

**5th Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the
CMS Scientific Council (ScC-SC5)**

Online, 28 June – 9 July 2021

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**SYNTHESIS OF INFORMATION ON BYCATCH
OF APPENDIX I-LISTED CHONDRICHTHYAN SPECIES
PROVIDED BY PARTIES IN THEIR NATIONAL REPORTS TO COP13**
(Prepared by the Secretariat)

Summary:

The present document includes a synthesis of information on bycatch of Appendix I-listed chondrichthyan species provided by Parties in their National Reports to COP13.

The document implements Decision 13.73a) on *Chondrichthyan Species* requesting the Secretariat to produce this synthesis for presentation to the 5th meeting of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council.

The document further contributes to the implementation of Decision 13.72 on *Chondrichthyan Species*, requesting the Scientific Council to review the synthesis, to examine information provided on bycatch of Appendix I-listed chondrichthyan species and provide advice to Parties as warranted on measures to reduce bycatch to sustainable levels.

**SYNTHESIS OF INFORMATION ON BYCATCH
OF APPENDIX I-LISTED CHONDRICHTHYAN SPECIES
PROVIDED BY PARTIES IN THEIR NATIONAL REPORTS TO COP13**

Background

1. The present document includes a synthesis of information on bycatch of Appendix I-listed chondrichthyan species in National Reports provided by Parties in their National Reports to COP13.
2. The document thereby implements Decision 13.73 a) on *Chondrichthyan Species* directed to the Secretariat:

The Secretariat shall: a) produce a synthesis of information on bycatch of Appendix I-listed chondrichthyan species in National Reports provided by Parties for presentation to the 5th meeting of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council.

3. The document further contributes to the implementation of Decision 13.72 directed to the Scientific Council:

The Scientific Council shall review a synthesis of National Reports, to be prepared by the Secretariat, to examine information provided on bycatch of Appendix I-listed chondrichthyan species and provide advice to Parties as warranted on measures to reduce bycatch to sustainable levels.

Preparation of the synthesis

4. For its synthesis the Secretariat has reviewed all information provided by Parties in their National Reports to COP13 under Question X.1 of the Reporting Format:

Which of the following pressures on migratory species or their habitats are having an adverse impact in your country on migratory species included in the CMS Appendices?

All answers that mentioned bycatch as a pressure with adverse impact on chondrichthyan species listed in CMS Appendices, were included in the synthesis, which is provided as an Annex to this document.

Discussion and analysis

5. Overall, 17 of the 129 Parties that provided National Reports to COP13, reported under question X.1 that bycatch was a pressure having an adverse impact in their country on migratory species included in the CMS Appendices.
6. Out of these, four countries (Australia, Brazil, Côte d'Ivoire, and Cyprus) mentioned that CMS-listed chondrichthyan species were impacted by bycatch. Australia and Côte d'Ivoire reported simply on the taxonomic level of "sharks and rays". Brazil and Cyprus mentioned individual species which made it possible for the Secretariat to assess whether Appendix I-listed species were involved.
7. According to the information provided by Brazil, bycatch poses a severe risk to the following Appendix I-listed chondrichthyan species in their waters:

Cetorhinus maximus, Carcharodon carcharias, Mobula birostris, Mobula mobular, Mobula tarapacana, Mobula thurstoni, Mobula spp, Pristis spp.

8. According to the information provided by Cyprus, bycatch poses a low risk to the following Appendix I-listed chondrichthyan species in their waters:

Mobular mobular, Rhinobatos rhinobatos

Recommended actions

9. The Sessional Committee is recommended to:
- a). review the synthesis of information on bycatch of Appendix I-listed chondrichthyan species provided by Parties in their National Reports to COP13;
 - b). provide advice to Parties as warranted on measures to reduce bycatch to sustainable levels.

**SYNTHESIS OF INFORMATION ON BYCATCH OF APPENDIX I-LISTED CHONDRICHTHYAN SPECIES
IN NATIONAL REPORTS PROVIDED BY PARTIES IN THEIR NATIONAL REPORTS TO COP13**

Country	National Report Format - Question X.1: “Which of the following pressures on migratory species or their habitats are having an adverse impact in your country on migratory species included in the CMS Appendices?” For: “Bycatch” Question in the online form =[original entry by the Party]	Severity of impact	App I-listed chondrichthyan species
Australia	Species/species groups affected (please provide names and indicate whether Appendix I and/or Appendix II); and any other details [sharks and rays] Overall relative severity of impact 1 = severe, 2 = moderate, 3 = low =[3]	Low [for all taxa mentioned]	“sharks and rays”
Brazil	Species/species groups affected (please provide names and indicate whether Appendix I and/or Appendix II); and any other details =[Sharks and Rays - Appendix I (<i>Cetorhinus maximus</i> , <i>Carcharodon carcharias</i> , <i>Mobula birostris</i> , <i>Mobula mobular</i> , <i>Mobula tarapacana</i> , <i>Mobula thurstoni</i> , <i>Mobula spp.</i> , <i>Pristis spp.</i>). Appendix II (<i>Cetorhinus maximus</i> , <i>Carcharodon carcharias</i> , <i>Alopias superciliosus</i> , <i>Alopias vulpinus</i> , <i>Carcharhinus falciformis</i> , <i>Carcharhinus obscurus</i> , <i>Isurus oxyrinchus</i> , <i>Isurus paucus</i> , <i>Lamna nasus</i> , <i>Mobula birostris</i> , <i>Mobula mobular</i> , <i>Mobula tarapacana</i> , <i>Mobula thurstoni</i> , <i>Mobula spp.</i> , <i>Pristis spp.</i>)]. Overall relative severity of impact 1 = severe, 2 = moderate, 3 = low =[Sharks and Rays: 1]	Severe [for the mentioned shark and ray species]	<i>Cetorhinus maximus</i> <i>Carcharodon carcharias</i> <i>Mobula birostris</i> <i>Mobula mobular</i> <i>Mobula tarapacana</i> <i>Mobula thurstoni</i> <i>Mobula spp</i> <i>Pristis spp.</i>

Country	National Report Format - Question X.1: “Which of the following pressures on migratory species or their habitats are having an adverse impact in your country on migratory species included in the CMS Appendices?” For: “Bycatch” Question in the online form =[original entry by the Party]	Severity of impact	App I-listed chondrichthyan species
Côte d'Ivoire	Species/species groups affected (please provide names and indicate whether Appendix I and/or Appendix II); and any other details =[requins et raies] Overall relative severity of impact 1 = severe, 2 = moderate, 3 = low =[3]	Low [for all taxa mentioned]	„sharks and rays“
Cyprus	Species/species groups affected (please provide names and indicate whether Appendix I and/or Appendix II); and any other details =[<i>Mobular mobular</i> / <i>Rhinobatos rhinobatos</i> / <i>Prionace glauce</i> / <i>Alopias vulpinus</i> / <i>Isurus oxyrinchus</i> <i>Lamna nasus</i> / <i>Squalus acanthias</i>] Overall relative severity of impact 1 = severe, 2 = moderate, 3 = low =[3]	Low [for all taxa mentioned]	<i>Mobular mobular</i> <i>Rhinobatos rhinobatos</i>