



## CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

UNEP/CMS/COP15/Inf.30.2.16

24 March 2026

Original: English

15<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES  
Campo Grande, Brazil, 23 to 29 March 2026  
Agenda Item 30.2

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE PROPONENT OF PROPOSAL FOR THE INCLUSION OF THE ANGULAR ANGELSHARK (*Squatina guggenheim*) ON APPENDIX II OF THE CONVENTION

*(Prepared by the government of Brazil)*

In response to the comments and recommendations issued by the Advisory Committee of the Sharks Memorandum of Understanding and the Scientific Council, the following information is submitted for consideration. The Committee requested additional information on migratory movements and the completion of missing elements, including section 7.3. The Committee also noted the absence of alternative management frameworks and emphasized the importance of coordinated regional conservation efforts.

It is noted that support for the proposal was expressed in the recommendation of the Scientific Council concerning the inclusion of *Squatina guggenheim* in Appendix II of the Convention. In light of the questions raised during the review process, the following clarifications are provided:

- Information on migratory movements

Although bathymetric migration patterns (inshore-offshore) are well-documented, the proposal is based on robust evidence of latitudinal movements conditioned by seasonal oceanographic factors. It is highlighted that the distribution of *S. guggenheim* appears to be linked to the Subtropical Convergence, the northern limit of which reaches the waters of southern Brazil. As demonstrated by Garcia et al. (2014), the dynamics of this convergence zone act as a vector for the migration of the species between southern Brazil and northern Argentina, establishing a transboundary biological corridor.

The absence of significant population structuring, corroborated by Bunholi et al. (2022), reinforces the hypothesis of active gene flow along the southwestern Atlantic coast. The identification of a stepping-stone connectivity pattern confirms that the species engages in continuous generational genetic exchanges across its geographical distribution.

Therefore, such scientific evidence—both oceanographic and genetic—confirms that the populations of *S. guggenheim* are not isolated, but rather shared between the countries of the region (Brazil, Uruguay, and Argentina). Thus, inclusion in Appendix II becomes an appropriate collaborative instrument to ensure integrated management and international cooperation necessary for the conservation of this migratory species.

- Additional Information on Item 3.1 of the Proposal (Kinds of movement, distance, the cyclical and predicable nature of migration):

Available scientific evidence indicates that the distribution and movements of *S. guggenheim* are closely associated with the Subtropical Convergence, whose northern limit extends into southern Brazilian waters. As demonstrated by Garcia et al. (2014), the dynamics of this oceanographic convergence zone function as a driver of directional movements of the species between southern Brazil and northern Argentina, effectively establishing a transboundary biological corridor. These environmentally mediated movements, structured by large-scale oceanographic processes, are indicative of recurrent, ecologically driven movements across national boundaries, consistent with broader patterns of spatial connectivity in marine species.

Furthermore, the lack of significant population structuring reported by Bunholi et al. (2022) provides strong genetic evidence of ongoing connectivity along the southwestern Atlantic coast. The identification of a stepping-stone pattern of connectivity indicates continuous intergenerational gene flow throughout the species' range, confirming that populations are not demographically isolated but shared among range states.

Considering the available evidence, *S. guggenheim* exhibits transboundary movement patterns, indicating that its conservation would benefit from approaches extending beyond unilateral measures. In this context, inclusion in Appendix II may serve as an appropriate collaborative instrument to facilitate coordinated management efforts and enhance international cooperation aimed at the long-term conservation of this shared species.

- Additional Information on Item 7.3 (Intention of the proponent concerning development of an Agreement or Concerted Action):

It is considered essential that the inclusion of *Squatina guggenheim* in Appendix II be accompanied by the development of coordinated conservation strategies. In accordance with the procedures of the Convention on Migratory Species, the potential inclusion of this species under the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Sharks will be duly considered through the relevant institutional mechanisms of the Convention. This process will involve an assessment by the body responsible for coordinating, overseeing, and supporting the implementation of the Sharks Memorandum of Understanding, considering its mandate, objectives, and applicable criteria.