

2ND MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SINGLE SPECIES ACTION PLAN FOR
THE ANGELSHARK IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA (ANGELSHARK MED WG2)
Bonn, Germany, 3 December 2026
Agenda Item 2

COP15 DECISIONS RELEVANT TO THE SINGLE SPECIES ACTION PLAN FOR THE ANGELSHARK IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA (SSAP ANGELSHARK MED)

(Prepared by the Secretariat)

This overview was compiled based on the [Document UNEP/CMS/COP15/Decisions](#) and
summarises only decisions that are relevant to the SSAP Angelshark Med.

Decision 15.116 Directed to Parties

Parties that are Range States to the species are requested to:

- a) undertake, to the extent possible, those actions of the Single Species Action Plan for the Angelshark (*Squatina squatina*) in the Mediterranean Sea (SSAP Angelshark Med) specified for immediate and short-term implementation and for delivery within two years as a matter of priority, continue ongoing and medium-term activities, and start implementation of long-term activities within four years;
- b) apply the recommendations from the summary of reports on the implementation of the SSAP Angelshark Med provided in Annex 2 of UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.25.6.3;
- c) when taking and implementing relevant decisions in the regional cooperation frameworks, consider and apply the recommendations on area-based management of the Angelshark in the Mediterranean provided in UNEP/CMS/COP15/Inf.25.6.3f and in line with UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.25.3.1 on Priorities for Area-based Conservation of Marine Migratory Species; and
- d) provide a brief report on the implementation of the SSAP Angelshark Med in time for the last meeting of the Sessional Committee before the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP16) using a template provided by the Secretariat.

Decision 15.117 Directed to non-Party Range States

Non-Party Range States are requested to engage with Party Range States in the implementation of activities outlined in the SSAP Angelshark Med.

Decision 15.118 Directed to intergovernmental organizations

Intergovernmental organizations, in particular the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean and the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory

Sharks and its Advisory Committee, are encouraged to continue to engage with the implementation of activities outlined in the SSAP Angelshark Med.

Decision 15.119 Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall:

- a) encourage non-Party Range States to adopt the SSAP Angelshark Med and become members of the International Working Group on the SSAP Angelshark Med;
- b) in collaboration with the Angel Shark Conservation Network, develop a data-sharing protocol to facilitate data sharing among Range States in the Mediterranean Sea region;
- c) convene, subject to the availability of resources, a meeting of Range States to stimulate implementation of priority actions and facilitate coordination across the region;
- d) compile reports on implementation provided by Range States under 15.116 c)

Other relevant COP15 decisions

Bycatch and other Fisheries-Induced Mortality

- [Resolution 12.22 \(Rev.COP15\)](#)
 - Reaffirms the obligation to protect migratory species against bycatch, and notes that significant additional efforts are required to prevent bycatch of Appendix I-listed species and to reduce bycatch to levels that do not threaten the conservation status of Appendix II-listed species,
 - Recognizes the importance of indigenous peoples and local communities in addressing bycatch, particularly in communities that rely significantly on fisheries,
 - **Parties** are requested to review & enact legislation addressing the taking of App I-listed chondrichthyans
- [Decisions 15.26 - 15.29](#)
 - **15.26: Parties** are requested to encourage RFBs & other relevant bodies to undertake population assessments for species in CMS Appendices
 - **15.27: Parties** are requested to review their existing legislation and enact new legislation, as required, with a view to addressing the prohibition of the taking of Appendix I-listed chondrichthyan species.
 - **15.28: AC** of Sharks MoU & Scientific Council collate data on fisheries-induced mortality of CMS- and Sharks MoU-listed chondrichthyan species & prepare recommendations, also in relation to maw fisheries
 - **15.29: The Secretariat** shall prepare a synthesis report of all bycatch mitigation review, including sharks and rays, work with IWC, CITES and other relevant intergovernmental organizations, Parties and stakeholders to address the bycatch impacts of the trade in fish maw; contribute to a possible international

expert workshop to review current knowledge on the impacts of the maw trade and the most effective and appropriate mitigation measures to reduce bycatch; and prepare legislative guidance materials and model laws and provide technical support to assist Parties in drafting adequate national legislation to support the implementation of Article III (5) of the Convention regarding the prohibition of the taking of Appendix I-listed chondrichthyan species.

