

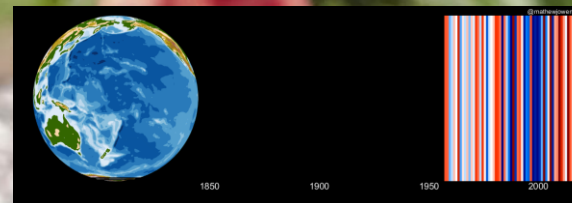


Biodiversity

Fisheries & Aquaculture CEAS in CITES

ELEVATING A COMMON VISION FOR FISHERIES TO
DELIVER ON NATURE

European Parliament, Brussels
25th September 2025





**Biodiversity
Protection &
Conservation**

**Fisheries
Management &
Food Security**

CEAS & TRADE in INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS

Fisheries Agreements & Trade

- United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)
- United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement (UNFSA)
- Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA)
- WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies

Binding MEAs & Trade



- **CITES** (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna & Flora)

Non-Binding MEAs & Trade

- CBD Kunming-Montreal Framework
- CMS (Convention on Migratory Species)
- Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (under CBD)
- Civil Society Advisory Provisions

IUCN-FEG EBCD history of fisheries & biodiversity conservation: A timeline of key events (1850 →)

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/book/10.1002/9781118392607>

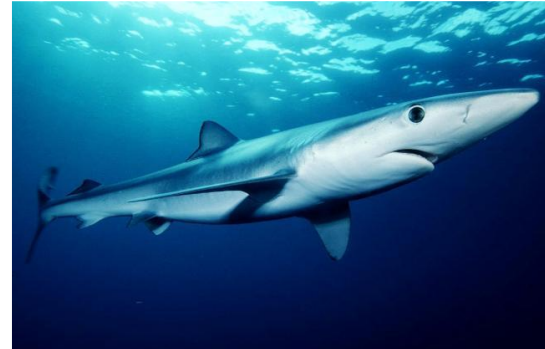


Appendix I: Species threatened with extinction. **Trade permitted only in exceptional circumstances**

