

ADDENDUM 1

SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL COMMENTS

(arising from ScC-SC6)

**PROPOSAL FOR A CONCERTED ACTION FOR THE
BLUE SHARK (*Prionace glauca*) ALREADY LISTED
IN APPENDIX II OF THE CONVENTION**

UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.32.3.7

RECOMMENDATIONS TO COP14

Recommended for adoption with amendments.

GENERAL COMMENTS ON THE DOCUMENT

- The Scientific Council noted with concern that many activities were directed to Parties and that Concerted Action should not be an alternative way of giving mandates to Parties and the Secretariat without going through the normal procedures for Resolutions and Decisions. Especially if an NGO develops a Concerted Action proposal with implications for Parties, those Parties should be consulted before the document is submitted.
- It was also noted that a number of proposed activities are beyond the mandate of CMS and should be dealt with in competent forums such as CITES and Regional Fisheries Management Organizations.
- It was agreed that the timeline of activities related to the protection and identification of critical sites needs adjustment as sites must first be identified before they can be protected.
- It was recommended to add wording about close cooperation with the Sharks MOU.
- Law of the Wild offered support with the legal gap analyses.

COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC SECTIONS/ INCLUDING POSSIBLE PROPOSALS FOR TEXT REVISION

- The Scientific Council recommended making the following amendments to the list of activities and aligning other relevant parts of the text accordingly:

Pages 7-9: ANNEX

Activity list under this Concerted Actions for blue shark. This detailed activity list is intended to guide positive change for the species under CMS and can be expanded and molded into a conservation action plan for the species.

Activity	Expected Outcomes	Timeframe	Entity responsible for implementation	Indicators for success
Management				
1. Encourage Parties to continue engaging with other MEAs, RFBs, and other relevant entities to enhance blue shark management, including the development of the IUCN SSC SSG Conservation Strategy and Action Plan for Pelagic Sharks and Rays, CITES for the development of non-detriment findings.	NDFs conducted	2024-2026	NGOs, experts	International trade from sustainable populations
2. Support Parties with recommendations for a species management plan for the blue shark, through consultation and collaboration, and in line with the IUCN SSC SSG Conservation Strategy for Pelagic Sharks and Rays.	Species Management Plans for the blue shark	2025	NGOs, experts	Successful long-term management of the blue shark
3. Develop recommendations for Parties to work with t RFMOs, in line with the IUCN SSC SSG Conservation Strategy and Action Plan for Pelagic Sharks and Rays.	Cooperation between stakeholders	2025-2026	NGOs, experts	Active stakeholder engagement and data reporting
Area based management/critical habitats				
4. Encourage the protection of blue shark critical habitats (i.e. feeding or mating habitats) and migratory routes.	Established network of MPAs for key blue shark habitats and migratory routes	2025	CMS Parties (and non-Party Range States)	Critical habitats for blue sharks effectively managed
International cooperation				
5. Support the coordination with RMFOs to encourage information and knowledge exchange.	RMFOs knowledge exchanges	2024-2025	CMS Parties	A coordinated network of knowledge exchange across RFMOs
6. Engage non-Party Range States in the conversation to protect blue sharks and encourage their integration.	non-CMS Party Range States become engaged in the implementation of this CA	2024-2025	CMS Parties	non-CMS Party Range States engaged

Activity	Expected Outcomes	Timeframe	Entity responsible for implementation	Indicators for success
7. Develop action plans for the conservation of blue sharks.	National blue shark conservation action plans in Party Range States developed	2024 – 2026	CMS Parties (and non-Party Range States)	All Party Range States developing shark National Action Plans
8. Develop regional action plans to foster cooperation between Party Range States with connected populations.	Regional conservation action plans developed	2024 – 2026	CMS Parties (and non-Party Range States)	Regional Action Plan committee formed with the aim of coordinating Parties.
Sustainable tourism				
9. Develop guidelines from countries with established blue shark tourism (e.g. Azores, UK, South Africa).	Protocols for responsible blue shark tourism interaction established	2024	CMS Parties (and non-Party Range States)	All Parties with tourism activities implementing or incorporating the implementation of good practices into their tourism management plans
Research				
10. Support the assessment into the impacts of fisheries on blue shark interactions (fisheries-induced mortality, discards to design mitigation strategies)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Interactions incidence and mortality rates determined; – Proposals to reduce risk of interactions of blue sharks produced; – Effects of fisheries interaction on blue shark populations assessed 	2024 – 2026	CMS Parties (and non-Party Range States)	80% of Party Range States developing research on interactions and catch risk.
11. Support the identification of sub-population and genetic differences (to support regional TACs through fisheries-independent data)	Sub-populations identified	2025	CMS Parties (and non-Party Range States)	All management units /populations/ stocks genetically identified.
12. Support the assessment of post-release mortality of blue sharks across regions, demographics and fishing gears [Suggested to be merged with 10]	Post-release survival for blue sharks determined.	2024 – 2026	CMS Parties (and non-Party Range States)	Good knowledge of species-specific post-release survival across gears and regions.
13. Identify inconsistencies in the level of protection ensured by different Party Range States.	Protection gap analysis undertaken.	2024	NGOs	All of Party Range States with gaps identified

Activity	Expected Outcomes	Timeframe	Entity responsible for implementation	Indicators for success
14. Identify critical habitats and understand the connectivity and migrations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Critical areas identified; – Migratory routes identified; – Priority areas for conservation (PAC) identified. 	2024 – 2025	NGOs/Research groups, <u>ISRA</u>	A global database of blue shark key habitats and key migratory routes PACs identified.
15. Support assessments into the impacts of climate change on blue sharks by stock or region	Vulnerability and impacts of climate change on blue shark populations better understood.	2025	NGOs/Research groups	Risk assessments done to define blue sharks' vulnerability to climate change