

4. Where have all the sharks gone? : Catch and Trade regulation, Transparency, reporting and CITES State Responsibilities.

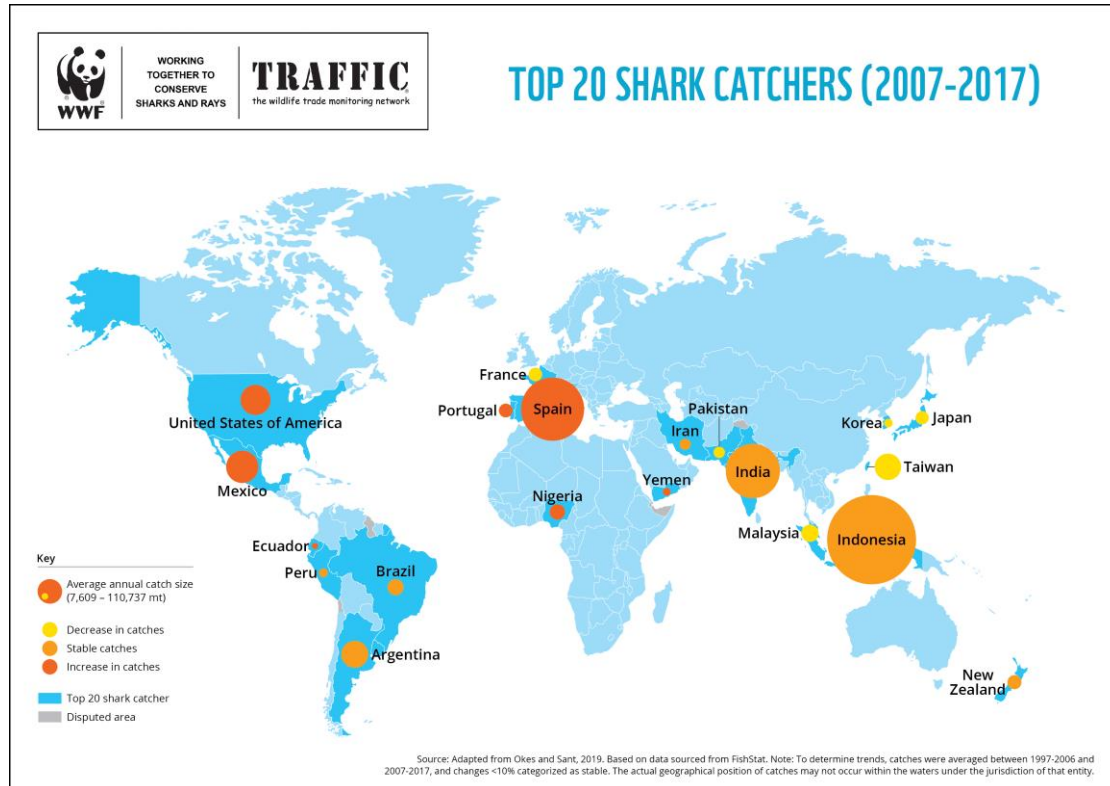


Glenn Sant  
TRAFFIC



# Global Catch

- Unless otherwise specified, the term “sharks” refers to all species of sharks, skates, rays and ghost sharks (Class Chondrichthyes).



Top 20 shark catchers, 2007-2018. (Source: FAO FishStat 2020.)

Rank	Country	Mean catch/ year (mt)	Rank	Country	Mean catch/ year (mt)
1	Indonesia	111 445	12	Portugal	17 039
2	Spain	76 761	13	France	17 011
3	India	65 285	14	Japan	15 348
4	Mexico	42 260	15	Iran (Islamic Rep. of)	12 668
5	United States of America	37 260	16	Peru	10 836
6	Argentina	32 573	17	Korea, Republic of	9 948
7	Taiwan (Prov. of China)	32 543	18	Yemen	9 289
8	Malaysia	21 158	19	Pakistan	8 284
9	Brazil	19 938	20	Ecuador	7 540
10	Nigeria	19 194		Others	161 012
11	New Zealand	17 589		Total	744 980

# Global shark meat trade quantity (mt) and their value (USD/kg), 2008 – 2017. Source: UN Comtrade.

- Approximately 114,000 mt/year of shark meat imported over the period 2008–2017
- The countries from which the top 20 importers reported imports (i.e. exporters) include Spain, Taiwan PoC, Uruguay, USA, Argentina, Portugal, Japan, Namibia, and Indonesia.



