

Science, Service, Stewardship



Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)

David Cottingham

Chief, Marine Mammal & Sea Turtle Conservation Division

NOAA Fisheries Office of Protected Resources

New England FMC Meeting

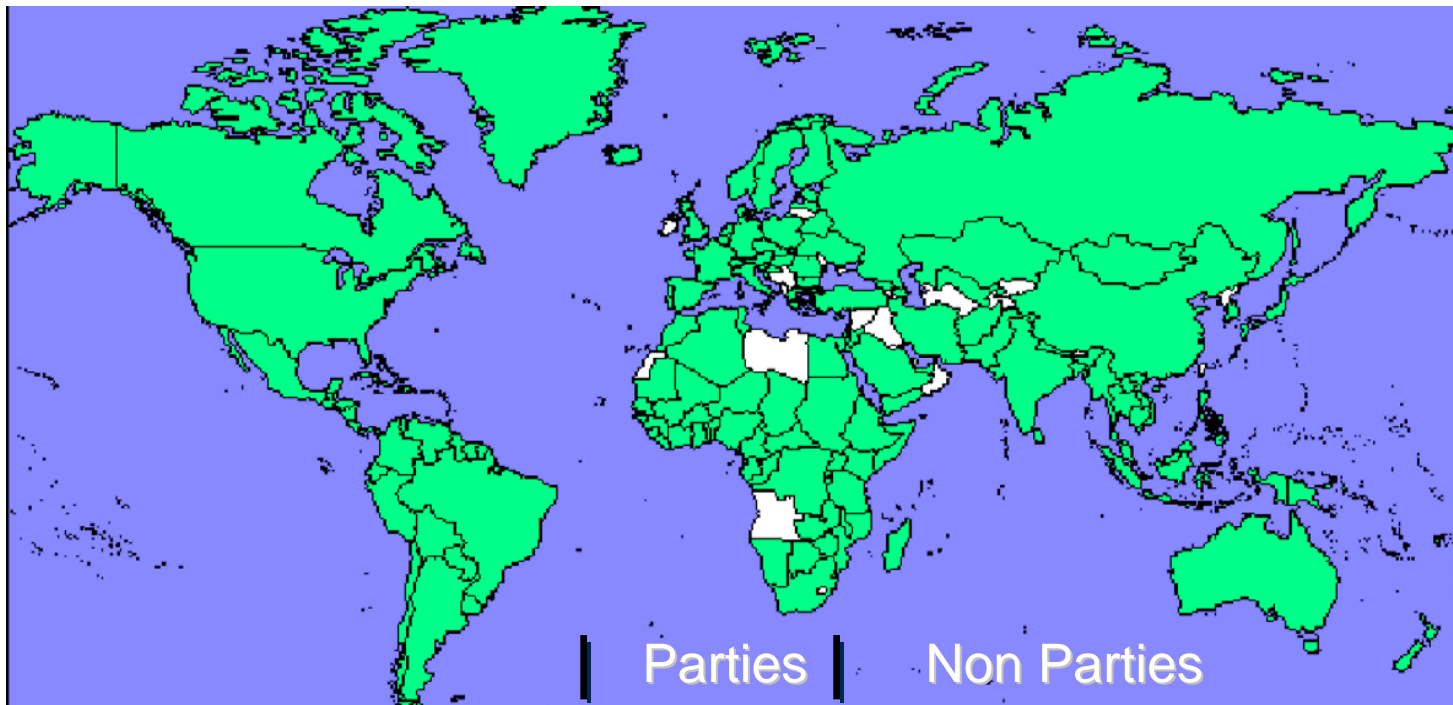
November 19, 2009

**NOAA
FISHERIES
SERVICE**



CITES Background

- Approximately 175 Parties
- Meet approximately every 2 years





CITES Background

- **US Fish and Wildlife Service is lead agency**
 - **NOAA Fisheries coordinates marine species**
- **Goal is to regulate international trade of species of animals and plants to ensure that commercial demand and international trade do not threaten their survival in the wild**
- **Basis for listing: biological status, management, role of international trade**



CITES Background

- **Appendix I:**
 - Species threatened with extinction under CITES criteria
 - International commercial trade prohibited

- **Appendix II:**
 - Species vulnerable to overexploitation, but not at risk of extinction
 - International trade and harvest on the high seas is permitted and tracked
 - Export permit requires findings that species was legally acquired and harvest is sustainable



Timeline of Key Events

- **October 14, 2009: Species proposals submitted to CITES**
- **November 2009: ICCAT Annual Meeting**
- **Dec 2, 2009: Public meeting on positions**
- **Jan 4, 2010: Public comments due**
- **March 13-25 2010: CoP15 in Doha, Qatar**



U.S.-Sponsored Marine Proposals

Sharks – Appendix II (with Palau):

- Hammerheads (great, scalloped, and smooth)
- Requiem sharks (sandbar, dusky, oceanic whitetip)

Red Corals – Appendix II (with European Union)

- **Mediterranean Corallium**
- **Pacific Paracorallium**



Other Country Proposals

North Atlantic Bluefin Tuna

- Proposed by Monaco for Appendix I
- Domestic trade permitted for bluefin tuna harvested within a nation's territorial seas and EEZ
 - Internal EU rules may restrict intra-EU trade
- Commercial trade of bluefin harvested on the high seas would be prohibited



Other Country Proposals

Spiny Dogfish and Porbeagle

- Proposed by Sweden (on behalf of EU) for Appendix II
 - Palau co-sponsor
- Eastern Atlantic stocks poorly managed
- U.S. importers and exporters would be affected
- Proposed at last CoP



Developing US positions for COP

- Soliciting public comment on all matters before COP – due Jan 4, 2010
 - Public meeting Dec 2, 2009
- Final positions after that



Inaccurate CITES Myths

- **Misconception:** Marine fish species listed in CITES Appendix I cannot be sold domestically within the U.S.
- **Truth:** *CITES Appendix I species that are harvested within U.S. waters may be sold domestically with appropriate documentation*
- **Misconception:** Marine fish species listed in CITES Appendix I cannot be harvested recreationally
- **Truth:** *CITES Appendix I species can be harvested by recreational fishermen in accordance with applicable law and regulations*



Inaccurate CITES Myths

- **Misconception:** Monaco proposal would ban trade of all tunas
- *Truth: The draft Monaco proposal does not contain a prohibition on look-alike species; for CITES to impose a ban on similar species, the proposal would have to identify look-alike species*
- **Misconception:** Trade of bluefin tuna within the EU market would not be affected by a listing in Appendix I
- *Truth: Due to EU CITES-implementing regulations, EU domestic trade would likely be restricted*



Inaccurate CITES Myths

- **Misconception:** CITES Appendix II is a ban on trade
- **Truth:** *CITES Appendix II does not ban trade; CITES Appendix II supports sustainable trade*

- **Misconception:** CITES Appendix II is a list of species that are prohibited in international trade
- **Truth:** *CITES Appendix-II species may be traded internationally if accompanied by appropriate permits*

Science, Service, Stewardship



Questions?

**NOAA
FISHERIES
SERVICE**

NOAA