ADDENDUM 1

SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL COMMENTS

(arising from ScC-SC8)

PROPOSAL FOR THE INCLUSION OF THE GREAT HAMMERHEAD SHARK (*Sphyrna mokarran*) ON APPENDIX I OF THE CONVENTION

UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.30.2.15

RECOMMENDATIONS TO COP15

The Scientific Council recommends to adopt the proposal.

GENERAL COMMENTS ON THE DOCUMENT

The Sessional Committee considered the review of the Advisory Committee (AC) of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Sharks (Sharks MOU), noting that both species are already recognized as migratory and listed in Appendix II. It acknowledged that the Advisory Committee did not reach consensus on whether global populations meet the Appendix I criterion of being in danger of extinction, due to two differing scientific perspectives.

> One perspective held that the IUCN Red List assessments, which classify both species as Critically Endangered, represent the best available scientific evidence and are sufficient to support Appendix I listing, given documented long-term declines and limited data from much of their ranges.
>
> The other perspective emphasized substantial data uncertainties, including reliance on JARA outputs that may not reflect recent regional improvements, such as increasing trends for *S. mokarran* in the North-west Atlantic under current management. Ongoing data gaps, especially in the Indo-Pacific and artisanal fisheries, and species identification challenges were also noted.

The Sessional Committee discussed the uneven quality and availability of data across regions and noted concerns regarding the interpretation of JARA model outputs, particularly their sensitivity to missing data and the choice of start and end points, and queried how these limitations are being addressed.

The Sessional Committee emphasized that apparent population improvements observed in a few well-managed regions should not be generalized to the global scale, given ongoing fishing pressure, international trade, and the species' biological vulnerability. It also noted that regional listing approaches may be appropriate in some cases where global assessments are constrained by data limitations.