



Agriculture, Fisheries and Biosecurity  
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Mr Josh Wilson MP  
Committee Chair  
Joint Standing Committee  
on Treaties

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Dear Mr Wilson

Re: Submission to the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties Inquiry on Amendments to Appendices I, II and III of CITES

I write on behalf of the Northern Territory (NT) Department of Industry, Tourism, and Trade (DITT), in relation to continuing our commitment to sustainable agribusiness and fisheries trade practices, and our ongoing compliance with the CITES treaty. We appreciate the opportunity to provide a submission regarding the amendments to Appendices I, II, and III of CITES and their implications for the Northern Territory.

The amendments relevant to the NT include the listing of 3 marine species taxa: requiem sharks, hammerhead sharks and guitarfish. While these listings do not necessitate additional legislation or regulation for implementation, their operation will increase compliance requirements for several Northern T traders, including operating costs. As CITES-listed species must be exported under a permit that identifies all products to the species level, the listing of these species adds a considerable burden to fishing vessels harvesting sharks and rays in the NT.

Specifically, the listing of requiem sharks, hammerhead sharks, and guitarfish presents challenges due to the diverse nature of these species, particularly within the requiem shark group. Fisheries observers in the Offshore Net and Line Fishery have recorded the capture of over 20 different species of sharks and rays during a single fishing trip, with many of these species belonging to the newly listed groups under CITES. Processing, packaging, and transporting such a diverse catch while maintaining traceability to the species level from the vessel through to export will be challenging and likely increase transportation costs.

Regarding the impact on NT industry, the new marine species listings in Appendix II may have an impact, particularly for continued exports of requiem sharks, hammerhead sharks and guitarfish sourced from NT fisheries. It is anticipated that businesses intending to export the listed marine species after the specified dates will be required to apply for export permits, ensuring compliance with CITES regulations.

In conclusion, while the amendments present challenges for NT traders, the DITT recognises the importance of conservation efforts under CITES and will work collaboratively with stakeholders to ensure compliance and sustainable trade practices.

Thank you for considering our submission. We are available to provide any further information or clarification as required.

Jed Matz  
Deputy Chief Executive Officer  
Agriculture, Fisheries and Biosecurity