

**WORKING PARTY ON ECOSYSTEM AND BYCATCH  
TWELEFTH SESSION**

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**Progress report on data mining for CITES-listed  
species, stock status and review of mitigation measures  
for oceanic whitetip shark (*Carcharhinus longimanus*).**

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# 1 Project Summary

The recent listings of hammerhead, oceanic whitetip, porbeagle sharks and manta species by CITES are expected to affect a number of IOTC member nations that are catching and/or exporting sharks caught in directed fisheries and as bycatch. This project has five main objectives, namely;

- 1) Improve and expand regional data on stock structures for oceanic whitetip shark (*Carcharhinus longimanus*) and CITES listed hammerhead sharks, namely *Sphyrna lewini*, *S. mokarran* and *S. zygaena*;
- (2) Support parties in the Indian Ocean region in the implementation of CITES shark listings;
- (3) Increase capacity of CITES parties in the Indian Ocean region for the making of non-detriment findings for the above species, based upon better knowledge of the status of shared stocks;
- (4) Encourage regional cooperation in the sharing of biological, and fisheries data for coherent fisheries management of shared stocks of CITES -listed sharks; and
- (5) Support parties that have been identified as priority countries for capacity development for the implementation of CITES listings.

For several priority regions and countries identified by an FAO study, a needs assessment conducted on behalf of the CITES Secretariat, identified that available information (fisheries and biological) to support the making of Non-Detriment Findings (NDFs) is in general very poor across all regions. The improvement of the availability of such information is therefore a priority in CITES capacity building.

## 2 Work Plan

The work plan consists of a desk study and a data preparatory workshop (TBA). At this point work with other nations has begun to identify additional data sources that can be incorporated into the desk study. conduct data mining to compile historical catch data and other data necessary for the development of indicators or a stock assessment of populations of oceanic whitetip shark (*Carcharhinus longimanus*) and CITES-listed hammerhead sharks in the IOTC area. To date two additional sources of catch, effort and/or size data for sharks that have been developed are;

Australian Data:

- Landings (CDRs) since June 2006.
- Logbooks from April 2000 containing information on discards of sharks
- Observer data since 2003

Indonesian Data

- RITF scientific observer program data
- Logbook data (still in request)

In addition to the desk study and data mining this project includes a data preparatory workshop. This workshop will be oriented at reviewing new fisheries and biological information on oceanic whitetip sharks and CITES-listed hammerhead sharks in the IOTC area, producing descriptive indicators which CITES Parties in the Indian Ocean region can use to support the making of non-detriment findings in compliance with CITES and reviewing bycatch mitigation measures.