technical Officer, CITES Secretariat said that in March 2013, it was agreed upon to include five shark species and two manta ray species in Appendix II of CITES. These new shark species are commercially viable for international trade and thus, their listing is very important.

Explaining the objectives of the workshop, he said that the listings of these species under Appendix II would make trade of the products from these species traceable through the CITES certification system. Further, he emphasized upon the fact that the listing would not imply a ban in commercial trade; but instead trade would be regulated with transparency and accountability. He said that this meeting was designed to focus on effective implementation. Finally, he thanked FAO for their collaboration and cooperation.

Stressing on the role of all the stakeholders in sustainable use and conservation of these listed species, he said that an effective collaboration among all the stakeholders is must to move forward from the Sri Lanka and Xiamen workshop outcomes.

### **Presidential address by Mr. M. L. Srivastava**

Mr. M. L. Srivastava, IFS, Deputy Inspector General of Forests (Wildlife and Forest Protection), MoEF&CC, Government of India, in his address stated that India had listed ten species of sharks in the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 thus initiating conservation of these species. He also said that the Government of India has taken steps to ban shark finning through a national policy circular.

He noted that there is a need to sensitize people about shark finning in all the countries that are involved in shark trade.

He also said that collaboration and cooperation of all stakeholders is required to implement the decisions taken at CoP 16. He opined that

traceability techniques and tools must be looked into for the effective conservation of sharks and rays.

### **Inaugural Address by Dr. M. S. Swaminathan**

Inaugurating the workshop, Dr. M. S. Swaminathan, Chairman, CPREEC said that CITES is an important instrument in saving all life (flora and fauna). He pointed out that a lot of gap in knowledge exists between a layman and a specialist and this is where these capacity building workshops assume importance. He appreciated the international communities for standing up for the common cause of conservation and sustainable use. Speaking on the trade he said, "Trade can either promote conservation or hamper it". Trade and biodiversity laws are interconnected and hence, the role of CITES is very important in the field of conservation education. He said that after education, the second aspect of conservation is social mobilization. Citing the example of the Gulf of Mannar Trust that was started to mobilize the locals for conservation in the Gulf of Mannar, he said that conservation was effective only through local partnership and trusteeship. Thus, social mobilization is very important. This must be followed by regulation which is very important for ecological development.

### **Vote of thanks by Mr. N. G. Jayasimha**

Mr. N. G. Jayasimha, Managing Director, Humane Society International (HSI), India proposed the vote of thanks. He thanked the CITES Management Authority of India for taking this initiative and also the participants for their cooperation. He wished the participants for a fruitful workshop and hoped that the workshop would achieve its objectives.

## **TECHNICAL SESSIONS**

**Topic: Understanding sharks and the need for coordinated conservation of the species.**

**Speaker:** Ms. C. Samyukta Campaign Manager – Wildlife, Humane Society International – India

Starting the technical sessions, Ms. C. Samyukta, Campaign Manager – Wildlife, HSI-India talked about the nature and habits of sharks as a species. She said that the key reason for organizing this workshop is that sharks are an extremely important and commercially viable resource. Hence, their sustainable use and conservation has to gain importance.

She talked about the varied habits, habitats and features of sharks. She explained how the population was under threat due to characteristics such as slow growth and late maturity. She also noted that there has been a decreased demand for shark fin based products even though the export from India was still significant. She said that no one country can implement any policy or conservation method alone and hence, multinational collaboration and cooperation is required. She emphasized on the need for uniformity in fishing regulations in the region. She pointed out that an ideal team for effective conservation of shark and ray species would consist of a strong representation from inter and intra governmental agencies, fishermen community, NGOs as well as strong legislation and conventions on shark conservation.

**Topic: Overview of India's shark fisheries**

**Speaker:** Dr. Shoba Joe, Senior Scientist, Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), Chennai

Providing an overall picture on shark fisheries in India, Dr. Shoba Joe, said that CMFRI was the only institute in fisheries research in India that has been collecting actual commercial landing data from 1960s to date. She

explained that CMFRI pools the accumulated data and extrapolates the national data.

According to her findings, maximum landing of Elasmobranchs comprising of sharks, rays, skates and guitar fishes was seen in the year 1998. In 2012, 52.6 thousand tonnes of elasmobranchs were landed. Recently, rays have taken over sharks in landing which is a cause of concern. She said that mechanized trawl nets bring in maximum landing which is at about 43.3% of the total landing. Further, she explained that these figures are a cause of concern as the by-catch consists of sharks which have not yet reached maturity.

She pointed out that most of the species targeted or landed come under least concern group under IUCN review list on shark, rays and chimaera species. Thus, there is a need to relook at data for taking up any measures. According to stock analysis done by CMFRI, Elasmobranchs have become less abundant or are declining. Further, Indian shark fishery is dominated by sharks under the maturity size. Deep waters are yielding more results as can be seen by the increase in trawl net operations.

She explained that a total ban on shark fishing was not a solution. Instead, there is a need to look into management measures and regulations. She stated that representation from the fishing community is a must for proper implementation of any regulations and also for conservation.

Stressing on the role of fishermen, she said that species knowledge such as know-how on grounds where the species are located, their pupping grounds etc. lies with the fishermen and hence, awareness and capacity building workshops for them is a must. Once this is achieved, then regulation would become a lot easier.

**Topic: Overview of trade in shark based products from India**

**Speaker:** Dr. Vijaykumar Yaragal, Deputy Director, The Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), Chennai



Dr. Vijaykumar Yaragal provided an overall picture about the total shark exports from India. He said that China, Singapore and Hong Kong are the major importers of shark based products in the form of dry fins, fin rays and bones.

He stated that shark is a by-catch and that there is no special fishing done for this species. He said that in trawl nets, sharks captured are almost in dying stage due to the increasing pressure from other trapped fishes. Thus, awareness is very important as trawl nets account for major share of shark landings in India. He said that Gujarat state fisheries is ready to provide compensation to fishermen who are willing to cut their gill nets when a shark is captured rather than landing it. He also pointed out that since shark fins are very easily processed, dried and stored due to which many people would readily enter into the fin business.

He added that in addition to regular uses like oil, cosmetics, soup, etc., the meat is also consumed in various parts of the world including in India, especially in the state of Kerala. He informed the audience that as per MPEDA's data, shark fin exports have increased in Chennai from 5.41 crores in 2008-09 to 15.29 crores in 2013-14.

He listed some tentative measures for conservation of the species, which included the following:

- Posting fishery inspectors in all fishing harbours
- Ensuring that custom officials have sufficient shark fin identification knowledge
- Enforcing a clause such as "Shark fishing is punishable/banned/not permitted" at the time of registration of fishing vessels
- Conducting awareness and training programs for fishermen
- Providing a toll free number at all fishing harbours to facilitate speedier rescue efforts and reporting of violations of regulations
- Observation of state wise 'shark conservation month' every year

**Topic: Overview of protections afforded to shark and ray species under Indian legislation**

**Speaker:** Mr. Shubhobroto Ghosh. Senior Programme Officer TRAFFIC (INDIA), New Delhi

Mr. Shubhobroto Ghosh focused on the details of the protections given to shark and ray species under Indian legislation. He listed out the existing legislation affecting sharks in India, varying from provisions under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 to National Environment Tribunal Act, 1995.

He stated that the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 offers protection to ten species of sharks, rays and sawfishes. According to a joint study conducted by TRAFFIC and PEW, India is the world's second largest shark fishing nation. Further, he stated that despite these protections there is a discernible growth in shark trade.

