

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



Seventy-eighth meeting of the Standing Committee  
Geneva (Switzerland), 3 - 8 February 2025

SUMMARY

WEDNESDAY 5 FEBRUARY  
AFTERNOON

48. Non-detriment findings for specimens of Appendix-II species taken from areas beyond national jurisdiction (Decision 19.138) ..... SC78 Doc. 48

The Committee:

- a) noted the report of the Animals Committee including the recommendations in paragraph 7 of document SC78 Doc. 48;
- b) agreed that the draft decisions on *Introduction from the sea* in the Annex to document SC78 Doc. 49 will allow the Standing Committee to address the relevant implementation matters raised at the technical workshop on *Non-detriment findings for specimens of Appendix-II species taken from areas beyond national jurisdiction*; and
- c) agreed that Decisions 19.135 to 19.139 have been implemented and can be proposed for deletion.

49. Introduction from the sea (Decision 19.141) ..... SC78 Doc. 49

The Committee:

- a) noted the report provided by the Secretariat on the implementation of Decision 19.140 on *Introduction from the sea*;
- b) noted the updated status and detailed analysis of the synergies between CITES and the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement);
- c) noted that the BBNJ Agreement has not yet entered into force and that not all CITES Parties are Parties to the BBNJ Agreement ;
- d) noted the updated set of most frequently asked questions and responses to introduction from the sea available on the CITES website;
- e) agreed to submit the draft decisions contained in the Annex to document SC78 Doc. 49 and as amended by the Chair of the Standing Committee for consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its 20th meeting; and
- e) agreed that Decisions 19.140-141 have been implemented and can be proposed for deletion.

DRAFT DECISIONS ON  
INTRODUCTION FROM THE SEA

***Directed to the Secretariat***

**20.AA** The Secretariat shall:

- a) monitor the implementation of Resolution Conf. 14.6 (Rev. CoP16) on *Introduction from the sea* and report as appropriate to the Standing Committee;
- b) issue a Notification to the Parties asking them to submit information on the legislation and regulations in place, and relevant applicable procedures to implement Resolution Conf.14.6 (Rev. CoP16) on *Introduction from the sea*, as well as any important challenges faced, and ways used to overcome them;
- c) support Parties which are active in the trade in CITES marine species, particularly from areas beyond national jurisdiction, and assist them to effectively implement the Convention; and
- d) consider the guidelines on introduction from the sea on the CITES website.

***Directed to the Standing Committee, with support from the Secretariat,***

**20.BB** With support from the Secretariat, the Standing Committee shall:

- a) consider the need to prepare a revision of Resolution Conf. 14.6 (Rev. CoP16) on *Introduction from the sea* with the aim to provide clarifications where required, as well as to integrate, as appropriate, additional elements, including:
  - i) reflection of the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement), in the preambular part, noting that the BBNJ Agreement has not yet entered into force and that not all CITES Parties are Parties to the BBNJ Agreement;
  - ii) responses to the recommendations and implementation challenges noted at the technical workshop on non-detriment findings for specimens of Appendix-II species taken from areas beyond national jurisdiction, and contained in document SC78 Doc. 48, paragraph 7 and paragraph 8 a) to i);
  - iii) key elements derived from the document on most frequently asked questions on introduction from the sea; and
- b) submit the proposed amendments to the Resolution for consideration by the 21st meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

**32. National reports**

**32.2 Revised Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual reports and Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual illegal trade reports..... SC78 Doc. 32.2**

The Committee approved the following amendments to the *Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual reports* and the amendments to the *Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual illegal trade reports*.

Description	Trade term code	Preferred unit	Alternative unit	Explanation
Body	BOD	no.	kg.	substantially whole dead animals, including whole fish, stuffed turtles, preserved butterflies, reptiles in alcohol, whole stuffed hunting trophies, etc. If referring to specimens of sharks and rays ( <i>Elasmobranchii</i> spp.) <u>and dried seahorses (<i>Hippocampus</i> spp.)</u> , the preferred unit is kg.
carving – ivory (worked ivory)	IVC	Kg	no.	ivory carvings, including e.g. smaller worked pieces of ivory (knife handles, chess sets, <del>marjoram</del> <u>mahjong</u> sets, etc.). N.B. <u>Worked ivory means ivory that has been carved, shaped or processed, either fully or partially.</u> Whole <del>carved</del> tusks should be reported as carving – ivory (IVC) <del>not</del> <u>only when the whole surface has been carved, otherwise they should be reported as tusks</u> (see “TUS” below). Jewellery made from carved ivory should be reported as ‘jewellery – ivory’ (see IJW below).

