



Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Sharks

CMS/Angelshark-SSAP/Background

Development of a Single Species Action Plan for the Angelshark (*Squatina squatina*) in the Mediterranean Sea

Prepared by the Secretariat

As agreed in the Concerted Action for Angelshark *Squatina squatina* (Concerted Action 12.5 (Rev.COP13)¹) and in the Programme of Work 2019-2021 of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Sharks (Sharks MOU), the Secretariat in cooperation with the Advisory Committee of the Sharks MOU have prepared the following documents for consideration by Range States:

1. Draft Single Species Action Plan for the Angelshark (*Squatina squatina*) in the Mediterranean Sea ([CMS/Angelshark-SSAP/SSAP/Draft 1](#)) alongside a
2. Draft Governance Structure to Support the Implementation of the Single Species Action Plan for the Angelshark in the Mediterranean Sea ([CMS/Angelshark-SSAP/Gov/Draft 1](#))

A virtual Meeting of Range States to agree the final Single Species Action Plan and Governance Structure is scheduled to take place on **5 and 6 July 2022**.

Background

1. Alongside the inclusion of the Angelshark (*Squatina squatina*) at the 12th Conference of the Parties to the Convention (CMS COP12) in Appendices I and II, Parties approved Concerted Action for the species (proposed by the Principality of Monaco), which was updated and extended until 2023 at CMS COP13 (Concerted Action 12.5 (Rev.COP13)¹). Among other activities, it was agreed to develop regional Conservation Plans, including for the Mediterranean region. At the 3rd Meeting of the Signatories of the Sharks Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Angelsharks were listed in Annex I.
2. In March 2019, a workshop was held by the Angel Shark Conservation Network (ASCN), bringing together local and global experts to create the Mediterranean Angel Sharks: Regional Action Plan (MedRAP)². This action plan collated information on three species of Angel Shark, including *Squatina squatina*, occurring in the Mediterranean Sea and developed a strategy for Angel Shark conservation within the region. The MedRAP was designed for a range of stakeholders including governments, researchers, NGOs, as well as commercial and recreational fishing industries.

¹ <https://www.cms.int/en/document/concerted-action-angelshark-squatina-squatina-1>

² https://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/document/Med-Angel-Sharks-Regional-Action-Plan_2019_EN.pdf

3. Aiming to implement parts of the CMS Concerted Action and building upon the work developed by the MedRAP, CMS has drafted a Single Species Action Plan (SSAP) for the Angelshark (*Squatina squatina*) in the Mediterranean region to provide guidance for Range States to implement Angelshark conservation.
4. We present two documents – ‘Draft Single Species Action Plan for the Angelshark (*Squatina squatina*) in the Mediterranean Sea’ and ‘Suggestions for a governance structure to support the implementation of the Single Species Action Plan for the Angelshark in the Mediterranean Sea’.
5. This process is being supported by the Principality of Monaco.

Draft Single Species Action Plan for the Angelshark (*Squatina squatina*) in the Mediterranean Sea ([CMS/Angelshark-SSAP/SSAP/Draft 1](#))

6. The draft SSAP includes information on biology, threats and current legislation for the Angelshark, as well as a framework for action. The development of the draft was led by James Ellis, Co-Chair of the Advisory Committee of the Sharks MOU, and Marino Vacchi, Committee member for Europe, with support from other Committee members, the Secretariat and CMS interns. A zero draft has been peer-reviewed by experts from the ASCN and Angel Shark Project.

Draft Governance Structure to Support the Implementation of the Single Species Action Plan for the Angelshark in the Mediterranean Sea ([CMS/Angelshark-SSAP/Gov/Draft 1](#))

7. A draft governance structure has been suggested to provide structure and guidance for Range States to implement the SSAP.
8. The Secretariat examined examples of governance structures in place for other action plans within the CMS Family. Collated information was used by the Secretariat to suggest a draft governance structure for Parties, non-Party Range States, and experts to feedback on.
9. The draft governance structure compliments the SSAP by providing an outline for an implementation framework to help all Range States identify the priorities and opportunities for Angelshark conservation within their national jurisdictional boundaries. Working groups, at both national and international levels, can use the framework to strengthen coordination and monitor implementation progress.

Consultation Process

10. A first draft of the SSAP and draft governance structure has been provided to Parties, non-Party Range States, and experts for feedback by 10 May 2022. A second draft will be sent out in June for final review and comments on the [meeting page](#).
11. An online Range State meeting to finalise the SSAP and accompanying documents, will be held on 5 and 6 July 2022, in two four-hour sessions. The meeting will be held in English only. Other Parties and experts are also invited to attend the meeting.
12. The final draft SSAP will be submitted to the 14th Conference of the Parties for formal adoption.

Action Requested

Parties, non-Party Range States, and experts are invited to:

- a) Review both documents and provide your written comments to the Secretariat by 10 May 2022. The first round of comments might be followed by a second round of comments thereafter.
- b) Register for the online Range State meeting scheduled for 5 and 6 July 2022.