He pointed out the need for stronger legislation in India for sharks in the absence of adequate data on shark fisheries, absence of comprehensive NPOA for sharks and lack of a CITES component in the Indian Wildlife Protection Act. He stressed on the urgent need for creation of the NPOA for all the neighbouring member countries which would take care of concerns over shark listings and their overall protection.

He listed the following points as a requirement for improved conservation of sharks:

- Conduct consistent scientific and trade research
- Ensure transparency in shark trade data
- Clarify the role and implementation of the shark finning policy as part of Indian legislation
- Ensure involvement of fishermen and safeguard fishermen community interests

- Allow organizations such as WWF, TRAFFIC, IUCN, CMFRI, HSI, MPEDA and CPREEC as well as the fishing communities to aid the MoEF&CC in framing of future legislation and policies
- Ensure greater involvement of judiciary and judicial workshops to examine current laws and interpretations
- Encourage and allow for cross pollination of ideas

Mr. Shubobroto's talk raised many comments on legislative practices from the Indian participants in the audience. Many of the representatives from the fisheries departments raised the issue of lack of investigation power afforded to the Fisheries Department under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. They noted that the field officers of the Department of Fisheries in all the coastal states get full information on the species landed in the landing centers, whereas, the forest officers rarely visit these places. In the event that a banned species (under WLP or CITES) is landed, the forest department has to be intimated and they are often dependent on the fishing community or the fisheries field officers in the area to investigate such matters. Hence, it was suggested that Fisheries Officers be given some powers under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, so that they can themselves initiate actions for such offences. This would help to comprehensively cover any illegal landing of sharks or manta rays.

**Topic: Introduction to CITES and overview of new CITES listing of sharks and manta rays**

**Speaker:** Mr. Tom DE-MEULENAER. Technical Officer, CITES Secretariat

Talking about Cites and its objectives Mr. Tom DE-MEULENAER said that CITES is the largest among biodiversity conventions and its objective is to ensure that wild flora and fauna are not exploited unsustainably.

He described ‘legality’, ‘sustainability’ and ‘traceability’ as the three pillars in trade and wide use of resources keeping in view the socio economic consequences. He said that these would lead to correct assessment of data about the species in any country and would be helpful in focusing on issues like conservation or regulation of trade.

**Topic: Overview of global and regional trade in sharks and manta rays**

**Speaker:** Dr. Yimim Ye, FAO, Rome, Italy

Dr. Yimim Ye explained that while CITES ensures that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival, FAO on the other hand sees to it that there is sustainable management and utilization of natural resources.

He talked about the collaboration between FAO and CITES. Referring to trade, he said that the world’s top 26 fishing countries produce 84% of the global shark catches as reported to FAO. Further, 30% of the world’s fish species are overfished. He explained that a decision on whether a species is threatened or overfished was made from data on its stock abundance. He asked all the member countries to make an effort to improve data on stocks as this would help in correct decision making.

He said that the IPOA adopted in 1999 did have an impact on shark catching as could be seen from the global shark landings reported to FAO. In a review on IPOA conducted by FAO, it was found that most countries have taken steps to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and internationally binding shark measures are in place for the majority of high seas covered by Regional Fishery Bodies (RFBs).

Detailing the collaboration between FAO with CITES, he said that FAO would continue the collaboration with CITES on

- Commercially exploited aquatic species

- Implementation of CITES shark listings
- Further consultations with Latin America and Asia

Further, FAO would review and monitor the status of listed species as well as develop strategies and plans for technical assistance.

**Topic: Introduction to the Draft National Plan of Action on sharks, rays and skates for India**

**Speaker:** Dr. Yugaraj Yadava, Director, BOBP-IGO, Chennai

Dr. Yugaraj Yadava talked about BOBP-IGO and its objectives. He explained the role of the BOBP as an Inter-Governmental Organization mandated to enhance the cooperation among member countries, other countries and organizations in the region. Further, it is also mandated to provide technical and management advisory services for sustainable coastal fisheries development and management in the Bay of Bengal region.

He then explained the ten objectives of IPOA and the process employed by BOBP-IGO in formulating India's NPOA. He talked about activities such as engagement of stakeholders in the development, implementation and review of the plan, preparation of Shark Assessment Report (SAR), creation of timelines to respond to issues identified in the SAR, identification of responsible agencies for implementation and finally, reporting processes to FAO.

He then went through the NPOA draft created by his team for India. He explained how this draft contained information on detailed action proposed for status of sharks, data collection and assessment, catch reporting, livelihood issues of directed shark fishers and an implementation plan. He also talked about the monitoring and evaluation plans created under the NPOA.

**Panel Discussion:** Regional Fisheries management organizations and regional initiatives

**Panel Members:**

Dr. Yugaraj Yadava, Director, BOBP-IGO, Chennai

Dr. David Wilson, Deputy Secretary & Science Manager, IOTC, Seychelles

Ms. Nishanthi Perera, Programme Officer, SACEP, Sri Lanka

Mr. C.M. Muralidharan, Project Manager/Field Administrative Officer, BOBLME, Thailand

The technical session was followed by a panel discussion and Q & A session on Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RMFOs), regional initiatives and their contribution to national shark management policy. Panel members included representatives from IOTC, SACEP, BOBLME and BOBP-IGO. The panel talked about how each of the RMFOs contributed to shark management measures. The questions from audience ranged from issues on NPOA, the timeline to develop RPOA, availability of guides and booklets on listed species in regional languages etc. All the questions were satisfactorily answered by the panel members.

**Cultural Evening and Dinner**

The day ended with a cultural programme hosted by CPREEC. Shri Zakir Hussain, a noted classical dancer, performed *Dasavatharam* – the ten incarnations of Lord Vishnu. Participants spent time interacting with each other informally over the dinner that was organized at the end of the programme.

## **Day 2 – August 27, 2014**

### **Topic: CITES listing requirements**

**Speaker:** Mr. Tom DE-MEULENAER, Technical Officer, CITES Secretariat

Speaking on the CITES listing requirements, Mr. Tom DE-MEULENAER explained that countries wishing to export, re-export and/or import specimens of the recently CITES-listed sharks and rays after 14<sup>th</sup> September 2014 have to meet certain requirements such as ensuring the trade would not be detrimental to the survival of the species, through scientific assessments on species status in the national/ regional territory, ensuring that trade is conducted in specimens that were legally acquired, through monitoring, revision of fishery laws, etc and ensuring that trade is supported by CITES permits or certificates, through collaboration of CITES authorities and fisheries agencies. He reiterated the concepts of legality, sustainability and traceability. He also talked about the role of ‘legal acquisition findings’ in the verification process of specimens that were intended for export and re-export. He restated that ‘sustainability’ implied determining that proposed trade would not be detrimental to the survival of the species and ‘traceability’ implied recording and tracing trade from the country of origin to the destination country.

He said that the NDF is an effective advice by the CITES Scientific Authority of the exporting country on the effect of proposed trade on survival of the species. He asked the member countries to explore methods for making NDFs, share experiences and examples of ways of making NDFs through regional or sub-regional workshops. He advised them to maintain written records of the science-based rationale included in the Scientific Authorities’ NDF assessments and to offer, on request, cooperative assistance to developing countries, for improvement of capacity to make NDFs, based on nationally identified needs.

Concluding the presentation, he said that CITES would always be ready to provide any kind of technical support as required by the parties.

