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Agenda Item 30.2

PROPOSAL FOR THE INCLUSION OF THE PATAGONIAN NARROWNOSE SMOOTHHOUND (*Mustelus schmitti*) ON APPENDIX II OF THE CONVENTION*

Summary:

The Government of Brazil has submitted the attached proposal for the inclusion of the Patagonian Narrownose Smoothhound *(Mustelus schmitti)* on Appendix II. This action is taken considering the species' unfavorable conservation status, recognized by its global classification as Critically Endangered (CR). Inclusion on Appendix II aims to foster transboundary collaboration among the Range States (Brazil, Uruguay, and Argentina) to effectively mitigate key threats. Specifically, this collaboration would focus on addressing the significant bycatch associated with fisheries operating across the species' distributional range, as well as implementing strategies for joint monitoring and data sharing.

*The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CMS Secretariat (or the United Nations Environment Programme) concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.

PROPOSAL FOR THE INCLUSION OF THE PATAGONIAN NARROWNOSE SMOOTHHOUND (*Mustelus schmitti*) ON APPENDIX II OF THE CONVENTION

A. PROPOSAL

The inclusion of ***Mustelus schmitti*** (Patagonian Narrownose Smoothhound) on **Appendix II** of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS).

B. PROPONENT

Government of **Brazil**

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxonomy

1.1 Class: Chondrichthyes, Subclass: Elasmobranchii

1.2 Order: Carcharhiniformes

1.3 Family: Triakidae

1.4 Genus, species: *Mustelus schmitti* Springer, 1939 (Fig. 1)

1.5 Scientific synonyms: no synonyms

1.6 Common name(s):

English: Patagonian Narrownose Smoothhound, Narrownose Smoothhound

French: Émissole gatuso

Spanish: Gatuzo, gatuso, recorre costas

Portuguese: cação-cola-fina; cação-perna-de-moça, caçonete

Figure 1. *Mustelus schmitti* (Patagonian Narrownose Smoothhound)

2. Overview

The Patagonian Narrownose Smoothhound (*Mustelus schmitti*) is a small demersal shark that inhabits the continental shelf and estuaries of the Southwest Atlantic, ranging from Southeast Brazil to South Patagonia (Argentina), where it is commonly found in shallow waters. Across this entire range, the species faces intense and widespread fishing pressure from commercial, artisanal, and recreational fleets that employ demersal trawls, gillnets, and beach seines. The primary threat is overfishing, driven by both internal markets and international demand for its high-value meat. Further compounding its decline is the loss or deterioration of critical shallow-water pupping and nursery grounds, which are vulnerable to coastal development and accelerating climate change. The seasonal, temperature-driven migration of adult and gravid *M. schmitti* between the southern nursery and breeding grounds (Argentina/Uruguay) and the

northern feeding/wintering grounds (Brazil) provides compelling evidence of a single, transboundary population unit. The movement is a critical, cyclical component of the species' life history, meaning that conservation measures must be coordinated and collaborative among all three Range States to be effective. This regional endemic species is assessed as Critically Endangered (CR) in the IUCN Red List. CMS Appendix II listing is essential to establish the international collaboration needed to reverse this ongoing decline.

3 Migrations

3.1 Kinds of movement, distance, the cyclical and predicable nature of the migration

The Southwest Atlantic Ocean is globally recognized as one of the world's most biologically rich and productive marine areas, defined by high species diversity and distinct thermal gradients along its coastline (Acha et al., 2004; Lutz et al., 2010; Franco et al., 2020). However, this biodiversity hotspot is profoundly susceptible to intense fishing pressure (Tyedmers et al., 2005; FAO, 2022). This pressure has placed half of the region's unique marine life at risk, with an alarming of number of endemic Chondrichthyes (sharks, rays, and chimaeras) in the Southwest Atlantic currently classified as threatened with extinction (Dulvy et al., 2014).

Narrownose Smoothhound (*Mustelus schmitti*) population is a shared, transboundary stock that undergoes seasonal migrations across the national waters of its three Range States: Argentina, Uruguay, and Brazil. The most significant evidence comes from extensive distribution and abundance surveys showing a clear, predictable seasonal shift in the species' distribution related to oceanographic conditions, particularly temperature (Oddone et al., 2007; Pereyra et al., 2010).

