

IFAW recommendations:

15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP15) to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)

This briefing outlines recommendations from the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) on selected proposals under consideration at CMS CoP15 taking place in Campo Grande, Brazil between 21-29 March 2026. The numbering corresponds to the relevant agenda item. Recommendations on proposals to amend the CMS Appendices are under item 30 from page 9, after discussion of working documents.

IFAW side events

Side event	Date	Time
Climate Change and Migratory Species: From Victims to Allies This event will explore how climate change impacts migratory species and how their conservation can contribute to climate solutions. Through case studies and expert insights, it will identify actions CMS Parties can take to strengthen species resilience and integrate migratory species into climate strategies.	23 rd March	13:45-14.30

Agenda item	Document title	Summary	IFAW Recommendation
15	Samarkand Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2024-2032	This document reports on intersessional work carried out to build on the Samarkand Strategic Plan for Migratory Species adopted at COP14. It contains a new annex, for inclusion in updated Resolution 14.1, which includes a total of 44 indicators for the targets as well as potential actions to help meet the targets.	Support with amendments IFAW welcomes the intersessional work carried out to develop a monitoring framework to support the implementation of the Samarkand Strategic Plan for Migratory Species (SPMS). IFAW supports the adoption of the indicators and targets as laid out in the document. The framework incorporates key targets from the Global Biodiversity Framework and other Conventions and highlights key actions from existing CMS mandates within Resolutions, Decisions or obligations within the Convention text. Such activities facilitate the delivery of conservation benefits for migratory species across the board. The indicators also include some new actions (in bold in the document) that don't yet have a specific mandate in existing Decisions or Resolutions. We recommend that these new actions being included as additional

			<p>Decisions under this item, or amendments to relevant Resolutions.</p> <p>We support the draft Decisions in this document, with one small addition to 15.AA a) to reflect that there are other frameworks we would want Parties to be making linkages with. This proposed amendment is outlined below (new text is <u>underlined</u> and deletions in strikethrough)</p> <p>15.AA a) implement the Samarkand Strategic Plan for Migratory Species (SPMS) 2024-2032 and, where possible, make linkages with their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), and United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks, <u>and other relevant frameworks.</u></p>
20.1 20.2	<p>Development of the next Report on State of the World's Migratory Species</p> <p>State of the World's Migratory Species - Interim Report (2026)</p>	<p>Document 20.1 reports on implementation of Decisions 14.23-14.24 Conservation Status of Migratory Species, including a list of potential 'spotlight' topics for the report to focus on in the future, and proposes new draft Decisions regarding the development of the next report for COP16, for adoption.</p> <p>Doc 20.2 provides an update on major developments in the conservation status of CMS-listed species since COP14.</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>IFAW welcomes the draft Decisions presented in this document and strongly supports the spotlight topics identified by the Scientific Council Working Group.</p> <p>The findings in document 20.2 are particularly alarming: the proportion of CMS-listed species experiencing declining population trends has risen to 49%, compared with 44% at COP14. Although not much time has passed since the previous assessment, this trajectory underscores a stark and worsening reality for migratory species.</p> <p>In light of these trends, IFAW urges Parties to accelerate decisive action to restore, connect, and safeguard critical habitats, and to address the mounting pressures caused by overexploitation, climate change, and pollution. Swift coordinated intervention is essential if we are to reverse the decline and secure a viable future for migratory species.</p>
25.1.1	<p>Bycatch and Other Fisheries-induced Mortality</p>	<p>This document includes: a review on bycatch mitigation measures for turtles (including recommendations); an updated, streamlined, bycatch resolution which includes a definition of bycatch for CMS purposes; and new Decisions predominantly directed to the Scientific Council and the Secretariat.</p>	<p>Support with amendments</p> <p>IFAW welcomes the important information provided in this document regarding the ongoing threat of bycatch to aquatic species, particularly the recommendations arising from the review of regulatory and technical bycatch mitigation measures for cetaceans, sharks and turtles.</p> <p>We support the amendments to Resolution 12.22 in the document, and the draft decisions, including most of the edits</p>

