Outline

• National Policies related to CITES
• Local Policies related to CITES
• Philippine Shark Plan
• Shark and other “ReSources”
• Challenges and new species for CITES inclusion
• Summary
National policies related to CITES

Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998 (RA 8550)
* provides for the development, management and conservation of the fisheries and aquatic resources
Sec. 97. “It shall be unlawful to fish or take rare, threatened or endangered species as listed in the CITES and as determined by the Department”

Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act of 2001 (RA 9147)
* provides for the conservation of the country’s wildlife resources and their habitats for sustainability

Republic Act 10654
An Act to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, Amending Republic Act 8550, Otherwise known as “The Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998”, and for other Purposes

Ban on the taking or catching, selling, purchasing and possessing, transporting and exporting of Whale Sharks and Manta Rays (FAO 193 s. 1998)

Conservation of rare, threatened and endangered fishery species (FAO 208 s. 2001)
National policies related to CITES

FISHERIES ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 233
Series of 2010

SUBJECT: AQUATIC WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

In line with Rule 37.1 of the Joint DENR-DA-PCSD Administrative Order No. 1, Series of 2004, this Administrative Order is hereby promulgated pursuant to Republic Act 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act of 2001.

Section 1. The terms used in this Order shall be construed as follows:

a. Aquatic wildlife – wildlife living in aquatic environment including microbial species, its by-products and derivatives, and those in captivity or are being bred or farmed;

b. Aquatic Wildlife Collector’s Permit (AWCP) – permit to take or collect from the wild species and quantities of aquatic wildlife for the ornamental/aquarium trade, zoological/aquatic parks and commercial breeding/transportation;

g. CITES Export Permit – permit authorizing an individual to bring, send or transport wildlife listed under the Appendices of the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), including its by-products or derivatives, from the Philippines to other countries, in cases where such export is allowed;

h. CITES Import Permit – permit authorizing an individual to bring into the Philippines wildlife listed under CITES Appendices, including its by-products or derivatives, from other countries;

i. CITES Re-export Permit – permit authorizing an individual to bring out of the country wildlife listed under the CITES Appendices, including its by-products or derivatives, which were previously imported.

Chapter I
Structures and Individuals for the Conservation of Aquatic Wildlife

Section 2. National Aquatic Wildlife Management Committee. A National Aquatic Wildlife Management Committee (NAWMC) is hereby created to be chaired by the National Director of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) or his authorized representative and co-chaired by the Executive Director of the National Fisheries Research and Development Institute (NFRDI) or his authorized representative. Members shall include the Chiefs of the Fisheries Regulatory and Quarantine Division (FRQD) and Fisheries Resources Management Division (FRMD) of the BFAR National/Central Office, other concerned government agencies and international and local scientists with expertise on various disciplines on aquatic wildlife. Stakeholders may be invited as resource persons, when necessary.

Section 3. Regional Aquatic Wildlife Management Committee (RAWMC). Regional Aquatic Wildlife Management Committees shall likewise be created by the BFAR Regional Offices in accordance with the preceding Section. The FRMD of the BFAR Regional Office concerned shall act as the Secretariat of the RAWMC.

Section 4. Philippine Aquatic Red List Committee (PARLC). A Philippine Aquatic Red List Committee (PARLC) for aquatic wildlife is hereby created to develop the criteria for the determination of threatened aquatic wildlife and their classification as critically endangered, endangered, vulnerable or other internationally accepted categories. The classification shall be based on the best scientific and commercial data available and shall be guided by the criteria in Section 22 of RA 9147 and those developed by renowned organizations such as the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). It shall also develop criteria for the determination of critical habitats, identify critical habitats to be declared by the Secretary of Agriculture and upon request, assist the BFAR in the performance of its mandate under RA 9147, its implementing rules and this Order.

