

**SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL COMMENTS**  
(arising from ScC-SC2)

**MARINE TURTLES**  
**UNEP/CMS/COP12/DOC.21.2.5**

**RECOMMENDATIONS TO COP12**

- Adopt the consolidated resolution;
- Adopt the draft decision including the additions as outlined below.

**GENERAL COMMENTS ON THE DOCUMENT**

- The Council acknowledges that the consolidated resolution as it stands does not adequately address the conservation needs of marine turtles listed by CMS, and welcomes the draft decision.
- It should be noted that marine turtles are often referred to collectively, but there are major differences between species in terms of ecology and population dynamics.
- As such there is a need to look at specific requirements of each species, and the status of different management units.
- Request that the CITES decision 17.222 on trade in hawksbill and other marine turtles be taken into account
- Note that this resolution is linked closely to the Loggerhead Single Species Action Plan (Res.11.21)
- Note that the Bern Convention is doing a lot of work on marine turtles

**COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC SECTIONS/ INCLUDING POSSIBLE PROPOSALS FOR TEXT REVISION**

- Page 9, Draft Decision paragraph 12.AA
- Add specific text that the situation needs to be reviewed for each of the species and, where possible, management units, and that all relevant threats are being taken into account.
  - Add request to Council by its next meeting to review whether a Single Species Action Plan for hawksbill turtles should be developed to address the turtle trade crisis in South East Asia and the adjacent western Pacific, and if found necessary, develop a draft for consideration by COP13.
  - Add request to Council to review the state of knowledge of the impacts of climate change on marine turtle populations, ideally by convening an expert workshop, including expertise from IOSEA Turtle MOU and IAC.
  - Add request to Council to develop recommendations relating to management of sky-glow and direct light-pollution at marine turtle nesting sites.