**Topic: Outcome of the Xiamen workshop**

**Speaker:** Ms. Monica Barone, CITES Secretariat

Ms. Monica Barone went through the outcomes derived from the Xiamen workshop. She detailed the priority actions recommended along with the associated short term activities decided upon. The main policy actions as elaborated by her are as follows:

- Improvement of data collection by developing field guides for sharks and rays, using pre-existing material. Encourage the use of local knowledge and support data collection through logbook and/or observer programs and others as feasible.
- Strengthening national legislation, enforcement (monitoring, control and surveillance) and international cooperation by producing user friendly and reliable identification tools for CITES-listed shark species and their products to enable timely procedures by customs and enforcement officers. Increasing the number of enforcement staff and setting up a regular consultation mechanism among relevant agencies (fisheries and CITES) etc.
- Strengthening conservation and management measures by consulting with various categories of stakeholders and developing and implementing comprehensive awareness programs etc.
- Enhancing training and capacity building/human resource development by providing user friendly guides for non-experts.
- Securing funding by inviting the CITES Secretariat and FAO to identify funding availability from international and other donors, etc.



**Topic: Outcome of the PEW Colombo workshop**

**Speaker:** Ms. Isabel Jarrett, Associate, The PEW Charitable Trusts Washington D.C.

Ms. Isabel Jarrett, went through the outcomes of the workshop held on July 30 - 31, 2014 in Colombo, Sri Lanka wherein the participating countries recognized the need for improved data collection for regional cooperation, capacity building and scientific collaboration as well as for financial support for CITES compliance with the new listings.

**Topic: Discussion on Implementation of shark and manta ray listing in the Bay of Bengal (BoB) region**

**Chaired By:** Mr. Ahmad Bin Ali, Senior Research Officer, Department of Fisheries Malaysia/SEAFDEC-MFRDMD and Mr. Tom DE-MEULENAER, Technical Officer, CITES Secretariat

This discussion focused on the implementation of shark and manta ray listings in the BOB region. Representatives from participating countries presented their plan and ideas on how to move forward from Xiamen and Colombo workshops, priorities in the sub-region and what kind of existing mechanisms could be used for the implementation of the CITES listings. The main information shared by the representatives of the participating nations is as follows:

**Bangladesh**

The representative from Bangladesh said that about 20-30 shark species are present/ recorded by the Bangladesh Fisheries Department. There is no proper data on stocks. The country has recorded landing data from eight spots but data collection is not a regular activity. Shark was not a target species initially in Bangladesh's fisheries, but in the last two years sharks have become a targeted species. Consumption of shark meat was limited

and thus, it can be said that shark was exported to other countries. There exists illegal trade with Myanmar and India.

He informed the chair that Bangladesh's NPOA preparation is in its final stages and being worked upon with the help of BOBP-IGO. They are trying to develop capacity to conserve species. A key-book on listed and present shark species will also be developed. The main focus right now is on awareness building among fishermen. He concluded that the five CITES listed species are not listed in Bangladesh's export data.

### **Sri Lanka**

The representative from Sri Lanka said that sharks are by-catch and not targeted. In Sri Lanka, there are two regulations for sharks wherein shark finning is banned. There is 100% utilization of the landed shark. Meat consumption is prevalent in the country. Data collection is done by following certain pre-fixed format. New log books are being developed. The NDF will be developed upon consultation with stakeholders. Species wise shark fin trade data is currently not available. She also said that Sri Lanka would require financial assistance for the creation of the NDF and also for the organization of a regional workshop on implementation of listings. The Chair asked Sri Lankan representatives to look into other trade in addition to shark fins.

### **Indonesia**

The representative from Indonesia said that the country has made progress in CITES listed species. Data collection has improved due to appointment of data collectors in major fish landing areas. Data collection is also being done through observers. For scalloped hammerhead, a NDF is complete. The representative said that steps will be taken to increase social awareness and to improve Marine Protected Areas. He also said that training in species identification for various stakeholders and at the major landing areas would be the nation's first priority. There was a request from Indonesia's representative for technical support for all developing countries for creation of NDFs and for creation of regional NDFs for certain species. The Chair

suggested that countries should work with foreign scientists and specialists in stock assessment.

### **Malaysia**

The representative from Malaysia said that the country will enforce zero quota export for all sharks and Manta rays listed under CITES from 15 September 2014. NDFs for hammerhead sharks cannot be proceed due to poor landing data and trades. The country has started a pilot project on data collection of sharks and rays landing up to species level funded by BOBLME in 2013 and there are three management committees created in the country for sharks. Another pilot project on data collection of landing data up to species level will be started next year in collaboration with SEAFDEC. Malaysia enforced total ban on serving of shark fins soup in all government functions in 2014. Malaysia implementing the NPOA-Shark since 2005 and the second NPOA-Shark (Plan 2) for duration 2014-2018 are in implementing stage. Malaysia also seeks technical advice on the DNA identification of newly listed sharks and manta rays especially on their derivatives. The Chair suggested that a labeling system could be considered for traceability.

### **Thailand**

The representative from Thailand said that no decision had been taken as far as zero quota was concerned. Training is being provided for inspectors and they will continue to monitor and check imports and exports at the borders.

### **Myanmar**

The representative from Myanmar said that they have one Marine Protected Area and the Department of Fisheries has one protected area for sharks. Regarding sustainability of marine resources, Myanmar has many management policies. They would be looking at promoting eco-tourism to promote alternative livelihoods. The data needs to be updated since the country has data from 2004 only. He also informed the Chair that zero

quota is a likely proposition and no concrete decision has been taken yet. They will be concentrating on regional cooperation with producing and user countries. Capacity building for law enforcement agencies for species identification will also taken up as top priority.

## **Maldives**

The representative from Maldives said that consultations with stakeholders had been organized in April 2014. There are no exports, though imports are permitted. They have a log book for Tuna fishing wherein fishermen must record shark by-catch up to genus level. The other regulations are under process.

## **India**

The representative from India said that a bill incorporating CITES convention into Wildlife Protection Act is awaiting approval from the Parliament. A survey on shark populations is currently being conducted by FSI. There are strong, rigid and scientific data collection methods in India and stock assessments are conducted regularly. The representative hoped that the NPOA would act as a key document for future action and reported that a draft of the NPOA was ready for review. Steps would be taken for training all the stakeholders in the identification of listed species. He also expressed that augmentation of staff at different trade and/or export exit points is a matter of concern.

**Topic:**        **Tools: Shark fin and Manta ray ID guides**

**Speaker:** Ms. Isabel Jarrett, Associate The PEW Charitable Trust, Washington D.C.

Ms. Isabel Jarrett talked about the various methods available for identification of the listed species of sharks by their fins and manta rays by their gill plates. All the delegates were provided with different samples of shark fins and were trained to identify the listed species based on the color,

and shape and cartilage of the fins. At the end of the presentation, delegates were able to conduct basic identifications. They could distinguish fins of listed shark species from those of non-listed species and could also distinguish between gill plates from manta and mobula rays.

**Topic:        Role of Fishermen in conservation of shark species**

**Speaker:** Mr. J. Vincent Jain, Representative, National Mission Team on Conservation of Sharks India, Association of Deep Sea Going Artisanal Fishermen (ADSGAF), Thoothoor, Kanyakumari.

Mr. Vincent Jain's presentation was on the role of fishermen in conservation of shark species. He said that there is a need to involve fishermen in all stages – starting from planning and going upto implementation for any fishing regulations. Before listing any species under any regulation or act, the opinion of the fishermen must be taken as they are the best source of knowledge for any species. He stated that fishermen alone can rehabilitate the fishing grounds and hence, they must be consulted before taking any policy decision. He requested that fishermen should be helped in identifying the species since they only know the local or common names and not scientific nomenclature. He stated that this awareness would help the authorities in implementing the CITES listing properly.

