

2ND MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SINGLE SPECIES ACTION PLAN FOR
THE ANGELSHARK IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA (ANGELSHARK MED WG2)
Bonn, Germany, 3 December 2026

1ST MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SINGLE SPECIES ACTION PLAN FOR THE ANGELSHARK IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA

MEETING SUMMARY AND ACTION POINTS 21 JULY 2025

(Prepared by the Secretariat)

1. This document summarizes the outcomes of the 1st Meeting of the Working Group on implementing the Single Species Action Plan for the Angel Shark in the Mediterranean, organized by CMS with various participants. A full report will be prepared for COP15.

Agenda Item 1: Opening of the Meeting

2. The meeting was opened by Melanie Virtue from the CMS Secretariat. The Secretariat (Andrea Pauly) chaired the first meeting in the absence of an elected Chair and Vice Chair.

Agenda Item 2: Adoption of the Agenda

3. The agenda, which had been shortened to accommodate the online format, was reviewed and adopted with no objections.

Agenda Item 3: Reports

4. The Secretariat reported on activities since the adoption of the SSAP at COP14. The Report was noted by the Meeting.

Agenda Item 4: Monitoring

4.1 Summary of Reports on Implementation by Range States

5. A Summary of reports on implementation by Range States, which included draft recommendations for future implementation of the SSAP, was presented.

Action Points:

- **The Secretariat** to update the summary of reports, including additional national reports, submitted after the deadline, and to remove reports not submitted by governments.

- **The Secretariat** to circulate the updated summary of reports, including the draft recommendations for future implementation of the SSAP for review by Range States (done, below).
 - **The WG** to provide comments, in particular regarding the recommendations to COP15.
 - **Document for commenting by 10 September 2025:** UNEP/CMS/Angelshark WG1/Doc.4.1/Rev.1 [Summary of reports on implementation by Range States](#)
6. Comments will be consolidated into a final version that will be brought to the attention of COP15.

4.2 Options for data sharing

7. The Angel Shark Conservation Network (ASCN) presented data sharing tools and proposed to manage data for the group. The need for a protocol balancing data confidentiality and utility was agreed.

Action Points:

- **The Secretariat** to develop a draft Decision for consideration at COP15, asking the Secretariat to create a data sharing protocol that balances confidentiality and utility for Angel Shark data.

Agenda Item 5: Spatial Management

8. The Angel Shark Project presented spatial advice using habitat models and mapping of Critical Angel Shark Areas, showing that more than 90% such areas lack effective MPA coverage. A recommendation was made to increase MPA coverage of these areas to at least 10%, supported by an interactive map tool for spatial planning.

Action Points:

- **The Secretariat** to recirculate the document for review by Range States (done, below).
 - **Range States** to inform the Secretariat whether the recommendation to increase MPA coverage of Critical Angel Shark Areas to at least 10% should be included in the proposals submitted to COP.
 - **Document for commenting by 10 September 2025:** UNEP/CMS/Angelshark WG1/Doc.5.1/Rev.1 [Advice for Spatial Management of Angel Sharks in the Mediterranean](#)
9. Comments will be consolidated into the final version that will be brought to the attention of COP15.

Agenda Item 6: Review of the Single Species Action Plan for the Angelshark in the Mediterranean Sea

6.1 Review of Annex III of the SSAP

10. The process for updating Annex III of the SSAP "Legislation Relevant to the Conservation of Angelshark (*Squatina squatina*)" was introduced.

Action Points:

- **The Secretariat** to update Annex III of the SSAP based on national reports received and to circulate the document for review by Range States (done, below).
- **Range States** to review Annex III.
 - **Document for commenting by 10 September 2025:** [UNEP/CMS/Angelshark WG1/Doc.6.1 Annex III: Single Species Action Plan for the Angelshark \(*Squatina squatina*\) in the Mediterranean Sea](#)

11. Comments will be consolidated into the final version that will be brought to the attention of COP15.

6.1 Review of Annex IV of the SSAP

12. The Shark Trust introduced Annex IV of the SSAP "Tools and Guidelines to Support Implementation of the SSAP", which was introduced as a dynamic, web-based living document compiling identification, management, safe release, and reporting resources, available in multiple languages and formats, including an educational animation.

Action Points:

- **The Secretariat** to recirculate the document for review by the WG (done, below).
- **The WG** to provide additional materials as available to be added to Annex IV and to identify additional needs or areas for further refinement of the tools and guidelines.
 - **Document for commenting by 10 September 2025:** [UNEP/CMS/Angelshark WG1/Doc.6.2/Annex Annex IV "Tools and Guidelines to Support Implementation of the SSAP](#)

13. Comments will be consolidated into the final version that will be brought to the attention of COP15.

Agenda Item 7: Programme of Work

14. The draft Programme of Work (2025–2026) was introduced, outlining activities for the coordination and implementation of the SSAP. Project proposals submitted by ASCN members were included for consideration by Range States.

Action Points:

- **The Secretariat** to recirculate the document for review by Range States (done, below).

- **Range States** to provide comments, assess the project proposals submitted by ASCN partners and consider those for direct funding.
 - **Document for commenting by 10 September 2025:** UNEP/CMS/Angelshark WG1/Doc.7.1 [Draft Programme of Work](#)

15. The comments will be consolidated into a final version for the WG. COP15 endorsement is not required, so submission to COP15 is not planned.

Agenda Item 8: Institutional Matters

16. The WG discussed and endorsed a draft governance structure, with nominations for chair and vice-chair to be sought from range states. Spain nominated Eva Myers as coordinator, supported by Croatia without opposition. The proposed budget includes funding for both coordination and project implementation.

Action Points:

- **The Secretariat** to recirculate the document for review by Range States (done, below).
- **Range States** to provide comments on Annex 2 of the document only. Annex 1 was already endorsed during the meeting.
- **Range States** to nominate a Chair and Vice Chair of the WG. Self-nominations are welcome.
 - **Document for commenting by 10 September 2025:** UNEP/CMS/Angelshark WG1/Doc.8.1 [Draft Governance Structure](#)

Agenda Items 9 – 12 Next Steps and Closure of the Meeting

17. The meeting closed with thanks and a reminder for continued engagement and support. The Secretariat agreed to prepare the meeting report, update annexes, and circulate documents for comments. The meeting looked forward to ongoing collaboration for Angelshark conservation.

Annex

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Party Range States

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