**SINGLE SPECIES ACTION PLAN**

**FOR THE ANGELSHARK IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA**

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*(Prepared by the Aquatic Species WG and the COW)*

DRAFT RESOLUTION

**SINGLE SPECIES ACTION PLAN**

**FOR THE ANGELSHARK (*Squatina squatina*) IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA**

*Noting* that the Angelshark (*Squatina squatina*) was listed on CMS Appendices I and II in 2017 and in Annex 1 of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Sharks in 2018,

*Alarmed* by the significant population declines over the past 50 years due to extensive exploitation, slow growth and low productivity, the species has become exceedingly rare throughout most of its historical range,

*Concerned* that the Angelshark was assessed by the *IUCN Red List of Threatened Species* in 2017 as ‘Critically Endangered’ and the population assessed as decreasing, raising serious concerns about the viability of the species given ongoing high threat levels,

*Deeply concerned* that the species and its habitat are persistently threatened by intense demersal fisheries, recreational fisheries, coastal commercial and tourism development, and habitat degradation throughout its range,

*Recognizing* that a multi-pronged approach is required that simultaneously addresses knowledge, resource, capacity and legal gaps that hinder effective conservation of the species, while, at the same time, implementing and enforcing existing laws and regulations that can mitigate threats to the species,

*Recognizing* the long-standing concern and support of many stakeholders working in the species’ range that led to the Concerted Action for the Angelshark, as well as the support of the Angel Shark Conservation Network (ASCN) in its implementation,

*Noting* the links between the Single Species Action Plan and the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Sharks (Sharks MOU),

*Further noting* the high relevance of several work areas of the CMS to the conservation of the Angelshark, especially concerning bycatch, marine pollution and habitat conservation,

*Affirming* the need to address the threats to the species and its habitat in close collaboration with the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

*The Conference of the Parties to the*

*Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals*

1. *Adopts* the Single Species Action Plan for the Angelshark (*Squatina squatina*) in the Mediterranean Sea (SSAP Angelshark Med) contained in Annex 2, with the goal of promoting the long-term sustainability of its populations and their habitats by reducing the negative effects of human activities through legislation and enforcement, fisheries management measures, research, awareness-raising and capacity-building;
2. *Urges* Parties and *invites* non-Party Range States to implement the relevant provisions of the SSAP Angelshark Med;
3. *Calls on* Range States to strive for active collaboration between stakeholders within each range country to maximize the effective use of resources and expertise, to ensure that the results of research and awareness-raising activities can support the design and implementation of effective policy and management;
4. *Further calls on* Range States to facilitate regional collaboration between stakeholders in different *Squatina squatina* Range States to ensure that knowledge and experience gained in one country can be used to most effectively implement conservation action in another, especially in countries where cross-border populations are suspected to occur;
5. *Encourages* Parties and non-Party States to provide technical and/or financial support to implement the activities outlined in the SSAP Angelshark Med;
6. *Invites* other relevant intergovernmental frameworks, in particular the GFCM, to take into account the provisions of the SSAP Angelshark Med in the consideration of their activities and to support implementation of relevant SSAP Angelshark Med activities that fall within their mandate, as appropriate;
7. *Invites* the Angel Shark Conservation Network (ASCN) to continue its active support of research and conservation measures for this species; and
8. *Instructs* the Secretariat to bring the SSAP Angelshark Med to the attention of all Range States and relevant intergovernmental organizations and to assist with and monitor the implementation of the SSAP subject to the availability of resources.

DRAFT DECISION

**SINGLE SPECIES ACTION PLAN**

**FOR THE ANGELSHARK (*Squatina squatina*) IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA**

***Directed to Parties***

14.AA Parties that are Range States to the species are requested to:

1. Undertake, to the extent possible, those actions of the Single Species Action Plan for the Angelshark (*Squatina squatina*) in the Mediterranean Sea (SSAP Angelshark Med) specified for immediate and short-term implementation and for delivery within three years as a matter of priority, continue ongoing and medium-term activities, and start implementation of long-term activities within five years;
2. Provide relevant information and materials to update Annex III of the SSAP Angelshark Med Legislation relevant to the conservation of Angelshark (Squatina squatina), and to develop Annex IV, Tools and Guidelines to Support Implementation of the SSAP;
3. Establish a governance structure, including a Working Group of Range States, as required, to support and monitor implementation and to facilitate cooperation and communication among Range States;
4. Consider establishing additional national Working Groups, as required, to ensure active collaboration between stakeholders within each Range State to maximize the effective use of resources and expertise;
5. Provide a brief report on the implementation of the SSAP Angelshark Med in time for the last meeting of the Sessional Committee before the 15th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP15) using a template provided by the Secretariat;
6. Review information provided by Range States on the implementation of the SSAP Angelshark Med and prepare a brief summary and analysis;
7. Make recommendations on the further implementation of the SSAP Angelshark Med to COP15;
8. Encourage non-Party Range States to adopt the SSAP Angelshark Med for their use.

14.BB Non-Party Range States are requested to engage with Party Range States in the implementation of activities outlined in the SSAP Angelshark Med;

***Directed to intergovernmental organizations***

14.CC Intergovernmental organizations, in particular the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) and the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Sharks and its Advisory Committee, are encouraged to continue to engage with the implementation of activities outlined in the SSAP Angelshark Med;

***Directed to non-governmental organizations and experts***

14.DD Non-governmental organizations, the Angel Shark Conservation Network (ASCN) and other experts are encouraged to provide technical support to Range States for the implementation of the Action Plan and the development of Annex IV, *Tools and Guidelines to Support Implementation of the SSAP*.

***Directed to the Secretariat***

14.EE The Secretariat shall:

1. Encourage non-Party Range States to adopt the SSAP Angelshark Med;
2. Assist Range States in the establishment of a governance structure and monitoring system and provide a platform for communication upon request and subject to the availability of resources;
3. Develop a simple reporting form, in collaboration with the Range States Working Group, to enable assessment of progress in the implementation of the SSAP Angelshark Med, and disseminate this to Range States to facilitate reporting in advance of COP15;
4. Convene, subject to the availability of external resources, a meeting of Range States to stimulate implementation of priority actions and facilitate coordination across the region.