

SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL COMMENTS
(arising from ScC-SC2)

**PROPOSAL FOR THE INCLUSION OF THE DUSKY SHARK (*Carcharhinus obscurus*)
ON APPENDIX II OF THE CONVENTION
UNEP/CMS/COP12/DOC25.1.21**

GENERAL COMMENTS ON THE DOCUMENT

The Council notes that:

- Three countries have commercial fisheries for dusky sharks (USA, South Africa, and Australia)
- Data collection and capacity for species identification should be improved on an international level
- The FAO Fishstat database contains no data on landings from Australia, from the USA only up until 2003 and few data from South Africa
- Good information on migration behavior was provided; additional information could be added from
(http://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/pr/species/Status%20Reviews/nwa_dusky_shark_sr_2014.pdf)

The Council recommends that:

- Results from the US stock assessment should be included, which shows declines of 73% (http://sedarweb.org/docs/suar/Dusky_update_report_2016.pdf)

COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC SECTIONS/ INCLUDING POSSIBLE PROPOSALS FOR TEXT REVISION

Section 2

- The decline in fin trade might be due to the catch ban in the USA and/or different methods to assess fin trade data

Section 7.3

- The proposal would benefit from defining Concerted Actions
- The inclusion of the species in Annex 1 of the MOU would be an important 1st step to improve international cooperation; Range States are encouraged to sign the Sharks MOU

RECOMMENDATIONS TO COP12

- The species meets all criteria for listing on Appendix II of the Convention
- The species is recommended for inclusion in Appendix II of the Convention