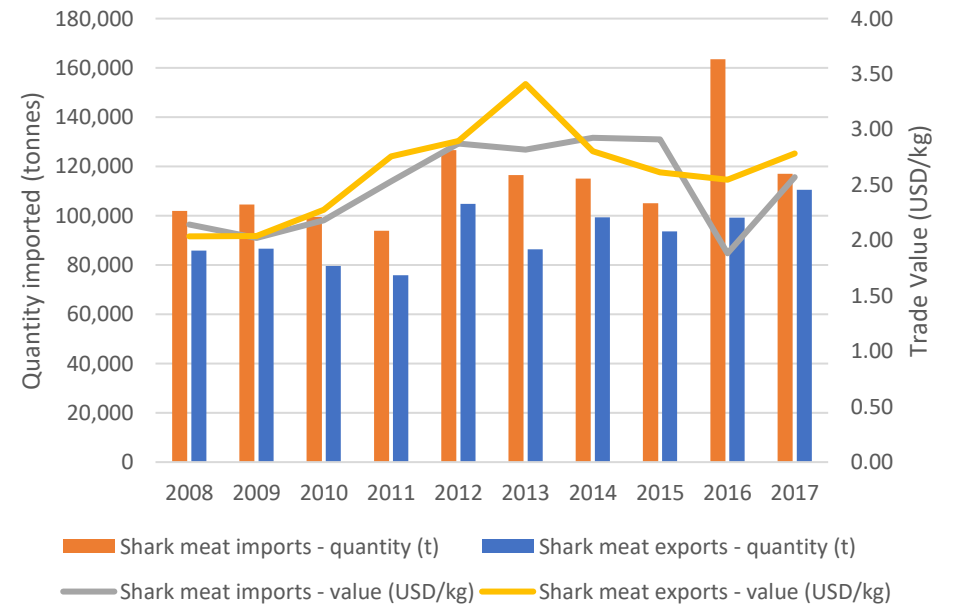
Working together to conserve sharks and rays.