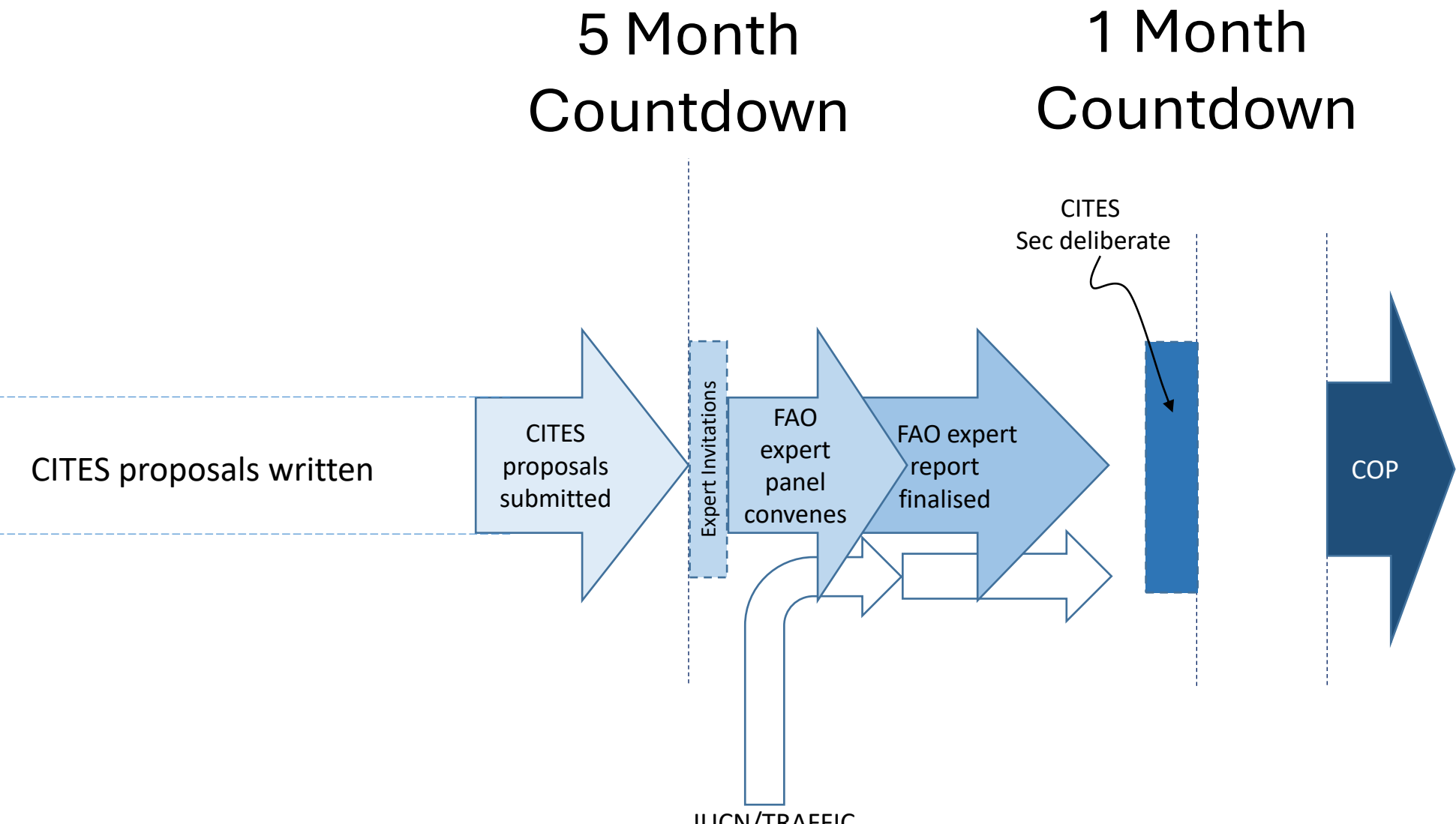


Appendix II: Species not necessarily threatened with extinction, but in which **trade must be controlled in order to avoid utilization incompatible with their survival**

CITES CONFERENCE OF PARTIES



CITES LISTING PROCESS



CoP20 CEAS



Guitar shark



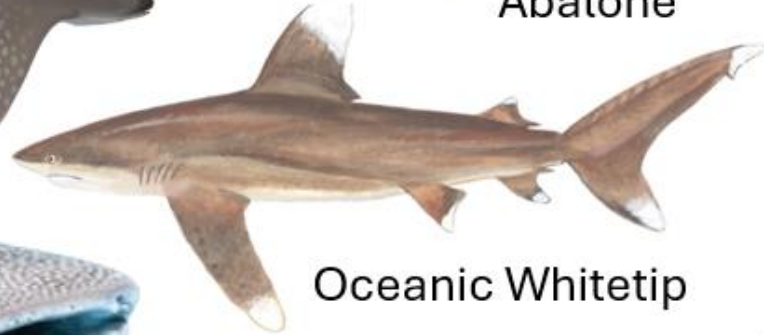
Abalone



Sea cucumber(s)



Whale shark



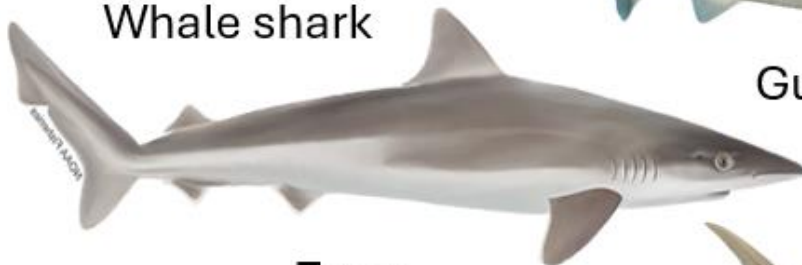
Oceanic Whitetip



Eel(s)



