



ICRI Recommendation on International Trade in Corals, Coral Reef Species and Related Products

This recommendation was approved by the ICRI members at the ICRI General Meeting held in Monaco (12-15 January 2010)

Recognizing that international trade in corals, coral reef species and products is significant;

Noting with concern that unsustainable harvest, including extraction of live and dead corals, ornamental fish and invertebrates, food fish, coral products, and apex predators such as sharks, to supply international trade is a contributing factor to destructive fishing practices, over-exploitation and stresses on coral reef ecosystems;

Noting also that unsustainable harvest of coral and coral reef species for international trade adds to other stresses on coral reef ecosystems such as climate change, bleaching incidents, coral disease, and habitat degradation, and could reduce coral reef resilience to such stresses;

Recognizing the role of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), including *inter alia* species listings on the Appendices, as a valuable tool for promoting ecosystem-based management and sustainable use of coral reef species and ensuring that international trade in these species is legal and sustainable;

Further noting that a proposal to list the Coralliidae family of red and pink corals in CITES Appendix II and a proposal to list several hammerhead and other shark species, will be considered at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (CoP15) to take place in March 2010;

The General Meeting of the International Coral Reef Initiative:

Encourages CITES Parties to adopt measures that improve conservation and management of corals, coral reefs and coral reef species;

Calls upon ICRI Members to encourage national CITES authorities to carefully review and consider the benefits of listing corals and coral reef species in the CITES Appendices;

Recognizes that the primary use of red and pink corals is to supply international demand for jewellery and other products, and their life-history characteristics (extreme

longevity, late age of maturity, slow growth and low fecundity) make them particularly vulnerable to intensive harvesting and over-exploitation;

Encourages CITES Parties to consider based on sound science the proposal to include all species in the family Coralliidae (all species in the genera *Corallium* and *Paracorallium*) in CITES Appendix II, in recognition that over-exploitation for international trade is having an adverse impact on the status of red and pink coral populations;

Recognizes that no international catch limits have been adopted and few countries regulate hammerhead shark fishing, and management of hammerhead shark fisheries or bycatch by Regional Fisheries Management Organizations is limited;

Further recognizes that the unregulated harvest for the international shark fin trade is the primary threat to scalloped hammerhead sharks, and as a low-productivity species they are particularly vulnerable to over-exploitation;

Encourages CITES Parties to consider based on sound science the proposal to include scalloped hammerhead shark (*Sphyrna lewini*), a coral reef apex predator, and several other sharks with similar-looking large fins: the great hammerhead (*Sphyrna mokarran*); smooth hammerhead (*S. zygaena*); sandbar shark (*Carcharhinus plumbeus*); and the dusky shark (*C. obscurus*), in CITES Appendix II.