

SHARK DOMESTIC TRADE IS NOT AFFECTED BY CITES



The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) is an international agreement aimed at regulating and ensuring that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival.

www.cites.org

CITES REGULATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE ONLY, NOT DOMESTIC TRADE.

CITES Article I (c) definition of trade: “Trade” means export, re-export, import and introduction from the sea; (d) “Re-export” means export of any specimen that has previously been imported; and (e) “Introduction from the sea” means transportation into a State of specimens of any species which were taken in the marine environment not under the jurisdiction of any State;

CITES Conf. Res. 14.6 (rev. CoP 15) establishes that: “the marine environment not under the jurisdiction of any State” means those marine areas beyond the areas subject to the sovereignty or sovereign rights of a State consistent with international law, as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea”

CITES does not regulate domestic trade inside a country, even if it is trade of a CITES- listed species. CITES only regulates trade of species and specimens that are imported into or exported out of a country.

Thus any domestic trade from a shark fishery, for example, where products are caught and used locally, regionally or all over the territory of a given country, does not fall within the mandate and jurisdiction of the CITES Convention.

*www.cites.org

CITES has been managing the international trade of many marine and aquatic species in its Appendices for decades without affecting or impeding domestic trade, including sturgeons, freshwater eels, carps, bony-tongues, wrasses, seahorses, lungfishes, sea cucumbers, mussels, giant clams, queen conches, corals, sawfishes and some sharks.

CITES listings of Appendix II marine species do not in any way affect local markets, transport, distribution, sale or consumption of these species within the country. Only national or regional legislation of the country where sharks are captured can affect that.

Furthermore, an Appendix II listing is not a ban and international trade with Appendix II listed species is permitted. *International trade in specimens of Appendix-II species may be authorized by the granting of an export permit or re-export certificate. No import permit is necessary for these species under CITES.** Out of the 34,942 species listed in the three CITES Appendices, 33,790 species are listed in Appendix II (4,685 animals and 29,105 plants).

Only 926 species of plant and animal are listed in Appendix I. These species are threatened with extinction, and CITES prohibits international trade in specimens of these species except when the purpose of the import is not commercial—for scientific research, for instance.*



TRUE OR FALSE? INFORMATION ON LISTINGS OF SHARKS ON CITES APPENDIX II

<p>An Appendix II listing will <u>only regulate international trade</u></p> <p>Appendix II listings help ensure that all international trade in a species is sustainable.</p>	TRUE
<p>An Appendix II listing will affect domestic fisheries</p> <p>Domestic fisheries will continue as usual, local artisanal fisheries will not be shut down, and domestic markets will not be affected. Appendix II only regulates imports, exports, and re-exports. It also regulates introductions from the sea; that is, when specimens are caught on the high seas and brought into port.</p>	FALSE
<p>An Appendix II listing will prohibit international trade</p> <p>International trade will continue as usual as is the case with over 33,000 other species of fauna and flora listed on CITES Appendix II.</p>	FALSE
<p>CITES can't manage trade in commercial marine species</p> <p>CITES already manages several commercially exploited marine species and many more plant and animal species that are traded internationally in high volumes.</p>	FALSE
<p>FAO is the only instrument that can deal with marine species</p> <p>FAO can only make recommendations and guidelines for the management of sharks, not for the regulation of international trade of sharks. FAO has recommended that some species of shark be listed by CITES.</p>	FALSE



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To learn more about Defenders' efforts to protect sharks, visit www.defenders.org.