



Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

Secretariat provided by the United Nations Environment Programme



CMS POSITION STATEMENT

Presented at the 85th Meeting of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission
Submitted by the UNEP/CMS Secretariat

The Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) is interested in the discussions at the annual meeting of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) June 10-14, 2013 in Mexico, especially with respect to the conservation of sharks.

The Secretariat of CMS welcomes the proposals submitted by the EU and Costa Rica (**IATTC-85 Prop E-2 EU and IATTC-85 Prop E-3 CRI**), both Parties to CMS and Signatories to the CMS Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Sharks (Sharks MOU), to enforce the ban on the finning of sharks by requiring sharks to be landed with each fin naturally attached, although concerns must be raised with view to possible exceptions to continue ratios in the proposal of Costa Rica.

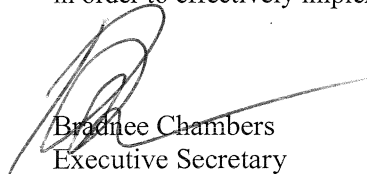
The 26 Signatories to the CMS Sharks MOU have committed themselves to prohibit the finning of sharks through their Conservation Plan for Migratory Sharks, which calls upon Signatories to:

"Where not already in place, consider enacting legislation or regulations requiring sharks to be stored on board and landed with each fin naturally attached in line with applicable UN General Assembly Resolutions, including 62/177, and 66/68 and with applicable decisions from IUCN, including motion 4.114, and relevant RFMOs."

The Secretariat highly appreciates the IATTC staff attention to the **manta ray** (*Manta birostris*) taken in IATTC fisheries, and IATTC scientists' call for improved species identification, development of safe release techniques, and research. The manta ray is listed in Appendix I and II of CMS and as such is strictly protected. Parties to CMS, which are Range States of the manta ray shall prohibit the taking of this species.

We would like to encourage the IATTC to follow the examples set by the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission and the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission by prohibiting the deliberate setting of purse seine nets around **whale sharks** (*Rhincodon typus*), to mitigate the impact of inadvertent encirclement.

Finally, the Secretariat of CMS welcomes the Strategic Investment Plan (**CAF-01-06b Annex 1**) aiming to support capacity building and provide technical assistance for developing countries. This is in line with the objectives of the Sharks MOU and its Conservation Plan for Migratory Sharks. The objectives include the improvement of the understanding of migratory shark populations through research, monitoring and information exchange in the light of the fact, that it is necessary to promote stronger co-operation between fishing nations on research, monitoring, enforcement and compliance in order to effectively implement conservation measures.


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UNEP/CMS Secretariat