

General Circular

General Circular 04/2014

An important update from the NSW Food Authority (the Authority) for all NSW seafood processor licensees.

Effective 14 September 2014 – permits will be required for the international import and export of any part or derivative of several shark species.

Background

From **14 September 2014**, under national environment law, the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, all seafood processing businesses will require a Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) permit to internationally export or import any part or derivative (e.g. fillets, fins) of the following species:

- **Scalloped hammerhead shark (*Sphyrna lewini*)**
- **Smooth hammerhead shark (*Sphyrna zygaena*)**
- **Great hammerhead shark (*Sphyrna mokarran*)**
- **Oceanic whitetip shark (*Carcharhinus longimanus*)**
- **Porbeagle shark (*Lamna nasus*)**

What do I need to do?

- Apply for a CITES permit by completing a *Wildlife Trade Permit Application*. Permits will allow an unlimited number of export or import shipments (in accordance with your quotas) within a six month period. Contact CITES directly (contact details below) to obtain a *Wildlife Trade Permit Application*.
 - Your permit application will need to include supporting evidence to prove the source of your shark product. This should include a copy of your fishery licence; or for processors or on-sellers, an invoice etc. to show which fishery the shark products are from.
 - Applications for export permits and import permits are currently \$156. Permits for perishable goods or shark product caught outside Australia's fishing zone are \$313.
 - Permits must be obtained prior to the export or import of product and may take up to 40 business days to be issued.
 - Permits may only be issued for a maximum period of six months.
- Once the permit has been issued and you receive the original copy, you can then begin exporting and/or importing.
- When exporting or importing, the shark species must be individually listed on any packaging or accompanying shipping documentation (these species are not allowed to be included under general shark labelling).

For further information or to obtain a *Wildlife Trade Permit Application*, please contact:

Wildlife Trade Regulation Section

Department of the Environment

CITES Management Authority of Australia

Telephone: +61 2 6274 1900 (select Option 3)

Email: wildlifetrade@environment.gov.au

Website: <http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/wildlife-trade/cites>

General enquiries regarding this requirement can be directed to:

Contact	Phone	Fax
NSW Food Authority Consumer & Industry Helpline contact@foodauthority.nsw.gov.au www.foodauthority.nsw.gov.au	1300 552 406	02 9741 4888