

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

U.S. PROPOSED CHANGES TO SECRETARIAT'S PROPOSAL TO MERGE DRAFT DECISIONS
OF COP19 DOC. 64.1 WITH MARINE TURTLE RESOLUTION IN COP19 DOC. 64.2

1. This document has been submitted by the United States of America in relation with document CoP19 Doc. 64.2.*

We note the Secretariat proposed deletion of text in paragraph 2 of the draft resolution relating to demand reduction of marine turtles, which was moved into the introductory chapeau of the resolution. While support the newly proposed language proposed by the Secretariat, we also support retention of the text in paragraph 2 on demand reduction.

With respect to the Secretariat's proposed deletions of paragraphs 5 and 6, we have received information from the Secretariat explaining these proposed changes are satisfied with their responses. We would be happy to share their feedback.

We note that in the original paragraph 9, which is now paragraph 7 with the Secretariat's suggested edits, the new addition of "morality" should be "mortality".

With respect to paragraph 12, we appreciate the Secretariat's efforts to combine draft Decisions 18.AA a) and d) and insert this text into the resolution. However, we note that some of the relevant text has been omitted and would like to see this text included. Specifically, we would propose the following edits to paragraph 12:

- insert the following after "by-catch levels": "while taking into account other threats to the population across their range (number of turtles of different age classes taken from populations), reproductive success (number of turtles recruited per year), natural survival probabilities, and marine turtle biology"; and
- insert the following at the end of proposed paragraph 12: "taking into consideration the advice, resolutions, conservation and management measures of relevant bodies including competent fisheries authorities and experts, as appropriate."

Additionally, the United States supports the conservation of marine turtles; we do not promote the "sustainable use" of these species given their highly imperiled status and inclusion in Appendix I. Thus, we propose to clarify that frameworks need only be developed by Parties that intend to engage in sustainable use, by inserting before "develop robust frameworks": "for any Party that intends to engage in sustainable use of marine turtles".

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The new paragraph 12 with these amendments would read as follows:

“12. ENCOURAGE Parties to share holistic regional marine turtle survival probability models and their output and other information to assess sustainability of current harvest and by-catch levels while taking into account other threats to the population across their range (number of turtles of different age classes taken from populations), reproductive success (number of turtles recruited per year), natural survival probabilities, and marine turtle biology; and for any Party that intends to engage in sustainable use of marine turtles, develop robust frameworks for the sustainable use of marine turtles that are based on the best scientific advice available, taking into consideration the advice, resolutions, conservation and management measures of relevant bodies including competent fisheries authorities and experts, as appropriate;