



**CONVENTION ON
MIGRATORY
SPECIES**

UNEP/CMS/Resolution 14.12

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**SINGLE SPECIES ACTION PLAN
FOR THE ANGELSHARK (*Squatina squatina*) IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA**

Adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its 14th Meeting (Samarkand, February 2024)

Noting that the Angelshark (*Squatina squatina*) was listed on CMS Appendices I and II in 2017 and in Annex 1 of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Sharks in 2018,

Alarmed by the significant population declines over the past 50 years due to extensive exploitation, slow growth and low productivity, the species has become exceedingly rare throughout most of its historical range,

Concerned that the Angelshark was assessed by the *IUCN Red List of Threatened Species* in 2017 as 'Critically Endangered' and the population assessed as decreasing, raising serious concerns about the viability of the species given ongoing high threat levels,

Deeply concerned that the species and its habitat are persistently threatened by intense demersal fisheries, recreational fisheries, coastal commercial and tourism development, and habitat degradation throughout its range,

Recognizing that a multi-pronged approach is required that simultaneously addresses knowledge, resource, capacity and legal gaps that hinder effective conservation of the species, while, at the same time, implementing and enforcing existing laws and regulations that can mitigate threats to the species,

Recognizing the long-standing concern and support of many stakeholders working in the species' range that led to the Concerted Action for the Angelshark, as well as the support of the Angel Shark Conservation Network (ASCN) in its implementation,

Noting the links between the Single Species Action Plan and the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Sharks (Sharks MOU),

Further noting the high relevance of several work areas of the CMS to the conservation of the Angelshark, especially concerning bycatch, marine pollution and habitat conservation, and

Affirming the need to address the threats to the species and its habitat in close collaboration with the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

*The Conference of the Parties to the
Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals*

1. *Adopts* the Single Species Action Plan for the Angelshark (*Squatina squatina*) in the Mediterranean Sea (SSAP Angelshark Med) contained in the Annex, with the goal of promoting the long-term sustainability of its populations and their habitats by reducing the negative effects of human activities through legislation and enforcement, fisheries management measures, research, awareness-raising and capacity-building;
2. *Urges* Parties and *invites* non-Party Range States to implement the relevant provisions of the SSAP Angelshark Med;
3. *Calls on* Range States to strive for active collaboration between stakeholders within each range country to maximize the effective use of resources and expertise, to ensure that the results of research and awareness-raising activities can support the design and implementation of effective policy and management;
4. *Further calls on* Range States to facilitate regional collaboration between stakeholders in different *Squatina squatina* Range States to ensure that knowledge and experience gained in one country can be used to most effectively implement conservation action in another, especially in countries where cross-border populations are suspected to occur;
5. *Encourages* Parties and non-Party States to provide technical and/or financial support to implement the activities outlined in the SSAP Angelshark Med;
6. *Invites* other relevant intergovernmental frameworks, in particular the GFCM, to take into account the provisions of the SSAP Angelshark Med in the consideration of their activities and to support implementation of relevant SSAP Angelshark Med activities that fall within their mandate, as appropriate;
7. *Invites* the Angel Shark Conservation Network (ASCN) to continue its active support of research and conservation measures for this species; and
8. *Instructs* the Secretariat to bring the SSAP Angelshark Med to the attention of all Range States and relevant intergovernmental organizations and to assist with and monitor the implementation of the SSAP subject to the availability of resources.