4.1 The PARLC shall be chaired by the Director of BFAR or his authorized representative. The FQWRS shall be the PARLC Secretariat. The PARLC Secretariat shall, in coordination with the NFRDI, draw a list of international and local scientists and experts who will be invited as resource persons in the preparation of the Philippine Aquatic Wildlife Red List.
Section 5. CITES Management Authority for Aquatic Wildlife. The Director, the FRQD Chief, and the Chief of the FQWRS are hereby designated as the CITES Management Authorities for aquatic wildlife. The Regional Fisheries Inspection and Quarantine Service shall assist the CITES Management Authority in the performance of its functions.

Section 6. CITES Scientific Authorities for Aquatic Wildlife. The National Fisheries Research and Development Institute is hereby designated as a CITES Scientific Authority in addition to the scientific authorities mentioned in Section 19 of RA 9147.

Section 7. Aquatic Wildlife Enforcement Officers (AWEOs). Aquatic Wildlife Enforcement Officers (AWEOs) shall be deputized by the BFAR National Director upon the recommendation of the BFAR Regional Directors who shall enclose in their recommendation the certificate of completion of training. The BFAR National Director shall issue a deputation order for a period of one (1) year, renewable for the same period, and an identification card upon submission of a duly accomplished performance evaluation form. The Deputation Order shall, among others, indicate the area of assignment and the duties and responsibilities of the AWEO.

Section 8. AWEOs from Other Agencies. AWEOs shall also be designated by the Philippine National Police, Armed Forces of the Philippines, National Bureau of Investigation, Philippine Coast Guard and other law enforcement agencies, provided employees to be designated shall have undergone the necessary training. Said agencies shall furnish the DA-BFAR with a list of employees designated as AWEOs. The Director and the law enforcement agency concerned may enter into a Memorandum of Agreement for the conduct of training and joint evaluation of performance of designated AWEOs.

Section 9. Qualifications of AWEOs. Prospective AWEOs must possess the following qualifications:
Regional Initiatives

REGионаL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION MEASURES FOR SHARK CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT (draft as at March 2014)

Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)


The 14th APEC Roundtable Meeting on the Involvement of the Business/Private Sector in the Sustainability of the Marine Environment

APEC economics are encouraged to: Session I: Shark Conservation and Management

1. Promote responsible and sustainable use of sharks.
2. Create a shark monitoring network among APEC economies to promote collaboration on shark research, sharing data and information at the regional or subregional level.

3. Consider adoption of a fins-naturally-attached* policy.
4. Promote ecotourism for whale sharks and manta rays.
5. Consider employing DNA barcoding in species identification and fishery management of sharks and rays.
6. Develop new and practical techniques in shark species identification such as dermal denticles analysis.

7. Conduct capacity building such as species identification, data collection and enforcement, especially for CITES enlisted species.
8. Work with interested parties to conduct outreach and awareness programmes for local communities on the importance of shark conservation.
9. Partner with the private sectors and businesses through promoting corporate social responsibility.

10. Amend or adopt domestic measures in supporting implementation of CITES listings of shark and ray species.
11. Conduct more studies on shark migration, for example using satellite tracking.
12. Initiate dialogue among concerned parties or organizations such as CITES, RFMOs, WTO and NGOs about vulnerable shark species at hotspots so that economies would have more information for setting their conservation and management measures for sharks.

*: Sharks that land ashore should have their fins naturally attached to their bodies
**XIAMEN DECLARATION**

We, the representatives of fisheries and CITES authorities from China, Hong Kong (China), Macao (China), India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan (as an observer), Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Maldives, Pakistan, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Yemen at the FAO/CITES “Asian Regional Consultative Workshop on Capacity Assessments for the Implementation of new CITES Listing of Sharks and Manta Rays” (Xiamen, Fujian Province, P. R. China, from 13 to 15 of May 2014), reviewed and discussed the implementation of the new CITES listing for sharks and manta rays agreed at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES to be effective from 14th September 2014.