While differences in reproductive parameters and size at maturity have been observed across the range, the overarching evidence from distribution and genetics supports the existence of a single, highly-connected population unit.

Studies analyzing the genetic structure of *M. schmitti* populations have indicated a low level of genetic diversity and a lack of significant genetic structure across its distribution (Pereyra et al., 2010). This high degree of connectivity strongly suggests extensive gene flow due to migration, treating the species as a single, shared stock among the three nations. Probably *M. schmitti* has dispersal abilities, with high migration rates, and associated with the lack of obvious dispersal barriers, could be responsible for the genetic homogeneity observed by Pereyra et al. (2010).

Management and conservation strategies frequently treat the exploited population across the three countries as a single unit, acknowledging that fishing pressure in one country (e.g., targeting wintering or pre-spawning aggregations in Brazil) directly impacts the overall stock available to the other countries (e.g., the subsequent reproductive output in Argentina/Uruguay) (Miranda & Vooren, 2003; Massa et al., 2006; Molina & López Cazorla, 2011).

In Argentina between 2010 and 2013 a total of 43 individuals of the Patagonian narrownose smoothhound were tagged and recaptured, including international borders with Uruguay (Pérez et al., 2020). Juveniles and adults make extensive use of coastal areas, exhibiting low levels of philopatry following the model proposed for small sharks, like *M.schmitti*. However, their reproductive aspects may also indicate an adjustment to the model indicated for large sharks, thus there is evidence corresponding to both migratory modalities, like fidelity for the reproductive sites (Pérez et al., 2020). There is also nonpublished migration data about

individuals tagged in Argentina and recaptured in Uruguay and the opposite way (Cuevas, J. pers. comm. 2025).

3.2 Proportion of the population migrating, and why that is a significant proportion

Adult and pregnant female *M. schmitti* are known to migrate north into Uruguayan and southern Brazilian waters during the colder months (Austral winter), typically from April to November. This movement is generally associated with seeking warmer water as the cold sub-Antarctic waters advance north into their southern Argentine range (Vooren, 1997; Vooren et al., 2005; Pereyra et al., 2010; Molina & Lopez Cazorla, 2011).

The species returns south to the coastal and inner continental shelf areas of Argentina and Uruguay (particularly the Río de la Plata region and Northern Patagonia) during the Austral spring and summer (December to April). This area serves as a critical nursery and reproductive ground where parturition (birthing) and mating take place (Oddone et al., 2005, 2007; Colautti et al., 2010)

4 Biological data

4.1 Distribution

Mustelus schmitti is endemic to the Southwest Atlantic, from Rio de Janeiro in Brazil (22°S) to southern Argentina, Puerto Deseado (47°S) (Chiaramonte & Pettovello 2000; Pollom et al., 2020; Santos et al., 2025) (Fig. 2).

Figure 2. Distribution of *Mustelus schmitti*.
Source: Pollom et al., (2020).

4.2 Population (estimates and trends)

The populations of *M. schmitti* have declined severely due to unsustainable fisheries mortality, largely driven by local and international trade demand for their meat and fins. Targeted catches and/or utilized incidental catch (bycatch) from depleted populations continue to drive these declines. *Mustelus schmitti* is classified in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species as Critically Endangered (CR) globally due to >80% global population reductions over the last three generations (28 years) (Pollom et al., 2020).