Speaking on behalf of all fishermen groups, Mr. Jain expressed their displeasure at the lack of communication from the Indian government about the decisions made at CITES CoP16, held in Thailand in 2013. They pointed out that fishermen are not represented at such meetings and are not consulted prior to the listings. They expressed the need to involve fishermen groups in such discussion from the early stages so that decisions that affect the fishermen's livelihoods can be practically thought out.

## **Session: Breakout Group Discussions – National and Bay of Bengal Region**

Following the reporting by each nation on the current status of CITES Appendix II listings of sharks and manta ray species, the delegates were split into two groups – the national group and the Bay of Bengal Group. The national group consisted of the Indian delegates representing various governments, non-government, scientific and fishermen organizations. The Bay of Bengal group consisted of Fisheries and CITES representatives from the eight countries in Bay of Bengal region including India.

The Bay of Bengal group was chaired by Mr. C. M. Muralidharan, Project Manager, BOBLME and Dr. David Wilson, Deputy Secretary, IOTC. The national group was chaired by Mr. Shiv Pal Singh, I.F.S., Joint Director (Wildlife), MoEF&CC and Mr. P. Mara Pandiyan, I.A.S., Principal Secretary, Department of Fisheries, Government of Kerala.

The discussions within each of these breakout groups was focused on detailed understanding of the management and conservations measures currently under practice by the nations and organizations represented in the respective groups. Discussions also focused on how collaboration within the region could bolster conservation goals for each nation in the region. The discussions began in the post-tea session on August 27, 2014 and were resumed in the first session on August 28, 2014.

## **Session: Poster Session**

A parallel poster session was held in order to enable each country to present an overview of the status of sharks as well as the status of legal and management measures for shark fisheries within each of their waters. This poster session helped in creating room for greater interaction and discussions between the participants.

### **Day 3 – August 28, 2014**

On the final day of the workshop, the breakout discussions continued. Each group focused on the priority actions and methodologies it would adopt to fulfill the action plan as declared in the Xiamen Declaration – Action Plan.

The discussion dealt with the issues, challenges, activities to address the identified needs of ongoing and proposed financial and technical support. Indian fishermen were strongly represented in the meeting and were actively involved in all the discussions. Their involvement in the national breakout sessions helped bring clarity in the understanding of the problems faced by fishermen when dealing with such conservation measures. Further, their role in helping scientists with data collection and enforcement agencies with implementation methodologies was agreed upon by all the participants.

The various deliberations made in these breakout groups were then compiled by staff from HSI, CITES Secretariat and FAO into a single document that detailed the various steps that the representatives from each group had decided upon. The deliberations were thereafter used to formulate the final outcomes of the workshop. These ‘outcomes’ were once again reviewed by both groups and finalized upon consensus from all the participants on August 28, 2014.

### **Outcomes of the workshop**

#### **Regional measures**

The participants of the workshop agreed to undertake the following actions to ensure that all countries are able to comply with the CITES Appendix II listings of the 5 new shark species and 2 manta ray species:

#### **1. Coordination/communication:**

**National:** There is a clear need for additional National Coordination among relevant agencies to ensure that to the extent feasible, each relevant agency

is aware of the new requirements and will be able to fully comply and share information necessary to ensure compliance with the Appendix II listings

**Regional:** As appropriate, regional workshops will be carried out to ensure customs, compliance and other officers are adequately trained in the documentation needs for the new listings. Regional support from BOBLME, BOBP-IGO and SEAFDEC will continue to help facilitate the implementation of the shark and ray listings and the management and conservation measures as follows.

- BOBLME and BOBP-IGO are supporting the development of NPOAs, addressing the gaps in data collection and species identification in member countries.
- With the limited budget and time available for the BOBLME project, the project, in collaboration with BOBP-IGO and SEAFDEC, may help finalize the NPOAs, assist in developing a Regional Plan of Actions for Sharks and organize regional shark working group meeting early 2015. It may also assist in the essential capacity building needed in shark identification where it is still needed.
- The RFBs such as BOBP-IGO and SEAFDEC have a major role to play along with the RFMOs, RFBs can also help with the implementation of the shark listings, advisory, stock assessment and capacity building. It would require a lead country in the region to undertake that task. SEAFDEC is already in touch with the CITES Secretariat.

## **2. Capacity building:**

**Species/product identification:** Each country will undertake, either in isolation or in partnership with regional countries and experts, species product identification training. Training workshops may be partnered, where possible, with other activities, such as the scientific observer training programs within the Indian Ocean.



### **3. Data collection and scientific support for the making of non-detriment findings (NDFs):**

**Data collection:** Although there have been improvements in recent years, data collection on shark catches by Indian Ocean fisheries remains limited. In many cases where data is being collected, it is being incorrectly recorded. A concerted action/effort to enhance data gathering abilities, database development and ongoing maintenance and verification in the following would be needed if relevant stock status indicators, for the newly listed shark and manta ray species could be developed in the future to support NDF documentation.

**Stock structure and delimitation:** To better understand the impact of fisheries on shark populations, it is important to determine the stock boundaries, existence of mixing areas and migration between geographic areas within and between Oceans. The IOTC, through EU finding, will be undertaking a project to examine if there is population structure of tunas of interest to the IOTC throughout the Indian Ocean. Key shark species, including some of the newly listed Appendix II species may be included in the final project if matching funds can be identified. Participant countries agreed that a collaborative approach should be undertaken to the extent feasible.

**Species biology and ecology:** Noting that the IOTC is currently developing an Indian Ocean shark research plan (IO-ShYP) with the aim of “promoting cooperation and coordination among IOTC researchers, to improve the quality of the scientific advice on sharks provided to the Commission, namely, by conducting quantitative stock assessments for selected species by 2016, and to better assess the impact on shark stocks of the current IOTC Conservation and Management Measures”, participants agreed that to the extent possible/applicable, national research scientists undertaking research programs on the newly listed shark and manta ray species, should work in collaboration with the IOTC Secretariat to ensure resources are maximized and objectives are aligned. The IO-ShYP will be discussed at the

upcoming IOTC Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch (27-31 October 2014 in Japan) where all Indian Ocean coastal states are invited to actively participate.

**Making of NDFs:** Good practical guidance on the making of NDFs is required. NDF findings and experiences, as well as examples of best practice, should be shared between, and implemented by Scientific Authorities and relevant fisheries agencies. Malaysia and Indonesia reported on NDF guidance that is being developed with support from Germany. They advised that regional capacity building workshops should be organized for relevant authorities and experts to develop national NDFs and to explore the feasibility of a regional NDF for trade in CITES-listed sharks and manta rays. The workshops could make use of available guidance, and/or adapt this guidance to meet the specific needs of the Bay of Bengal countries and region.

### **National measures concerning India**

The participants of the workshop recognized that the representatives from various government, non-government, scientific research and fishermen organizations in India had agreed on the following points in support of the CITES Appendix II listings of shark and manta ray species as well as the management of shark fisheries within Indian waters:

- The collective objective of all stakeholder groups is to achieve sustainable fisheries management and to comply with the requirements of international conventions such as CITES that India is a party to.
- There is a need for greater involvement of all stakeholder groups, including the fishermen community in order to achieve effective management of shark species. Fishermen community must be included in all stages of shark species management – from planning to implementation.
- There is a need for clear organizational setup and division of duties amongst the various Government of India organizations for the creation of an NDF for the CITES Appendix II listed species.