The Committee also approved the new section on *Specific instructions for reporting on specimens taken from areas beyond national jurisdiction* to be included in the *Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual reports* contained in Annex 1 to document SC78 Doc. 32.2.

The Committee noted the following edit proposed by Japan: “The specimens which are inseparable into source code X and W can be recorded as source code X/W, as appropriate.” for inclusion under *Specific instructions for reporting on specimens taken from areas beyond national jurisdiction* and also noted the clarification provided by the Secretariat that, in such cases, only one source code must be chosen and both source codes cannot be used jointly. In addition, the Committee invited Japan and the Secretariat to explore the feasibility of using a dual source code in the CITES trade database and to report back at a next meeting of the Standing Committee.’

60. Trade in stony corals (Decision 19.178) ..... SC78 Doc. 60

The Committee requested the United States of America and New Zealand to send to the Secretariat their proposed edits to the recommendations in document SC78 Doc. 60 for publication as an in-session document.

70. Sharks and rays (Elasmobranchii spp.) (Decisions 19.226 and 19.227)

70.1 Report of the intersessional working group..... SC78 Doc. 70.1

70.2 Report of the Animals Committee..... SC78 Doc. 70.2

and

70.3 Report of the Secretariat..... SC78 Doc. 70.3

Addendum.....SC78 Doc. 70 Add.

The Committee established an in-session working group on sharks and rays with the mandate to:

- review paragraphs 8 – 11 and the Annex in document SC78 Doc. 70.1 and paragraph 25 b) of document SC78 Doc. 70.3 on responsibilities of a foreign flagged vessel operating in the EEZ of a different State, make recommendations on the two options, and revise the proposed amendments to Annex 3 of Resolution Conf. 18.7 (Rev. CoP19);
- review recommendation in document SC78 Doc. 70.1 paragraph 19 d) and prepare draft decisions as appropriate;

- c) review paragraph 30 in document SC78 Doc. 70.3 on the eNDF tool and determine if the implementation would be beneficial and make recommendations;
- d) review paragraphs 38-51 in document SC78 Doc. 70.3 on the addition of catch location to reporting requirements and make recommendations;
- e) revise the draft decisions in SC78 Doc. 70 Addendum, as appropriate; and
- f) report back to the Standing Committee.

Membership was agreed as follows: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Ecuador, European Union, Gabon, Germany, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Maldives, Mexico, New Zealand (co-Chair), Nigeria, Panama, Peru, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, South Africa, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America (co-Chair); Convention on Migratory Species, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Environment Programme – World Conservation Monitoring Centre; International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, International Union for Conservation of Nature; Blue Resources Trust; Florida International University, Global Guardian Trust, International Fund for Animal Welfare, IWMC-World Conservation Trust, Japan NUS, Save our Seas Foundation, Species Survival Network, TRAFFIC, Whale and Dolphin Conservation Trust, Wildlife Conservation Society, World Wide Fund for Nature, and Zoological Society of London.

### 33. Compliance matters

33.6 Application of Article XIII in Ecuador and Peru ..... SC78 Doc. 33.6

The Committee noted the progress made by Ecuador and Peru and the Committee agreed that:

#### *Regarding management of trade in sharks and rays specimens*

- a) Parties continue to suspend trade in specimens of sharks and rays from Ecuador for *Carcharhinus falciformis*, *Alopias* spp. and *Isurus* spp. until Ecuador fully implements Article IV by establishing sustainable export quotas for these species to the satisfaction of the Secretariat in consultation with the Chair of the Animals Committee and inform the Secretariat of the timeline for implementation, and monitoring methodology, of by-catch limits and other mitigation measures, as appropriate;
- b) Ecuador share the information on the implementation of by-catch limits and other mitigation measures, as appropriate, to the 35th meeting of the Animals Committee;
- c) Ecuador take steps to conduct further work on population assessments in cooperation with Peru and/or other organizations such as the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, the Permanent Commission of the South Pacific and the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation, to gather additional information for non-detriment findings (NDFs) on shark species;
- d) Parties share with Ecuador information related to sizes, catches, landings, releases and mortality of shark specimens from the Southeast Pacific, all data used in the making of non-detriment findings;

