



SPA W Protocol Updates

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What is “SPA W”?



- SPA W = Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife
- It is the “biodiversity protocol” under the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment in the Wider Caribbean Region aka the **Cartagena Convention**
- Only legally binding regional environmental treaty for the Wider Caribbean Region
- Relevant areas include Puerto Rico, USVI, and peninsular Florida (including Atlantic coast, Florida Keys, and Gulf of Mexico)



What is "SPA W"?



Two main objectives:

- Protect, preserve, and sustainably manage fragile areas and threatened or endangered species of flora and fauna
- Regulate and/or prohibit activities having adverse effects on protected areas and wildlife



What is "SPAW"?



Comprised of three Annexes:

Ensures "total protection" with limited exemptions

- **Annex I** – includes endangered and threatened plant species (53 spp.)
- **Annex II** – includes endangered and threatened species of animals (114 spp. + 3 groups including all sea turtles and marine mammals in the region)
- **Annex III** – includes both plants and animals (43 spp of plants; 32 species of animals)

Ensures protection and recovery while authorizing regulated use



7th Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee Meeting (STAC7)



- Hosted by United States in Miami from Nov 2-4, 2016
- The STAC reviews proposals for new species listings and makes recommendations to the Conference of Parties (COP)
 - United States Government proposed Nassau grouper for Annex III
 - Caribbean Netherlands proposed smalltooth sawfish, oceanic whitetip shark, and whale shark for Annex II; 3 spp. of manta rays and 3 spp. of hammerheads for Annex III

Final Species Decisions Adopted by SPAW COP9 Cayenne, French Guiana, March 2017

Annex II	Annex III
Smalltooth sawfish	Nassau grouper (U.S. proposal)
	Oceanic whitetip shark
	Whale shark
	3 spp. of manta ray
	3 spp. of hammerhead shark

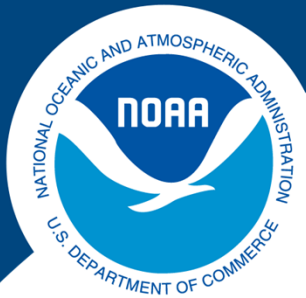


What does an Annex III listing mean?

Under Annex III:

- Parties shall adopt appropriate measures to ensure the protection and recovery of species and may regulate the sustainable use of such species
- Parties shall, in cooperation with other Parties, formulate, adopt and implement management plans for use of such species, including:
 - Prohibiting all non-selective means of capture, killing, hunting and fishing and of all actions likely to cause local disappearance of a species or serious disturbance of its tranquility;
 - Implementing closed hunting and fishing seasons and other measures for maintaining populations;
 - Regulating the taking, possession, transport or sale of living or dead species, their eggs, parts or products

Provides a mechanism to collaborate with other Parties to develop regional management and conservation strategies of shared resources



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Questions?



Contact: Chelsey Young – Chelsey.young@noaa.gov