



**Western Pacific workshop on policy, enforcement and sustainable trade for
the CITES Appendix II listed Humphead/Napoleon wrasse, *Cheilinus undulatus*
5-7 June 2006, Hong Kong**

AC22 Inf. 6 (Rev.)
(English only/Únicamente en inglés/Seulement en anglais)

This document has been submitted by the CITES Secretariat.

Provisional Draft - Recommendations for Regional Cooperation

At the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), held in Bangkok in October 2004, the Humphead or Napoleon Wrasse, *Cheilinus undulatus*, was included in Appendix II. The proposal from Fiji, Ireland (on behalf of the European Union) and the United States of America was adopted by consensus.

Continuing in the spirit of consensus, the 'Western Pacific Workshop on policy, enforcement and sustainable trade for the CITES Appendix II listed Humphead/Napoleon Wrasse, *Cheilinus undulatus*' was held in Hong Kong, Special Administrative Region (SAR) of the People's Republic of China, from 5 to 7 June 2006. Participants included delegates from CITES Management and Scientific Authorities, and other relevant agencies from China (including Hong Kong SAR), Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea and the Philippines. Participants also included representatives of the CITES Secretariat, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), local trade representatives, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), the World Conservation Union (IUCN), and Trade Records Analysis of Flora and Fauna in Commerce (TRAFFIC).

The CITES Appendix-II listing provides opportunities for regional agreement and collaboration on conservation and sustainable use of Humphead Wrasse. The workshop was designed to review practical issues in the implementation of the listing, in particular management procedures to ensure a sustainable and legal international trade in Humphead Wrasse in compliance with CITES. The workshop was cordial and productive, and led to agreement on several areas for further actions.

Recommendations

Regional cooperation. The inclusion of Humphead Wrasse in CITES provides challenges to both exporting and importing countries to fully comply with all provisions of the Convention. Successful management needs joint efforts, with governments working together to implement the listing. Effective implementation will further rely on the cooperation, mutual understanding, and support of all stakeholders. Recommended actions for regional cooperation include:

- Beginning in 2007, regularly meet as needed to discuss the opportunities and challenges with regards to policy, research, management, enforcement and outreach for the conservation and sustainable use of Humphead Wrasse.
- Extend regional cooperation through existing structures, such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) (e.g. ASEAN Experts Groups on CITES, ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN) and ASEAN Plus Three), the Fisheries Working Group of the Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC), the Fisheries Subcommittee of the Sulu-Sulawesi Marine Ecoregion (SSME) Tri-national Committee, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC), the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention (WCPFC), etc.



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- Promote collaboration between fisheries agencies and CITES authorities at the national and regional level, and including international fisheries agencies such as FAO, expert non-governmental organisations (e.g. IUCN, TRAFFIC, WWF) and research institutions.
- Develop a generic fisheries management framework that can assist CITES Management and Scientific Authorities and fisheries management agencies in responsible exploitation of Humphead Wrasse, taking into account the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.
- Ensure that management frameworks detail basic goals for conservation and sustainable use, involvement of local fishing communities, essential fisheries research, acceptable levels of exploitation, the protection of spawning aggregations, the protection of juveniles and the protection of critical habitat.
- Develop guidance on mariculture of Humphead Wrasse, including protection of juveniles, reduction of mortality rates during grow-out, regulations for mariculture operations, etc. For the purposes of non-detriment findings (NDFs), a clear distinction is needed between wild-caught and captive-bred (hatchery-reared) fish, and attempts to protect wild sources of broodstock would be advisable.
- Enhance day-to-day cooperation through circulation of a formalised individual contact list.

CITES non-detriment findings and research needs (including mariculture). NDFs and permitting based on such NDFs are matters of high priority to ensure sustainable and legal trade in accordance with CITES. A workshop in Indonesia, which took place on 14-15 February 2006, held great promise in devising a working system for NDFs. This was explored in-depth during the Western Pacific workshop (Hong Kong, June 5-7, 2006) by IUCN and FAO. Further, mariculture holds great long-term promise for Humphead Wrasse but does not appear to be a short- or medium-term solution. Recommended actions for CITES non-detriment findings and research needs include:

- Promote collaborative research among countries, research institutions and organisations, including WWF, IUCN, and TRAFFIC.
- Ensure that research addresses critical issues such as the distribution and density of Humphead Wrasse populations, assessment of the benefits of marine protected areas and no take zones, the impact of different production systems on wild populations, Total Allowable Catch (TAC), minimum size considerations, trade statistics and trade routes, etc.
- In some cases, the implementation of national level action plans and/or the creation of national working groups (CITES authorities, fisheries departments, law enforcement agencies) may be useful. This includes inter-agency cooperation on multiple levels, from local to national.
- Develop by end 2007 non-compulsory guidelines for the making of NDFs in consultation with range States and with the technical advice of the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) Groupers and Wrasses Specialist Group and FAO. These guidelines can be considered by range States that harvest and export Humphead Wrasse.