#### *Regarding legislation*

- e) Ecuador finalize the revision of its national legislation to ensure that it meets the minimum requirements of CITES set out in Resolution Conf. 8.4 (Rev. CoP15) on *National laws for the implementation of the Convention* and in accordance with the guidance provided by the Secretariat under the National Legislation Project;
- f) Peru, with the support of the Secretariat, as appropriate, ensure that its national legislation allows for the implementation of rules governing introduction from the sea, in accordance with Articles III and IV of the Convention;

#### *Regarding controls, inspections and the fight against fraud*

- g) Ecuador and Peru continue to develop and use innovative technologies, and encourage companies to use such technologies, to track and monitor vessels and smaller boats to ensure that the catch location of specimens of CITES-listed species is known, thus allowing for the full implementation of Articles III

and IV of the Convention, and to prevent illegally fishing, illegal exploitation or illegally traded catch from entering their supply chains;

- h) Ecuador and Peru continue to strengthen the capacities and mandates of their Management Authorities and of other authorities competent in the fight against illegal trade, in order to strengthen the control of illegal trade in CITES-listed hydrobiological species and the fight against transnational organized crime;
- i) Ecuador and Peru operationalize the binational platform for cooperation and coordination among the competent authorities involved in the fight against crime, in order to strengthen the monitoring of trade in CITES-listed species and to combat transnational organized crime in fishing activities, in accordance with paragraphs 9 a) and b), and Annex 3 of Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP19) on *Compliance and enforcement*; and

#### *Regarding reporting*

- j) Ecuador and Peru report to the Secretariat on progress made in the implementation of these recommendations 90 days before the 79th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC79), for the Secretariat to report on the application of Article XIII in Ecuador and Peru to the Standing Committee.

#### 33.12 Totoabas (*Totoaba macdonaldi*) [Decision 18.295 (Rev. CoP19)]

33.12.1 Report of the Secretariat ..... SC78 Doc. 33.12.1

#### The Committee:

- a) noted the information provided in document SC78 Doc. 33.12.1, the reports of the Secretariat on its missions to China, Mexico and the United States of America, the study on totoaba and vaquita, as well as the report from Mexico on progress with implementation of its compliance action plan on totoaba and the Secretariat's assessment of progress with compliance action plan implementation available in Annexes 4 to 9 to the document;
- b) requested China, Mexico and the United States of America to take into consideration the recommendations resulting from the Secretariat's missions on totoaba as outlined in Annexes 4, 5 and 6 to document SC78 Doc. 33.12.1;
- c) welcomed the continued progress made by Mexico with implementation of its compliance action plan and request Mexico to:
  - i) take into consideration the observations of the Secretariat as presented in Annex 9 to document SC78 Doc. 33.12.1;
  - ii) submit a report to SC79, focusing exclusively on progress with achievement of the milestones of targets in the compliance action plan for which the Secretariat concluded that they have either been progressed but not yet achieved or that activities have not yet progressed to achieve them, in Annex 9 to document SC78 Doc. 33.12.1 and in addition report on targets 1.1, 2.3 and 3.5;
  - iii) continue to implement activities regarding all milestones of targets in the compliance action plan for which the Secretariat concluded that they are of an ongoing nature or should regularly occur and therefore must continue in Annex 9 to document SC78 Doc. 33.12.1;
  - iv) submit its report to the Secretariat 90 days in advance of SC79, for it to be made available to the Committee for consideration; and
  - v) submit a report on all the milestones of the targets in its compliance action plan at SC81;
- d) requested the Secretariat to continue monitoring Mexico's implementation of its compliance action plan and share the report to SC79 submitted by Mexico with the Committee together with any recommendations the Secretariat may have;
- e) agreed to review Mexico's progress with the implementation of its compliance action plan at SC79 and consider if any further compliance actions or measures are needed;

- f) agreed draft decisions 20.AA to 20.HH presented in Annex 3 to document SC78 Doc. 33.12.1 and as amended in plenary for onward submission to CoP20; and
- g) recommended to CoP20 that Decisions 18.292 (Rev. CoP19) to 18.295 (Rev. CoP19) and 19.74 to 19.76 on Totoabas (*Totoaba macdonaldi*) be deleted, as they have been implemented or are replaced by the draft decisions proposed in Annex 3 to document SC78 Doc. 33.12.1.

