

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

Thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Bangkok (Thailand), 2-14 October 2004

RESPONSE TO SECRETARIAT PAPER COP13 DOC. 36 (REV. 1)
REGARDING CONSERVATION OF AND TRADE IN *DISSOSTICHUS* SPECIES

1. This document has been prepared by Australia in response to CoP13 Doc. 36 (Rev. 1) by the Secretariat titled "Conservation of and trade in *Dissostichus* Species".
2. Australia has proposed the Revision of Resolution Conf. 12.4 on Cooperation between CITES and the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources regarding trade in toothfish.
3. In CoP13 Doc. 36 (Rev. 1) the Secretariat reported on the operation of Resolution Conf. 12.4 and made recommendations. Australia thanks the Secretariat for reporting on actions taken under Decisions 12.57, 12.58 and 12.59. Australia welcomes the recommendation of the Secretariat that information exchange and general cooperation between CITES and CCAMLR continue under Resolution Conf. 12.4.
4. Australia considers that Resolution Conf. 12.4 should be amended to incorporate on an ongoing basis the reporting required under Decisions 12.57 and 12.58, as suggested in Australia's working document on the Revision of Resolution Conf. 12.4.
5. While toothfish are not listed in the CITES appendices, there is still an important role for CITES to play in assisting in toothfish conservation. It is important that CITES plays a pro-active role in species conservation, including by consideration of trade issues relating to species that are not listed on the CITES appendices. Australia notes with interest that CITES has a long history of taking action on species not listed in an appendix, such as shark species and sygnathid species, and notes that consideration of issues relating to sea cucumber species continues in the absence of listing proposals.
6. Australia does not accept that there is little value in extending the reporting required under Decisions 12.57 and 12.58. The Decisions have been implemented only recently and Australia considers it too early to conclude that they have no value. Time should be given to allow these mechanisms to become better established. The low number of responses from CITES Parties may be expected to increase if the reporting requirement is established as ongoing.