			<p>and additions from Scientific Council, with a few exceptions. We have included some suggested amendments below to paragraphs 3-5 in the original document.</p> <p>While the task of defining bycatch has been given to many organisations, provided the discussion does not take too much resource from other priority areas, we believe there is still value in developing a single definition, or identifying an existing one, that can be applied specifically to CMS. This would help avoid any ambiguity about what “bycatch” means in the context of migratory species. In the meantime, IFAW supports the use of the interim definition as amended by the Scientific Council.</p> <p>While we appreciate bycatch is a complex issue, CMS Parties must do everything they can to eliminate bycatch of CMS listed species, as reaffirmed in the indicators for the strategic plan (under goal 3, target 3.1 in doc 15). We therefore welcome the proposed amendments to the Resolution restating this requirement. In addition, we believe the Operative Paragraphs could be refined as suggested below (new suggested language <u>underlined</u>, deletions in strikethrough):</p> <p>3. <i>Further agrees</i> that for Appendix I-listed species, Parties shall <u>prohibit bycatch of such species, including requiring active prevention and mitigation</u> actively mitigate bycatch; and ensure that any specimens of such species that are caught are recorded, reported, handled safely <u>and humanely</u> and released immediately if alive; and <u>ensure</u> that no specimens are retained on board, transshipped or landed, except for the purpose of research relevant to the conservation of species <u>in the case of lawful application of Article III(5)(a)-(d) and consistent with domestic legislation.</u></p> <p>4. Further agrees <i>Recommends</i> that for Appendix II-listed species, <u>actions should be taken to reduce bycatch to its lowest feasible level and where possible eliminate it, and Parties should take all precautionary measures where bycatch is poorly known or levels are unquantified</u> bycatch should not exceed sustainable levels, taking into account different life history characteristics of some taxa that can only sustain low fishing pressure.</p>
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25.2.2	Underwater Noise	<p>The document includes a workplan for the CMS/ASCOBANS/ACCOBAMS joint working group on noise and a report looking into the impacts of underwater noise on freshwater migratory species and includes recommendations to minimize the impact on these species. Also included is a new set of decisions focused on addressing underwater noise impacts on freshwater migratory species.</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>Underwater noise is already well-documented as a major source of disturbance, injury, and even mortality for many marine species, and there is growing evidence that freshwater migratory species are similarly vulnerable to these impacts.</p> <p>Given the scale and severity of the threat, taking decisive action to minimise noise impacts in freshwater environments is both urgent and essential. IFAW therefore strongly supports the draft Decisions proposed in the document, viewing them as an important step toward safeguarding migratory species across all aquatic ecosystems.</p>
25.2.3	Deep Sea Mining	<p>This document reports on progress to implement Decisions from <i>Deep-Seabed Mineral Exploitation Activities and Migratory Species</i>, presents a report, <i>Impacts of Deep-sea Mining on Migratory Species: Review and Knowledge Gaps</i>, and proposes Decisions for adoption.</p>	<p>Support with amendments recommended by the Scientific Council</p> <p>IFAW recommends adopting the draft Decision, as amended by the Scientific Council, to ensure a continued precautionary approach to Deep Sea Mining (DSM). Endorsing the consultant's report could imply that DSM is acceptable with mitigation measures, yet it is premature to develop such guidance while major knowledge gaps persist. These uncertainties carry potential long-term, global consequences that cannot be addressed through mitigation measures alone. Current science shows that the threshold for informed and responsible action has not yet been met.</p> <p>The Deep Sea Conservation Coalition, of which IFAW is a member, has developed more detailed briefing materials on this item and item 25.3.3 on Seamount Ecosystems: COP15 Recommendations.</p>
25.3.1	Priorities for Area-based Conservation of Marine Migratory Species	<p>This document provides an update on intersessional work carried out on IMMAs, ISRAs, a draft resolution on IMTAs and a draft</p>	<p>Support with amendments recommended by the Scientific Council</p>

