



## MARIPOLDATA Ocean Seminar Series

### CITES and the Sea

Wednesday, October 20, 10:00 – 11:30am (CEST)

Venue: Online

The Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, short CITES, enjoys a reputation as one of the most effective international conservation tools and with 183 Parties, it is also one of the most universal agreements of its kind. CITES mandate is to regulate international trade in species listed on its Appendices to ensure that such trade is “not detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild”.

When CITES was negotiated and subsequently signed in 1973 its drafters clearly recognized the potential application of the Convention for marine species and included provisions specific to that context. The most notable of those is “Introduction from the Sea” (IFS), which effectively gives CITES a mandate to regulate some high seas activities.

Despite this, CITES saw limited use in the international fisheries context with the exception of a few regionally important fisheries such as Queen Conch in the Caribbean. CITES CoP16 (Bangkok, 2013) proved to be a game-changer when Parties agreed on how to implement “Introduction from the Sea” in practice and decided to add several species of commercially-exploited sharks and manta rays to the CITES Appendices. This trend was continued for subsequent CoPs (CoP17, Johannesburg, 2016; CoP18, Geneva, 2019), accompanied by dedicated capacity building from a range of actors to assist Parties implement CITES for marine species.

This presentation will start off with a brief overview of key CITES’ provisions, the history of marine species listings and insights from the related implementation support and capacity building activities. The second part of the presentation will discuss lessons learned from CITES against the backdrop of current policy processes and draw on two examples, a proposed wildlife protocol under the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC), and the new agreement on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ).



**Daniel Kachelriess** is Senior Policy Specialist at Sea Shepherd Legal and has previously served in several roles at the interface between science, policy and law, including as Marine Species Officer at the CITES Secretariat and as Advisor to the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Maldives. In 2018 he attended the Rhodes Academy of Oceans Law and Policy.

The monthly [MARIPOLDATA Ocean Seminar Series](#) offer a virtual space to get information and engage in exchanges on ocean governance issues, through presentations by international experts from academia, governments, international organisations and civil society. It is organized by the MARIPOLDATA project.

**To register:** via email to [ina.tessnow-vonwyssocki@univie.ac.at](mailto:ina.tessnow-vonwyssocki@univie.ac.at), indicating your name and institution. You will receive an email with further information and the link to participate in the virtual space

**More information:** <https://www.maripoldata.eu/newsevents/#oceanseminarseries>