- There exists a deficiency of scientific data and all participants agree that a clear roadmap for scientific assessment of the CITES listed species is required.
- Methodology for uniform data collection and collation needs to be created.
- The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (DADF), under the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, is the apex body for the management of shark species and data collection shall be coordinated by nodal agencies appointed by them, such as Fishery Survey of India and Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute. Further, molecular identification technology and expertise on elasmobranchs as offered by CMFRI would also be extended for the management of shark species.
- Awareness building activities for the implementation agencies, the fishermen community and trader groups on the CITES listed shark species and shark based products shall be undertaken by various agencies such as MPEDA, CMFRI and FSI.
- Information material in local coastal languages shall be created with the aim to achieve effective outreach at grassroots level.
- All the participants recognize the need for immense manpower required for monitoring of products from CITES listed sharks species at customs and port routes. Hence, it has been agreed upon to building capacity to facilitate this further.
- Various coastal regions in India need to identify the CITES listed species that they need to prioritize for assessment and management.
- Traders are key stakeholders and concrete efforts should be made to sensitize traders. All participants agree that traders have an obligation to follow CITES regulations and strict penalties should exist for violations of CITES Appendix II listings by traders.
- The current catch composition of shark landings shall be analyzed and evaluation of the reliance of fishermen livelihoods on CITES Appendix II listed shark species shall be assessed.

- There is a challenge in the removal of shark species as part of by-catch. Many of the participants agree that sharks that are caught in Indian waters ought to be landed whole and utilized fully.
- There is a need to create concrete steps for identification of pupping grounds and catch ranges of the CITES listed species. Further, all participants agree that fishermen need to be involved as key members of this data collection effort.
- There is a need to be create legal provisions in order to address the trade of CITES listed species. Many of the participants believe that WPA listings can be upgraded from time to time vis-à-vis CITES listings, subject to development of an NDF for these species.
- In light of unavailability of sufficient data for the creation of an NDF for the CITES Appendix II listed species in India, the trade in these species could be conducted using a precautionary approach.

### **Valedictory session**

The workshop concluded with remarks by Dr. Nanditha Krishna, Director CPREEC. She said that the health of oceans is determined by the health of sharks in the ocean and hence, they must be conserved and not overexploited. She hoped that all the matters decided upon by the delegates would be implemented by all their respective countries. She also said that Bay of Bengal countries can achieve much more by working together.

Representing the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India, Mr. Shiv Pal Singh, IFS, Joint Director - Wildlife said that the workshop had led to fruitful discussions and hoped that member countries would achieve their goals.

Mr. P. Mara Pandiyan, IAS, Principal Secretary, Department of Fisheries, Government of Kerala shared his views about the workshop. He appreciated the efforts and said that these capacity building workshops will go a long way in fulfilling the objectives of CITES.

Mr. Hans Raj Verma, IAS, Secretary, Department of Environment and Forests, Government of Tamil Nadu, delivered the valedictory address of the workshop. He said that sharks are keystone species and are as important to oceans as tigers are on land. Just as we aim to protect and conserve tigers for land, similarly sharks must be conserved for the ecological health of oceans.

Mr. Tom DE-MEULENAER in his concluding speech said that the CITES would be happy to help the participating countries further on the implementations. He remarked that these meetings were enriching for him personally, as there is always scope for more learning.

Dr. T. Sundaramoorthy, Assistant Director, CPREEC, proposed the vote of thanks. He thanked all the guests and delegates for making the workshop a success.

## **ABBREVIATIONS**

AWBI	Animal Welfare Board of India
ADSGAF	Association of Deep Sea Going Artisanal Fishermen
BoB	Bay of Bengal
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CMFRI	Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute
CPREEC	C.P.R. Environmental Education Centre
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FSI	Fishery Survey of India
HSI	Humane Society International
IPOA	International Plan of Action
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
IUU	Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing
IOTC	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
NDF	Non-detriment Findings
NPOA	National Plan of Action (for the conservation and management of sharks)
MoEF&CC	Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Government of India
MPEDA	Marine Products Export Development Authority
RPOA	Regional Plan of Action for Sharks
SEAFDEC	Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center

# **OUTCOMES OF THE WORKSHOP**



## Outcomes of the Chennai Capacity Building Workshop<sup>1</sup> on Implementation of CITES Appendix II Listings of Shark and Manta Ray Species

Chennai, India

August 26 ~ 28, 2014

### Preamble

The participants to the workshop<sup>2</sup>, representatives of departments of fisheries, environment and forestry and CITES authorities from Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, and Thailand, endorsed the main outcomes and recommendations of the Xiamen Declaration and the Colombo Workshop, and updated the implementation status of the recommended actions. They identified additional national and regional measures in support of the implementation of the CITES Appendix II listings of sharks and manta ray species.

The participants welcomed the assistance and support from FAO, CITES, BOBP-IGO, BOBLME, SACEP, IOTC, MPEDA, CMFRI, Deep Sea Going Out Artisanal Fishing Association, the Pew Environment Group, Manta Trust, TRAFFIC-India, and Humane Society International, and encouraged ongoing regional collaboration across the Bay of Bengal.

The participants recognized that most of the countries present at the workshop had committed to developing a National Plan of Action for Sharks (NPOA-Sharks), and that a Regional Plan of Action for Sharks (RPOA-Sharks) for the Bay of Bengal is being envisaged.

### Regional measures

The participants of the workshop agreed to undertake the following actions to ensure that all countries are able to comply with the CITES Appendix II listings of the 5 new shark species and 2 manta ray species:

<sup>1</sup> The workshop was organized by India's Ministry of Environment and Forestry, C.P.R. Environmental Education Center and Humane Society International/India, with support from CITES Secretariat, United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, and the European Union.

<sup>2</sup> The meeting was attended, in addition to country representatives listed above, by representatives from intergovernmental organizations, BOBP-IGO, BOBLME, SACEP, IOTC, Indian organizations, MPEDA, CMFRI, Association of Deep Sea Going Artisanal Fishermen (ADSGAF), and non-governmental organizations, Manta Trust, the Pew Environment Group, TRAFFIC-India, and Humane Society International.



### **1. Coordination/communication:**

**National:** There is a clear need for additional National Coordination among relevant agencies to ensure that to the extent feasible, each relevant agency is aware of the new requirements and will be able to fully comply and share information necessary to ensure compliance with the Appendix II listings.

**Regional:** As appropriate, regional workshops will be carried out to ensure customs, compliance and other officers are adequately trained in the documentation needs for the new listings. Regional support from BOBLME, BOBP-IGO and SEAFDEC will continue to help facilitate the implementation of the shark and ray listings and the management and conservation measures as follows.

- BOBLME and BOBP-IGO are supporting the development of NPOAs, addressing the gaps in data collection and species identification in member countries.
- With the limited budget and time available for the BOBLME project, the project, in collaboration with BOBP-IGO and SEAFDEC, may help finalize the NPOAs, assist in developing a Regional Plan of Actions for Sharks and organize regional shark working group meeting early 2015. It may also assist in the essential capacity building needed in shark identification where it is still needed.
- The RFBs such as BOBP-IGO and SEAFDEC have a major role to play along with the RFMOs. RFBs can also help with the implementation of the shark listings, advisory, stock assessment and capacity building. It would require a lead country in the region to undertake that task. SEAFDEC is already in touch with the CITES Secretariat.

### **2. Capacity building:**

**Species/product identification:** Each country will undertake, either in isolation or in partnership with regional countries and experts, species product identification training. Training workshops may be partnered, where possible, with other activities, such as the scientific observer training programs within the Indian Ocean.

### **3. Data collection and scientific support for the making of non-detriment findings (NDFs):**

**Data collection:** Although there have been improvements in recent years, data collection on shark catches by Indian Ocean fisheries remains limited. In many cases where data is being collected, it is being incorrectly recorded. A concerted action/effort to enhance data gathering abilities, database development and ongoing maintenance and verification in the following would be needed if relevant stock status indicators, for the newly listed shark and manta ray species could be developed in the future to support NDF documentation.