Gulper sharks



Tope



mobulids



Wedgefish shark

48 proposed species

+52 'look-alike' species

8th FAO Expert Panel

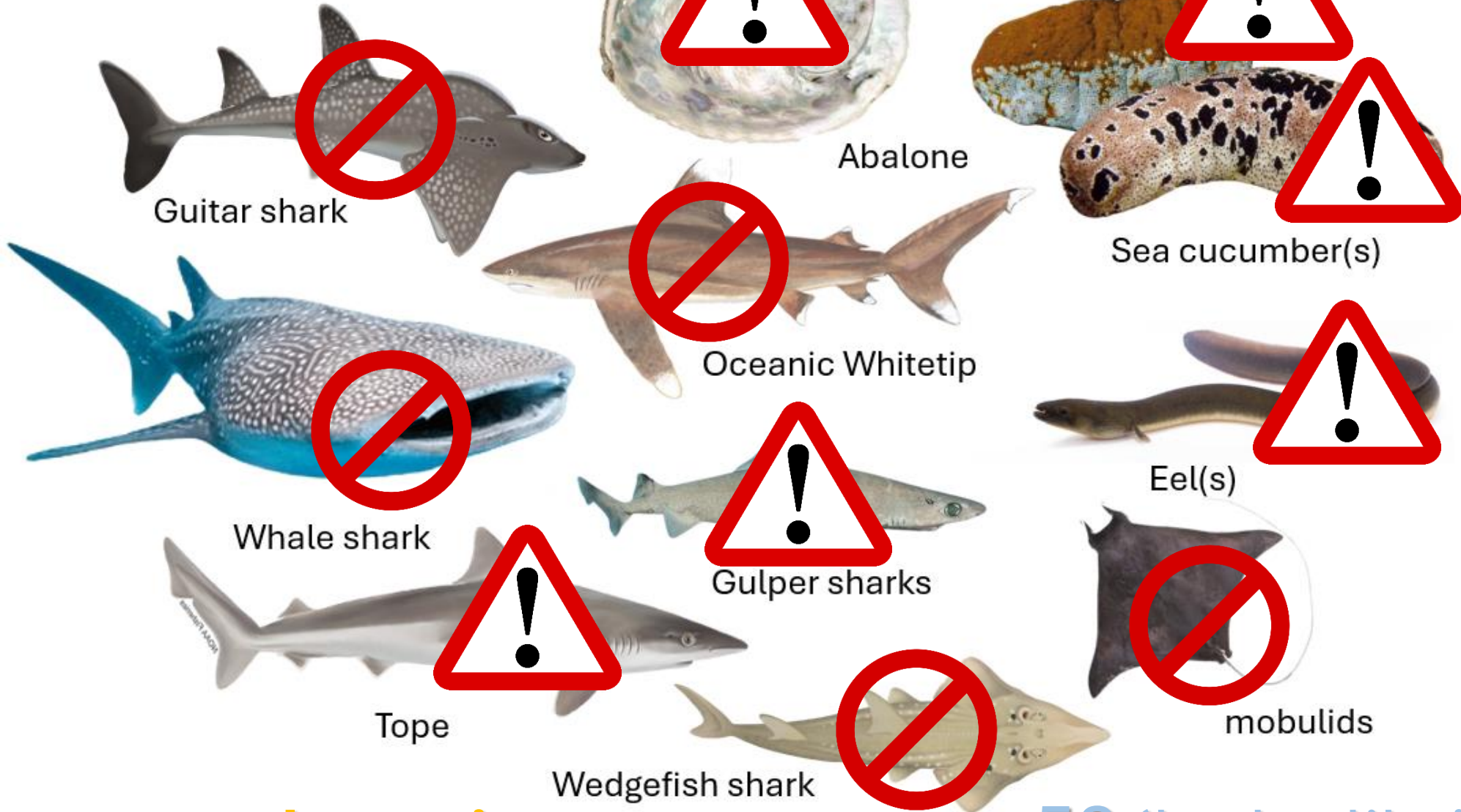
FAO Expert Panel Assessment of CoP20 Proposals to Amend Appendices

- 11 Proposals to amend CITES Appendices
- Sharks & rays, eels, sea cucumbers & shellfish proposals reviewed
- Two in-person meetings (Bangkok & Rome), plus virtual attendance of remote assessors
- 39 Global experts in fisheries, trade & the species in question
- The Expert Panel decision was unanimous

8th FAO Expert Panel Report

- Sharks (68 spp.): Does Not Meet Criteria
- Rays (9): Does Not Meet Criteria
- Eels (17): Does Not Meet Criteria
- Sea cucumbers (6): 1 species Met Criteria
- Shellfish (1): Does Not Meet Criteria
- **1% of species met CITES listing criteria**

