

SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL COMMENTS

(arising from ScC-SC8)

**PROPOSAL FOR THE INCLUSION OF THE SCALLOPED HAMMERHEAD SHARK (*SPHYMA LEWINI*) ON APPENDIX I OF THE CONVENTION
UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.30.2.14**

(ScC-SC8 Agenda item 13.2.14)

GENERAL COMMENTS ON THE DOCUMENT

The Sessional Committee expressed its appreciation for the consultation of Range States undertaken by the Government of Ecuador prior to submission of the proposal, which provided the opportunity to correct some mistakes in the proposal. It also noted that there are examples of effective conservation measures in the region, expressing its support for conservation action for this species.

It also welcomed the advice provided by the Advisory Committee (AC) of the Memorandum of Understanding Sharks. Regarding the global population of scalloped hammerhead, the AC had two perspectives. The first perspective was that scalloped hammerhead is listed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List and the Australian population has been assessed as meeting the criteria for listing as Endangered, and therefore scalloped hammerhead meets the criteria for listing in Appendix I. The other perspective was that data was too limited to make a determination at a global scale and, whilst declines were evident in some areas, these declines had generally been arrested (with some populations showing increasing trends) and so it was unclear which populations would be at risk of extinction.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO COP15

The Scientific Council recommends adopting the proposal.