- [Guidance on Mitigation and Management of Bycatch in Fisheries: Drynan D.A.D., Baker G.B, Garnett S.T., Kyne, P.M. \(2025\). Technical mitigation techniques to reduce the bycatch of sharks: there is no silver bullet.](#)

Priorities for Area-based Conservation of Marine Migratory Species

- [Resolution 15.3](#)
 - Reaffirms the need for ecologically coherent networks of protected and conserved areas and recognizes and advocates for IMMAs, [Important Shark and Ray Areas \(ISRAs\)](#), IMTAs, EBSAs and KBAs
 - Recognizes the relevance of ISRAs for identifying and conserving important habitats
- [Decisions 15.52 – 15.56](#)
 - **15.52: Parties** are requested to make use of identified IMMAs, *Important Shark and Ray Areas (ISRAs)*, IMTAs, EBSAs and KBAs when identifying at-risk habitat, designing threat mitigation measures, assessing environmental impacts, designating MPAs, and for marine spatial planning, including via NBSAPs
 - **15.53: Parties that are members of Regional Fishery Bodies (RFBs)** are requested to encourage RFBs to make fisheries/observer data available for ISRA, IMMA, IMTA and KBA delineation, and to support further habitat research incl. reproductive areas
 - **15.54: Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations** are encouraged to engage with and financially/technically support IUCN Commissions and the KBA Partnership in the global ISRA/IMMA/IMTA/KBA identification process
 - **15.55: The Scientific Council** is requested to develop a report on long-term effectiveness of protected areas for marine migratory species under climate change; collaborate with IUCN Commissions and the KBA Partnership to include CMS-listed species data in ISRA/IMMA/IMTA/KBA identification)
 - **15.56: The Secretariat** shall inform Parties of newly identified IMMAs/ISRAs/IMTAs, liaise with IUCN Commissions, engage in BBNJ Agreement process)

Marine Pollution

- [Resolution 15.2](#)
 - Addresses chemical pollution (POPs, PFAS, PCBs, PBDEs, toxic metals, PPCPs), plastic pollution, nutrient/effluent discharges, and pollution from fisheries/maritime traffic (incl. abandoned/lost fishing gear, ALDFG)

- Flags PFAS specifically as a transboundary threat detected in apex predators
- Calls on Parties to prioritize action where critical habitats overlap pollution hotspots (incl. the Mediterranean, North Pacific/Atlantic, Eastern Indian Ocean/SE Asia)
- Encourages use of stranding investigations as a health-surveillance tool ("sentinels of ocean health")
- **Decisions 15.42–15.44:**
 - **15.42: Parties** are encouraged to apply CMS Marine Pollution Workshop recommendations, facilitate cooperation with IWC, BBNJ, CBD, Stockholm/Basel/Minamata Conventions, IMO etc.
 - **15.43: The Scientific Council** is requested to establish a marine pollution working group focused on chemical pollution; identify at-risk species/habitats and pollution-habitat overlap hotspots
 - **15.44: The Secretariat** shall strengthen inter-body cooperation on marine pollution risks

Illegal and Unsustainable Taking of Migratory Species

- **Resolution 11.31 (Rev.COP15)**
 - addresses the unprecedented scale of the illegal and unsustainable taking, use, and trade of migratory species, recognizing it as a key driver of biodiversity loss that damages local livelihoods, funds organized crime, and heightens the risk of zoonotic pathogen spillovers. To combat this threat, the a CMS Global Initiative on Illegal and Unsustainable Taking of Migratory Species is established to support Parties in taking decisive, coordinated national actions, prioritizing the total prevention of any take of Appendix I species.
- **Decisions 15.192 – 15.195**
 - **15.192: Parties** are requested to cooperate with and provide direct support to the Secretariat to ensure the successful implementation of Decision 15.195
 - **15.193: Intergovernmental and Non-Governmental Organizations (alongside Parties)** are highly encouraged to actively collaborate on the anti-trafficking activities outlined in Decision 15.195
 - **15.194: The Scientific Council** is requested to renew its specialized Working Group, review the Secretariat's upcoming in-depth scale analysis, and provide targeted research and conservation recommendations ahead of COP16
 - **15.195: The Secretariat** shall develop an integrated support approach for Parties, conduct an in-depth analysis on the scale and ecosystem impacts of illegal take, prioritize the Global Initiative's work plan, and host specialized enforcement workshops, including a potential taxon-wide scoreboard strategy