

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/DOC.25.1.25**

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.

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.