

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



Twenty-third meeting of the Animals Committee
Geneva, (Switzerland), 19-24 April 2008

EVALUATION OF THE ASSESSMENT AND MONITORING METHODOLOGIES USED FOR STOCKS OF
ACIPENSERIFORMES SPECIES SHARED BETWEEN DIFFERENT RANGE STATES (AGENDA ITEM 13.2)

Membership (as decided by the Committee)

- Chairman: Mohammad Pourkazemi (Representative of Asia)
- Members: Parties: Azerbaijan, Canada, China, France, Germany, Kazakhstan, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, United Kingdom, United States of America;
- IGOs: European Commission, FAO and IUCN; and
- NGOs: Association of Northeast Fish and Wildlife Agencies, TRAFFIC, IWMC, Pew Institute for Ocean Science.

Mandate

1. Review and discuss the assessment and monitoring methodologies for Acipenseriformes species from stocks shared between different range States.
2. Propose activities required to monitor progress on the relevant provisions of Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP14) and to carry out, on a three-year cycle starting in 2008, an evaluation of these methodologies. Define a workplan for this review.
3. Prepare a report to the Standing Committee with the Animal Committees' recommendations on actions to be taken based upon the above-mentioned monitoring of progress and three-year cycle evaluation.

Recommendations:

Recommendations were made on individual basins as follows for mandates 1 and 2 above in order of basin priority:

Caspian Sea

- The Animals Committee is asked to note that the working group confirmed that the existing stock assessment methodology as presented in AC23 Doc 13.2 is the one currently employed and has been used for several years.
- Urge the CITES Secretariat to promote the holding of a workshop to review existing sturgeon stock assessment / Total Allowable Catch (TAC) determination methodology and elaborate a

scientific methodology that is internationally acceptable, using the FAO review on the Caspian Sea stock assessment methodology.

- The participants should be stock assessment experts from range states, intergovernmental organizations (e.g. FAO and IUCN Sturgeon Specialist Group) and other appropriately qualified experts.
- The workshop is to take place as soon as possible in 2008 and the results and recommendations be presented at the next Animals Committee meeting in 2009.
- The Animals Committee to request the Secretariat to communicate its recommendations to FAO in order to encourage allocation of funding from the current FAO Technical Cooperation Program (TCP) for Caspian fisheries management to support the above-mentioned workshop. This request could be made at the upcoming joint FAO / World Bank Caspian Fisheries Technical Workshop in Rome, April 28-30.

Amur / Heilongjiang River

- The Animals Committee is asked to note that the documentation made available to its 23rd meeting was incomplete and / or was not up-to-date. The CITES Secretariat to ask the range States to provide to the Animals Committee the updated methodologies used in this basin if they have not so provided.
- The range States establish a joint uniform methodology on sturgeon stock assessment. We encourage these range states to discuss this in their next joint meeting in 2008 and to report on progress at the 24th Animals Committee meeting.
- This agreed methodology to be reviewed in a manner similar to that performed for the Caspian Sea assessment (by FAO if possible) as soon as it is established.
- Urge the CITES Secretariat to promote the holding of a workshop to review existing sturgeon stock assessment / Total Allowable Catch (TAC) determination methodology and elaborate a scientific methodology that is internationally acceptable, using the FAO review on the Amur River stock assessment methodology.
- The participants should be stock assessment experts from range states, intergovernmental organizations (e.g. FAO and IUCN Sturgeon Specialist Group) and other appropriately qualified experts.
- The workshop is to take place as soon as possible and the results and recommendations be presented at the subsequent Animals Committee meeting.

Black Sea, Danube River and Azov Sea

- The Animals Committee is asked to note that the documentation made available to its 23rd meeting did not contain an adequate explanation of the methodologies currently employed in the basins. The CITES Secretariat to ask the range States to provide to the Animals Committee the updated methodologies used in each basin.
- The range States to establish a joint uniform methodology for each basin on sturgeon stock assessment.
- These agreed methodologies to be reviewed in a manner similar to those performed for the Caspian Sea and Amur River assessments (by FAO if possible) as soon as possible.
- Urge the CITES Secretariat to promote the holding of a workshop to review existing sturgeon stock assessment / Total Allowable Catch (TAC) determination methodology and elaborate a scientific methodology that is internationally acceptable, using the FAO reviews on Caspian Sea and Amur River stock assessment methodology.

- The participants should be stock assessment experts from range states, intergovernmental organizations (e.g. FAO and IUCN Sturgeon Specialist Group) and other appropriately qualified experts.
- The workshop is to take place as soon as possible and the results and recommendations be presented at the subsequent Animals Committee meeting.

Funding

- Where external funding is needed, the Animals Committee is asked to request the Secretariat to pursue as a priority funding for these recommendations as per Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP 14) and Decision 14.125.

Mandate 3

- The Chair of the Animals Committee is requested to report to the Standing Committee on the progress of the work that has been achieved.