

SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL COMMENTS
(arising from ScC-SC2)

**PROPOSAL FOR THE INCLUSION OF
THE WHITE-SPOTTED WEDGEFISH (*Rhynchobatus australiae*)
ON APPENDIX II OF THE CONVENTION
UNEP/CMS/COP12/DOC25.1.25**

GENERAL COMMENTS ON THE DOCUMENT

- The species is very data poor, but it is clearly subject to high fishing pressure throughout its range.
- IUCN Red List assessments of other guitarfish species indicate that the group is generally migratory.
- Information on migration of other shark like batoids could be added to strengthen this proposal.

COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC SECTIONS/ INCLUDING POSSIBLE PROPOSALS FOR TEXT REVISION

Section 7.3

- The proposal would benefit from defining Concerted Actions, in particular regarding the improvement of data collection

References

- Giles et al. 2016 is not included in References and should be added.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO COP12

- The species is recommended for inclusion in Appendix II of the Convention if more information on the migratory behavior of the species or alternatively the wider taxonomic group is added.