

July 2003

CITES Secretariat  
International Environment House  
Chemin des Anémones  
CH-1219 Châtelaine, Geneva  
SWITZERLAND

**Re: Comments on draft CITES / FAO Memorandum of Understanding**

Dear Secretariat

Australia considers that the draft Memorandum of Understanding provided for comment in Notification to the Parties 2003/030 provides a balanced and acceptable approach to formalising the relationship between CITES and the FAO. It clearly recognises the jurisdictional primacies of both entities, and contains no limitations to their legal mandates.

Australia rejected at the 25th meeting of COFI (February 2003), and continues to reject, any attempt to limit the capacity of CITES to provide complementary arrangements for the conservation and sustainable use of commercially exploited finfish, by including text along the following lines in any Memorandum of Understanding between CITES and the FAO:

Listings of commercially exploited aquatic species would only take place in exceptional circumstances and with the agreement of the relevant RFMO.

Australia is grateful to the Secretariat and the Standing Committee for their work in preparing this draft, and for providing the Parties with an opportunity to comment on its development.

Yours sincerely

Anne-Marie Delahunt  
Assistant Secretary  
Wildlife Branch  
CITES Management Authority of Australia