#### DRAFT DECISIONS ON *TOTOABAS* (*TOTOABA MACDONALDI*)

##### ***Directed to Parties and relevant stakeholders***

**20.AA** In their implementation of measures and activities to conserve and protect totoaba and vaquita and address poaching and illegal trade affecting these species, Parties and relevant stakeholders are encouraged to:

- a) take into consideration the information contained in the study on totoaba and vaquita available in Annex 7 to document SC78 Doc. 33.12.1;
- b) support efforts related to the recovery and monitoring of wild populations of totoaba and vaquita;
- c) support efforts to eliminate supply of and demand for illegally sourced specimens of totoaba; and
- d) make every effort to support Mexico in the implementation of Decision 20.DD.

##### ***Directed to Parties affected by illegal fishing and trafficking of totoabas***

**20.BB** Parties affected by illegal fishing and trafficking of totoabas are encouraged to:

- a) fully implement the measures and activities outlined in the online [\*Meeting of Range, Transit and Consumer States of Totoaba agreed outcomes document\*](#), as relevant to them, applying strict enforcement measures to prevent and combat this illegal trade and prosecute the criminals involved;
- b) draw upon the secure law enforcement communication channels and tools provided by INTERPOL and the World Customs Organization to share information on seizures and arrests associated with totoaba specimen trafficking; and
- c) engage in awareness-raising activities on the illegal trade in totoaba, and its severe implications for the conservation of vaquitas (*Phocoena sinus*), including demand reduction campaigns, as well as activities to eliminate supply and demand for illegally sourced specimens of totoaba, taking into consideration the measures and activities outlined in the *Meeting of Range Transit and Consumer States of Totoaba agreed outcomes document* under the heading *Opportunities to eliminate supply and demand for illegally sourced specimens of totoaba*.

##### ***Directed to China and other destination countries***

**20.CC** China and other destinations countries are is encouraged to:

- a) strengthen information and intelligence gathering regarding individuals within their country managing and organizing illegal trade involving totoaba specimens, analyze data gathered to map out their criminal networks, and target their activities through intelligence-driven investigations and operations to facilitate their arrest and prosecution; and
- b) report to the 81st meeting of the Standing Committee on activities conducted and any associated results achieved.

##### ***Directed to Mexico***

**20.DD** Mexico is requested to:

- a) pursue the urgent implementation of all aspects of the *Agreement regulating gears, systems, methods, techniques and schedules for the performance of fishing activities with smaller and larger vessels in Mexican Marine Zones in the Northern Gulf of California and establishing landing sites, as well as the use of monitoring systems for such vessels* ("the Agreement"), or any new or revised version of "the Agreement";
- b) continue implementation of measures to effectively prevent fishers from using gillnets in the Vaquita Refuge Area (VRA) and vessels from entering the Vaquita Zero-Tolerance Area (Zo) and to maintain these areas completely gillnet-free, including by:
  - i) ensuring surveillance on a full-time basis drawing upon all systems at its disposal;
  - ii) implementing a strict zero-tolerance policy concerning unauthorized fishing and fishing gear in these areas and imposing strict penalties where irregularities are detected, including the seizure of both vessels and unauthorized fishing gear combined with administrative or criminal penalties as applicable;
  - iii) deploying authorities with legal powers of seizure and arrest, together with the Navy, to effectively prevent, disrupt and put an end to the illegal fishing activities;
  - iv) maintaining resources to ensure uninterrupted gillnet removal and to take all necessary measures to destroy confiscated nets;
- c) scale up activities in support of selective fishing gear development and use, including by implementing dedicated programmes in this regard, in consultation with stakeholders to ensure inclusivity and acceptance;
- d) maintain strict control over the activities of vessels to which fishing permits with alternative gear were granted to ensure that only the alternative gear is used as authorized by the permits and that strict action is taken when any irregularities are detected;
- e) continue delivering activities through awareness and sensitization programmes in pursuit of behaviour change regarding the use of alternative fishing gear that does not pose a threat to the vaquita and to deter illegal activities;
- f) take measures to address illegal totoaba fishing displaced elsewhere due to strengthened measures deployed at the Zo and VRA;
- g) further strengthen intelligence gathering and analyses of information and data to map out the criminal groups in Mexico involved in illegal fishing and totoaba specimen trafficking, and to address them through intelligence-driven enforcement operations; and
- h) submit a report on the implementation of Decision 20.DD to the Secretariat 90 days in advance of the 81st meeting of the Standing Committee, for it to be made available to the Committee for consideration.

