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# 26.2.6 Proposal for a Concerted Action for the Mobulid Rays (Mobulidae)

CMS COP12 Regional Preparatory Workshop  
For Oceania

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# Proposal for a Concerted Action

- **Species:** Mobulid Rays

*Manta alfredi* - Reef Manta Ray  
*Manta birostris* – Oceanic Manta Ray  
*Mobula mobular* - Giant Devil Ray  
*Mobula japanica* - Spinetail Mobula  
*Mobula thurstoni* - Bentfin Devil Ray

*Mobula tarapacana* - Chilean Devil Ray  
*Mobula eregoodootenkee* - Pygmy Devil Ray  
*Mobula hypostoma* - Atlantic Devil Ray  
*Mobula rochebrunei* - Lesser Guinean Devil Ray  
*Mobula munkiana* - Munk's Devil Ray

- **Appendices:** Already listed in Appendix I & II of the Convention in 2014

- **Proponents:** The Manta Trust & Wildlife Conservation Society



# Justification for actions

- Conservation initiatives are unlikely to be successful if the animals are not protected during their seasonal migrations into, and through other Range States' waters as well as areas beyond national jurisdiction.
- Excessive targeted and incidental take in fisheries has caused regional declines of some mobulid populations of over 80%.
- For fishing communities, mobulid rays may represent a significant portion of their income. Empowering coastal communities and ensuring long term support for transition away from a dependence on unsustainable fishing practices and new income sources is needed. This will help safeguard the sustainable development and economic future of communities most impacted.



# Proposed Actions

**1. Incorporate aspects of the Conservation Strategy (See CMS/COP12/ Inf.18).**

**2. Work with fishing communities to plan for and understand potential impact of protection measures, and assist with the transition towards alternative livelihoods.**

- Conduct a socio-economic baseline studies with communities to share traditional ecological knowledge and understand incentives and drivers of mobulid fisheries.
- Build capacity in local communities and among artisanal fishers



# Proposed actions

## **3. Work with local communities and fishers to understand the threat of bycatch to mobulid rays and design mitigation measures to reduce bycatch.**

- Determine areas of overlap between mobulid ray distributions and fisheries
- Estimate bycatch
- Develop and implement gears and fishing practices that minimize bycatch
- Review handling and release procedures
- Produce education and outreach materials about safe release and handling and on bycatch

## **4. Monitor interventions to measure the effectiveness of reducing socio-economic impact of protection measures and successfully reducing threats to mobulid rays.**



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