## MAJOR INTERNATIONAL SHARK MEAT TRADE FLOWS (2013-2017) (> 1,000 MT)



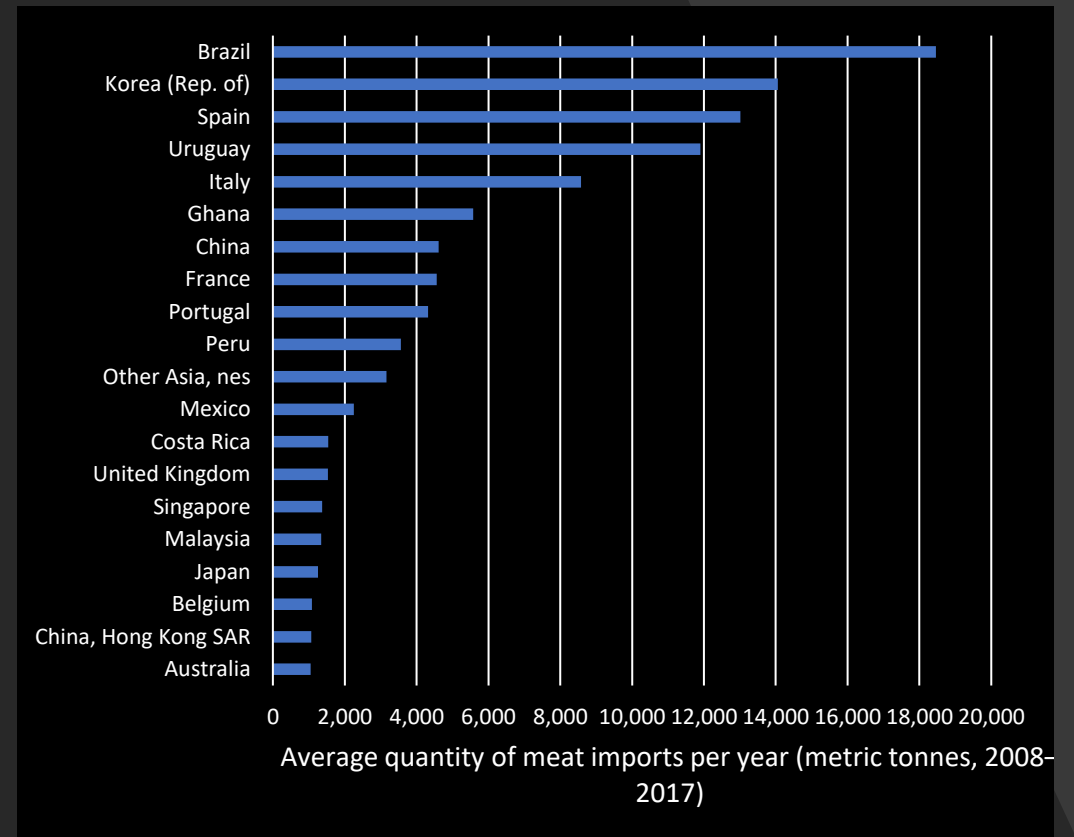
Source: Adapted from Okes & Sant, 2019. Based on data sourced from UN Comtrade. Note: This map only shows trade flows > 1,000 mt / 5 years of national shark meat imports. The term 'shark' refers to all species of sharks, skates, rays and chimaeras (Class Chondrichthyes).



# The top 20 importers of shark meat, 2008 – 2017.

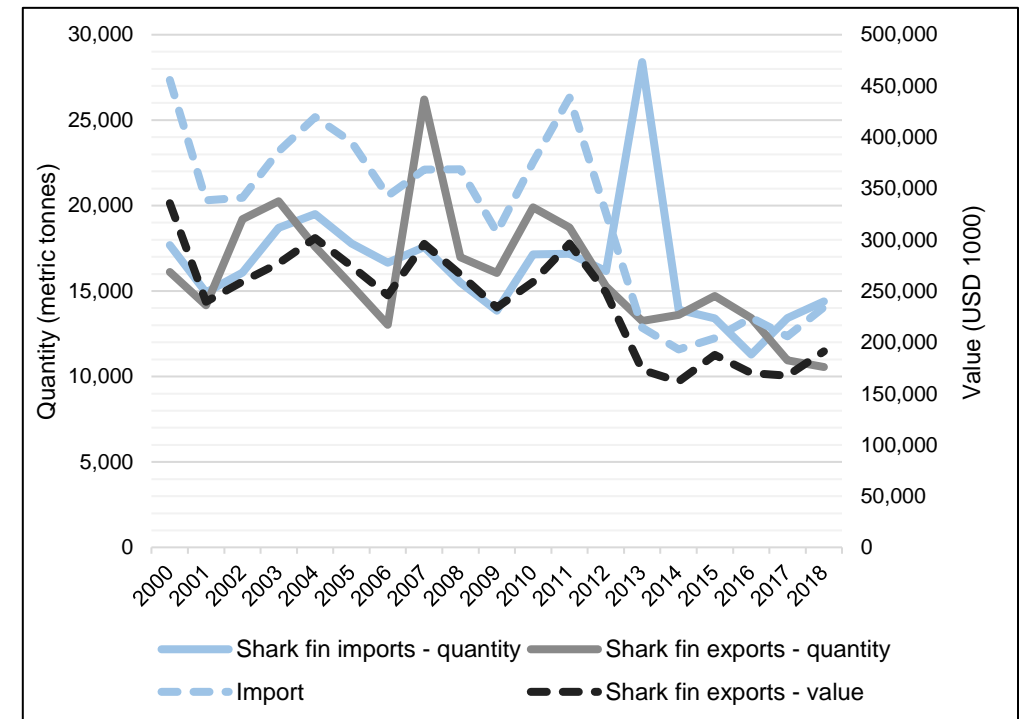
The top 20 importers of shark meat, 2008 – 2017.

