



## **DRAFT for Comment**

# **Second Workshop on Combatting Illegal Wildlife Trade: Sharks and Stingrays**

On March 3-4, 2021, Canada and Mexico co-led the first CPTPP Workshop on Combatting Illegal Wildlife Trade, which focused on turtles and tortoises. This event was a success, with more than 180 representatives from CPTPP member countries and expert organizations attending it. The leaders of Canada and Mexico noted this during the North American Leaders' Summit in Mexico City in January 2023, and they committed for both countries to continue this type of cooperation. As a result, Canada and Mexico would like to propose to hold a second edition of the workshop in 2023, this time focusing on sharks and stingrays.

### **WHY SHARKS AND STINGRAYS**

Experts estimate the value of illegal wildlife trade to amount to billions of dollars. The high demand for shark fins and meat in international markets make these species highly susceptible to overfishing, with more than a third of species being threatened with extinction. The exploitation of sharks and rays rids marine ecosystems of key predators from food chains, which threatens local livelihoods and food security. Although the shark and ray trade provides a livelihood for millions of people, traceability and sustainability safeguards are lacking in all global trade chains. This makes it important to share information on best practices and current efforts in the protection of sharks and rays, and their respective illegal trade.

### **OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP**

The workshop aims to continue strengthening capacities for inspection, sampling and monitoring of transboundary movements, as well as the identification of protected sharks and stingrays. The workshop will provide opportunities for international collaboration to combat illegal wildlife trade, enable participants to share current policy ideas and frameworks for addressing inland navigation, and develop recommendations to address the illegal trade of sharks and stingrays in the Trans-Pacific Region. It will also allow to learn from CPTPP members' perspectives and best practices to combat illegal wildlife trade, while establishing a network of professionals specialized in the field.

### **FORMAT**

Jointly hosted by Canada and Mexico, the webinar will take place over two half-days (three-hour sessions) in early May using Zoom as the preferred online platform. The workshop will be divided in three sections: Technology and Science, Law Enforcement and Borders, and Public Policy and Regulation. The webinar will be conducted in English and Spanish, with simultaneous interpretation.