



Society for Conservation Biology

A global community of conservation professionals

03rd September, 2015

Exma. Ministra do Meio Ambiente, **Sra. Isabella Teixeira**

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Exmo. Ministro da Pesca e Aquicultura, **Sr. Helder Barbalho**

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Dear Isabella Teixeira and Helder Barbalho,

On behalf of the Marine and Latin American and Caribbean Sections of the Society for Conservation Biology (SCB), we write you with regard to the Ordinance n° 445/2014, which defined the National Red List of fish and aquatic invertebrates threatened with extinction in Brazil. We recognize the tremendous effort resulted of five years of thorough assessments, the involvement of hundreds of specialists and the gathering of the most relevant information available. We congratulate the Brazilian government for taking a much needed step in promoting the conservation of endangered species in the country.

The Red List included a total of 97 marine fish species, from bony fish to elasmobranchs, some of which that are commercially important in Brazil and other countries. Unfortunately, the Red List was suspended in June 11, 2015. The suspension not only devalues the great investment in assessing these species, both in terms of effort and financial resources, but also removes any protection that these endangered species would receive in Brazilian waters.

We acknowledge that while the Red List may appear as a barrier to the fishing industry, the establishment of more restrictive measures will help ensure the long term conservation of these valuable species. We also acknowledge that the maintenance of the Red List will help to stop the exploitation of threatened species, particularly those listed as Endangered and Critically Endangered, until additional management policies are established to promote stocks recovery. Best practices common to the preservation of targeted species include continuous monitoring of fishing activities, fishermen and vessels along the Brazilian coast, the establishment of catch quotas and continuous participatory management of target species, particularly of overexploited and/or endangered species.

We believe that the joint work of both the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquiculture will help promoting and implementing these important best practices. Additionally, we strongly recommend the re-establishment of Ordinance n° 445/2014, and that management policies are established considering the Ordinance and its regulations. We acknowledge that the scientific expertise used in assessing these endangered species are of great value to foster setting science-based guidelines for such policies.



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SCB is an international professional organization whose mission is to advance the science and practice of conserving the Earth's biological diversity, support the dissemination of conservation science, and increase the application of science to management and policy. Numbering in the thousands worldwide, the Society's membership comprises of a wide range of people interested in the conservation and study of biological ecosystems, including but not limited to, resource managers, educators, government and private conservation workers, and students. SCB, through its membership, is capable of engaging diverse constituents and providing many resources necessary for a positive change towards sustainability, from developing new applied methods and techniques for conservation, to advocacy efforts, to science and conservation education.

Sincerely,

John A. Cigliano, PhD,
President, Marine Section, Society for Conservation Biology

Rurik List, D. Phil.