- **The top 20 importers of shark meat account for 87% of the global average annual imports over the last ten years (2008–2017)**



# Global shark fin trade quantity (metric tonnes) and value (1000 USD) 2000–2018. (Source: FAO 2020)

An average of 16 502 mt of shark fin products (with an average value of USD 323 million per year) were reported as imported during 2000–2018



CITES  
Entered into force on 1 July  
1975  
183 Parties



- 14 shark and 27 ray species have been afforded greater protection through listing in Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) since 2002 and the entire family Pristidae



# Appendix II

## How CITES works

- Species placed in Appendix I & II by 2/3rds majority vote of the CITES Parties
  - Appendix III listings by request of a Party
- Conditions need to be met for trade to occur:

## International trade requires two findings:

- biological: that trade will not be detrimental to survival of species in the wild
- legal: that species was not illegally obtained

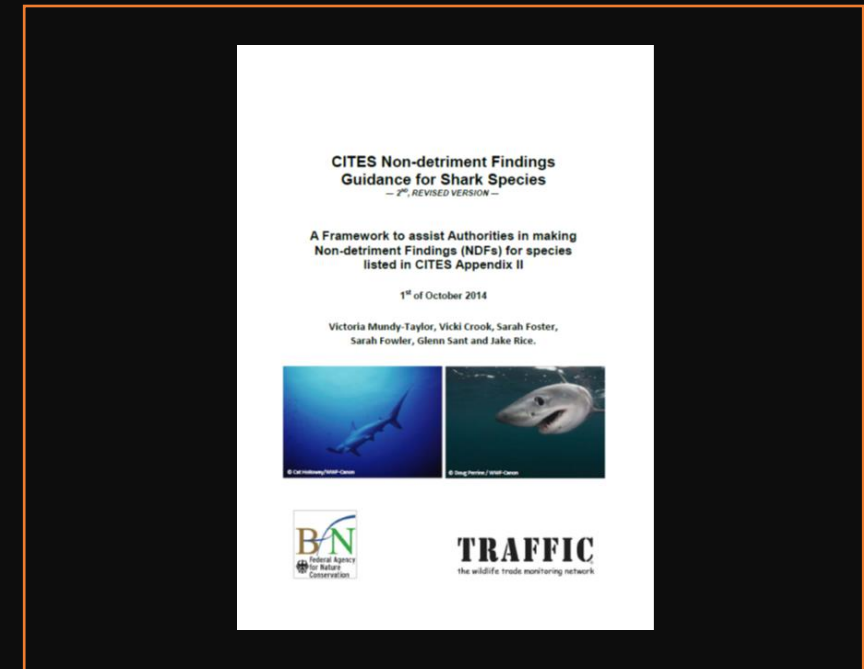
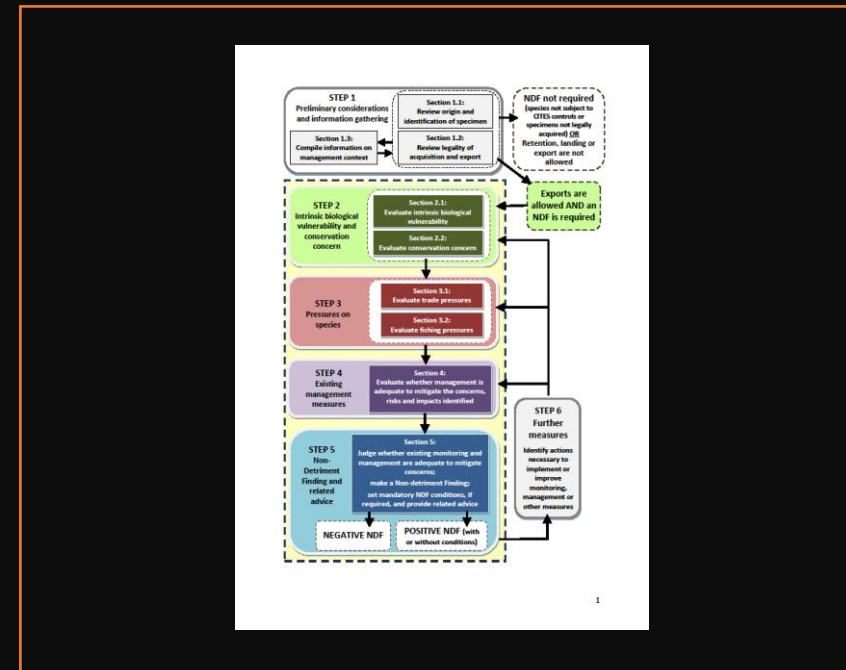
## Introduction from the Sea

