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One of the smaller species of hammerhead sharks, bonnetheads are distinguishable by their shovel-shaped heads. Bonnetheads are migratory species and have suffered dramatic loss of habitat and their fins are mixed with other endangered hammerhead sharks.

We urge listing with the entire family Sphyrnidae in Proposal 37 under CITES Appendix II.

## IUCN RED LIST - ENDANGERED w/ DECREASING POPULATION (2019) ↓

- As of 2020, the IUCN has listed Bonnethead sharks as endangered with populations decreasing. The current population numbers are largely depleted with medium recovery potential.<sup>1</sup>
- Bonnethead sharks have experienced a decline of 50- 79% globally within the last three generations.<sup>2</sup>
- The bonnethead shark is commonly found in continental and insular shelves over mud and sand, sea grass, coral reefs, estuaries, shallow bays, and channels in the central and southern Atlantic and pacific, from shore to 90m depth.<sup>3</sup>
- Bonnetheads are vulnerable to habitat loss from coastal development<sup>4, 5, 6</sup> such as residential and commercial development, disturbance, and pollution as well as agriculture and aquaculture activities.<sup>4, 5, 6</sup>
- Pressure from fishing, both direct and incidental have had an impact on bonnethead sharks.<sup>5</sup> Bycatch from gillnets, demersal trawls as well as recreational hook and line are most affecting this species.<sup>1</sup>
- On average, bonnethead litter sizes range from 4-14 shark pups, and measure approximately 21.5 - 29.7 cm (0.7-1ft).<sup>1</sup> This makes them an easy target for both demersal trawls in seagrass ecosystems, and larger predators.<sup>7</sup>
- The fins from this shark are similar in shape, and can often be confused with other endangered hammerhead species in the shark fin trade, and are considered a look-alike species.<sup>8, 9</sup>
- Recent studies show that sharks in the Hammerhead family (scalloped, smooth, great hammerhead, and bonnethead sharks) are among the top 5 most fished shark species in the Hong Kong shark fin market.<sup>8, 9, 10, 11</sup>



Geographic Range of Bonnethead Shark (image CITES)

- If the population of this species is to recover, fisheries and the shark fin trade must be sustainably managed to regulate bonnethead and other hammerhead species from entering the global market.<sup>1, 12, 13</sup>
- Additionally, coastal development must be better managed in regard to pollution and marine habitat destruction.<sup>1, 12, 13</sup>

Species being proposed under Annex 2b, Criterion A as lookalikes for *S. tiburo*, *S. lewini*, *S. mokarran*, and *S. zygaena*. Note that each species is considered to be a lookalike of at least one other species within the family.<sup>2</sup>

Scientific Name	Common Name	IUCN Red List Status
<i>Sphyrna media</i> (Springer, 1940)	EN: Scoophead shark FR: Requin-marteau écope ES: Tiburón martillo cuchara	Critically Endangered, with overfishing (Pollom <i>et al.</i> , 2020c)
<i>Sphyrna tudes</i> (Valenciennes, 1822)	EN: Smalleye hammerhead shark FR: Requin-marteau à petits yeux ES: Tiburón martillo ojichico	Critically Endangered, with overfishing (Pollom <i>et al.</i> , 2020d)
<i>Sphyrna corona</i> (Springer, 1940)	EN: Scalloped bonnethead shark FR: Requin-Marteau cornu ES: Tiburón martillo coronado	Critically Endangered, with overfishing (Pollom <i>et al.</i> , 2020b)
<i>Sphyrna gilberti</i> Quattro, Driggers, Grady, Ulrich & M.A. Roberts, 2013	EN: Carolina hammerhead shark	Data Deficient (Vander Wright <i>et al.</i> , 2020)
<i>Eusphyra blochii</i> (Cuvier, 1816) <i>(= Zygæna laticeps</i> Hasselt, 1823; <i>Zygæna laticeps</i> Cantor, 1837; <i>Sphyrna blochii</i> )	EN: Winghead shark FR: Requin-marteau planeur ES: Cornuda planeadora	Endangered, with overfishing (Smart & Simpfendorfer, 2016)



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#### Bonnethead (*Sphyrna cf. tiburo*)

**Apex:** broad, pointed  
**Height/Base ratio:** height<base  
**Free rear tip:** present  
**Color:** white  
**Texture:** smooth  
**Details:** point on apex can be inconspicuous in smaller fins, small and large fins alike.

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-Prepared by David McGuire

**Due to their endangered status, low reproductive capacity, loss of habitat, and look alike status in the shark fin trade, bonnethead sharks are recommended for listing with the entire (Sphyrnidae) family under Proposal 38 for Appendix II**