

SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL COMMENTS
(arising from ScC-SC2)

**PROPOSAL FOR THE INCLUSION OF THE WHALE SHARK (*Rhincodon typus*)
ON APPENDIX I OF THE CONVENTION
UNEP/CMS/COP12/DOC.25.1.20.**

RECOMMENDATIONS TO COP12

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

GENERAL COMMENTS ON THE DOCUMENT

- The information in the proposal is scientifically accurate
- The whale shark meets the criteria for inclusion in Appendix I of the Convention

COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC SECTIONS/ INCLUDING POSSIBLE PROPOSALS FOR TEXT REVISION

Section 4.2

Additional information

- Population declines can be observed in all aggregation sites (except near Jeddah in Saudi Arabia)
- Declines in the Atlantic cannot be explained and observational data must be handled carefully.

Section 7.3

- The proposal is significantly strengthened by the proposed concerted actions