

Animal Committee CITES

Side event: Strengthening institutional cooperation for improving sustainability and legality findings in the fisheries sector

19 June 2023

Peru's Notes on its Participation

Good evening everyone,

First of all I would like to thank the organizers FAO, CITES, the OECS and UNCTAD, for preparing the important event and for inviting Peru to share our national experience on this crucial issue.

I will first give a quick overview of Peru's perspective on shark trade

Peru recognizes that institutional cooperation is essential for achieving effective implementation of CITES in the fisheries sector. Since 2014, when the inclusion of the hammerhead shark (*Sphyrna zygaena*) came into effect, Peru has learned many lessons regarding key aspects related to the commitments under the Convention. These include:

- a) traceability of shark by-products;
- b) legal origin of specimens;
- c) alignment of national legislation and management measures;
- d) scientific information for decision-making; and
- e) capacity building for identification and control.

Eight years later, there are eleven commercially important shark species that Peru must manage sustainably under the CITES Convention, especially in the scenario of the 9 additional species that will be added by the end of 2023.

It should also be noted that shark fisheries in Peru are primarily artisanal in nature, an aspect that complicates the integrated management of these fisheries due to their multi-species nature, the use of different fishing gears, as well as the factor of direct human consumption. It should also be noted that shark meat consumption ranks tenth among marine fish species in our country.

Now I would like to present Peru's key achievements on the implementation of the CITES decision related to sharks.

Since the inclusion of the first commercially important species for Peru (due to the consumption of its meat and the use of its derivatives), Peru has undergone significant changes and reforms in the fisheries sector. We would like to highlight some important points:

- For over a decade, Peru has had an intersectoral coordination mechanism that monitors the management and implementation of the Convention in the country. In this context, ongoing cooperation between Administrative Authorities, the Scientific Authority, and Enforcement Entities has been a key aspect that has enabled the standardization of criteria regarding the roadmap for Appendix implementation and the harmonization between conservation and sustainable utilization.
- *We implemented a Reform of the traceability system through the issuance of Shark Landing Certificates (CDT).* This measure aims to improve the administrative management and control system of the origin of CITES specimens.
- *We established shark landing points along the coast.* This measure improves specimen control and the systematization of information on utilization.
- *We implemented fishing quotas for species included in CITES.* This measure provides more specific regulation for species included in the Appendices.
- *We developed Non-Detriment Findings for species involved in the international trade of shark by-products.* This measure ensures the sustainability of species utilization.

Now I would like to present the ongoing work

In addition to the achievements I have just mentioned, the Government of Peru has also been working on the following aspects, together with the relevant stakeholders, in order to implement the standards required by the Convention:

- We are in the process of strengthening and updating the national regulatory framework in the context of recent inclusions adopted during the Conference of Parties (CoP). This is necessary to improve authorization procedures for international trade, traceability of utilized specimens, information systematization throughout the value chain, and harmonization with customs regimes.
- We are working on the implementation of Certificates of Legal Origin (CLOs), which requires regulatory modifications to comply with CITES requirements and conditions, ensuring the legal origin of traded species or products.
- We are also working on the implementation of regulatory and control measures in preparation for the entry into force of *Prionace glauca*, commonly known as the "blue shark," in November of this year. This entails the systematization of biological, fishery, and population information, as well as the assessment of stockpiles of by-products from this species.
- Finally, we are under way to establish adequate mechanisms for the control and oversight of illegal fishing and trade, including capacity building, equipment, and infrastructure.

Now I would like to quickly present the lessons learned and next steps

- Cross-border cooperation among countries that share CITES-listed species stocks is necessary to combat illegal trade and harmonize management measures for aquatic species populations.
- Support from regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) and other intergovernmental organizations are crucial for generating regional information on population assessments to inform decision-making. Fisheries management is not comprehensive unless approached from a multinational perspective.
- Strengthening the capacities of actors involved in the identification and control of by-products is an ongoing task in the context of consecutive inclusions of aquatic species.

To conclude, I would like to highlight that Peru is aware of the challenges associated with the implementation of the inclusion of shark species in CITES Appendix II. In this regard, it has been making all necessary efforts to comply with CITES provisions to ensure the sustainable use of those species used for direct human consumption, with the ultimate aim of protecting and conserving shark and ray populations from the different threats they face.

Thank you very much, and if you have any question, Ms. Frida Rodriguez, from the Peruvian Ministry of Environment and CITES Scientific Authority will be glad to answer them.