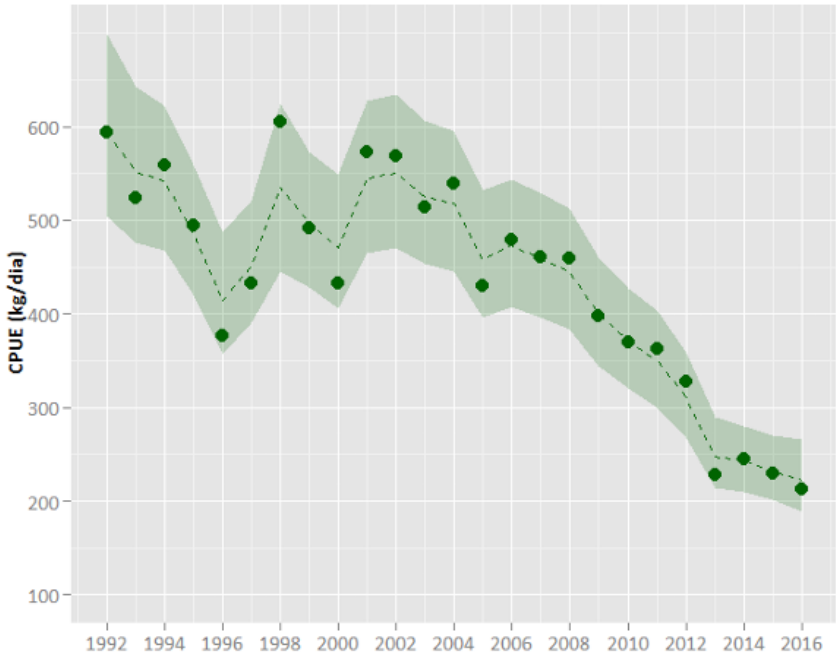
In Brazil, the species is also classified as Critically Endangered (CR), due to population size reduction over 80% with extremely high fishing pressure, mainly bottom trawl, gillnet and longline industrial fisheries, between the 1980s and 2000s (Haimovici, 1997; Miranda & Vooren, 2003; Santos et al., 2025). The species shows no indication of recovery, mainly because it remains vulnerable to high bycatch levels driven by significant fishing pressure mainly off southern continental shelf (Santos et al., 2025)

The populational size of *Mustelus schmitti* has declined significantly in Argentine and Uruguayan waters (Massa et al., 2006), with a similar, notable decrease also observed in southern Brazil (Miranda & Vooren, 2003).

In directed net fisheries, *M. schmitti* represents ~55% of the catch, while in artisanal fisheries *M. schmitti* comprised over 70% of catch (Silveira et al., 2018). DINARA (Uruguay) data for artisanal catches for the period 2004–2012 averaged 167 t for *M. schmitti* (Paesch & Pereyra, 2024).

The population trend for *M. schmitti* is also clearly decreasing in terms of CPUE (kg/day) models between 1992 and 2016 in Argentina (Fig. 3) (CTMFM, 2017). Pollom et al. (2020) report a decreasing population trend in the last global Red List assessment for the species. Estimated biomass values in the Bonaerense Coastal Ecosystem decreased, between 1994 and 2003, by 50% (Massa et al., 2004; Cortés, 2007), based on an abundance of 156,065 t and a confidence interval of 72,378 t. In Brazil, there was an 85% decrease in the total biomass of this species between 1975 and 1995 (Haimovici, 1997) and in the past, the species was landed under the categories "caçonete" or "cação-cola-fina" (smooth-hound or fin-tail shark), but after its collapse, its landings or discards are not adequately measured, and there is little specific data available. Fishing continued on this collapsed stock and this led to continued decline, with no sign of recovery, so *Mustelus schmitti* was classified as Critically Endangered (CR) in Brazil (Santos et al., 2025) and capture and commercialization were prohibited. FAO data from Uruguay and Argentina for this species from 1960 to 2023 presents a catch peak in 1988, declined until 2017, and has remained relatively constant at ~3,000 t since then (Table 1). Considerable decreases have also been observed in the catch per unit effort (CPUE) of the fleet greater than 20 m in length in Argentina (Massa et al., 2004), and in the average size of catches (Díaz de Astarloa et al., 1997; Cousseau et al., 1998). The high fishing pressure in pupping and nursery areas aggravates this situation (Massa et al., 2004; Cortés, 2007). These declines are linked to the earlier collapse of *Galeorhinus galeus* fisheries in the region, which resulted in the fishing effort switching to *M. schmitti*.

Figure 3. Bayesian inference fit of the Schaefer model to CPUE (kg/day) from 1992–2016 for *Mustelus schmitti* in the Argentine fleet.
Source: CTMF (2017).



In the Argentinean-Uruguayan Common Fishing Zone (AUCFZ) there are annual catch limits since 2013 (4,500 t), that have progressively diminished, and they stand fixed at 2,000 t since 2019 (CTMFM, 2019).

