

OBSERVER REPORT ON CITES 10th MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
(HARARE, ZIMBABWE, JUNE 9-20, 1997)

Nakano, H.¹

The tenth meeting of the conference of the parties of CITES was held from 9-20 June, 1997 in Harare, Zimbabwe. About 1,300 persons, 700 from member nations and 600 from other organizations from more than 130 countries attended the meeting. Of concern to ICCAT, among numerous agenda (Attachment 1), there are three agenda items. Those are the discussion regarding the progress made in implementation of CITES Resolution Conf.9.17 on the status of international trade in shark species, the establishment of a working group on marine species, and the proposal on inclusion of all species of the order Pristisformes (sawfish) in Appendix I. At the invitation of CITES Secretariat, Dr. Hideki Nakano (Japan), member of SCRS Sub-Committee on By-catch, attended the tenth meeting of the conference of the parties of CITES representing ICCAT.

Regarding the discussion of CITES Resolution Conf.9.17, this resolution has two parts which require or request action. The first part directs the Animals Committee of CITES to review all information, to summarize the biological and trade status of sharks subject to international trade, and to prepare a discussion paper at least six months prior to the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The second part requests FAO and other international fisheries management organizations to establish programs to collect and assemble biological and trade data on shark species. It also requests to provide this information to CITES at least six months prior to the 11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (to be held in Indonesia in 1999) and to fully inform CITES of progress on collection, elaboration and analyses of data.

With the discussion on the Conf.9.17, the discussion paper prepared by the CITES Animals Committee was accepted and decision was made by the parties (Attachment 2). Related with ICCAT, two major parts were included in the decision. The

first part is that CITES requests FAO to initiate a work program involving consultation by shark expert. Such expert consultation will be held in April 1998 in Japan with budgetary support by the government of Japan and the United States. The second part CITES requests the nations and international/regional bodies to co-ordinate management of shark fisheries.

Regarding the discussion on establishment of working group on marine species, the objectives of the working group proposed by the document submitted by the United States were as follows. Marine fish species subject to large-scale harvest and international trade should be managed by the appropriate regional fisheries conservation and management bodies, not by CITES. However, if a marine fish species meets the CITES listing criteria, CITES does have a role in supporting regional conservation and management. A listing in CITES Appendix II may help to prevent a marine fish species from meeting the criteria for inclusion in Appendix I. The objections raised from many countries against the US proposal were as follows: the issue of large-scale commercial harvesting was not in the mandate of CITES; there exist of other more appropriate international and regional management agencies than CITES. After lengthy debate, this proposal was rejected by vote (secret ballot, yes 49 and no 50).

Regarding the proposal of inclusion of all species of the order Pristisformes (sawfish) in Appendix I, data deficient of the stock status of sawfishes described in the proposal and the existence of international and regional fisheries management bodies were pointed out as in the case of the establishment of marine species working group. The proposal was rejected by vote after discussion (secret ballot, yes 24 and no 50).

¹ National Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries, Fisheries Agency of Japan, 5-7-1 Orido, Shimizu, Shizuoka, 424-8633, Japan

Attachment 1

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA

Tenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Harare (Zimbabwe), 9 to 20 June 1997