CoP20 CEAS



App I

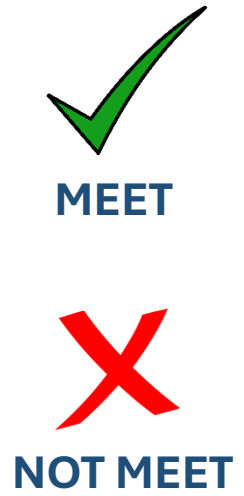


App II

48 proposed species

+52 'look-alike' species

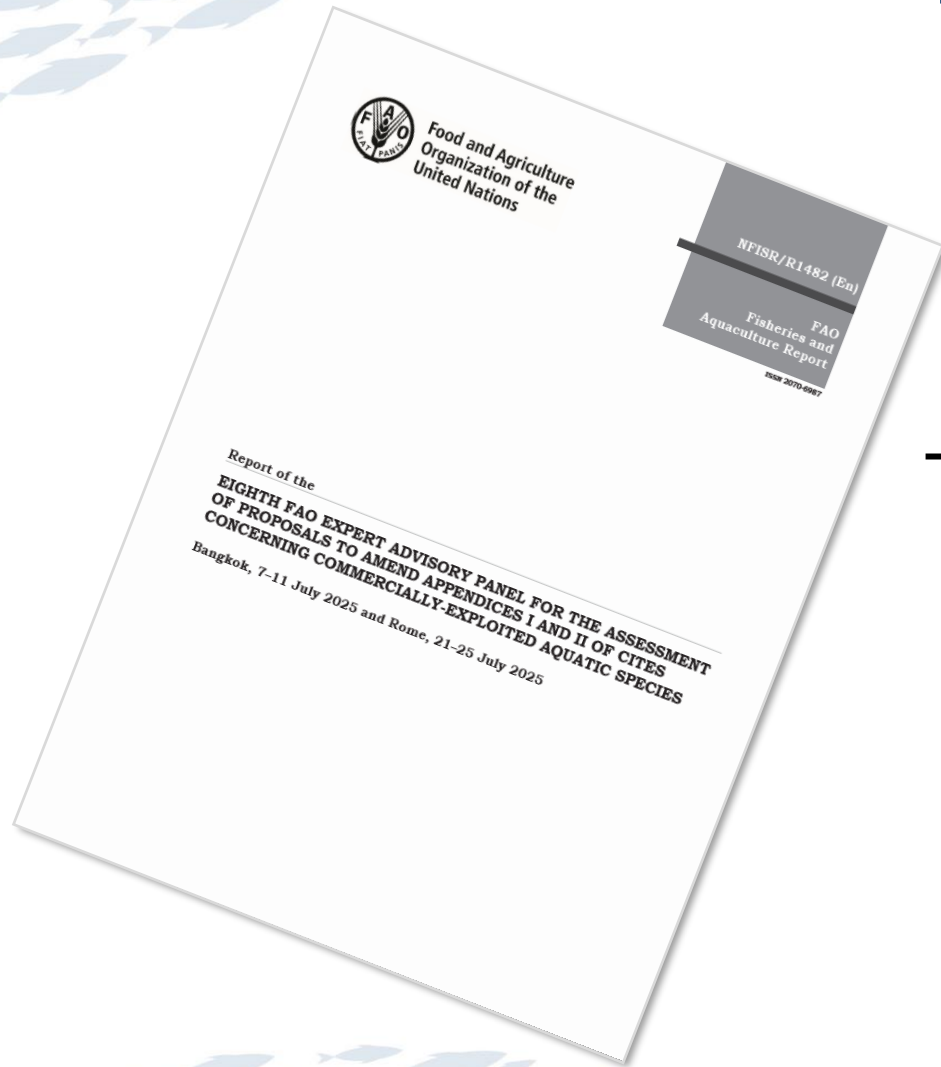
CoP20 CEAS



48 proposed species

+52 'look-alike' species

8th FAO Expert Panel Report



Lists Proposals and Assessments of CEAS for CoP20

Expert Panel's assessments & findings

Interpretation of Annex 2aB criteria for the inclusion of species

General comments and observations

Advice to CITES Parties

Prop.	Taxa Proposed for Listing Amendment	Declines Meet CITES Listing Criteria?		
		FAO Expert Panel	CITES Secretariat 1st Assessment	IUCN TRAFFIC
28	Oceanic whitetip to App I <i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i>	No	Meets	Meets
29	Tope and hounds to App II <i>Galeorhinus, Mustelus</i>	No	No (1 sp.) Data deficient (2 spp.)	Meets
30	Mobulid rays to App I <i>Mobula</i> spp.	No Data deficient	No Data deficient	Meets (4 spp.)
31	Whale shark to App I <i>Rhincodon typus</i>	No	No Data deficient	No
32	Giant guitarfish zero quota <i>Glaucostegus</i> spp.	No Data deficient	No Data deficient	Meets
33	Wedgefish zero quota Rhinidae	No Data deficient	No Data deficient	Meets
34	Gulper sharks to App II Centrophoridae	No Data deficient	No Data deficient	Meets
35	Anguillid eels to App II Anguillidae	No	Meets Look-alike criteria	Meets Look-alike criteria
36	Sea cucumbers to App II <i>Actinopyga</i> sp.	No	Meets (4 spp.) No (2 spp.)	Data deficient
37	Golden sandfish to App II <i>Holothuria lessona</i>	Meets	Meets	Meets
39	Abalone to App II (dried) <i>Haliotis midae</i>	No	No Data deficient	Meets