		<p>resolution with draft Decisions on Priorities for Area-based Conservation of Marine Migratory Species.</p>	<p>IFAW urges Parties to actively apply the robust scientific tools developed for Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs), Important Shark and Ray Areas (ISRAs), and Important Marine Turtle Areas (IMTAs) to guide spatial planning and the effective designation and management of Marine Protected Areas.</p> <p>Using these tools—both within national waters and on the High Seas—is now even more critical with the High Seas Treaty entering into force, offering a historic opportunity to strengthen protection for migratory species across entire ocean basins.</p>
25.3.2	Vessel Strikes	<p>This document provides an update on what has been done intersessionally on reducing the risk of vessel strikes for marine megafauna, as mandated in Decisions 14.48–14.50. A new set of decisions is proposed to continue to reduce vessel strikes.</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>IFAW welcomes the intersessional work undertaken, particularly the table providing targeted recommendations to relevant Range States on the further actions urgently needed. Vessel strikes remain a severe and growing welfare and conservation threat to migratory megafauna, and sustained action is essential to reduce preventable injury and mortality. We therefore strongly support the adoption of the draft Decisions proposed in the document.</p> <p>However, while we support Decision 15.BB(c) on the development of guidance for the placement of re-routing measures, we note that similar work is already underway within the IWC. To avoid duplication of effort and ensure efficient use of resources, we recommend either deleting this Decision or clarifying that any CMS-led guidance should apply to species not covered by the IWC (as suggested below).</p> <p>Amendment to proposed Decision 15.BB c) (as amended by the ScC)</p> <p><u>“for species not subject to existing advice from IWC, develop advice on appropriate placement of re-routing measures, such as area avoidance (ATBA) and/or the establishment of vessel speed restrictions for key cetacean habitats, and make recommendations to Parties”</u></p>
25.3.3	Seamount Ecosystems	<p>This document highlights the unique significance of seamount ecosystems as ecological oases for migratory species and</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>IFAW encourages Parties to support this Resolution and Decision. By preserving these high-impact sites, CMS Parties can</p>

		proposes a Resolution and Decision to protect them from destructive fishing practices.	<p>strengthen ecological connectivity, conserve critical migratory habitats, and advance species recovery. We encourage Parties to champion strong protection measures for seamount ecosystems as a cornerstone of migratory species conservation.</p> <p>Seamounts function as fixed reference points along migratory routes where species feed, aggregate, breed/spawn, and rest during long-distance migrations. These characteristics also make these ecosystems highly vulnerable to destructive fishing practices which can cause rapid and long-lasting ecological damage. Safeguarding seamount ecosystems is vital to preventing further declines in marine migratory species and ensuring the resilience of the ocean systems they depend on.</p> <p>The Deep Sea Conservation Coalition, of which IFAW is a member, has developed more detailed briefing materials and has submitted an information document in support of this item: Inf doc on Seamounts, COP15 Recommendations and Seamount briefing.</p>
25.4.1	Conservation Priorities for Cetaceans	This document reports on progress made to implement COP14 Decisions for <i>Conservation Priorities for Cetaceans and Role of Cetaceans in Ecosystem Functioning</i> .	<p>Support</p> <p>IFAW supports the adoption of draft Decisions proposed in this document. We particularly welcome the inclusion of Decision 15.CC(b) to develop a joint work programme with the IWC under the existing MOU.</p> <p>The IWC and CMS share multiple thematic priorities, and their respective resolutions consistently reinforce and complement one another—CMS providing regional mechanisms for action, and the IWC offering robust scientific expertise and avenues for targeted threat mitigation through Conservation Management Plans. For countries engaged in both fora, this is an excellent opportunity to harmonize efforts, prevent duplication, and significantly amplify conservation outcomes. This decision therefore provides a timely and strategic framework to drive more coherent, effective, and impactful action for cetaceans across their ranges.</p>
25.6.3	Sharks and Rays	This document reports on progress to implement Decisions 14.101–14.105 Single Species Action Plan for the Angelshark in the Mediterranean Sea, Decisions 14.114–14.116	<p>Support with amendments recommended by the Scientific Council</p> <p>IFAW welcomes this document and supports the emphasis on the need to progress follow-up measures for previously listed</p>

