

## **NORWAY**

BELIEVING that there is a need to strengthen the process in CITES for scientific and technical evaluation of proposals for amendment of Appendices I and II concerning commercially exploited aquatic species;

RECALLING the recommendation in February 2002 of the COFI Sub-committee on Fish Trade, a subsidiary body to the FAO Committee on Fisheries, that a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) be established between FAO and CITES and the endorsement of the 25<sup>th</sup> session of COFI of this recommendation;

FURTHER RECALLING the decision of the Conference of the Parties to CITES at its 12th meeting in November 2002 directing the Standing Committee to conclude an MoU with FAO to establish a framework for cooperation;

CITES and FAO agree on the following scope and methods of cooperation.

### **Article 1**

#### **Scientific and technical evaluation of CITES listing proposals**

CITES and FAO shall develop a procedure for ensuring future FAO involvement in the scientific and technical evaluation of proposals for amending the appendices of the CITES Convention concerning commercially exploited aquatic species as well as draft resolutions and decisions related to commercially exploited aquatic species. In accordance with Article XV, paragraphs 1 and 2(b) of the Convention, the results of such evaluations by FAO shall be conveyed in full and addressed in the advice and recommendations of the CITES Secretariat to the Parties. Once agreed, the procedure shall be annexed to and considered part of this MoU.

### **Article 2**

#### **Capacity building for natural resource management**

- a) CITES and FAO shall cooperate as appropriate to promote capacity building in developing countries on issues relating to commercially exploited aquatic species listed on CITES Appendices.
- b) CITES and FAO shall communicate and exchange information regularly and bring to each other's attention areas of concern where there is a role for CITES or FAO to play or where there are implementation difficulties that need to be taken into consideration and addressed.

### **Article 3**

#### **Technical and legal issues of common interest**

- a) CITES and FAO shall identify and work together to address technical and legal issues of common interest.
- b) FAO will continue to provide advice to CITES and be involved in the process of revision of the listing criteria.

### **Article 4**

#### **Coordination of work**

- a) The Secretariats of CITES and FAO shall meet annually to discuss implementation of this MoU and, if required, to prepare joint work plans for carrying out specific activities. The results of these meetings shall be provided to the CITES Standing Committee and the FAO Sub-committee on Fish Trade for review and input and approval of any workplans.

- b) The Secretariats of CITES and FAO shall periodically report on work completed under the MoU to meetings of the Conference of the Parties to CITES and the FAO Committee on Fisheries.
- c) FAO will be invited as an observer to meetings under the auspices of CITES or its committees that are of common interest, and CITES will be invited as an observer to meetings of common interest held by the Fisheries Department of FAO, the FAO Committee on Fisheries or its subcommittees.

**Article 5**  
**General provisions**

- a) This MoU shall take effect on the date of signature by both CITES and FAO. It shall remain in force unless terminated by 90 days' written notice served by one upon the other, or replaced by another agreement. It may be amended by written mutual agreement of CITES and FAO.
- b) Neither CITES nor FAO shall be legally or financially liable in any way for activities carried out jointly or independently. Separate letters of agreement or other arrangements, with specific budgets and resource identification, will be concluded for individual activities involving the commitment of financial resources by either CITES or FAO.