



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
ON THE CONSERVATION OF
MIGRATORY SHARKS**

CMS/Sharks/MOS3/Doc.18.1
24 September 2018
Original: English

3rd Meeting of the Signatories (Sharks MOS3)
Monaco, 10 – 14 December 2018
Agenda Item 18

**PROPOSAL OF THE EU TO UNDERTAKE A
PERFORMANCE REVIEW OF THE SHARKS MOU AND
TO ESTABLISH A PROCESS TO REVIEW ANNEX 1 PERIODICALLY**

(Submitted by the European Union)

1. The following proposal to undertake a performance review of the Sharks MOU and to establish a process to review Annex 1 periodically was submitted by the European Union on 11 September 2018.

Action requested:

The Meeting is requested to:

- a) Note and discuss the proposal of the European Union.



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

International Ocean Governance and Sustainable Fisheries
Regional Fisheries Management Organisations

Brussels, 11/09/2018
MARE.B.2/SV
Att: Secretariat of the Sharks MoU
Mrs Melanie Virtue
Head, Aquatic Species Team
Convention on Migratory Species
(CMS)

Subject: Agenda items for discussion proposed by the European Union and its Member States at the third meeting of the Signatories (MoS3) to the Memorandum of Understanding on the conservation of migratory sharks (Sharks MoU)

Dear Mrs Melanie Virtue,

In view of the forthcoming Meeting of the Signatories to the Sharks MoU, the European Union and its Member States would like to propose two additional discussion points for MoS3 aiming at strengthening the functioning of the instrument.

1. Performance review

Rationale: for Parties, such as the EU, involved in and supporting, including financially, the work of international organisations, it is increasingly important to periodically review the performance of these bodies, not only to determine their effectiveness and efficiency in relation to achieving their core objectives, but also to better assess the capacities and mechanisms these organisations have put in place to support the achievement of these objectives. In line with best practices in modern governance any international arrangement should undergo periodically an external and independent review process in order to obtain reliable information about its performance in terms of achieving the objectives for which it was set up and the factors that might affect its performance. We propose to initiate the discussion at MoS3 on such a process for the Sharks MoU, with the aim of identifying what functions well and/or what can or should be addressed in order to improve its performance towards achieving its objectives.

2. Strengthen the modalities and criteria for Amending Annex 1 of the MoU and the role of the Advisory Committee in this process

Rationale: With a view to completing the framework of the MoU, anticipating the effective and successful implementation of the Conservation Plan and the achievement of a favourable conservation status for the species listed under the Annex 1 of the MoU, we propose to discuss the opportunity for considering a process, which would allow formally reviewing periodically the status of species listed on Annex 1 of the MoU and informing MoS about progress towards achieving a favourable conservation status. This would require strengthening the capacity and functioning of the Advisory Committee and fine-tuning key concepts related to the listing process.

It is also essential to consider strengthening the composition and the robustness of the outputs of the Advisory Committee of the Sharks MoU, in view to progressively acquiring a high level of recognition of its expertise at international level.

We are looking forward engaging a constructive discussion with other Signatories on these important concepts; therefore, I would appreciate if these items could be added to the MoS3 agenda.

Sincerely yours,

Stamatis VARSAMOS
Focal point for the European Union
to the Sharks MoU