		<p>Implementation of the CMS Appendix I-Listing for the Oceanic Whitetip Shark and Decision 14.236 (b) concerning a list of shark and ray species that meet the criteria for inclusion in CMS Appendices. It also contains new draft Decisions for adoption which support the achievement of Targets 1.1–1.3, 3.1, 4.3 and 5.1 of the Samarkand Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2024–2032.</p>	<p>shark species. As the document’s conclusions highlight, sustained population declines and continued pressure from both targeted and incidental fishing reinforce the need for stronger compliance, enforcement, and coordination among range States.</p> <p>IFAW supports the recommendations in the document, as amended by the Scientific Council, and urges Parties to take the necessary measures to ensure full implementation of all Appendix I-listed shark species—not only for the oceanic whitetip shark. This includes the need for sustained and targeted enforcement efforts.</p>
25.6.4	<p>Single Species Action Plan for the Northeast Atlantic and Mediterranean Sub-Population of the Tope Shark (<i>Galeorhinus galeus</i>)</p>	<p>The European Union submitted this draft Single Species Action Plan for the Northeast Atlantic and Mediterranean Sub-Population of the Tope Shark (<i>Galeorhinus galeus</i>) and contains a proposed Resolution and Decisions for the adoption of the SSAP.</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>IFAW welcomes the submission of this plan and encourages Parties to adopt it. The tope shark is critically endangered across much of its global range, including the Northeast Atlantic and Mediterranean, with populations experiencing severe long-term declines driven by overfishing, bycatch, and inadequate management. This SSAP would help to address these threats and support recovery of the species in the region.</p>
27.1	<p>Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative</p>	<p>This document provides a report on progress in implementing the Joint CMS-CITES African Carnivores Initiative (ACI) and proposes new draft Decisions.</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>IFAW welcomes the progress made by range states and both the CMS and CITES Secretariats in implementation of the ACI’s Programme of Work.</p> <p>IFAW encourages Range States to continue to engage and provide guidance at the next meeting to ensure the ACI remains Range State-driven and capable of enhancing conservation impact and resource efficiency through strengthened international cooperation.</p>
27.4	<p>Jaguar</p>	<p>This document reports on progress to implement Resolution 14.14. <i>CMS Jaguar Initiative</i> and its associated Decisions. It includes proposed amendments to the Resolution and a set of draft Decisions.</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>IFAW continues to support conservation efforts of the jaguar across its range. We commend efforts from Range States and the Secretariat to update the previously titled CMS Jaguar Initiative and develop the Regional Action Plan for Jaguar Conservation. We recommend the adoption of the proposed amendments and draft Decisions as outlined in the document.</p>

			Continued focus on regional cooperation, particularly for the management of transboundary populations, is key to preventing further jaguar habitat loss and population declines.
28.1	Illegal and Unsustainable Taking of Migratory Species	This document proposes amendments to the existing resolution and a set of new decisions based on recommendations from a scoping analysis that examines drivers behind illegal and unsustainable take and use of migratory species, including economic, social, cultural and governance factors.	<p>Support</p> <p>IFAW welcomes the intersessional work carried out by the Working Group on Illegal and Unsustainable Taking of Migratory Species, particularly the recommendations to address illegal and unsustainable take, coming out of the scoping analysis.</p> <p>We support the adoption of the new draft Decisions and the amendments to the Resolution as outlined in the document.</p>
28.2	Ecological Connectivity	This document contains an analysis of the CMS Survey on Ecological Connectivity and Infrastructure and includes proposed changes to Res 14.16 which reflect updates and a proposed set of new Decisions.	<p>Support</p> <p>IFAW strongly supports the work of CMS on the protection and improvement of ecological connectivity. Maintaining and restoring connectivity is essential for migratory species, whose survival depends on the ability to move freely between critical habitats for feeding, breeding, and shelter.</p> <p>We recommend the adoption of the updated Resolution and the draft Decisions, which reflect the findings of the CMS Survey on Ecological Connectivity and Infrastructure and the proposed updates to Resolution 14.16, including the proposed new decisions.</p> <p>IFAW is pleased to be a collaborative partner of the Global Partnership on Ecological Connectivity (GPEC), launched at COP14. As a multistakeholder initiative, the GPEC plays a critical role in building the capacity, planning, and action needed to maintain, enhance, and restore ecological connectivity—essential for safeguarding biodiversity, supporting ecosystem health, and delivering wider environmental benefits.</p>
28.4	Communities and Livelihood	This document reports on the implementation of Decision 14.200 and proposes activities to implement the ten Guiding Principles and the recommendations from the study, <i>Potential for Community-based Wildlife Management in Central Asia</i> (see Inf.27.3 with recs for community-based conservation approaches for	<p>Support</p> <p>IFAW supports the draft Decisions proposed in this document. We also welcome the additional draft Decision proposed by the Scientific Council to establish a Working Group that deals with the strategic issues related to interactions between communities and CMS-listed species.</p>