**Stock structure and delimitation:** To better understand the impact of fisheries on shark populations, it is important to determine the stock boundaries, existence of mixing areas and migration between geographic areas within and between Oceans. The IOTC, through EU funding, will be undertaking a project to examine if there is population structure of tunas of interest to the IOTC throughout the Indian Ocean. Key shark species, including some of the newly listed Appendix II species may be included in the final project if matching funds can be identified. Participant countries agreed that a collaborative approach should be undertaken to the extent feasible.

**Species biology and ecology:** Noting that the IOTC is currently developing an Indian Ocean shark research plan (IO-ShYP) with the aim of “*promoting cooperation and coordination among IOTC researchers, to improve the quality of the scientific advice on sharks provided to the Commission, namely by conducting quantitative stock assessments for selected species by 2016, and to better assess the impact on shark stocks of the current IOTC Conservation and Management Measures*”, participants agreed that to the extent possible/applicable, national research scientists undertaking research programs on the newly listed shark and manta ray species, should work in collaboration with the IOTC Secretariat to ensure resources are maximised and objectives are aligned. The IO-ShYP will be discussed at the upcoming IOTC Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch (27-31 October 2014 in Japan) where all Indian Ocean coastal states are invited to actively participate.

**Making of NDFs:** Good practical guidance on the making of NDFs is required. NDF findings and experiences, as well as examples of best practice, should be shared between, and implemented by Scientific Authorities and relevant fisheries agencies. Malaysia and Indonesia reported on NDF guidance that is being developed with support from Germany. They advised that regional capacity building workshops should be organized for relevant authorities and experts to develop national NDFs and to explore the feasibility of a regional NDF for trade in CITES-listed sharks and manta rays. The workshops could make use of available guidance, and/or adapt this guidance to meet the specific needs of the Bay of Bengal countries and region.

#### **National measures concerning India**

The participants of the workshop recognized that India<sup>3</sup> had agreed on the following in support of the CITES Appendix II listings of shark and manta ray species and the management of shark fisheries within Indian waters:

- The collective objective of all stakeholder groups is to achieve sustainable fisheries management and to comply with the requirements of international conventions such as CITES that India is a party to.
- There is a need for greater involvement of all stakeholder groups, including the fishermen community in order to achieve effective management of shark species. Fishermen community must be included in all stages of shark species management – from planning to implementation.
- There is a need for clear organizational setup and division of duties amongst the various Government of India organizations for the creation of an NDF for the CITES Appendix II listed species.
- There exists a deficiency of scientific data and all participants agree that a clear roadmap for scientific assessment of the CITES listed species is required.
- Methodology for uniform data collection and collation needs to be created.
- The Department of Agriculture, Dairy and Animal Husbandry is the apex body for the management of shark species and data collection shall be coordinated by nodal agencies appointed by them, such as Fishery Survey of India and Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute. Further, molecular

<sup>3</sup>Representatives from MoEF, Forest Departments, Fisheries Departments, Customs, NGOs and Fishermen community.

identification technology and expertise on elasmobranchs as offered by CMFRI would also be extended for the management of shark species.

- Awareness building activities for the implementation agencies, the fishermen community and trader groups on the CITES listed shark species and shark based products shall be undertaken by various agencies such as MPEDA, CMFRI and FSI.
- Information material in local coastal languages shall be created with the aim to achieve effective outreach at grassroots level.
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- There is a need to create concrete steps for identification of pupping grounds and catch ranges of the CITES listed species. Further, all participants agree that fishermen need to be involved as key members of this data collection effort.
- There is a need to be create legal provisions in order to address the trade of CITES listed species. Many of the participants believe that WPA listings can be upgraded from time to time vis-à-vis CITES listings, subject to development of an NDF for these species.
- In light of unavailability of sufficient data for the creation of an NDF for the CITES Appendix II listed species in India, the trade in these species could be conducted using a precautionary approach.

# **LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

**Annexure – 1**

**C.P.R. ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTRE, CHENNAI**

**CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP ON  
CITES APPENDIX II LISTING OF SHARKS AND MANTA RAY SPECIES  
(Chennai, August 26 – 28, 2014)**

**LIST OF INTERNATIONAL & NATIONAL PARTICIPANTS**

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# **PHOTOGRAPHS**



**Dignitaries (L to R)**

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**Dr. M.S. Swaminathan, Chairman, CPREEC**

**Dr. Nanditha Krishna, Director, CPREEC**

**Mr. N.G. Jayasimha, Managing Director, HSI India**



**Mr. Tom DE-MEULENAER, Technical Officer, CITES Secretariat giving his opening remarks**





**Mr. M.L. Srivastava, IFS, Deputy Inspector General of Forests (Wildlife and Forest Protection), MoEF&CC, Government of India delivering the presidential address**



**Dr. M.S. Swaminathan, Chairman, CPREEC delivering the inaugural address**



**Dr. M.S. Swaminathan, Chairman, CPREEC interacting with the participants**



**A view of the participants**





**Ms. C. Samyukta, Campaign Manager – Wildlife, HSI India making her presentation**



**Dr. Shoba Joe, Senior Scientist, CMFRI making her presentation**



**Dr. Vijaykumar Yaragal, Deputy Director, MPEDA, Chennai making his presentation**



**Mr. Shubhobroto Ghosh, Senior Programme Officer, TRAFFIC India addressing the participants**





**Mr. Tom DE-MEULENAER, Technical Officer, CITES Secretariat making his presentation**



**Dr. Yimin Ye, Chief, Marine & Inland Fisheries Branch, FAO addressing the participants**



**Dr. Yugaraj Singh Yadava, Director, Bay of Bengal Programme – Inter Governmental Organization (BoBP-IGO), Chennai addressing the participants**



**Panel Members (L to R)**

**Dr. Yugaraj Singh Yadava, BoBP-IGO, Chennai**

**Dr. David Wilson, Deputy Secretary & Science Manager, IOTC, Seychelles**

**Ms. Nishanthi Perera, Programme Officer, SACEP, Sri Lanka and**

**Mr. C.M. Muralidharan, Project Manager/Field Administrative Officer, BOBLME, Thailand**





**Mr. Ahmad Bin Ali, Senior Research Officer, SEAFDEC, Malaysia interacting with the Panel Members**



**Mr. Tarun Kathula, Project Officer – GoI UNDP, Wildlife Division, MoEF&CC interacting with the Panel Members**



**Dr. Nanditha Krishna, Director, CPREEC giving a brief introduction about *Dasavatharam – Ten incarnations of Lord Vishnu* at the cultural event**



**Shri. Zakir Hussain performing at the cultural event**





**Mr. Tom DE-MEULENAER, CITES Secretariat, speaking on CITES listing requirements**



**Ms. Monica Barone, CITES Secretariat, speaking on the Outcome of Xiamen workshop**



**Ms. Isabel Jarrett, The PEW Charitable Trust addressing on the outcome of the PEW Colombo Workshop**



**Participants at the poster session**





**Mr. Tom & Mr. Ahmad Bin Ali took the Chair – Discussion on implementation of shark and manta rays listing in the Bay of Bengal region**



**Dr. Naing Zaw Htun, Assistant Director, Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry, Myanmar participating in the discussion**