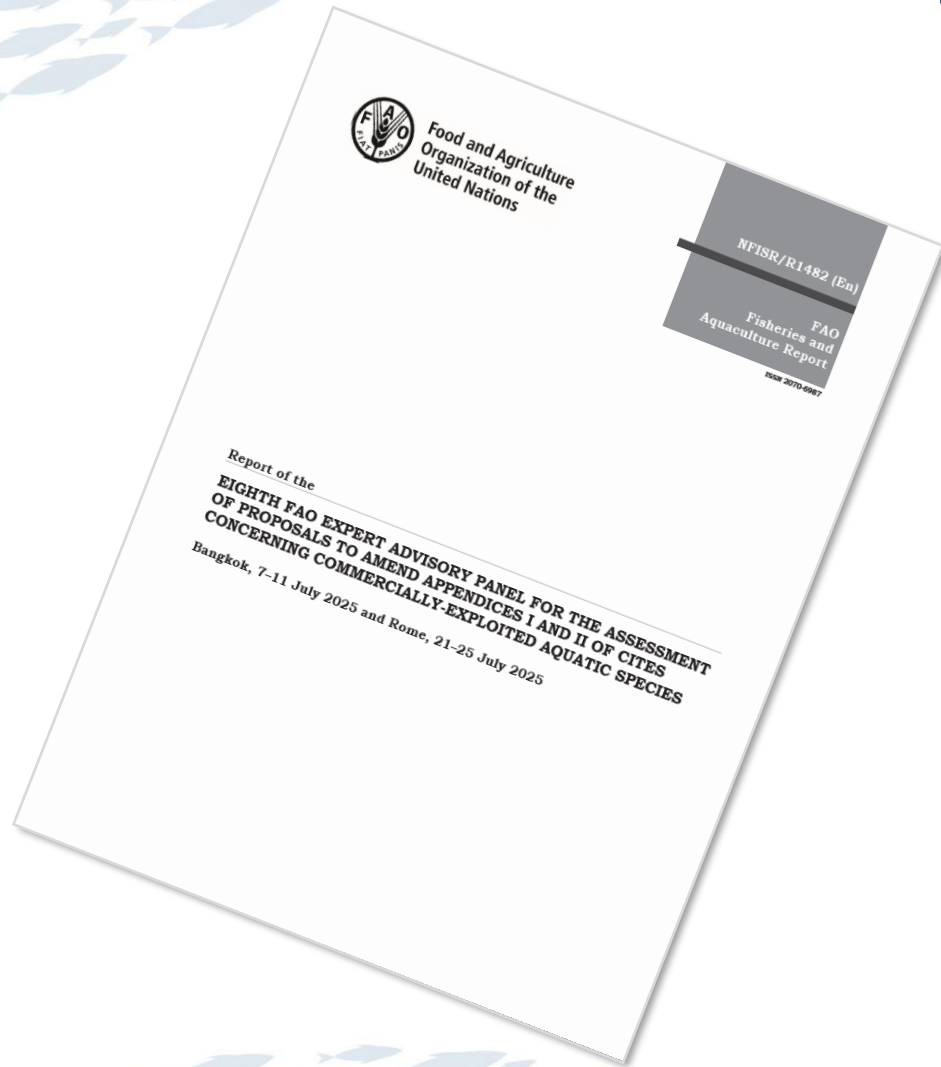
CITES CoPs13-19 (2004–2022)

- FAO Expert Panel assessed proposals met the CITES listing criteria [**51%**]
- CITES Sec recommend adoption [**78%**]
- IUCN TRAFFIC inferred adoption [**94%**]