**Directed to the United States of America and other Parties affected by illegal fishing and trafficking of totoabas**

**20.EE** The United States of America and other Parties affected by illegal fishing and trafficking of totoabas are encouraged to:

- a) strengthen information and intelligence gathering regarding individuals within ~~its~~their territory facilitating the transit of illegal totoaba specimen consignments through ~~its~~their territory, their *modus operandi* to receive, store and export such illegal consignments, and to target their activities through intelligence-driven investigations and operations, including by sharing information with authorities in Mexico and China and other destination countries, as appropriate, in support of follow up investigations across the illegal trade chain;
- b) in ~~its~~their implementation of measures and activities to address totoaba specimen trafficking, consider the risk of commercial seafood shipments transiting ~~its~~their territory being used to conceal and smuggle illegal totoaba swim bladder consignments and to apply strict inspection measures to

such shipments originating from and destined to Parties known to be affected by totoaba specimen trafficking, as well as review related national practices to ensure that the measures in place are effective and adapted as may be needed to respond to any newly identified trends; and

- c) report to the 81st meeting of the Standing Committee on the activities conducted and any associated results achieved.

***Directed to China, Mexico, and the United States of America***

**20.FF** China, Mexico, and the United States of America are requested to jointly submit, through the Chair of the Trilateral Enforcement Contact Group (TECG), a report to the 81st meeting of the Standing Committee on the activities conducted in accordance with the TECG terms of reference, as well as associated results achieved, as appropriate.

***Directed to the Secretariat***

**20.GG** The Secretariat shall:

- a) seek information from Parties on their implementation of Decisions 20.AA and 20.BB;
- b) report to the 81st meeting of the Standing Committee on its implementation of Decision 20.GG together with any recommendations it may have.

***Directed to the Standing Committee***

**20.HH** The Standing Committee shall review the reporting submitted by Parties and the Secretariat in accordance with Decisions 20. CC to 20.GG and make recommendations as appropriate.

33.12.2 Report of the Trilateral Enforcement Contact Group..... SC78 Doc. 33.12.2

The Committee:

- a) noted the report in document SC78 Doc. 33.12.2; and
- b) strongly welcomed the trilateral efforts of Mexico, China, and the United States to combat illegal trade of totoaba, urged the continuation of these efforts, and invited the three Parties to report to the next regular meeting of the Standing Committee on the progress of the TECG.

41. Marine turtles (Cheloniidae spp. and Dermochelyidae spp.)  
[Decision 18.217 (Rev. CoP19); Resolution Conf. 19.5]..... SC78 Doc. 41

The Committee:

- a) agreed to the proposed amendments to Resolution Conf. 19.5 on *Conservation of and trade in marine turtles*, as presented in the Annex to document SC78 Doc. 41 and as amended by Poland, for submission to CoP20 for consideration; and
- b) agreed to recommend to CoP20 that Decision 18.217 (Rev. CoP19) has been implemented and can be deleted.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO RESOLUTION CONF. 19.5 ON  
CONSERVATION OF AND TRADE IN MARINE TURTLES

New text is underlined and deleted text is in ~~strikethrough~~.