		Saiga Antelope, Argali Sheep, Snow Leopard and Bukhara Deer).	<p>IFAW's core principle is that animals and people thrive together. Effective and lasting conservation is only possible when local communities are integral partners in the process. The lives of communities and the wildlife around them are deeply interconnected—shaped by shared landscapes, resources, and daily interactions.</p> <p>IFAW is committed to respectful, inclusive engagement that recognises this interdependence. We work to empower communities to identify and lead on opportunities that address key wildlife conservation challenges, ensuring that solutions are grounded in local knowledge, priorities, and long-term wellbeing.</p>
28.12	Climate Change	<p>The document provides an update on the intersessional work carried out by the Climate Change Working Group, including an expert workshop, and the various reports associated with that work. Amendments to Res 12.21 have been proposed, along with a new set of Decisions to continue to take the work forward.</p>	<p>Support with amendments recommended by the Scientific Council</p> <p>IFAW welcomes the substantial work carried out by the Climate Change Working Group, building on the growing recognition that climate change is one of the most urgent and far-reaching threats of our time. The vital role migratory species play in climate mitigation and ecosystem resilience is becoming increasingly well-established, yet much remains to be understood and translated into policy action. For this reason, we strongly support the Scientific Council's proposed amendment to request case studies on migratory species and the ecosystem services they provide. Strengthening the evidence base in this way is essential to informing effective climate responses and ensuring that the conservation and climate agendas reinforce one another.</p>
LISTING PROPOSALS			
30.2.1	Proposal for the inclusion of the Cheetah (<i>Acinonyx jubatus</i>) population of Zimbabwe on Appendix I and II of the Convention	Proposed by Zimbabwe	<p>Support</p> <p>IFAW urges Parties to support the proposal to include Zimbabwe's cheetah population (<i>Acinonyx jubatus</i>) in Appendices I and II. Cheetahs in Zimbabwe continue to face rapid habitat loss, escalating human-wildlife conflict, and severe population fragmentation, leaving them with limited secure range and reduced genetic connectivity. Despite national</p>

			<p>conservation efforts, the population remains small and highly vulnerable.</p> <p>An Appendix I listing would reflect the urgent conservation status of this population, while Appendix II would enable coordinated transboundary action—including joint monitoring, mitigation of poaching and illegal trade, and strengthened management responses to land-use pressures.</p> <p>By adopting this listing, Parties demonstrate a clear commitment to safeguarding one of Africa’s remaining cheetah strongholds and ensuring that Zimbabwe’s population receives the coordinated international support essential for its long-term survival.</p>
30.2.3	<p>Proposal for the inclusion of the Giant otter (<i>Pteronura brasiliensis</i>) on Appendix I and II of the Convention</p>	Proposed by France	<p>Support</p> <p>IFAW encourages Parties to support France’s proposal to list the giant otter on Appendices I and II.</p> <p>The giant otter has suffered severe population declines driven by habitat destruction, pollution, illegal hunting, and increasing human disturbance. Although some regional conservation efforts have delivered progress, giant otter populations remain highly fragmented, vulnerable, and far below historical levels.</p> <p>Safeguarding the giant otter is not only about protecting a single species. As a top predator, it underpins the health and balance of freshwater ecosystems that people depend on for food, water, and livelihoods. Its ecological role makes its recovery critical for both biodiversity and human well-being.</p> <p>An Appendix I listing would signal the urgent need for strict protection of remaining populations, while an Appendix II listing would facilitate coordinated transboundary management, research, and habitat conservation across its range. Together, these measures would provide the comprehensive international framework needed to halt further decline and support the species’ long-term recovery.</p>
30.2.12	<p>Proposal for the inclusion of the Pelagic thresher (<i>Alopias pelagicus</i>), the Bigeye thresher (<i>Alopias superciliosus</i>), and the Common</p>	Proposed by Panama	<p>Support</p> <p>IFAW strongly urges Parties to support Panama’s proposal to list the pelagic, bigeye, and common thresher sharks on Appendix I. These species undertake predictable transboundary and</p>

