

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

	Species	Comment	Recommendation
18	<i>Squalus acanthias</i>	<p>CoP15 Prop. 18 [Palau and Sweden]. Inclusion in Appendix II with the following annotation: "The entry into effect of the inclusion of <i>Squalus acanthias</i> in Appendix II of CITES will be delayed by 18 months to enable Parties to resolve related technical and administrative issues, such as the development of stock assessments and collaborative management agreements for shared stocks and the possible designation of an additional Scientific or Management Authority".</p> <p>The Spiny (or Piked) Dogfish <i>Squalus acanthias</i> is widely distributed and, as with other shark species, highly vulnerable to over-exploitation because of its life history characteristics. The species is highly traded for its high-value meat and there are substantial amounts of species-specific trade information available. Where directed fisheries have occurred for the species, serious depletion of the stocks has resulted. The species aggregates according to sex and age and this has resulted in targeting of the larger females, with the result that heavily targeted stocks become male-biased with reduced pup production. International trade occurs not only in meat, but fins and other products. The Spiny Dogfish is proposed for inclusion in Appendix II under <i>Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP14)</i> Annex 2 a Criteria A. and B. Spiny Dogfish stocks that do not qualify under Annex 2 a are proposed for listing under Annex 2 b criterion A. The guidelines for commercially exploited aquatic species note that a species may be considered for listing in Appendix II if it is near the extent-of-decline guidelines recommended for inclusion in Appendix I. Given the extent of decline of the species as a whole, it would appear to meet the criteria for inclusion in Appendix II. For implementation purposes, there is a need to identify fins at species level when traded.</p>	ACCEPT