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- Based on appropriate research, frame guidelines as a 'risk assessment' checklist, outlining step-wise protocols for conducting CITES NDFs and determinations of annual quotas at national and provincial levels.
- Promote practical solutions to ensure conservation benefits from mariculture, in collaboration with regional mariculture institutes, particularly Network of Aquaculture Centres in the Asia-Pacific (NACA).

Trade monitoring, legislation and law enforcement. Appropriate legal frameworks, monitoring systems, and law enforcement are all needed for effective CITES implementation. Enforcement issues pertaining to CITES and marine resources are relatively new. Recommended actions for improved trade monitoring, legislation and law enforcement cooperation include:

- Adopt adequate legislation and regulations to ensure full implementation of CITES provisions for trade in Humphead Wrasse and develop guiding policies for the disposal of seized and confiscated specimens.
- Develop standardised trade monitoring protocols at national and international levels, and disseminate key information such as species identification tools amongst relevant monitoring agencies and law enforcement officers.
- Train relevant national law enforcement agencies.
- Promote the exchange of intelligence regarding illegal trade in Humphead Wrasse.
- Cooperate at a regional level to prevent illegal trans-shipment at sea, outside territorial waters, of Humphead Wrasse.
- Collaborate with fishermen and traders to ensure effective enforcement.

Outreach. The conservation and sustainable use of Humphead Wrasse will benefit from the cooperation of relevant stakeholder groups, particularly in the promotion of legal trade. This requires outreach to the fishing community, traders, and the general public. Recommended actions for outreach include:

- Undertake awareness and advocacy initiatives, including those by NGOs such as WWF, targeted to specific stakeholder groups, in particular fisheries associations, trade associations and consumers.
- Collaborate closely with the fisheries industry, including traders, to ensure that procedures to implement the CITES listing achieve conservation goals while not placing undue burdens on the fisheries industry.

The workshop agreed to continue this dialogue on conservation and sustainable use of Humphead Wrasse, work together for the effective implementation of the CITES listing, give sincere efforts toward open and mutual information exchange, and engage the widest range of stakeholders possible to ensure good management of this species.



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List of participating organisations

Guangzhou Branch Office of the Endangered Species Import and Export Management Office, China

Division of Aquatic Wild Fauna and Fauna and Flora Administration, China Fishery Law Enforcement Command Aquatic Wild Fauna and Flora Administrative Office, Ministry of Agriculture, China

Resources and Environment Administration Division, Guangdong Provincial Bureau of Ocean and Fisheries, China

Guangdong Sub-Administration General Administration of Customs, China Customs, China

Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, Hong Kong SAR, China

Fish Marketing Organization, Hong Kong SAR, China (tbc)

Customs & Excise Department, Hong Kong SAR, China

Research Center of Oceanography, Indonesian Institute of Science, Indonesia

Oceanography Research Centre of Indonesia, National Institute of Science, Indonesia

Centre for Fish Quarantine, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Indonesia

Directorate General of Marine Coast, and Small Islands, Directorate Conservation and Marine National Park, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Indonesia

Fish Health & Quarantine Section, Department of Fisheries, Malaysia,

Licensing & Resources Management Division, Department of Fisheries, Malaysia,

Department of Fisheries, Sabah, Malaysia

National Fisheries Authority, Papua New Guinea

Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Philippines

Research and Policy Division, Office of the President, Palawan Council for Sustainable Development, Philippines

Scientific Support Unit, CITES Secretariat

Fishery Resources Division, UN FAO

Hong Kong Chamber of Seafood Merchants Ltd, Hong Kong SAR, China

Crown Fame Development Ltd, Hong Kong SAR, China (tbc)

IUCN Species Survival Commission, Specialist Group for Groupers and Wrasses,

TRAFFIC Southeast Asia

TRAFFIC East Asia

WWF Indonesia

WWF Hong Kong

WWF Malaysia

WWF Philippines