

ADDENDUM 1

SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL COMMENTS

(arising from ScC-SC6)

PROPOSAL FOR THE INCLUSION OF THE LUSITANIAN COWNOSE RAY (*Rhinoptera marginata*) IN APPENDIX II AND THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA POPULATION OF THIS SPECIES IN APPENDIX I OF THE CONVENTION

UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.31.4.12

RECOMMENDATIONS TO COP14

- Recommended for adoption.

GENERAL COMMENTS ON THE DOCUMENT

- For the review of this listing proposal the Scientific Council took into consideration the analysis of listing proposals provided by the Sharks MOU Advisory Committee (Sharks AC) contained in [UNEP/CMS/ScC-SC6/Inf.13.4](#) and welcomed their overall findings and comments.
- It was agreed that available evidence indicates that Lusitanian Cownose Ray is an aggregating species that exhibits seasonal migrations, moving into shallower waters to give birth. The spatial extent of this migration is, however, highly uncertain.
- It was noted that there is no documented evidence that a significant proportion of either the “entire population or any geographically separate part of the population” will “cyclically and predictably cross one or more national jurisdictional boundaries”. However, it was pointed out that at genus level some species are migratory and perform inshore/offshore migrations.
- It was agreed that the available evidence would allow the conservation status of Lusitanian Cownose Ray to be considered as ‘unfavourable’ throughout its range. Given that the Mediterranean Sea populations appear to occur in a number of discrete areas, such populations could be at an elevated risk of extinction and may be considered endangered in accordance with Article III(1) of CMS and Resolution 13.7 *Guidelines for preparing and assessing proposals for the amendment of CMS Appendices*.
- The Scientific Council also considered information about *R. marginata* from the CMS-commissioned study on migratory sharks and rays (IUCN Species Survival Commission’s Shark Specialist Group, 2007), which was approved by the 14th Meeting of the CMS Scientific Council (Bonn, Germany, 14-17 March 2007). The Scientific Council concluded then that *R. marginata* meets the criteria for listing in the CMS Appendices (UNEP/CMS/ScC14/Report, 2007).