| | | |
|------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| I | Opening ceremony by the authorities of Zimbabwe | |
| II | Welcoming addresses | |
| III | Rules of Procedure | |
| | 1. Voting before credentials have been accepted | Doc. 10.4 |
| | 2. Adoption of the Rules of Procedure | Doc. 10.3 |
| IV | Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the meeting and of Chairmen of Committees I and II and of the Budget Committee | |
| V | Adoption of the Agenda and Working Programmes | Doc. 10.1 (Rev. 2); Doc. 10.2 (Rev.); Doc. 10.2.1 (Rev.); Doc. 10.2.2 |
| VI | Establishment of the Credentials Committee | |
| VII | Report of the Credentials Committee | |
| VIII | Admission of observers | Doc. 10.5 |
| IX | Matters related to the Standing Committee | |
| | 1. Report of the Chairman | Doc. 10.6 |
| | 2. Regional representation | Doc. 10.7 |
| | 3. Election of new regional and alternate regional members | |
| X | Reports of the Secretariat | |
| | 1. Secretariat report | Doc. 10.8 |
| | 2. Strategic plan | Doc. 10.9 |
| | 3. Organization plan and programme budget for the Secretariat | Doc. 10.10 |
| XI | Financing and budgeting of the Secretariat and of meetings of the Conference of the Parties | |
| | 1. Financial report for 1994, 1995 and 1996 | Doc. 10.11 |
| | 2. Anticipated expenditures for 1997 | Doc. 10.12 |
| | 3. Budget for 1998-2000 and Medium-term Plan for 1998-2002 | Doc. 10.13 |
| | 4. External funding | Doc. 10.14 |
| XII | Committee reports and recommendations | |
| | 1. Animals Committee | |
| | a) Report of the Chairman | Doc. 10.15 |
| | b) Regional representation | Doc. 10.7 |
| | c) Election of new regional and alternate regional members | |

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| 2. Plants Committee | |
| a) Report of the Chairman | Doc. 10.16 |
| b) Regional representation | Doc. 10.7 |
| c) Election of new regional and alternate regional members | |
| 3. Identification Manual Committee | Doc. 10.17 |
| 4. Nomenclature Committee | |
| a) Report of the Chairman | Doc. 10.18 |
| b) Recommendations of the Committee | Doc. 10.19 |

XIII Evolution of the Convention

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| 1. How to improve the effectiveness of the Convention | |
| a) Comments from the Parties and organizations on the study | Doc. 10.20 |
| b) Consideration of the recommendations arising from the study | Doc. 10.21 |
| c) Co-operation/synergy with other conservation conventions and agencies | Doc. 10.22 |
| 2. Relationship between CITES and UNEP | Doc. 10.23 |

XIV Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

| | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| 1. Review of the Resolutions of the Conference of the Parties | |
| a) Consolidation of valid Resolutions | Doc. 10.24 |
| b) Index of Resolutions of the Conference of the Parties | Doc. 10.25 |
| 2. Report on national reports required under Article VIII, paragraph 7(a), of the Convention | Doc. 10.26 |
| 3. Amendment to Resolution Conf. 9.1 on Establishment of Committees | Doc. 10.27 |
| 4. Enforcement | |
| a) Review of alleged infractions and other problems of implementation of the Convention | Doc. 10.28 |
| b) Working group on illegal trade in CITES specimens | Doc. 10.29 |
| c) Inspection of wildlife shipments | Doc. 10.30 |
| 5. National laws for implementation of the Convention | |
| a) Analysis of the national legislation of Parties | Doc. 10.31 |
| b) Measures taken by Parties to improve their legislation | Doc. 10.31 |
| c) Measures to be taken with regard to Parties without adequate legislation | Doc. 10.31 |
| d) Technical assistance provided to Parties | Doc. 10.31 |
| 6. Training | Doc. 10.32 |
| 7. Implementation of the Convention in small island developing States | Doc. 10.33 |
| 8. Relationship with the International Whaling Commission | Doc. 10.34 |
| 9. Revision of Resolution Conf. 9.3 on Permits and Certificates | Doc. 10.35 |
| 10. Interpretation of Article II, paragraph 2(b), and Article IV, paragraph 3 | Doc. 10.36 |
| 11. Interpretation of Article XIV, paragraph 1 | Doc. 10.37 |
| 12. Revision of the definition of "primarily commercial purposes" | Doc. 10.38 |
| 13. Criteria for granting export permits in accordance with Article V, paragraph 2 | Doc. 10.39 |
| 14. Illegal trade in whale meat | Doc. 10.40 |
| 15. Illegal trade in bear specimens | Doc. 10.41 |
| 16. Exports of leopard hunting trophies and skins | Doc. 10.42 |
| 17. Trade in tiger specimens | Doc. 10.43 |
| 18. Trade in African elephant specimens | |
| a) Revision of Resolution Conf. 9.16 | Doc. 10.44 |
| b) Revision of Resolution Conf. 7.9 | Doc. 10.45 |
| c) Stockpiles of ivory | Doc. 10.46 |
| 19. Trade in and conservation of rhinoceroses | |
| a) Implementation of Resolution Conf. 9.14 | Doc. 10.47 |
| b) Trade in live rhinoceroses from South Africa | Doc. 10.48 |
| 20. Exports of vicuña cloth | Doc. 10.49 |
| 21. Conservation of edible-nest swiftlets of the genus <i>Collocalia</i> | Doc. 10.50 |
| 22. Biological and trade status of sharks | Doc. 10.51 |
| 23. Trade in plant specimens | |
| a) Implementation of the Convention for timber species | Doc. 10.52 |
| b) Amendment to the definition of "artificially propagated" | Doc. 10.53 |
| c) Disposal of confiscated live plants of species included in the appendices | Doc. 10.54 |

