



Statement to Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management concerning Consultation of range States regarding German draft proposal for inclusion of Porbeagle in Appendix II of CITES

Worldwide, shark populations face drastic declines, even though steps have been taken for their protection and recovery.

Porbeagle shark (*Lamna nasus*) occurs throughout the North Atlantic Ocean, and circumpolar in the Southern hemisphere. It is a migrant species that occurred regularly in Swedish waters until the mid-1900s. Porbeagle has been the subject of targeted fisheries. Landings started to decrease already in the late 1940s. Globally porbeagle red-listed as vulnerable, but it is listed as critical endangered in the Northeast Atlantic.

The steep decline of Northeast Atlantic population size over the last decades led the European Union (EU) as well as the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) to prohibit fishing for the species. The EU is one of the main importers of Porbeagle, and has consequently a key responsibility in ensuring that such international trade is sustainable.

The EU will include Porbeagle into Appendix III of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered species (CITES) in the coming weeks; this will improve monitoring of international trade in porbeagle.

Yet furthermore, porbeagle qualifies for an inclusion into Appendix II of CITES according to the listing criteria. A CITES Appendix II listing will ensure that international trade is supplied by sustainably managed fisheries and help threatened populations to recover.

On behalf of the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Department of Aquatic Resources, Institute of Marine Research in Lysekil, we express our support for the German initiative to strengthen the protection of porbeagle worldwide by the inclusion of Porbeagle into Appendix II of CITES, as it is based on sound scientific credentials.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Henrik Svedäng', is written over the typed name.

Henrik Svedäng

Assoc. Prof.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Francesca Vitale', is written over the typed name.

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