



CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

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Agenda Item 31.3

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE PROPONENT OF THE PROPOSAL FOR A CONCERTED ACTION FOR THE SAND TIGER SHARK (*Carcharias taurus*) ALREADY LISTED ON APPENDIX I and II OF THE CONVENTION

(Prepared by the government of Brazil)

In the recommendation issued by the Scientific Council regarding the proposal for the development of Concerted Actions for the Sand Tiger Shark (*Carcharias taurus*), which is listed in Appendices I and II of the Convention, the Scientific Council expressed its support for the proposal. The suggested additions are presented below for incorporation into the proposal, as appropriate:

- Regarding the inclusion of additional knowledge-gap studies (impacts of fisheries and identification of sub-populations):

Proposed modification to the proposal: inclusion of item 4 under “Summary of Activities”:

Increase data collection and research with a focus on: identification of sub-population structure and genetic differences, and on understanding connectivity and migrations between key ISRAs of the Southwest Atlantic (SWA) in order to improve management and protection in the region; as well as studies on fisheries-related mortality and gear-specific impacts.

- Regarding the refinement of the objective to ensure feasibility and focus on the most critical management needs and impacts, the following text is proposed to replace the existing wording in the proposal. In Associated benefits, the existing text is proposed to be replaced by the following:

To catalyze effective conservation for the Sand Tiger Shark in the Southwest Atlantic (SWA) by establishing a synchronized regional framework. This action will serve as a pilot for integrated management, providing a platform for Parties to harmonize enforcement and scientific monitoring across shared maritime borders. Some high-impact management priorities include updating and operationalizing the Regional Conservation Action Plan (RCAP) through targeted technical workshops. These will transition from general stakeholder engagement to a formal Range State Task Force focused on regulatory alignment.

*Implementing these actions will directly address the critical impact of unregulated recreational and commercial fishing in the region. By strengthening enforcement for the Sand Tiger Shark, the initiative will provide collateral protection for other CMS Appendix II / Sharks MoU species sharing the same coastal habitats (*Sphyrna zygaena*, *S. lewini*, *Galeorhinus galeus*, and *Squalus acanthias*).*

Implement standardized data collection protocols across Brazil, Uruguay, and Argentina to track population trends and habitat use of the multispecies coastal shark assemblage.

*Hammerhead sharks (*Sphyrna zygaena* and *S. lewini*), Tope sharks (*Galeorhinus galeus*), and the Spiny Dogfish (*Squalus acanthias*) share similar coastal habitats with the Sand Tiger Shark along the SWA and are subject to the same threats, mainly illegal recreational fishing in Argentina. The Scalloped Hammerhead (*S. lewini*) was listed on CMS Appendix II in 2014, while the Smooth Hammerhead (*S. zygaena*) was listed in 2020 in the same Appendix. The Tope Shark is also listed on CMS Appendix II (2020), and the Spiny Dogfish has been listed since 2008 in Appendix II. All four species are also listed in Annex I of the CMS Sharks MoU and will significantly benefit from improved and effective enforcement of regulations in the SWA through the implementation of the activities described in this document.*

- The following modifications have been proposed to Table 1 – Activities and Expected Outcomes with Timeframes:

Modifications to Item 4 - Increase data collection and research with a focus on: identification of sub-population structure and genetic differences, and understanding connectivity and migrations between key ISRAs of the SWA to improve management and protection in the region; studies on fisheries-related mortality and gear-specific impacts.

Expected outcomes:

Key ISRAs selected. Critical areas identified in the SWA, including movement pathways and aggregation sites for breeding, nursing, feeding, and mating. Improved species-specific estimates of legal and illegal catch and abundance to generate a better understanding of current distribution. Sub-populations identified. Fisheries-related mortality and gear-specific impacts identified.

Modifications to Items 5 and 7. Only the year 2028 was retained (2030 removed).