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA

Tenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Harare (Zimbabwe), 9 to 20 June 1997

DECISION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES*

Regarding the Biological and Trade Status of Sharks

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| 24. Significant trade in Appendix-II species | |
| a) Animals | Doc. 10.55 |
| b) Plants | Doc. 10.56 |
| 25. Sale of tourist items of Appendix-I species at international airports, seaports and border crossings | Doc. 10.57 |
| 26. Trade in specimens of species transferred to Appendix II subject to annual export quotas | Doc. 10.58 |
| 27. Trade in alien species | Doc. 10.59 |
| 28. Establishment of a working group on marine fish species | Doc. 10.60 |
| 29. Scientific justification for national export quotas | Doc. 10.61 |
| 30. Disposal of stocks of dead specimens of Appendix-I species | Doc. 10.62 |
| 31. Revision of the consolidated resolution on ranching and trade in ranched specimens | Doc. 10.63 |
| 32. Universal tagging system for the identification of crocodylian skins | Doc. 10.64 |
| 33. Identification of corals and reporting of coral trade | Doc. 10.65 |
| 34. Implementation of Article VII, paragraph 2: pre-Convention specimens | Doc. 10.66 |
| 35. Captive breeding | |
| a) Implementation of Article VII, paragraphs 4 and 5 | Doc. 10.67; Doc. 10.68.1; Doc. 10.68.2 |
| b) Proposals to register the first commercial captive-breeding operation for an Appendix-I animal species | Doc. 10.69 |
| 36. Hybrids | |
| a) Amendment of Resolution Conf. 2.13 | Doc. 10.70 |
| b) Regulation of trade in animal hybrids | Doc. 10.71 |
| 37. Shipments covered by Customs Carnets | Doc. 10.72 |
| 38. Frequent transborder movements of personally owned live animals | Doc. 10.73 |
| 39. Live animals in travelling circuses | Doc. 10.74 |
| 40. Transport of live animals | Doc. 10.75 |
| 41. Designation of Scientific Authorities | Doc. 10.76 |
| 42. Standard nomenclature | Doc. 10.77 |
| 43. Information on the population status of and threats to <i>Ovis vignei</i> | Doc. 10.78 |
| 44. Traditional medicines and CITES | Doc. 10.79; Doc. 10.80 |
| 45. Financing of the conservation of the biodiversity and development of sustainable use of natural resources | Doc. 10.81 |
| 46. Development of an Information Management Strategy | Doc. 10.82 |
| 47. Inclusion of higher taxa | Doc. 10.83 |
| 48. Proposals concerning export quotas for specimens of Appendix-I species | Doc. 10.84 |
| XV Consideration of proposals for amendment of Appendices I and II | Doc. 10.85 |
| 1. Proposals submitted pursuant to Resolution on Ranching | Doc. 10.86 |
| 2. Proposals resulting from the periodic reviews by the Animals and Plants Committees | Doc. 10.87 |
| 3. Proposals concerning export quotas for specimens of species in Appendix I or II | Doc. 10.88 |
| 4. Other proposals | Doc. 10.89 |
| XVI Conclusion of the meeting | |
| 1. Determination of the time and venue of the next regular meeting of the Conference of the Parties | Doc. 10.90 |
| 2. Closing remarks | |