Recently, a regional stock assessment for the species determined that it is overexploited along its distribution in the Southwest Atlantic Ocean (Colonello et al., 2024). However, biomass projections determine that, if these current landing levels remain, a slow recovery of the population is feasible in a long term period and with similar results to those assessments conducted for the Río de la Plata Treaty Area and its Maritime Front. Colonello et al. (2024) also recommended that the establishment of a Maximum Allowable Catch should be accompanied by other measures, such as the closed areas currently in effect along the Buenos Aires and Uruguayan coastal areas, given that this resource is caught as part of multi-species fisheries.

Table 1. Landings (t) of *Mustelus schmitti* from 2013 to 2022 (Source: FAO, 2024)

Country	**2013**	**2014**	**2015**	**2016**	**2017**	**2018**	**2019**	**2020**	**2021**	**2022**	**Decade total**
Argentina	4,378	3,875	3,723	3,554	2,810	2,523	2,831	2,485	3,228	2,819	32,226
Uruguay	194	662	697	460	332	350	293	259	382	109	3,739
Total	4,572	4,538	4,420	4,014	3,142	2,873	3,124	2,744	3610	2,928	35,965

4.3 Habitat (short description and trends)

Mustelus schmitti is a demersal shark, inhabiting sandy, muddy and rocky substrates from 2 to 200 m, although the majority of records are below 150 m (Paesch, 1995; Vooren, 1997; Compagno et al., 2005). It is a migrant species using coastal zones as reproductive areas, where neonates and juveniles are associated, while adults disperse over the shelf during non-reproductive periods (Cortés et al., 2011).

4.4 Biological characteristics

Mustelus schmitti is a small demersal shark that reproduces by viviparity with limited histotrophy (Orlando *et al*., 2015). The female has an annual reproductive cycle, comprising a 11-12-month gestation period. Females reach sexual maturity at 72 cm TL and ca 8 years and males 45 cm TL and ca. 7 years but there are variations associated with latitudinal changes (Cosseau, 1986; Oddone et al. 2005; Segura & Milessi, 2009; Molina et al., 2017). The maximum size is about 110 cm TL, with females reaching a greater maximum size than males (Menni, 1985; Menni et al., 1986; Chiaramonte and Pettovello, 2000). There is sexual dimorphism in the size at first maturity, varying between 54 to 70 cm in males (~7 years) and between 56 to 79 cm in females (~8 years), depending on the area, where variations associated with latitudinal changes can be observed (Cousseau 1986). The number of embryos per pregnant female ranges between 1 and 16, with averages around 4 to 6 (Chiaramonte & Pettovello, 2000; Segura & Milessi, 2009; Colautti et al., 2010). It has breeding areas on the Argentine coast (Chiaramonte & Pettovello, 2000; Molina & Lopez Cazorla, 2010). Parturition is in early spring, and copulation takes place after pupping.

Like other species of the genus *Mustelus*, it exhibits flat, molar-like, and pavement-like teeth, specialized for feeding on organisms with carapaces and shells, which are crushed by these specialized teeth (Compagno, 2003; Belleggia et al., 2014). Its diet is primarily based on decapod crustaceans and fish, but it also feeds on polychaetes, molluscs, and sipunculids, similar to other sharks in the same genus (Capitoli et al., 1995; Belleggia et al., 2012).

The species possesses a combination of life-history characteristics, such as slow growth, low fecundity, and late sexual maturation, that limit the population's ability to recover from even moderate levels of fishing exploitation (Haimovici, 1997; Vooren, 1997).

Generation length is 9.3 years, and maximum age is 11 years (Molina et al., 2017). This species has a natural intrinsic rate of population growth of 0.175 (Cortés, 2007).

4.5 Role of the taxon in its ecosystem

Mustelus schmitti is an opportunistic carnivore, feeding on a variety of benthic invertebrates, mainly crustaceans and annelids. Diet differs between adults and juveniles and seasonally (Chiaramonte & Pettovello, 2000; Molina & Lopez-Cazorla, 2010). It is believed that adults can take larger prey, related in part to the type and strength of the crustacean's exoskeleton. Smaller sharks, on the other hand, have a predominance of smaller, softer prey in their stomach contents (Chiaramonte & Pettovello, 2000). The trophic level of the species varies between 3.5 and 3.6 (Molina & Lopez-Cazorla, 2011).

