



SIDE EVENT CALENDAR

Date	Time	
	Lunchtime	Evening
Monday, 10 Dec.		
Tuesday, 11 Dec.	A Conservation Roadmap for Manta and Devil Rays Globally (Manta Trust)	CITES: Shark Conservation Action and Links to CMS (Sri Lanka)
Wednesday, 12 Dec.	Argos Satellite System for Animal Tracking: Improvements and Future of the Constellation (Collecte Localisation Satellites)	
Thursday, 13 Dec.	The ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative (ACCOBAMS)	Saving Sawfish and Angelsharks (Shark Trust and Sharks Advocates Int.)

Tuesday, 11 December

A Conservation Roadmap for Manta and Devil Rays Globally

Time: 12:30

Room: tbd

Organizer: The Manta Trust

Speakers: Daniel Fernando, Sarah Fowler and Isabel Ender

A strategic approach and action plan is needed to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of mobulid rays. Here we present the Manta Trust's Global Conservation Strategy & Action Plan for mobulid rays, indicating key actions required to tackle the direct threats from fisheries (target and bycatch) and tourism, and address indirect threats, such as reef degradation and pollution. We further introduce the *Guide to the Manta and Devil Rays of the World*, by Stevens, Fernando and Notarbartolo di Sciara.

The information provided in these documents is intended to guide the CMS Signatories, Parties, NGOs, and researchers in their efforts to implement legislation and effectively conserve mobulid rays nationally, regionally and globally.



CITES: Shark Conservation Action and Links to CMS

Time: 17:45

Room: tbd

Organizer: The Government of Sri Lanka

Speakers: Daniel Fernando



A summary of CITES implementation efforts in South Asia and their links to CMS shark and ray implementation, along with a profile of additional shark and ray relevant issues that will be discussed at CITES CoP 18 in Sri Lanka next May.

Wednesday, 12 December

Argos Satellite System for Animal Tracking: Improvements and Future of the Constellation

Time: 12:30

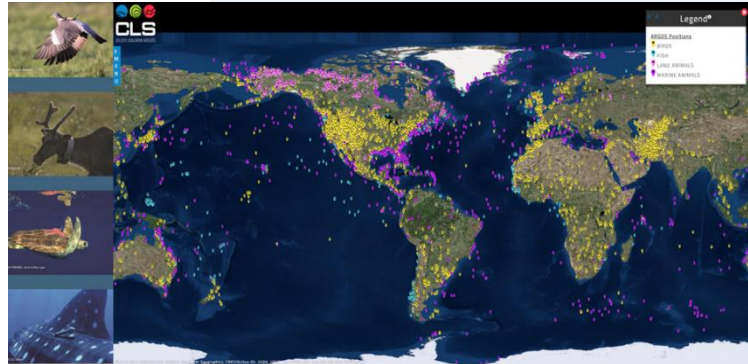
Room: tbd

Organizer: Collecte Localisations Satellites

Speakers: Sophie Baudel, Argos marine wildlife applications



The Argos satellite system is an intergovernmental initiative dedicated to Environmental Monitoring funded by the French Space Agency (CNES), NOAA and NASA (US), the European Meteorological Space Agency (EUMETSAT) and the Indian Space agency (ISRO). CLS is the exclusive operator of the Argos system on behalf these agencies.



Argos is the first satellite system in the world used by the wildlife scientific community for animal tracking (birds, marine animals, land animals) and data collection, to analyze and understand animal migrations and behavior. Argos data is the reference satellite system used by scientists who address decision makers for the conservation of endangered species.

Several shark species such as porbeagle, whale shark, basking shark, hammerhead, big rays, etc. are tracked by satellite thanks to Pop-up Satellite Archival Tags (PSAT) which are based on the Argos system.

The presentation will give an overview of the uses of Argos for wildlife tracking applications, the Argos present and future constellation.

Thursday, 13 December

The ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative

Time: 12:30 Room: tbd

Organizer: ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat

Speakers: Julie Belmont (ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative Project Officer)



The Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, the Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic area (ACCOBAMS) developed the “ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative” (ASI) aimed at establishing an integrated and coordinated monitoring system for cetaceans throughout the ACCOBAMS area.

An unprecedented large-scale synoptic survey combining visual and passive acoustic monitoring methods was conducted during the summer 2018 across the whole Mediterranean, involving a large international team alongside local scientists. With cetaceans as primary targets, the survey followed a multispecies approach, collecting also data on elasmobranches, other mega-vertebrates and marine litter.

Similar effort is planned in the Black Sea with the ASI final goal to obtain an overall picture of the distribution and abundance of cetaceans throughout the entire ACCOBAMS Area and facilitate the development of targeted conservation and management measures.

This side event aims at presenting the survey preliminary results and discussing opportunities for collaboration on data use.

Thursday, 13 December

Saving Sawfish and Angelsharks

Time: 17:45

Room: tbd

Organizer: The Shark Trust and Shark Advocates International

Speakers: Sonja Fordham (Shark Advocates International President and IUCN Shark Specialist Group Deputy Chair), Ali Hood (Shark Trust Director of Conservation and Angel Shark Conservation Network Representative), Julia Lawson. (Shark Advocates International Fellow and University of California, Santa Barbara Ph.D. student)

Sawfishes and angel sharks make up the world's most threatened elasmobranch families. IUCN classifies all five sawfish species worldwide as Endangered or Critically Endangered. The Angelshark (*Squatina squatina*) is restricted to the Northeast Atlantic and Mediterranean, and categorized as Critically Endangered. The sawfishes and the Angelshark were listed on both CMS Appendices in 2014 and 2017, respectively.



Dire population status has prompted experts to develop special conservation strategies for sawfishes and angel sharks. Sawfish protections are still urgently needed in ~2/3 of CMS Party Range States. The Angelshark is well protected legally throughout its range, but implementation is lacking. Two other angel shark species (*S. oculata*) and (*S. aculeata*)

are also Critically Endangered and yet significantly less protected. Following a review of key threats and opportunities, we aim to engage delegates in initiatives to secure concrete action toward fulfilling conservation commitments for these species, particularly with respect to CMS obligations and priority regions.