1. The Conference of the Parties endorses the following recommendations to achieve effective implementation of Resolution Conf. 9.17:
 - a) Parties should, in collaboration with FAO and other regional fisheries organizations, improve methods to accurately identify, by species, record and report landings of sharks from directed fisheries and sharks taken as a by-catch in another fishery;
 - b) Parties that have a shark fishery and/or trade in sharks and shark parts and derivatives should establish appropriate species-specific recording and reporting systems for all sharks that are landed as a directed catch or a by-catch;
 - c) In an effort to improve statistics on trade in sharks and shark parts and derivatives the Secretariat, in collaboration with FAO, should consult the World Customs Organization to establish more specific headings within the standard six-digit Customs tariff headings, adopted under the Harmonised System tariff classification, to discriminate between shark meat, fins, leather, cartilage and other products;
 - d) It is suggested that FAO should, as a matter of urgency, initiate a work programme involving:
 - i) changing the manner in which it requests members to record and report data on shark landings;
 - ii) giving a consultancy to design and undertake an inquiry on the availability of biological and trade data on sharks (commenced in 1996);
 - iii) updating the Shark World Species Catalogue and the 1978 Shark Utilization and Marketing Monograph; and
 - iv) finalizing and publishing the World Catalogue of Rajiformes;
 - e) It is also suggested that FAO should transmit the results of the consultancy to the CITES Secretariat for circulation to and comment by the Parties to the Convention;
 - f) Parties that have a shark fishery should initiate efforts to:
 - i) collect species-specific data on landings, discards and fishing effort;
 - ii) compile information on life-history and biological parameters such as growth rate, life span, sexual maturity, fecundity and stock-recruitment relationships of sharks taken in their fisheries;

* This document was adopted by Committee I from documents Com. 10.2 and Doc. 10.51.

- iii) document the distribution of sharks by age and sex, as well as their seasonal movements and interactions between populations; and
 - iv) reduce mortality of sharks captured incidentally in the course of other fishing activities;
 - g) Parties are encouraged to initiate management of shark fisheries at the national level and develop international/regional bodies to co-ordinate management of shark fisheries throughout the geographic range of species that are subject to exploitation in order to ensure that international trade is not detrimental to the long-term survival of shark populations;
 - h) The Conference of the Parties to the Convention should urge FAO to encourage its member States that have a shark fishery, or a fishery that takes sharks as a by-catch, to implement the principles and practices elaborated in: i) the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries; ii) the FAO Precautionary Approach to Fisheries, Part 1: Guidelines on the Precautionary Approach to Capture Fisheries and Species Introductions; and iii) the FAO Code of Practice for the Full Utilization of Sharks;
 - i) FAO, in collaboration with the CITES Secretariat and the CITES Animals Committee, should convene a consultative meeting involving FAO representatives, fisheries biologists/managers, intergovernmental fisheries organizations and non-governmental organizations with expertise on shark management to develop a programme to further the implementation of Resolution Conf. 9.17; and
 - j) The Secretariat should communicate the relevant recommendations to FAO and other intergovernmental fisheries management and/or research organizations and establish liaison with these bodies to monitor implementation; and
2. The Conference of the Parties requests the Chairman of the Animals Committee to serve as liaison with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and with intergovernmental fisheries management and/or research organizations in relation to all activities concerning the implementation of Resolution Conf. 9.17.