While sharks are fundamental to ecosystem structure and function, Dedman et al. (2024) warn that fishing down their populations to levels that impair their ecological role can precipitate cascading, unpredictable ecological impacts. These consequences negatively affect both aquatic ecosystems and the people dependent on them. This threat is compounded by their current conservation status, suggesting that many species may no longer be performing their vital ecosystem role across most of their range.

5. Conservation status and threats

5.1 IUCN Red List Assessment

Critically Endangered (CR A2bd) (Pollom et al., 2020).

5.2 Equivalent information relevant to conservation status assessment

Critically Endangered (CR A2bd) (Santos et al., 2025) in official red list of Brazil.

5.3 Threats to the population

The populational decline of *Mustelus schmitti* throughout its distribution (Brazil, Uruguay, and Argentina) is driven by two main factors: intense fishing pressure and significant habitat impacts.

The primary source of mortality for this species is incidental capture (bycatch). *Mustelus schmitti* is frequently caught in non-selective bottom trawling and gill nets used by multi-species coastal fleets, which primarily target high-value fish like croakers and weakfishes. This fishing method leads to extremely high fishing mortality rates, and the effectiveness of discarding mandates is questionable since released individuals are unlikely to survive."

In Brazilian markets, Elasmobranchs are usually sold as "cação", one of their popular trade names (Falcão et al., 2014) and this generalized and nonspecific labeling also complicates efforts to curb consumption of endangered species (Bornatowski et al., 2013; Falcão et al., 2014).

Pollution, dredging, and coastal development lead to habitat degradation and loss. These activities change the quality of bottom water and pollution levels, which reduces the overall habitat suitability and makes the population less resilient to existing exploitation.

5.4 National and international utilization

Mustelus schmitti replaced *Galeorhinus galeus* (tope) as a valuable target species, and Uruguay has recently become a major exporter of shark meat to expanding South American markets (Niedermüller et al. 2021).

The species is targeted for its meat by large and small scale fisheries mainly for local consumption as fillet with a peak in demand during Easter season in Argentina (Cuevas, J. pers. comm. 2025). Other by-products (particularly fins) enter export markets. National utilization has been regulated in some range States when high heavy metal levels were detected and sale of large meat from large adults prohibited, or where a species is protected (e.g. in Brazil).

MacNeil et al. (2025) estimate that average annual landings of *M. schmitti* were 4,119 t per year during 2012–2019, mostly from Argentina with a mean of 3,727 t per year, followed by Uruguay with approximately 370 t per year). Meat exports were around 1,411 t per year, on average, however there are years when this value can be even higher, reaching 3,273 t (Fig. 3). These estimates are higher than reported exports from Argentina of 661 t per year with inconsistent annual variations, which does not allow estimating a clear pattern. Uruguay reports slightly lower exports with 437 t per year, but it can be estimated that more than 90% of the catch is exported (Jabado et al., 2024).

An important trade in meat occurs between Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil (Chiaramonte, 2023; MacNeil et al. 2025), with Uruguay a major re-exporter of frozen shark meat to supply expanding shark meat markets in South America (Niedermüller et al., 2021). Argentina exports dried and frozen narrownose smoothhound fins (35–57 t) to China and Singapore (Chiaramonte et al., 2024). It exports frozen narrownose smoothhound fillets to Brazil (108 t in 2021) and Australia and exports frozen products to Italy, Singapore, and Indonesia (Chiaramonte et al. 2024). Precise, species-specific, trad e data are generally lacking – for example, although Tope is one of the four export categories of chondrichthyan fishes recorded

by Argentina, trunks and fillets of other shark species may also be included in this category (Chiaramonte et al. 2024). *Mustelus schmitti* was exported from Argentina to more than 20 countries as several different products, including frozen filet, frozen meat, pieces or slices, fins, fresh filet, cartilage, entire/frozen beheaded and gutted, dried, dried fins and/or salted, dried head, and frozen fins (MAGYP, 2024). On average 5.8% (+/- 2.8) of total declared landings was exported during this period, mainly to Brazil (2008-2014, 2021-2022), Hong Kong (China) (2015-2018, 2020), Singapore (2019) and Australia (2023) (MAGYP, 2024). Brazil is the major importer of shark meat in the region (Dent and Clarke 2015) and commonly marketed under the general term '*cação*' (Bornatowski et al., 2015), that can include *Mustelus schmitti* (Chiaramonte et al., 2024).