- species taken on the high seas (not under jurisdiction of a State).

- Countries not meeting obligations can be suspended from trade in a species
- Countries can take out a reservation on any listing
- Committees:

## Implementation – Standing Committee

## Species Specific - Animals and Plants Committee



# Implementation of CITES

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National  
Legislation/Regulation

RFMO Measures

Traceability

CITES Standing  
Committee

Missing Sharks

Significant Trade  
Review

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# CITES & RFBs

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## Conservation, Fisheries, Trade and Management Status of CITES- Listed Sharks



BfN-Skripten in prep.

2021

Annex 5. Shark and ray species listed in Multilateral Environmental Agreements and Regional Fisheries Management Organization Conservation and Management Measures

Scientific name	English name	MEA listings		International Trade			RFMO Conservation and Management Measures					
		CITES	CMS	Fins	Meat	Other	GFCM	IATTC	ICCAT	IOTC	WCPFC	Other
<i>Carcharhinus falciformis</i>	Silly shark	II	II	X	X				BYC 11-08, 13-05, 13-10, 16-19	1903, 1506	2019-04 V120	
<i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i>	Oceanic whitetip shark	II	I	X					BYC 10-07, 13-05, 13-10, 16-19	201306	2019-04 V120	
<i>Carcharhinus obscurus</i>	Dusky shark	-	II	X								
<i>Phonace glauca</i>	Blue shark	-	II	X	X	X			BYC 19-07 & 08	201802		
<i>Sphyrna lewini</i>	Scalloped hammerhead	II	II	X			3620123	2016-05	BYC 10-08, 13-05, 13-10, 16-19			
<i>Sphyrna mokarana</i>	Great hammerhead	II	II	X			3620123	2016-05	BYC 10-08, 13-05, 13-10, 16-20			
<i>Sphyrna zygaena</i>	Smooth hammerhead	II	II	X			3620123	2016-05	BYC 10-08, 13-05, 13-10, 16-21			
<i>Alopias pelagicus</i>	Pelagic Thresher	II	II	X						201209		
<i>Alopias superciliosus</i>	Begyle Thresher	II	II	X					BYC 09-07, 13-05, 13-10, 16-19	201209		
<i>Alopias vulpinus</i>	Common Thresher	II	II	X	X				BYC 09-07	201209		
<i>Cetorhinus maximus</i>	Basking Shark	II	I, II				3620123					NEAFC 20-08
<i>Carcharodon carcharias</i>	White Shark	II	I, II			X	3620123					
<i>Isurus paucus</i>	Shortfin mako	II	II	X	X	X	3620123		BYC 19-06, 14-06, 19-08			
<i>Isurus paucus</i>	Longfin mako	II	II	X	X							
<i>Lamna nasus</i>	Porbeagle shark	II	II	X	X		3620123		BYC 15-06			NEAFC 20-07
<i>Rhincodon typus</i>	Whale Shark	-	I, II			X		2019-06		201305	2019-04 V120	
<i>Squalus acanthias</i>	Spiry dogfish	-	II		X		3620154					NEAFC 21-08
<i>Squalus acanthias</i>	Angleshark	-	I, II				3620123					

