

Implementation of CITES for Atlantic Shortfin Mako

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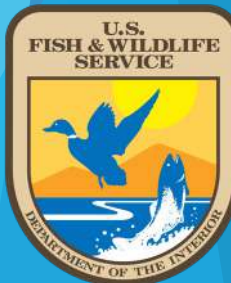
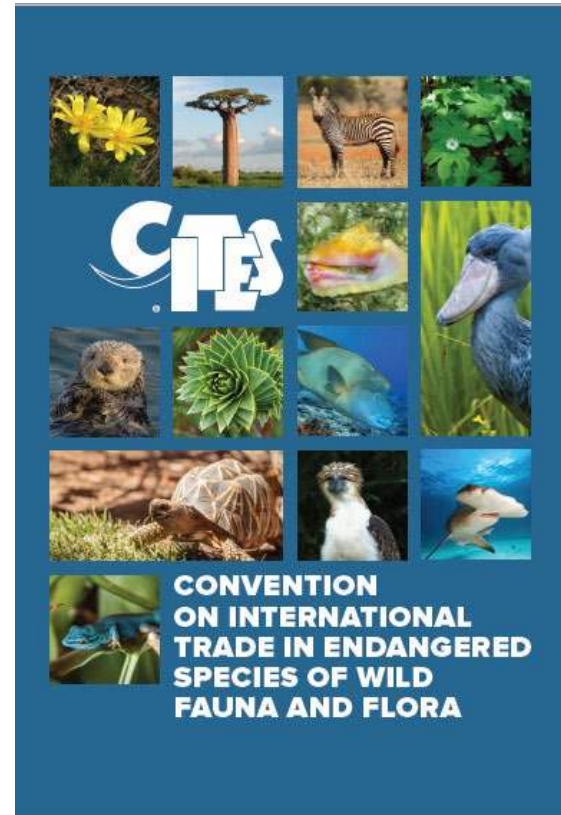
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Permits Biologist



The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

- ▶ 182 Member Countries + EU (Parties)
- ▶ Signed 3 March 1973 and went into effect 1 July 1975
- ▶ Establishes a legal framework together with common procedural mechanisms for regulating international trade in listed species



Purpose of CITES

- ▶ To ensure that international trade in wild fauna and flora is legal and sustainable.



How Does CITES Work?

- ▶ By regulating the export, re-export, import and introduction from the sea of live and dead animals and plants and their parts and derivatives
- ▶ For listed species only
- ▶ International trade is regulated based on a system of permits and certificates that:
 - ▶ are only issued if certain conditions are met; and
 - ▶ must be presented when leaving or entering a country.



CITES Three Appendices

- ▶ Addition of a species to Appendix I or Appendix II requires a 2/3 majority vote of the Parties
- ▶ Addition of a species to Appendix III is a unilateral decision by the listing country



CITES Appendices



Appendix I (about 1,000 spp.):

- Species threatened with extinction
- No commercial trade
- Requires both an import permit and an export permit

Appendix II (about 30,000 spp.):

- Species vulnerable to overexploitation but not at risk of extinction
- Commercial and non-commercial trade allowed
- Permits/certificates required for export, but not for import



Appendix III (about 300 spp.):

- Purpose is to address legal origin, not sustainability
- Species protected by at least one country that has requested assistance to help regulate trade
- Can be listed unilaterally, at any time



Key CITES Findings Required

- ▶ Legal Acquisition
 - ▶ A finding by a Management Authority
 - ▶ Specimen to be exported has been legally acquired
- ▶ Non-detriment finding (NDF)
 - ▶ A finding by a Scientific Authority
 - ▶ The export of specimens will not impact negatively on the survival of that species in the wild.



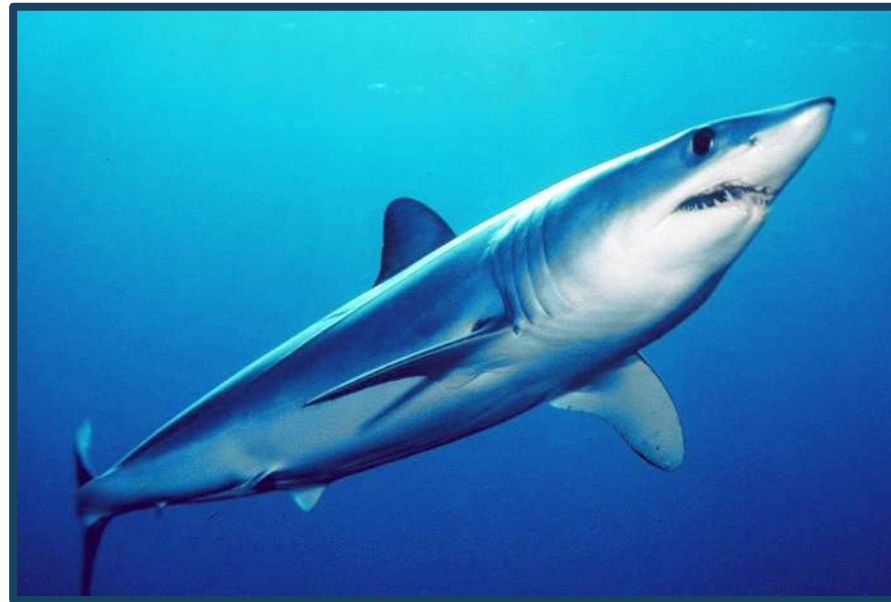
CITES Enforcement

- ▶ Inspections of wildlife shipments
- ▶ Legal actions
- ▶ Investigations
- ▶ Law enforcement intelligence
- ▶ National; international collaboration
- ▶ Promotion of compliance



18th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP18)

- ▶ August 17-28, 2019
- ▶ Geneva, Switzerland
- ▶ Mako sharks (Prop. 42)
 - ▶ *Isurus oxyrinchus*
 - ▶ *Isurus paucus*
 - ▶ Proponents
 - ▶ Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, Egypt, European Union, Gabon, Gambia, Jordan, Lebanon, Liberia, Maldives, Mali, Mexico, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Palau, Samoa, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Sudan and Togo



Mako Sharks

- ▶ Included as an Appendix II species effective Nov. 26th, 2019
- ▶ Requires a CITES permit for international trade
 - ▶ U.S. CITES export permit
 - ▶ **3-200-27**
 - ▶ \$100 processing fee
 - ▶ 6 months
 - ▶ Foreign CITES import may be necessary
 - ▶ No U.S. CITES import permit
 - ▶ Foreign CITES export permit needed



Mako Sharks cont.

- ▶ Domestic trade
 - ▶ No CITES permit needed
- ▶ Caught on the high seas
 - ▶ **CITES Introduction to Sea Certificate Required**
 - ▶ 3-200-31
 - ▶ \$100 processing fee
 - ▶ 1 year



CITES Listing Revisited

- ▶ Next Conference of the Parties
 - ▶ Costa Rica 2022
- ▶ Changes to Appendix I or II
 - ▶ A member Party must propose
 - ▶ Requires support of 2/3 of Parties present and voting



Thank you!

Management Authority

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Email: managementauthority@fws.gov



2019 ICCAT Meeting Outcomes

Shortfin Mako Sharks

- To end overfishing, the United States advanced a measure to generally prohibit retention while allowing limited landings under a total allowable catch if member nations reduced their mortality of shortfin mako by 80% (needed mortality reductions).
- The United States has already achieved this reduction through Amendment 11.
- There were competing proposals with no consensus.
- The final recommendation is a one-year extension of current management measures while ICCAT works toward a comprehensive rebuilding program (2020 ICCAT Intersessional meetings).

