

**Range State Meeting on the Single Species Action Plan
for the Angelshark in the Mediterranean Sea
(online, 5 & 6 July 2022)**

CMS/Angelshark-SSAP/Doc.2

**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/Doc.3](#)) 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/Doc.4](#))

After two consecutive rounds of written consultations, Range States are expected to discuss and agree the final Draft Single Species Action Plan (SSAP) that will be presented to the 14th Conference of the Parties to CMS. In addition, Range States are invited to discuss and agree a Governance Structure to support the implementation of the SSAP.

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 (Activity 2.3 of the Concerted Action).
2. At the 3rd Meeting of the Signatories of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Sharks (Sharks MOU), the Angelshark was included in Annex I of the MOU.
3. In March 2019, a workshop was hosted by the Shark Trust and the National Institute of Marine Sciences and Technologies (INSTM) in Tunisia, bringing together members of the Angel Shark Conservation Network (ASCN) along with local and global experts to create the [Mediterranean Angel Sharks: Regional Action Plan \(MedRAP\)](#)².
4. 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.
5. 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 conservation measures for the Angelshark.
6. 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’.
7. 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/Doc.3](#))

8. 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.

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

² Mediterranean Angel Sharks: Regional Action Plan ([Gordon et al. 2019](#)):- https://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/document/Med-Angel-Sharks-Regional-Action-Plan_2019_EN.pdf

Draft Governance Structure to Support the Implementation of the Single Species Action Plan for the Angelshark in the Mediterranean Sea ([CMS/Angelshark-SSAP/Doc.4](#))

9. A draft governance structure has been suggested to provide structure and guidance for Range States to implement the SSAP.
10. 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.
11. 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 national and international levels, can use the framework to strengthen coordination and monitor implementation progress.

Consultation Process

12. A written consultation process was conducted between April and June 2022. Parties, non-Party Range States, and experts had to opportunity to submit comments by 30 June 2022. The Secretariat compiled all comments and prepared updated drafts for discussion at this meeting which are accompanied by Addenda that include general comments made as well as reports on activities already undertaken by Range States:
 - CMS/Angelshark-SSAP/Doc.3 [Draft Single Species Action Plan for the Angelshark \(*Squatina squatina*\) in the Mediterranean Sea](#)
 - CMS/Angelshark-SSAP/Doc.3/Addendum [General Comments to Angelshark SSAP](#)
 - CMS/Angelshark/SSAP/Doc.4 [Draft Governance Structure to Support the Implementation of the Single Species Action Plan for the Angelshark \(*Squatina squatina*\) in the Mediterranean Sea](#)
 - CMS/Angelshark-SSAP/Doc.4/Addendum [Draft Reporting Template \(initial Reports from Range States included\)](#)
13. At this meeting Range States are expected to finalise the Draft SSAP and the Governance Structure. 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 the “Draft Single Species Action Plan for the Angelshark (*Squatina squatina*) in the Mediterranean Sea” (CMS/Angelshark-SSAP/Doc.3) and general comments provided in the Addendum (CMS/Angelshark-SSAP/Doc.3/Addendum) and agree on a final draft to be submitted to the 14th Conference of the Parties for formal adoption.
- b) Review the “Draft Governance Structure to Support the Implementation of the Single Species Action Plan for the Angelshark in the Mediterranean Sea” (CMS/Angelshark-SSAP/Doc.4) and agree on a final version and next steps to take in order to prepare for the implementation of the Single Species Action Plan.