Having in mind the importance of conservation and sustainable use of sharks and rays and after scrutinizing the limitations, challenges and needs of the countries in the region, we recommend the following priority actions to effectively implement the new listing of sharks and manta rays in CITES Appendix II:

- **IMPROVEMENT OF DATA COLLECTION**
- **STRENGTHENING NATIONAL LEGISLATION, ENFORCEMENT (MONITORING, CONTROL AND SURVEILLANCE) AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**
- **STRENGTHENING CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES**
- **ENHANCING TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING/HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT**
- **SECURING FUNDING**

We encourage all countries to closely collaborate with Regional Fisheries Bodies and fully use existing regional wildlife enforcement networks in relation to CITES-listed marine species, to enhance sharing of information and expertise with regard to the management and sustainable utilization of shark and ray species.

We appeal to our governments and donors to support the efforts by Asian countries to improve measures for implementing CITES regulations for sharks and manta rays, and for the conservation and sustainable utilization of sharks and rays.

We thank the European Union and China for funding the workshop, China for hosting the workshop, and FAO and the CITES Secretariat for their support in the organization of the event.

*Xiamen, Fujian Province, P. R. China, 15 May 2014*

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1 Oceanic whitetip (*Carcharhinus longimanus*), scalloped hammerhead (*Sphyrna lewini*), great hammerhead shark (*Sphyrna mokarran*), smooth hammerhead shark (*Sphyrna zygaena*), the porbeagle shark (*Lamna nasus*) and the genus *Manta* spp, the entry into force of the inclusion in Appendix II of which is 14 September 2014.
Local policies related to shark conservation

ORDINANCE NO. 2014-15

• Amending Resolution No. 691-2012/Ordinance No. 2012-05 also known as “The Provincial Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of Cebu”

1.2 Fishing or Taking, Possessing, Transporting, Dealing, Selling or Disposing of any Shark Species

In pursuance of the Convention on Migratory Species and the Convention on the Conservation of the Marine Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction, the Province of Cebu, through this ordinance, hereby prohibits the following activities:

1. Fishing, taking, possessing, transporting, dealing, selling or disposing of any shark species, including, but not limited to:
   - Carcharhinus leucas (Atlantic White Tip Shark)
   - Carcharhinus obscurus (Oceanic Whitetip Shark)
   - Pelagicuda birostris (Oarfish)
   - Sphyrna lewini (裏鯊)

Section 2. This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its approval.

Section 3. The undersigned Mayor hereby certifies that he has signed this ordinance.

By the Mayor,

[Signature]

Secretary to the Governor

Republic of the Philippines

Province of Cebu

SANGUNIAN PANALIWAN

Cebu City, July 1, 2014

Samuel S. Lim

Mayor
National Plan of Action for Shark (NPOA-Shark)

- at least 163 spp. in PH
- CITES-listed Sharks (“Pating”) = 7; Rays (“Pagi”) = 3

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)
Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)
Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
Western and Central Pacific Commission (WCPFC)
**Philippine Shark Plan: Matrix**

The Philippine Shark Plan subdivided into the four major issues: Monitoring, Data Collection and Analysis, Research, Building Human Capacity, and Conservation and Management (which include ). The Shark Action Plan is presented in a matrix format to show each issues’ basic objectives, actions, remarks, responsible agencies and strategic partners, indicators and level of priority, as follows:

1. **MONITORING, DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS**
   - Limited understanding on shark* fisheries
   - Limited ecological information on shark* species

2. **RESEARCH**
   - Limited information on the biology and ecology of species, including taxonomy
   - Limited facilitation and encouragement research on little known shark species

3. **BUILDING HUMAN CAPACITY**
   - Limited capacity for species identification
   - Limited knowledge and appreciation for shark and shark resources

4. **CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT (Policy, IEC, Compliance & Enforcement)**
   - Lack of information on shark fisheries
   - Lack of enforcement for the conservation and management of threatened and endangered shark and ray species
Historical shark catch trend

Statistics lumped as “sharks, rays and skates”

~ 500 MT (1950s - 1970s)
~ 5,000 MT (1970s - 1980s)
~ 18,000 MT (1980s – 1990s)
~ 6,000 MT (1990s – 2000s)
New ray species in 2012

*Manta alfredi* (Kreft, 1868).

