

ADDENDUM 1

SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL COMMENTS (arising from ScC-SC6)

PROPOSAL FOR THE INCLUSION OF THE BLACKCHIN GUITARFISH (*Glaucostegus cemiculus*) IN APPENDIX II AND THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA POPULATION OF THIS SPECIES IN APPENDIX I OF THE CONVENTION

UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.31.4.10

RECOMMENDATIONS TO COP14

Recommended for adoption.

GENERAL COMMENTS ON THE DOCUMENT

- For the review of this listing proposal the Scientific Council took into consideration the analysis of listing proposals provided by the Sharks MOU Advisory Committee (Sharks AC) contained in [UNEP/CMS/ScC-SC6/Inf.13.4](#) and welcomed their overall findings and comments.
- Members of the Scientific Council agreed that the Mediterranean Sea population and even the global population of the species meets the criteria for inclusion in Appendix I and II with regards to its conservation status.
- The Scientific Council pointed out that not only should the Mediterranean population be listed in Appendix I, but also the global population, as the species is targeted in West Africa for its fins. It was reported that catch numbers in West Africa are now falling, indicating a population decline.
- In this context, it was suggested that Range States in West Africa should provide available data to the proponent.
- It was noted that available evidence is insufficient to assess the scale of migratory behaviour as the species has rarely been studied. However, using the Common Guitarfish as a model it was justifiable to assume that the Blackchin Guitarfish is migratory.
- It was noted that the species is likely locally extirpated in parts of the Mediterranean but is still relatively abundant (despite population declines) in parts of its range, poorly studied and that little information on its migration behaviour is available. Under these circumstances, it was felt that it was difficult to determine whether it meets the CMS definition of “migratory”. However, it was pointed out that comparisons with similar species that are better studied suggest that the species could be considered migratory.
- The Sharks AC previously commented on the Sharks MOU proposal to list *R. rhinobatos*, noting the following:

“The Common Guitarfish is a coastal batoid species. Information from the Mediterranean Sea clearly indicates seasonal inshore-offshore migrations, although it was unclear as

to whether these migrations crossed one or more national jurisdictional boundaries. Such seasonal migrations were also noted off West Africa (Mauritania, Senegal, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, and Sierra Leone), based on coastal fishers altering their fishing activities, and there was some evidence that these migrations crossed national jurisdictional boundaries (Diop and Menna, 2000). The AC considered these migrations to be a significant portion of the population (as it is unlikely that fishers would shift their activities based on a few individuals because this would not be profitable). Given the known importance of West Africa to the species, international cooperation is required."

- The Scientific Council agreed with the Sharks AC conclusion that in the absence of species-specific information for *G. cemiculus*, their migratory behaviours may broadly mirror those of related and/or sympatric species.

COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC SECTIONS/ INCLUDING POSSIBLE PROPOSALS FOR TEXT REVISION

- The Scientific Council noted that several references related to migration behaviour were missing and recommended that these should be provided by the proponent.