

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



Nineteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Panama City (Panama), 14 – 25 November 2022

MARINE ORNAMENTAL FISHES

1. This information document is submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in relation to agenda item 80.*

The UK welcomes the decisions from the Animals Committee and is fully supportive of the convening of a technical workshop to consider the conservation priorities and managements needs related to the trade in non-CITES listed marine ornamental fish worldwide.

The UK also welcomes the Secretariat's comments on Doc. 80 to recognise the valuable role of industry representatives in this task.

Further to these comments, the UK recommends that a Terms of Reference (ToR) is agreed in consultation with interested stakeholders to ensure that all relevant issues are considered.

The UK therefore proposes the below ToR to aid with clarity in how the workshop will address the issues of trade in non-CITES listed marine ornamental fish.

Draft Terms of Reference for the planned marine ornamental fish workshop

Scope

The work should focus on international trade in live specimens of non-CITES listed coral reef fishes (fish which live amongst or in close relation to coral reefs that are found in the tropical and subtropical Western Atlantic and Indo-Pacific oceans, typically occurring between 30°N and 30°S latitudes), and on those species (including sharks and rays) that are caught and traded for display in public or private aquariums.

Attendees

The Animals Committee, representatives from range States, exporting, and importing countries, fishery stakeholders, industry representatives and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations will be invited to the workshop, and be asked to contribute relevant information and expertise.

Submission of documents

* *The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat (or the United Nations Environment Programme) concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.*

Any workshop materials, including the agenda, will be published in advance of the workshop.

Attendees for the workshop are invited to submit materials/documents for consideration prior to the workshop. Guidance on deadlines and format will be provided by the Secretariat.

Considerations

To consider the conservation priorities and management needs related to the trade in non-CITES listed marine ornamental fishes worldwide, based on findings and recommendations proposed in the 4 thematic studies:

Thematic study 1: International trade in non-CITES listed live coral reef fishes.

Thematic study 2: Biology and conservation status of the main non-CITES listed coral reef fishes traded internationally as live specimens.

Thematic study 3: Fisheries management of non-CITES listed live coral reef fishes in international trade.

Thematic study 4: Regulations for international trade in non-CITES listed live coral reef fishes and their enforcement.

In considering management needs, the workshop should consider:

- The limitations of existing data/knowledge and identify possible longer-term solutions
- The impacts of possible measures on the livelihoods of artisanal fishers and how they might be mitigated
- The ecological benefits of sustainable harvest.
- The role that might be played by local communities in securing the long-term sustainability of fisheries for ornamental species.
- Opportunities to ensure effective long-term compliance, enforcement, monitoring and traceability.

Outputs

A report will be drafted by the Secretariat and shared with participants for agreement. This report and its findings and draft recommendations will be submitted to the Animals Committee for their consideration.