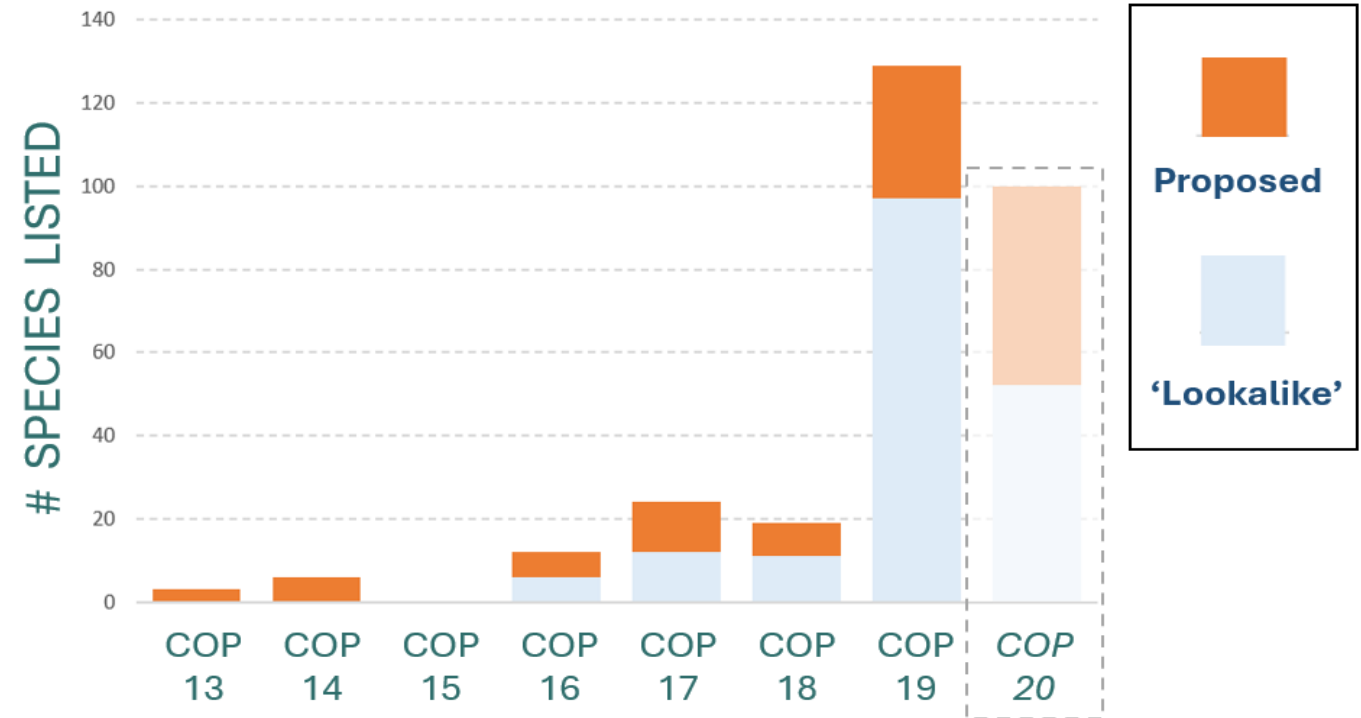
11 CEAS CoP20 proposals of CEAS

- FAO assessed one proposal met listing criteria [**9%**]
- CITES Sec preliminary [**27%**]
- IUCN TRAFFIC assessment [**91%**]

8th FAO Expert Panel Report



Lists Proposals and Assessments of CEAS for CoP20



Issues Summarized:

- **Increasing Species:** Number & diversity of species proposed for CITES listing
- **Limited Consultation:** Limited time for FAO-led & sector-inclusive consultation
- **Clarity on Criteria:** Divergent interpretations of proposals & CITES listing criteria
- **Implementation Pressures:** Challenges in delivering CITES provisions
- **Trade Barriers:** Barriers to legal & sustainable trade in fishery products

Suggested Actions for EU Consideration

- **Promote Balanced Representation:** Enhance the integration of both 'sustainable use' & 'biodiversity protection' perspectives within CITES discussions
- **Encourage Harmonized Understanding of CITES Listing Criteria:** Promote consistent interpretation of CITES listing criteria
- **Strengthen Investment in Effective Implementation:** Strengthen capacity & mechanisms to deliver CITES provisions for listed marine species

BLUE TRANSFORMATION

FISHERIES MAINSTREAMING BIODIVERSITY
HARNESSING THE POSSIBILITY OF TOMORROW

Contact:

Kim.Friedman@fao.org

THANK YOU