

# **CITES and Aquatic Species**

**Fisheries Agency of Japan**

# What is CITES?

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- There are 182 member countries ( and EU ).
- Conference of the Parties (COP) is held every 2 or 3 years.
- Next COP (COP 18) will be held in Sri Lanka from May 22 to June 3, 2019.

# Appendix

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- Appendix I includes species threatened with extinction.  
**Commercial trade is prohibited**
- Appendix II includes species not necessarily threatened with extinction, but whose trade must be controlled in order to avoid utilization incompatible with their survival.  
**Trade is only permitted with export permit.**
- Appendix III includes species that are protected in at least one country, which has asked other CITES Parties for assistance in controlling the international trade.  
**Trade is only permitted with export permit or certificate of origin.**

# Outcome of CoP17

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- The following aquatic species listed in the Appendix II.
  - ✓ *Silky shark, Thresher sharks*
  - ✓ *Mobula rays*
  - ✓ *Clarion angelfish*
  - ✓ *Family Nautilidae*
- FAO Expert Advisory Panel did not support the listings of some species.
- Conservation and sustainable use should be pursued by directly addressing catches. This can be done through regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) and/or coastal states.

# Listings of aquatic species are increasing

COP11 (2000)	Species	Support	Oppose	Adopt
	Whale shark	5 1	4 0	×
	Great white shark	5 1	4 7	×
	Basking shark	6 2	3 9	×
	Basking shark (Plenary)	6 7	4 2	×

  

COP12 (2002)	Species	Support	Oppose	Adopt
	Whale shark	6 2	3 4	×
	Whale shark (Plenary)	8 1	3 7	○
	Basking shark	7 2	3 8	×
	Basking shark (Plenary)	8 2	3 6	○
	Seahorse	7 5	2 4	○
	Napoleon fish	6 5	4 2	×

  

COP13 (2004)	Species	Support	Oppose	Adopt
	Great white shark	8 7	3 4	○

  

COP14 (2007)	Species	Support	Oppose	Adopt
	Porbeagle	5 4	3 9	×
	Spiny dogfish	5 7	3 6	×
	Spiny dogfish (Plenary)	5 5	5 8	×
	European eel	9 3	9	○
	Precious coral	6 2	2 8	○
	Precious coral (Plenary)	6 5	5 5	×

  

COP15 (2010)	Species	Support	Oppose	Adopt
	Atlantic bluefin tuna (EU)	4 3	7 2	×
	Atlantic bluefin tuna (Monaco)	2 0	6 8	×
	Precious coral	6 4	5 9	×
	Scalloped hammerhead	7 5	4 5	×
	Scalloped hammerhead (Plenary)	7 6	5 3	×
	Oceanic whitetip shark	7 5	5 1	×
	Porbeagle	8 6	4 2	○
	Porbeagle (Plenary)	8 4	4 6	×
	Spiny dogfish	6 0	6 7	×

  

COP16 (2013)	Species	Support	Oppose	Adopt
	Oceanic whitetip shark	9 2	4 2	○
	Porbeagle	9 3	3 9	○
	Hammerhead sharks	9 1	3 9	○
	Manta rays	9 6	2 3	○

  

COP17 (2016)	Species	Support	Oppose	Adopt
	Thresher sharks	1 0 8	2 9	○
	Silky shark	1 1 1	3 0	○
	Devil rays	1 1 0	2 0	○
	Clarion angelfish	6 9	2 1	○
	Nautilus	8 4	9	○

# Implementation Appendix II (export permit)

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- How to identify species.



Photo: Fisheries Agency

*Which of 3 hammerhead shark species?*

- Issuance of permit before landing of purse seiners
- How to make Non-Detriment Findings (NDF).



- **Appendix II could become de facto Appendix I, prohibition of commercial trade**
- **Once listed, de-listing is extremely difficult**

# Is CITES an appropriate tool to achieve conservation and sustainable use?

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- Commercially exploited aquatic species are important food sources, and many people's livelihood relies on them.
- When listed in Appendices, CITES regulations apply also to areas where the resources are locally abundant, which could hinder sustainable use of the species.
- Listing in Appendices affects people's livelihood, especially in coastal countries whose capacity of Scientific Authority and Management Authority is limited.

# Is CITES an appropriate tool to achieve conservation and sustainable use?

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- FAO reported that the price and illegal fishing activities for seahorses have been increasing since listed in the Appendix II (FAO, 2011).
- Appendix II listing without appropriate fishery management could be even counterproductive.
- An analysis of conservation effectiveness of CITES listings should be conducted before listing any other commercially exploited aquatic species.

# Towards CoP18

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- Pay attention to listing proposals.
- Fisheries authorities should participate in national decision making processes of CITES.
- Cooperation and concerted actions among countries that share the idea of sustainable use of aquatic living resources are essential.