	thresher (<i>Alopias vulpinus</i>) on Appendix I of the Convention		<p>high-seas movements, making coordinated international action essential. Despite existing CMS and CITES Appendix II listings and RFMO measures, populations continue to decline due to high levels of targeted and incidental fishing, driven in part by international fin demand. Their low reproductive rates further heighten their vulnerability and limit recovery potential under current pressures.</p> <p>An Appendix I listing is therefore both warranted and necessary. It would provide the strictest protection available under CMS, ensure coherence across jurisdictions, and enable Parties to act collectively along the sharks' full migratory ranges. This step is critical to halting ongoing declines and giving these species a viable chance of recovery.</p>
30.2.13	Proposal for the inclusion of Patagonian narrownose smoothhound (<i>Mustelus schmitti</i>) on Appendix-II	Proposed by Brazil	<p>Support</p> <p>IFAW welcomes Brazil's proposal to list the Patagonian narrownose smoothhound on Appendix II and urges Parties to support its adoption. This species forms a single, well-connected population moving seasonally across the waters of Argentina, Uruguay, and Brazil. Yet it has undergone severe declines—over 80% in three generations—driven by intense fishing pressure and high bycatch levels, leading to its classification as Critically Endangered.</p> <p>Because this shared stock spans multiple jurisdictions, effective conservation requires coordinated regional action. An Appendix II listing would provide the necessary framework for joint monitoring, shared data, and harmonised management measures—critical steps toward stabilising and ultimately recovering the population.</p>
30.2.14	Proposal for the inclusion of the Scalloped hammerhead shark (<i>Sphyrna lewini</i>) on Appendix I of the Convention	Proposed by Ecuador	<p>Support</p> <p>IFAW strongly urges Parties to support the proposal submitted by Ecuador to list all scalloped hammerhead populations under Appendix I and welcomes the Scientific Council's recommendation to adopt this proposal.</p> <p>Despite current protections under CMS and CITES Appendix II, the species continues to decline worldwide. Scalloped hammerheads are Critically Endangered and have suffered severe, wide-ranging population reductions, largely driven by</p>

			<p>overfishing—both targeted and incidental—as well as the international fin trade.</p> <p>As highly migratory animals moving between coastal nurseries, offshore aggregation sites, seamounts, and areas beyond national jurisdiction, scalloped hammerheads require coordinated international action to ensure effective protection.</p> <p>An Appendix I listing would provide the stronger safeguards needed to reverse ongoing declines and support recovery across their full range.</p>
30.2.15	<p>Proposal for the inclusion of the Great hammerhead shark (<i>Sphyrna mokarran</i>) on Appendix I of the Convention</p>	Proposed by Ecuador	<p>Support</p> <p>IFAW strongly urges Parties to support the proposal submitted by Ecuador, and welcomes the Scientific Council's recommendation to list the great hammerhead shark on Appendix I. This species has undergone steep declines across much of its global range, reflected by its Critically Endangered status. These losses are largely the result of intense fishing pressure, fuelled by the high commercial value of both its fins and meat.</p> <p>The great hammerhead's ecology further underscores the need for stronger protection. As a highly migratory species, it travels thousands of kilometres, routinely crossing national jurisdictions and extending into international waters. Because its movements span multiple management regimes, coordinated action is essential. An Appendix I listing would strengthen existing CMS obligations and help secure consistent, strict protection measures throughout the species' migratory range.</p>
30.2.16	<p>Proposal for the inclusion of the Angular angelshark (<i>Squatina guggenheim</i>) on Appendix II of the Convention</p>	Proposed by Brazil	<p>Support</p> <p>IFAW urges Parties to support Brazil's proposal to list the angular angelshark on Appendix II. This species, confined to the Southwest Atlantic, relies on predictable movements tied to both season and life stage, travelling through the waters of Brazil, Uruguay, and Argentina. These shared movements knit the species into a single transboundary population—one that depends on the continuity of habitats across national borders for its survival. We therefore also welcome the Scientific Council's recommendation to endorse this proposal.</p>

			<p>The conservation status of the angular angelshark underscores the urgency of action. The species is globally recognised as Endangered, and assessments within Brazil classify it as Critically Endangered, reflecting steep population declines across its range. Persistent and widespread bycatch in trawl and gillnet fisheries is the primary driver of these losses, and without coordinated intervention, further declines are inevitable.</p> <p>Given these pressures, coordinated regional action is essential. An Appendix II listing would provide the mechanism for range States to work together through joint monitoring, aligned management measures, and shared data and conservation strategies—steps that are vital to halt ongoing declines and put the species on a path to recovery.</p>
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