Fins are traded internationally to Asian markets, particularly mainland China, Hong Kong (China), and Singapore (the latter mostly re-exported). Today, fins are a byproduct of fisheries supplying international demand for meat, although the fin trade drove earlier fisheries for 'Soupfin Shark', including in the Eastern North Pacific. No species-specific customs fin trade data have been identified, but there are several records in literature of trade in *Mustelus* fins. Shark traders reported to Boon (2017) that *Mustelus* spp and *Galeorhinus galeus* (another Triakidae species with similar fins) were key secondary species in fin trade through Singapore; total fin imports from Range States were predominantly from Spain and Uruguay, also New Zealand, UK, Argentina, Australia, Chile, Peru and South Africa. More recently, *G. galeus* and *Mustelus* spp were still among the most encountered taxa in Singapore fin markets and Saigal et al. (2024) found *Mustelus* species providing 6% of fins identified. Cardeñosa et al. (2024) noted that fin trimmings may oversample larger sharks, finding that *M. schmitti* comprised 5.99% of whole small fins sampled in the Hong Kong (China) dried seafood market in 2019 and were the 5th most common species present in that study.

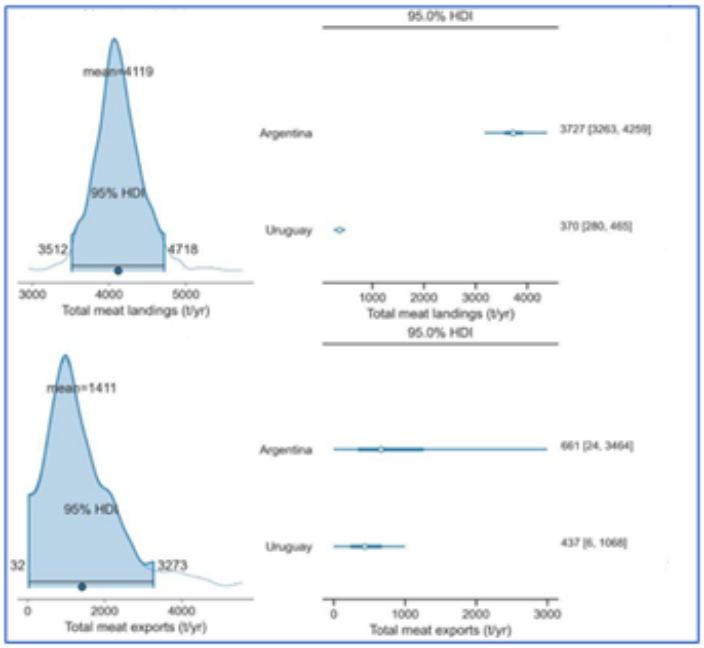


Figure 3. Total meat landings and exports in tonnes annually per country of *Mustelus schmitti* (MacNeil et al., 2025).

6. Protection status and species management

6.1 National protection status

The species is officially protected in Brazil, under Ordinance MMA n°148/2022 (Red List) listed as Critically Endangered, and due this, landings and commercial use are prohibited.

In Brazil, the National Action Plan for the Conservation of Threatened Sharks and Rays has been under implementation since 2014 and is currently in its second cycle.

The National Plan of Action for the Conservation of Chondrichthyans in Uruguayan Fisheries has been under implementation since 2005, with a revision in 2015.

The National Plan of Action (PAN) for the Conservation and Management of Chondrichthyans (Sharks, Rays, and Chimaeras) in Argentina was elaborated in 2009 and revised in 2015.

6.2 International protection status

Mustelus schmitti is officially listed as an Endangered species under the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Endangered Species Act (ESA) - 2015, which carries the authority to impose restrictions on its commercial trade within the United States.

