



Ministerial Decree No. 500 for the Year 2014 On Regulating the Fishing and Trading of Sharks

The Ministry of Environment & Water:

Pursuant to Federal Law No. (1) for the Year 1972 Regarding the Functions of Ministries and the Powers vested in Ministers, and the Laws Amending it; and

Federal Law No. (6) for the year 1979 on Veterinary Quarantine and the Laws Amending it; and

Federal Law No. (23) for the year 1999 on the Exploitation, Protection and Development of Living Aquatic Resources in the United Arab Emirates and its Executive By-laws ; and

Federal Law No. (11) for the Year 2002 on Regulating and Controlling the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and its Executive By-laws; and

Cabinet Resolution No. (18) for the Year 2012 on the Sanctions for Violators of Regulatory Decrees related to Living Aquatic Resources and Fisheries Wealth; and

Ministerial Decree No. (216) for the Year 2011 amending the Ministerial Decree No. (542) for the Year 2008 on the Procedures Organizing Shark Fishing; and

In line with the Ministry's endeavor to achieve its strategic goals with respect to regulating the exploitation of living aquatic resources; and

In accordance with the requirements of public interest;

Has decided on the following:



Article 1 Shark fishing

- 1- Fishermen whose boats have been entered in the Ministry's general register under the 'lanch' category are permitted to fish for sharks from the first of July of every year to the end of January of the following year using hooks in accordance with the following specifications and conditions:
 - The number of hooks shall not exceed 100 hooks per lanch in one fishing gear.
 - Hooks shall be circle hooks and shall not exceed 0/14 in size.
 - Hooks shall be non-stainless steel.
 - The fishing gear shall carry the fishing boat number and the code of the emirate.
- 2- Sharks fishing shall be limited to fishing waters that are at distance not less than 5 nautical miles from the country's shoreline and 3 nautical miles from the country's islands.
- 3- Sharks shall not be fished solely for their fins.
- 4- A fisherman shall not dispose of the shark carcass in whole or in part in the sea. Sharks shall be brought whole to the landing site.
- 5- It is prohibited to trade in live sharks captured in the country's fishing waters without a special permit issued by the Ministry.

Article 2

In exception to the provision of Article 1 above, it is prohibited to fish shark species set out in the Appendices of the CITES Convention and referred to in the list attached herewith in territorial waters throughout the year. A fisherman who accidentally captures any of these species shall release them again into the sea and take necessary measures to protect them and ensure their survival.



Article 3 **Imports of sharks**

Sharks may be imported in fresh, frozen, dried, salted, smoked, canned or in any other form and each shipment shall be supported with the following documents:

- Original certificate of origin of shipment indicating the scientific name and the imported quantity of each species.
- Original health certificate of the shipment.
- Commercial invoice of the shipment.
- Packing list of the shipment.

The following additional documents shall be attached in case of imports of shark species listed under the CITES Appendices and in the list attached herewith:

- Export or re-export certificate from the management authority of the exporting country for any specimens of the species listed in Appendices I and II.
- A valid import certificate issued by the Ministry of Environment and Water.

Article 4 **Exports of sharks**

Companies may not export sharks whether fresh, frozen, dried, salted, smoked, canned, or in any form throughout the year.



Article 5 Re-export of sharks

- 1- Imported sharks, whether fresh, frozen, dried, salted, smoked, canned or in any other form, may be re-exported provided that the exporter receives a re-export permit from the Ministry of Environment and Water after submitting the following documents:
- Certificate of origin for the shipment issued by the competent authority in the exporting country.
 - Custom statement (Bill of Entry) of shipment issued at the entry port.
 - Re-export health certificate for food items issued by the competent local authority indicating the scientific name and quantity of each species.
 - Packing list issued by a factory licensed by the Ministry of Environment and Water to process fish products indicating types and quantity of exported fish.
 - In case the importing establishment is different from the re-exporting one, a purchase invoice shall be submitted with the above documents.

In case of re-exports of the specimens from shark species listed in the CITES Appendices and in the list attached herewith, the following additional documents shall be provided:

- Re-export certificate issued by the Ministry of Environment and Water for any of the species listed in Appendices I and II.
 - Prior permits from the importing country for re-exporting the types listed in Appendix I.
- 2- In exception to the provision of item 1 of this article, shark fins in any form shall not be re-exported from the country.



Article 6

Health certificates of re-exported shark consignments are issued at the export port after the veterinary quarantine inspector inspects the consignment and checks that the following documents are attached:

- Re-export certificate issued by the Ministry of Environment and Water.
- Certificate of origin for the shipmen issued by the competent authority of the country.

Article 7

All import and re-export consignments are subject to and governed by the country's effective laws and decrees on veterinary quarantine and regulating and monitoring of the international trade in endangered species of flora and fauna.

Article 8

This decree shall come into force as of 1st September 2014 and any prior decrees that contravene or contradict this decision shall be null and void. The concerned authorities and officials shall take the necessary actions to implement and publish this decree in the official gazette.

Dr. Rashid Ahmed Bin Fahd
Minister of Environment and Water
(Signed & Stamped)

Issued on: 12th Ramadan 1435 H
Corresponding to: 10th July 2014



List of shark species set out in the CITES Appendices

No.	English Name	Scientific Name	Appendix
1	Sawfishes	<i>Pristidae</i> spp.	I
2	Whale shark	<i>Rhincodon typus</i>	II
3	Great hammerhead shark	<i>Sphyrna mokarran</i>	
4	Scalloped hammerhead shark	<i>Sphyrna lewini</i>	
5	Smooth hammerhead shark	<i>Sphyrna zygaena</i>	
6	Oceanic white tip shark	<i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i>	
7	Porbeagle shark	<i>Lamna nasus</i>	
8	Basking shark	<i>Cetorhinus maximus</i>	
9	Great white shark	<i>Carcharodon carcharias</i>	
10	Mantas	<i>Manta</i> spp.	