

**TRAFFIC Recommendations on the Proposals to Amend the CITES Appendices at CoP15**

	<b>Species</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
16	<i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i>	<p>CoP15 Prop. 16 [Palau and United States of America]. Inclusion in Appendix II with the following annotation: "The entry into effect of the inclusion of <i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i> in Appendix II of CITES will be delayed by 18 months to enable Parties to resolve the related technical and administrative issues".</p> <p>The Oceanic Whitetip Shark <i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i> is widely distributed and its life history characteristics make it highly vulnerable to over-exploitation. Oceanic Whitetip Sharks form part of the catch of many fisheries and are heavily exploited throughout their range, where removal and retention of fins is encouraged by the high value of their fins in international trade. The species is inherently vulnerable to over-exploitation and there is evidence demonstrating declines in most cases where exploited populations are monitored. Several populations of the shark appear already to meet the criteria for inclusion in Appendix I with historical declines to &lt;10% of baseline, which for this low-productivity species is within the guidelines in <i>Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP14)</i> for the application of decline to commercially exploited aquatic species. Other stocks are of unknown status, but in many areas are subject to heavy fishing pressure and may be expected to show similar changes to monitored populations.</p> <p>It would appear, therefore, that the species meets the criteria for inclusion in Appendix II in that regulation of international trade is required to ensure that the species does not become eligible for inclusion in Appendix I.</p>	<b>ACCEPT</b>