

## **SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL COMMENTS**

(arising from ScC-SC8)

### **PROPOSAL FOR A CONCERTED ACTION FOR ALL SPECIES OF DEVIL AND MANTA RAYS (MOBULIDAE) ALREADY LISTED ON APPENDIX I AND II OF THE CONVENTION UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.31.3.16**

(ScC-SC8 Agenda item 14.3.16)

#### **GENERAL COMMENTS ON THE DOCUMENT**

The Sessional Committee welcomed the proposal for Concerted Action and highlighted the excellent work undertaken by the Manta Trust for the conservation of the species.

Comments were made on the broad scope of the coverage and geographic distribution of *Mobula* species. This might benefit by focusing on the substantial data gaps that remain for some of the species and regions.

The Sessional Committee pointed out that not all Range States were consulted prior to the submission of the Concerted Action. Activities should not be directed to Parties if they were not consulted beforehand. One specific activity, to reduce demand for *Mobula* products, might be more appropriately dealt with in other fora, such as CITES and RFBs.

The Sessional Committee further noted one of the ways to reduce demand is through outreach and awareness, activities that would fall well within the types of actions recommended here and in other Concerted Actions.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS TO COP15**

The Scientific Council recommends adopting the proposal for a Concerted Action for all species of Devil and Manta rays.