Reef Manta

“possibly present in Palawan”

A treasure trove of hundreds of new species may have been discovered in the Philippines, including a bizarre sea star that feeds exclusively on sunken driftwood and a deep-sea, shrimp-eating shark that swells up to scare off other predators.

Scientists braved leeches and a host of venomous creatures from the mountains to the sea to uncover more than 300 species that are likely new to science. These findings include dozens of new insects and spiders, more than 50 colorful new sea slugs and a number of deep-sea armored corals “that protect themselves against predatory nibbles from fish by growing large, spiky plates,” said researcher Terrence Gosliner, dean of science and research collections at the California Academy of Science.
Shark Data Sources

**Bureau of Agricultural Statistics**
- Total catch statistics

**National Statistics Office**
- Trade data on by-products

**BFAR- Fisheries Regulatory and Quarantine Division**
- Export-import data

**BFAR-National Stock Assessment Program**
- Specific landed catch data

**BFAR-Fisheries Observer’s Program**
- On-board data

Hammerheads distribution

- *Sphyrna lewini*
  - Surface Gillnet
  - Multiple Handline
  - Longline

- *Sphyrna zygaena*
  - Drift Gillnet
  - Landed catch very intermittent

BFAR-NFRDI. 2009. Philippine NPOA Sharks
References

• FAO ID Sheets for WCPacific
• SEAFDEC Special Publication
• Philippine Aquatic Wildlife Response Manual Series:
  a. Marine mammals
  b. Whaleshark
Field Guide for the Identification of Sharks and Rays in the Philippines

• Implemented by MWWP, BFAR-NFRDI, DENR-PAWB

• Funded by GIZ and BFAR-NFRDI
Challenges: Data Collection

Devil Ray Resources in Bohol Sea, Philippines

Joseph Christopher C. Rayco, Marikayeelle D. Santos and Noel C. Banit

A rapid resource assessment (RRA) of devil rays also known as devil rays or Mobula, was conducted in Bohol Sea, Philippines from March to May 2010. Comparing with the catch data in a 2002-2003, results of the RRA showed that there was no decline in catch of the Mobula endemic to maintained Mobula fishing effort. This suggested that the species is not yet overfished apparently because Ahabida fishing is seasonal in the fishing area. Of the recorded Mobulas caught, 115 were identified to be immature based on the disc width. In addition, with a newly born/Abiotic thornback among the catch in Bohol Sea, this fishing area could be a spawning ground for Mobula species.

Status of Devil Rays in the Study Site

Manta ray devil rays are locally known as "uugs" or "yaps" (Gonzales and Gonzales 1990) in the Philippines while the rest of the members of the Family Mobulidae are called "pasioy". Manta rays and the other Mobula species are difficult to differentiate morphologically even by a shark and ray specialist. In such situation, all Mobula species have been included in the ban under the aforementioned BFAR FAO 193. In 2010, the landed catch and effort of the Mobula species in Bohol Sea as well as some reports of the biology of the species were collected, analyzed and compared with the study made in 2002-2003 to assess whether the issuance of BFAR FAO 193 is warranted. The results suggested that the population of Mobula other than Manta ray appears to be in good condition apparently due to the very seasonal nature of the fishery and the fishing methods employed, considering that the area has also been established as a spawning ground of such species. In order to assess and the RRA interview and baseline surveys were

Table 1. Mobulidae species landed in various landing sites in Bohol Sea

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Manta birostris</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal</strong></td>
<td>14</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mobula thurstoni</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal</strong></td>
<td>47</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mobula aegadoodoenke</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>May</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal</strong></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>65</td>
<td>132</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*In 2002: total enumeration while in 2010: one week/month

Challenges: Shark finning

Legarda Wants Shark Finning Banned

By HANNAH L. TORREGROZA
February 19, 2012, 4:30pm

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Loren Legarda Sunday expressed concern that the absence of a law banning the catching of sharks in the Philippines for their fins could lead to the extinction of the shark species.

