

Consideration of Proposals for Amendment of Appendices I and II

Other Proposals

CONSERVATION OF STURGEONS (ACIPENSERIDAE)

1. This draft resolution has been submitted by the Russian Federation in relation with proposal Prop. 10.65.

Doc. 10.91 Annex

DRAFT RESOLUTION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Conservation of Sturgeons (Acipenseridae)

AWARE that Sturgeons represent a very valuable renewable biological resource;

RECOGNISING that in recent years their numbers status has been affected by such negative anthropogenic factors as regulation of flow, decrease in natural spawning sites, poach fishing and illegal trade in sturgeon caviar and products;

RECOGNISING also that some range States are not yet Parties to CITES and this fact could adversely affect the conservation of sturgeons;

NOTING that more scientific studies are urgently needed in order to assess the sustainability of sturgeon fisheries management;

CONSIDERING that range States of sturgeons are in need of funds in order to develop management programmes for sturgeons conservation;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

URGES those Parties and countries that are range States of the family *Acipenseridae* to:

- a) encourage scientific research to promote the sustainability of sturgeon fisheries through management programmes;
- b) curtail the actual illegal fishing and export of sturgeon species by improving the enforcement of existing laws regulating fisheries and export in close contact with the CITES Secretariat, INTERPOL and World Customs Organization;
- c) explore ways of enhancing the participation of representatives of the sturgeon branches of fisheries in the conservation and sustainable-use programmes for sturgeon species;

- d) promote regional agreements between range States of sturgeon species aiming at proper management and sustainable utilization of sturgeons;

RECOMMENDS:

- a) Parties when providing the CITES Secretariat with copies of applicable legislation on CITES to include legislation on sturgeon species particularly referring to the export of personal effects (property);
- b) range States to inform the Secretariat about legal exporters of sturgeon parts and derivatives;
- c) importing countries to be particularly vigilant in controlling sturgeon products unloading of;
- d) to develop a uniform marking system for aquaculture stocks to assist in subsequent identification of these fish species and to enhance aquaculture operations to aid recovery of sturgeon populations;
- e) range States which utilize sturgeon species in commercial purposes to develop projects to ensure scientific, organization and practical measures to implement international control mechanism by reason of sturgeon species inclusion in CITES Appendix II; and
- f) Parties considers the harmonization of their national legislations related to the exemptions given for personal effects as caviar is concerned;

REQUEST the CITES Secretariat, through external funding, to develop a project for the implementation of a strategy on conservation of sturgeons which should include the recommendations; and

URGES Parties, International Organizations, United Nations Specialized Agencies as well as Intergovernmental and non governmental organizations to aid financially projects developed on sturgeon species by the range States in collaboration with the CITES Secretariat.