**Mr. Fahmi, Research Centre for Oceanography, Indonesia participating in the discussion**



**Mr. P. Tamilarasan, Fisheries Scientist, FSI, Chennai participating in the discussion**





**Participants identifying shark fins**



**Mr. Vincent Jain. Representative, AD SGAF making his presentation**



**Group discussion – National participants Chaired by Mr. Mara Pandiyan, IAS and Mr. Shiv Pal Singh, IFS**



**Mr. Olencio Simoes, Representative fishermen associations participating in the group discussion**



**Group discussion – International participants Chaired by  
Dr. David Wilson, IOTC and Mr. C.M. Muralidharan, BOBLME**



**Ms. Fazeela Ahmed Shaheem, Legal Officer, Ministry of Environment and Energy,  
Maldives participating in the group discussion**





**Dr. Nanditha Krishna, Director, CPREEC at the valedictory function**



**Mr. Shiv Pal Singh, IFS, Joint Director – Wildlife, MoEF&CC, Government of India addressing the participants at the valedictory function**



**Concluding remarks by Mr. Tom DE-MEULENAER, Technical Officer, CITES Secretariat**



**Mr. Mara Pandiyan, IAS, Principal Secretary, Department of Fisheries, Government of Kerala sharing his views at the valedictory function**





**Mr. Hans Raj Verma, IAS, Secretary, Department of Environment & Forests, Government of Tamil Nadu delivering the valedictory address**



# **PRESS CLIPPINGS**

## SENSITISE FISHERMEN ON SHARKS: EXPERT

DC CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI, AUG. 26

The Union environment ministry has decided to reach out to the fishermen community to save the shark population. M.L. Srivastava, deputy inspector general of forests and wildlife of the Union ministry, who was in Chennai on Tuesday for regional workshop on sharks and rare species, said the government would launch interaction sessions with fishermen communities to spread awareness about importance of sharks in the coastal biodiversity.

According to Srivastava, there is a need to sensitise countries which import



shark-based products for consumption. "Collaborative effort is required to save sharks. Departments like commerce, fisheries, industries, ports and shipping should come together and work on sustainable measures on catch of sharks and trade of shark products. Countries that fall in the seascape of Indian Ocean and Bay of Bengal

should be asked to come out with scientific database on sharks," said Srivastava.

M.S. Swaminathan said that the gap between fishermen and shark experts should be reduced to save sharks. "Unless the fishermen and other ordinary people are educated about importance of sharks in the coastal ecological network, we cannot expect any big change. Social mobilisation of the people in the conservation of Gulf of Mannar biosphere reserve is an example," he said.

Further, he said the agreement between the communities and experts was critical to save the species.





## சட்ட விரோத கறா மீன் வர்த்தக மையமாக சென்னை திகழ்கிறது

வன விலங்கு பாதுகாப்பு பிரசார மேலாளர் தகவல்

சென்னை, ஆக.23: சட்ட விரோத கறா மீன் வர்த்தகம் நடைபெறும் மையமாக சென்னை நகரம் உள்ளது என 'ஹிழ்மன்' சொசைட்டி இன் டிரீஷனஸ் அமைப்பின் வன விலங்கு பாதுகாப்பு பிரசார மேலாளர் சம்பூக்தா கூறினார். இதுகுறித்து செந்தியான்க ஸ்டீம் சனிக்கிழமை அவர் கூறியது:

கறா மீன்களைப் பாதுகாப்பு பாதுகாப்பான மூன்று நாள் சர்வதேசப் பரிவரங்கை மத்திய அரசின் கற்றுச்சூழல், வனத் துறை அமைச்சகம், சிபி.ஆர். கற்றுச்சூழல் கல்வி மையம் ஆகியவை இணைத்து நடத்துகின்றன. இத்தப் பரிவரங்கம் சென்னையில் ஆகஸ்ட் 26-ஆம் தேதி

தொடங்குகிறது.

பரிவரங்கில் பல்வேறு சர்வதேச அமைப்புகள், சிங்கப்பூர், மலேசியா, இந்தோனேசியா, மலீசியாவில், புருனோ, மியான்மர், தாய்லாந்து, கம்போடியா, வியட்நாம், ஸாவோல் போன்ற தென் கிழக்கு ஆசிய நாடுகளில் மீன் வளம், வனத் துறையைச் சேர்ந்த அதிகாரிகள் பங்கேற்கின்றனர்.

இந்தியாவைச் சேர்ந்த பல்வேறு மீனவரி அமைப்புகளின் பிரதிநிதிகளும் பங்கேற்க அழைப்பு விடுக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது. கறா மீன்களின் இனப் பெருக்கம், கணக்கெடுப்பு,

ஆராய்ச்சி, சட்ட விரோதமாக கறா மீன் துடுப்பு கடத்தப்படுவது போன்றவை குறித்து பரிவரங்கில் விவாதிக்கப்படும். கறா மீன்கள் துடுப்பு, எலும்பு, பல் போன்ற பல்வேறு பாகங்களுக்கு சர்வதேச அளவில் நல்ல விலை கிடைக்கிறது.

இதனால், சட்ட விரோதமாக அவற்றை வேட்டையாடி கடத்துவதும் அதிகரித்து வருகிறது. இதனால் சமீப காலமாக கறா மீன்கள் எண்ணிக்கை குறைந்து வருகிறது.

சர்வதேச அளவில் சட்ட விரோத கறா மீன் வர்த்தகத்தின் மையமாக சென்னை விளங்குகி

றது. சுமார் 10 லட்சம் பன் கறா மீன்கள் சென்னையிலிருந்து சர்வதேச நாடுகளுக்கு கடத்தப்படுவதாகக் கூறப்படுகிறது.

கறா மீன்களைப் பாதுகாக்கும் முயற்சியாக அண்டை நாடுகளுடன் இணைத்து, கறா மீன்கள் கடத்தப்படுவதைத் தடுக்கும் நடவடிக்கைகளைக் கடுமையாக்குவது உள்விட்டவை குறித்து விவாதிக்கப்படும் என்றார் அவர்.

சிபி.ஆர். கற்றுச்சூழல் கல்வி மையத்தின் இயக்குநர் நந்திதா கிருஷ்ணன், உதவி இயக்குநர் டி.கிருஷ்ணமூர்த்தி உள்ளிட்டோர் கலந்துகொண்டனர்.



### இந்தியக் கடல் பகுதிகளில் குறைந்து வரும் சுறா மீன் வளம்

நமது திருபுர்

சென்னை, ஆக. 31: இந்தியக் கடல் பகுதிகளில் சமீப காலமாக சுறா மீன்களின் வளம் குறைந்து வருவதாக மத்திய கடல் மீன் வள ஆராய்ச்சி நிறுவனம் தெரிவித்துள்ளது.

கடந்த 10 ஆண்டுகளுக்கு முன்பு 47 ஆயிரம் டன் களுக்கு அதிகமான சுறா மீன்கள் பிடிக்கப்பட்டதாகவும், தற்போது அதன் அளவு 22 ஆயிரம் டன் எனக் குறைந்துள்ளதாகவும் தகவல்கள் தெரிவிக்கின்றன. மத்திய சுற்றுச்சூழல் மற்றும் வனத் துறை அமைச்சர், சி.பி.ஆர். சுற்றுச்சூழல் கல்வி மையம், ஹிழ்மன் சொசைட்டி இன்டர்நேஷனல் ஆபிஸ்வற்றின் சார்பில் சுறா மீன்கள் பாதுகாப்பு குறித்த பயிற்சங்கம் சென்னையில் கடந்த மூன்று நாட்களாக நடை

பெற்றது. இதில் பல்வேறு நாடுகளைச் சேர்ந்த சுற்றுச்சூழல் ஆர்வலர்கள், அரசு அதிகாரிகள், தன்னார்வ அமைப்பின் பிரதிநிதிகள் கலந்து கொண்டனர். பயிற்சங்கத்தில் இந்தியக் கடல் பகுதிகளில் சுறா மீன் வளம் குறித்து மத்திய கடல் மீன்வள ஆராய்ச்சி நிறுவனத்தின் விஞ்ஞானி ஷோபா ஜோ தெரிவித்த தகவல்:

கடந்த 1985-ஆம் ஆண்டிலிருந்து 2012-ஆம் ஆண்டு வரை சராசரியாக ஆண்டுக்கு 35 ஆயிரம் டன் சுறா மீன்கள் பிடிக்கப்பட்டன. அதிகபட்சமாக 1998-ல் 47 ஆயிரம் டன் மீன்கள் பிடிக்கப்பட்டன.