Legarda said she disapproves the practice of shark finning in which catchers remove the fin and throw the animal back to the sea, condemning them to their deaths. Those in the business of shark finning, she said, know how lucrative shark fins are especially in restaurants.

She said Congress should pass Senate Bill 2696 or An Act Banning the Catching, Sale, Purchase, Possession, Transportation, Importation and Exportation of All Sharks and Rays or Any Part Thereof in the Country.

Under the bill, Shark’s Fin Soup and the setting of sharks’ fins will also be prohibited.

“Sharks, as predators of the sea, play a vital role in regulating the ecological balance, particularly the health of important commercial fish species, population balance, and protection of coral reefs,” Legarda said.

Citing the statement of shark conservation group called Shark Savers, Legarda noted that the shark population is declining by as much as 90 percent because up to 100 million sharks are killed every year.

“Clearly, the absence of the law forbidding the catching of sharks, gives people the courage to continue the practice, which could eventually lead to the extinction of shark species in the country; especially that they reproduce slowly,” Legarda said.

Stop Shark Finning in the Philippines

Signatures:

Target: President of the Philippines
Sponsored by: Hannah Wolf

Thresher sharks are being killed for their fins in the Estangans Bay area of the Philippines. According to Dr. Simon Oliver, shark specialist and chair of the Thresher Shark Research and Conservation Group based in the United Kingdom, these animals are facing a high risk of extinction in the wild.

Thresher sharks are considered a vulnerable species worldwide.

If the current unsustainable fishing practices in Estangans Bay continue unabated, these animals will disappear from Philippine waters.
Proposed species for inclusion

*Alopias superciliosus* (occurs in the Phils., with record)  
*Carcharhinus falciformis* (occurs in the Phils., with record)  
*Mobula tarapacana* (does not occur in the Phils.)  
*Mobula japonica* (does not occur in the Phils.)  
*Potamotrygon motoro* (does not occur in the Phils.)  
*Holacanthus clarionensis* (does not occur in the Phils.)  
*Pterapogon kauderni* (does not occur in the Phils.)  
Family *Nautilidae* (occurs in the Phils., no record)

*Alopias pelagicus, Alopias superciliosus and Alopias vulpinus*  
*Mobula eregoodootenkee, M. thurstoni, and M. kuhlii*
SUMMARY

• Elasmobranchs and some CITES listed species are an important part of the Filipinos economy and livelihood.

• The task of monitoring the sustainable utilization of aquatic resources were clearly defined in the amendments to the National Fisheries Code, while the management and conservation frameworks with their corresponding action plans are being enforced in a judicious manner.

• Strong conservation and management efforts from all sectors is being implemented not just for the CITES listed species, but to economically important species as well.

• The challenge of data collection for fisheries management is being addressed vigorously.

• While expecting more new discoveries, we are hoping for a more enlightened and informed populace.
THANK YOU  VERY MUCH FOR YOUR ATTENTION

• ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

• Usec. Atty. Asis G. Perez of DA, BFAR Director
• Asst. BFAR Director Drusila Esther Bayate, Interim Exec. Director NFRDI
• Noel Barut and Mudjekeewis Santos of NFRDI
• Edwyn Alesna of FRQD, BFAR
• Amor Diaz and staff of OSEDC, FRQD, BFAR
• BFAR Regional Directors and Staff
• BFAR Regional Field Offices
• National Stock Assessment Program (NSAP) Project Leaders, Data Analysts and Enumerators