

SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL COMMENTS
(arising from ScC-SC2)

**PROPOSAL FOR THE INCLUSION OF THE BLUE SHARK (*Prionace glauca*)
ON APPENDIX II OF THE CONVENTION
UNEP/CMS/COP12/DOC.25.1.22.**

GENERAL COMMENTS ON THE DOCUMENT

The Council notes that:

- A new global IUCN Red List assessment, which includes the blue shark, is planned in the near future; recent assessments have been done for the Mediterranean Sea (CR) and the Eastern Atlantic (NT)
- The WCPFC is organizing a stock assessment in the near future
- A 2007 CMS review recommended that the Blue Shark would benefit from international cooperation, but that the species would not be of highest priority. Since then scientists and fisheries managers became more concerned about the conservation status
- The species is considered highly migratory making long-distance, transoceanic migrations

The Council recommends:

- The species meets the criteria for inclusion in Appendix II
- The proposal would benefit from additional information on the conservation status of the species, such as contained in https://www.pifsc.noaa.gov/tech/NOAA_Tech_Memo_PIFSC_17.pdf

COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC SECTIONS/ INCLUDING POSSIBLE PROPOSALS FOR TEXT REVISION

Section 7.3

- More language should be included as to why the inclusion of the blue shark in Annex 1 of the Sharks MOU would be beneficial for the species
- The proposal would benefit from defining Concerted Actions for the blue shark

RECOMMENDATIONS TO COP12

- The species meets the criteria for inclusion in Appendix II of the Convention
- The species is recommended for inclusion in Appendix II of the Convention