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- IMPROVING SYNERGIES BETWEEN REGIONAL FISHERY BODIES AND CITES PARTIES FOR THE SUSTAINABLE CATCH, TRADE AND MANAGEMENT OF SHARKS - <https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/com/ac/31/Inf/E-AC31-Inf-18.pdf>

German Government initiative to see improved implementation of CITES listings through RFB and CITES cooperation

# Joint tuna RFMO by-catch working group meeting, December 2019, Portugal

Chairs report with recommendations:

[https://www.iccat.int/Documents/meetings/docs/2019/reports/2019\\_JWGBY-CATCH\\_ENG.pdf](https://www.iccat.int/Documents/meetings/docs/2019/reports/2019_JWGBY-CATCH_ENG.pdf)

[https://www.iccat.int/Documents/meetings/docs/2019/reports/2019\\_JWGBY-CATCH\\_FRA.pdf](https://www.iccat.int/Documents/meetings/docs/2019/reports/2019_JWGBY-CATCH_FRA.pdf)

## Recommendations:

Management, research, and data collection in report

### General:

- Re-invigorate the Kobe Joint T-RFMO By-catch Working Group and promote attendance at this Working Group from all regions;
- Promote outreach/Capacity-building efforts to expand data collection and, sampling, as well as to increase participation in analytical/simulation work, and other activities;
- Define a prioritized/hierarchical set of quantifiable management objectives as they pertain to by-catch species;
- Consider adopting science-based management measures, including setting and respecting reference points for by-catch species;
- Apply a concerted effort to determine the magnitude of elasmobranch (and other) by-catch in all fisheries;
- Develop incentives, to reduce elasmobranch by-catch mortality;
- Coordinate efforts to reduce uncertainty in relation to elasmobranch species identification
- Develop, and share approaches across t-RFMOs to evaluate the implementation and effectiveness of by-catch CMMs
- Ensure that the adoption of new management measures does not result in a decline in data quality and availability;
- Taking into consideration the safety of the crew, adopt handling and safe release guidelines for elasmobranch building on the experience acquired at each RFMO or fishing sector level, for each of the fisheries as applicable, and promote their implementation and assess their effectiveness;
- Promote a shift from single species approach towards a multi-species approach in the conservation and sustainable management of by-catch species;
- Adopt the precautionary approach for all by-catch species;
- Increase observer coverage and develop minimum standards for using human observers and other alternatives (including electronic monitoring or any other applicable techniques), that will provide sufficient data for robust estimates of total by-catch;
- Improve communication and cooperation between CITES and tRFMOs to provide guidance and advice for the CITES listed species caught within the jurisdiction of each tRFMO;
- Consider science-based time area closures to reduce interactions with by-catch, considering the potential trade-off between species;
- Prioritize and mobilize adequate resources to assess and develop management measures including mitigation techniques for all fishing gears, including hooking mortality, at-haulback mortality, handling mortality, data collection and post-release survival rate for species incidentally caught in commercial and recreational fisheries based on current and future research;
- Consider socio-economic effects in management advice;
- Ensure implementation and compliance with mitigation measures.

# Decision of CITES Parties to look at “Mismatch” between catch and trade information

- Country history of catch prior to CITES listing
- No CITES trade permits being recorded as issued
- Country management/decisions to explain mismatch?
- Meeting requirements of catch from the high seas
- National registries of international vessels and controlling them to meet CITES obligations on the high seas



Missing  
Sharks

# Traceability

- CITES and Traceability
- The working definition of CITES traceability is:
  - *Traceability is the ability to access information on specimens and events in a CITES species supply chain\*.*
  - *(\* This information should be carried, on a case by case basis, from as close to the point of harvest as practicable and needed to the point at which the information facilitates the verification of legal acquisition and non-detriment findings and helps prevent laundering of illegal products.)*
- *Benefits of Traceability*
  - Identification of species in trade
  - reduces the likelihood of illegally harvested product entering legal trade
  - offers the linking of a specimen to the area of production/harvest
  - offers an opportunity to gather specific information that can be fed back for the purposes of adaptive management and to strengthen future CITES NDFs for the species