The International Plan of Action for Conservation and Management of Sharks (IPOA-Sharks) was agreed upon in 1998, covering all shark and ray species. This voluntary international agreement, developed under the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, guides nations toward positive action for the conservation and long-term sustainable use of sharks. The IPOA-Sharks specifically recommends that FAO member states should adopt a national plan of action (NPOA-Sharks) should their vessels participate in targeted exploitation of shark stocks, or if they sustain consistent incidental capture in multi-species fisheries.

6.3 Management measures

The landing and commercialization of the species are prohibited in Brazil (Ordinance MMA n° 148/2022) and if the species is incidentally captured, its release to the sea, regardless of its state (live or dead), is required (Ordinance MPA/MMA n°10/2011).

In the Argentinean-Uruguayan Common Fishing Zone there are established quotas (TAC) since 2013, that are reviewed each year by the Binational Technical Comission (Comisión Técnica Mixta del Frente Marítimo) for only 3 groups: the narrownose smoothhound *Mustelus schmitti*, the angelsharks *Squatina* spp. and an assemblage of at least 20 species of skates.

In Argentina there is the Resolution CFP n° 8/2021 that forbids the target fishing of Chondrichthyes, sets limits on maximum allowable landing percentages of sharks and rays, among other general measures to this group. Resolutions 4 and 7 of the Federal Fishery Council (2013) established that: target fishing of Chondrichthyes is forbidden as well as shark finning; all sharks larger than 160 cm should be returned alive to the sea; the use of boat hooks for chondrichthyans is forbidden; specimens caught dead must be declared; when a shark larger than 160 cm is caught dead it should be delivered to the research institute for study; a maximum limit for the landing of sharks is established and equivalent to 30% of the total number of species caught per take; in the event that a haul is verified with a percentage that exceeds the limits established in the preceding articles, the vessel must move to another area of operation; on board observers should be present on vessels to record frequent captures of Chondrichthyes.

A management fishing area for chondrichthyans in national waters (> 12 NM), regulated by the Argentinean-Uruguayan Common Fishing Zone (AUCFZ) protects temporally demersal and benthic coastal chondrichthyans through the exclusion of bottom net trawling activity during 5 months each year from the 1st of November to the 31st of March in a small area (~1630 NM2) since 2010 (Resolución CTMFM N° 9/10).

In all three countries, protected areas exist within the species' distribution range that can contribute to its conservation, as well as areas of temporal or spatial exclusion for fishing gears that affect *Mustelus schmitti.*

6.4 Habitat conservation

Mustelus schmitti preferentially inhabits shallow coastal waters, areas increasingly subject to human pressures. This leads to habitat degradation and loss stemming from pollution, dredging, and coastal development. The disturbance of these areas is critical because they often overlap with essential nursery and feeding grounds for juveniles and pregnant females. Changes in bottom water quality and chronic pollution also reduce the overall habitat suitability and make the population less resilient to existing exploitation.

6.5 Population monitoring

Current monitoring of bycatch in Brazil, where the species must be discarded, is limited to isolated and sporadic observer initiatives run by research organizations. There is currently no structured or integrated governmental onboard observer program in place, although a previously existing program (operational until the 2010s) is now under review.

Conversely, robust monitoring structures already exist in Argentina and Uruguay. These integrated programs, administered by INIDEP and DINARA, effectively collect vital information on the *Mustelus schmitti* fishery. This work utilizes fleet data and research surveys, including joint efforts coordinated by the Comisión Técnica Mixta del Frente Marítimo in the Argentinean-Uruguayan Common Fishing Zone.

7. Effects of the proposed amendment

7.1 Anticipated benefits of the amendment

Listing on international agreements, such as the CMS, could help to drive improvements in national and regional management and facilitate collaboration between states, for this species, to effectively mitigate key threats, most notably the significant bycatch associated with fisheries operating across the species' distributional range, as well as strategies for joint monitoring and data sharing.

7.2 Potential risks of the amendment

No risk was raised, given that Appendix II encourages international cooperation in conservation without imposing a direct restriction on utilization, provided that such use is sustainable on populations where exploitation is monitored and verified as viable.

7.3 Intention of the proponent concerning development of an Agreement or Concerted Action

8. Range States

Brazil, Uruguay and Argentina.

9. Consultations

10. Additional remarks

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