ஆனால் 2012-ஆம் ஆண்டில் 22 ஆயிரம் டன் எனக் குறைந்தது. வியாபார நோக்கத்திற்காக சட்ட விரோதமாக சுறா மீன்கள் வேட்டையாடப்படுவதால்,

அந்த வகை மீன்களின் உற்பத்தி குறைந்து வருகிறது. சுறா, திருக்கை மீன்களில் 1044 வகைகள் அழிந்து வரும் பட்டியலில் இடம்பதாக்கிவந்தே அமைப்பு ஒன்றின் ஆய்வுத் தகவல்கள் தெரிவிக்கின்றன. சுறா மீன்கள் 40 ஆண்டுகள் வரை வாழக் கூடியவை. 20 ஆண்டுகளுக்குப் பிறகே சூட்டி சுணம் பண்புடையது.

ஆனால் அவை முதிர்ச்சியடைவதற்கு முன்பே அதிகளவில் பிடிக்கப்படுவதால், உற்பத்தி குறைந்து வருகிறது. சுறா குடும்பத்தைச் சேர்ந்த சில மீன் வகைகள் மிக வேகமாக அழிந்து வருகின்றன. அவற்றை பாதுகாக்கவும், உற்பத்தியைப் பெருக்கவும் மீனவர்களிடையே விழிப்புணர்வு ஏற்படுத்த வேண்டும் என்று அவர் தெரிவித்தார்.

## Workshop to protect sharks

NT Bureau

Chennai, Aug 24:

Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India in collaboration with C P Ramaswami Environment Education Centre and Humane Society International, India will organise a three day workshop in Chennai on 26 August, to protect Sharks and Manta Ray-species.

Speaking to media here yesterday, C P Ramaswami Environment Education Centre director Nandita Krishna said, the workshop will help advance efforts to improve conservation and management of sharks by Bay of Bengal and Indian Ocean countries through training and assistance for implementation and compliance with shark listings on Appendix II of The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild fauna and flora (CITES).

Representatives from Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia, Maldives, members from Fisheries Survey of India, Zoological Survey of India, Wildlife Institute of India and fishermen associations will be participating in the workshop, she said. Samayukta of Humane Society International said, as tigers are important to balance our eco system, sharks are critical to balance marine ecosystem. The workshop will discuss issues related to protect these endangered species and how to control shark finning.

Regarding CITES, she said it is a multilateral environmental agreement which regulates international trade in plants and animals of conservation concern to ensure that such trade does not threaten their survival. A total of 175 member countries have signed the CITES treaty which protects about 5,000 species of animals and 28,000 species of plants listed in three CITES Appendices, depending on their conservation status and on the urgency of their need for protection from international trade, she said.

## Around Town

**NEWS TODAY**  
**CHENNAI**

WEDNESDAY **3**  
27 AUGUST 2014



*CPR Environmental Education Centre (CPREEC) chairman M S Swaminathan, CITES Secretariat technical officer Tom De Meulenaer and CPREEC director Nanditha Krishna at a workshop on protection of sharks in Chennai yesterday.*

## All life is precious, intertwined: Scientist

NT Bureau

Chennai, Aug 27:

All life is important, interconnected and deserved to be protected, said noted agriculture scientist and CPR Environmental Education Centre (CPREEC) chairman MS Swaminathan. He said this at the inauguration of a three day workshop on protecting sharks and manta rays here yesterday.

Swaminathan said there was lack of knowledge not only among common people but also among professionals on the importance of protecting sharks for balance of marine ecosystem. The trade and bio diversity are interconnected and one needs to focus on commerce for proper conservation, he said.

Speaking on the occasion, Humane Society International, campaign manager C Samyukta said mostly sharks are landed for their fins which is used in the preparation of soup in traditional Chinese cuisine.

She also said shark's cartilage and liver are harvested for traditional medicine and cosmetics. Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Chennai senior scientist Shoba Joe said that there was a strong domestic consumption of sharks in Gujarat, Kerala and Tamilnadu. Apart from it, there are exported to China and other southeast Asian countries, she added.

Vijaykumar Yaragal of The Marine Products Export Development Authority, said that Chennai and Mumbai are becoming a hub for shark exports in the country and strict regulation and law enforcement would lead to better conservation.

He also said there need to be a better awareness on all stakeholders especially fishermen on importance of sharks. Many misconceptions like shark's meat improves virility has a telling effect on its numbers, he said.



## City turns Hub of Shark Fin Trade

**Express News Service**

**Chennai:** The city has become a hub of illegal shark fin trade, as an estimated 1 million tonnes of shark fins are smuggled from Chennai to various global destinations. This happens despite the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests placing 60 items caught and removed from the sea, including all shark species, under Schedule One of the Wildlife Protection Act.

Addressing a press conference to announce a three-day Regional Capacity Building Workshop on the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) organised by the Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change from August 26-28, C Samyukta of Humane Society of India said that while in India shark meat is considered low quality, it is being overfished as it is in huge demand worldwide for its fins and other products.

She said that consignments are sent either through air or port and they go un-

noticed as there is no standard code for shark meat products. The workshop aims to work with neighbouring nations to arrive at cooperative and unequivocal decisions on stringent implementation of CITES Appendix II listings for sharks and rays.

The workshop is also being held in the wake of five new shark species added to Appendix II at CITES. Species listed in Appendix II are although not necessarily now threatened with extinction, but may become so unless trade in specimens of such species is subject to strict regulation. The new species include Oceanic whitetip shark, the porbeagle shark, scalloped, smooth and great hammerhead sharks and great and reef manta rays.

The CITES party, of which India is also a signatory, had agreed to a deadline of September 14, 2014 for the implementation of Appendix II listings. CITES protection relies on a permitting system, which aims to ensure that legal international trade is not detrimental to species listed in CITES Appendices.

## CITY EXPRESS

The New Indian Express,  
Chennai, Wednesday, 27 August, 2014

# News 3

## 'Follow guidelines to protect sharks'

Express News Service

**Chennai:** A two-day workshop to discuss implementation of the latest CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) listings on over-fished sharks, began here on Tuesday.

The workshop is being organised by CPR Environmental Education Centre to urge India and its neighbouring countries to decide on stringent implementation of the latest CITES listings.

Renowned scientist M S Swaminathan and M L Srivastava, DIG (Forests), Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) spoke.

Speaking at the event, Srivastava said that India was a pioneer in preservation of sharks and had already prohibited hunting and sale of shark-based products.

"A policy decision to

ban finning of sharks in deep seas has been framed by the Indian government," he said.

However, it was pointed out that the country clandestinely contributed to international trade in sharks and shark products.

It is not the meat, but the fins that have a lucrative market in South-East Asian countries. One of the most in-demand species off the Indian coastline is hammerhead shark. This, and five other ones, along with Manta Rays, were identified as species whose fishing required to be regulated, at CITES.

Swaminathan noted that trade and bio-diversity were closely linked. "Trade can either promote or come in the way of conservation. That is why the role of CITES is necessary," he said.

He added that it was heartening to see delegates from other countries at the event.