

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



Sixty-second meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 23-27 July 2012

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Species trade and conservation

Sturgeons

CAVIAR TRADE DATABASE

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP14) on *Conservation of and trade in sturgeons and paddlefish* contains the following instruction under the first RECOMMENDS, paragraph k):

the Secretariat shall submit a written progress report at each meeting of the Standing Committee on the operation of the UNEP-WCMC caviar trade database.

3. At its 61st meeting (Geneva, August 2011), the Standing Committee agreed that the regular reporting on this item was no longer necessary but there was also general agreement that input to, and use of, the database remained important.
4. The Standing Committee agreed that the Secretariat should propose the deletion of the above recommendation from the text of the Resolution at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Until it is deleted, however, this recommendation remains in effect.
5. The Caviar Trade Database continues to be maintained by the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC). Recent trade and consequent input into the database have been limited, as zero export quotas for caviar of wild origin were published for the majority of sturgeon species for the quota year extending from 1 March 2011 to 29 February 2012¹ and, at the time of writing (May 2012), no export quotas for caviar had been published for the quota year 2012-2013. However, even with limited trade taking place, several of the major sturgeon range States are still failing to submit copies of permits soon after they are issued. In this context, it should be recalled that, in Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP14), the Conference of the Parties recommends that:

i) Parties supply to UNEP-WCMC directly or to the Secretariat copies of all export permits and re-export certificates issued to authorize trade in caviar, no longer than one month after they have been issued, for inclusion in the UNEP-WCMC caviar trade database.

6. In addition, UNEP-WCMC has noted occasional discrepancies between the quantity of caviar authorized for trade on a permit or certificate and the actual quantity traded. Although not uncommon in relation to the general permitting of trade in specimens of CITES-listed species, such discrepancies can lead to confusion and inaccuracies in the database. Consequently, if an issuing authority establishes that the amount actually (re-)exported differed from the amount indicated on the permit (for example, when a copy permit or certificate is returned by Customs), it is encouraged to notify UNEP-WCMC of this difference, so that the database records may be amended accordingly.

¹ See <http://www.cites.org/common/quotas/2011/SturgeonQuotas2011.pdf>.

Recommendation

7. The Standing Committee is invited to note this report.