RECOGNIZING that marine turtles face significant threats, including bycatch in commercial and recreational fisheries; loss and degradation of nesting and foraging habitats; climate change; entanglement in marine debris; vessel strikes; and illegal take and trade for their meat, shells, and eggs;



RECOGNIZING that the conservation and recovery of marine turtles require international cooperation to ensure the survival of these highly migratory species;

RECALLING that all species of marine turtles are included in CITES Appendix I, and as such, international trade for commercial purposes is strictly prohibited for these species;

RECALLING that these species are included in Appendices I and II of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) (except for *Natator depressus*, which is only in Appendix II), which requires CMS Parties to strictly protect these species by prohibiting take and controlling other factors that endanger them, and enhance their conservation status;

RECALLING that the Inter-American Convention (IAC) for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles promotes the protection, conservation, and recovery of populations of six marine turtle species (all except *N. depressus*) in the Western Hemisphere;

RECALLING that the Protocol for Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA) of the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (the Cartagena Convention) prohibits the taking of and commercial trade in marine turtles, their eggs, parts or products;

RECALLING the Indian Ocean–South-East Asian (IOSEA) Marine Turtle Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is a non-binding intergovernmental agreement that aims to protect, conserve, and recover sea turtles and their habitats in the Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia;

RECALLING also that Resolution Conf. 17.4 (Rev. CoP19) on *Demand reduction strategies to combat illegal trade in CITES-listed species* urges Parties where there is a significant market for illegally traded wildlife products to develop strategies to reduce the demand for illegal products of wild animals and plants through demand reduction campaigns and to enhance, as appropriate, policy, legislation and law enforcement in this regard, and EMPHASIZING the importance for Parties to develop such plans for illegally taken marine turtles parts, products and derivatives;

CONCERNED that the illegal take and trade of marine turtles ~~turtles~~ turtle parts and derivatives is contributing to their decline and poses a significant threat to their survival;

WELCOMING studies commissioned by CITES, IAC, and IOSEA Marine Turtle MoU to help determine the extent of illegal take and trade in marine turtles and provide recommendations on needed actions;

WELCOMING the Single Species Action Plan for the Hawksbill Turtle in South-East Asia and the Western Pacific Ocean Region, developed under the auspices of CMS and its IOSEA Marine Turtle MoU;

WELCOMING projects aimed at uncovering illegal trade routes from source through to end user, and factors driving marine turtle use, supply, and demand, which can be used to inform policies aimed at marine turtle conservation; and

FURTHER WELCOMING initiatives to help combat the illegal trade in marine turtles by transferring genetic techniques, technologies, and building greater capacity for marine turtle genetic studies;

#### THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

1. RECOMMENDS Parties collaborate ~~and assist in building~~ strengthening their financial and technical capacity ~~in developing countries~~ to implement and enforce CITES and other related international obligations that apply to protect marine turtles, including protection from unsustainable use and illegal trade;
2. INVITES Parties, governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other entities to provide financial or technical assistance for, *inter alia*:
  - a) training and capacity-building of relevant authorities at the national and regional level, including on the implementation and enforcement of national regulations and international measures that apply to marine turtles, identification, monitoring, reporting, and wildlife and fisheries enforcement; and
  - b) building community and political awareness on the conservation status of marine turtles and the importance of compliance with CITES at the national level to promote conservation of these species;

3. URGES Parties to:

- a) if not yet in place, develop and enact legislation to prevent and address unsustainable harvest of and trade in marine turtles;
- b) conduct a thorough review of existing domestic legislation that protects marine turtles to ensure its effectiveness and implementation of relevant international obligations and commitments;
- c) actively seek to strengthen national legislation and international obligations and commitments to protect marine turtles across their full life history;
- d) regularly conduct a review of national measures that protect marine turtles to ensure that they remain effective and are adapted as needed, to respond to any newly identified trends; and
- e) actively pursue enforcement of all provisions regulating the take and trade of marine turtles;

24. RECOMMENDS Parties affected by illegal trade in marine turtles; ~~provide capacity-building interventions,~~

- a) take all necessary actions to prevent the illegal trade in marine turtles, including through addressing its drivers and developing and implementing evidence-based strategies, in engagement with indigenous peoples, local communities, and other stakeholders;
- b) provide capacity-building assistance for national enforcement agencies and the judiciary, including (as appropriate) identification manuals or contact information for experts to identify marine turtle species in trade, raise awareness about the importance and benefits of addressing and preventing the illegal trade in marine turtles, and integrate training on illegal wildlife trade into national enforcement curricula of relevant training academies as appropriate;
- c) ascertain key illegal trade routes, methods, volumes, and ‘hot-spots’ of marine turtles, and scale up efforts to address illegal harvest and other illegal activities at key locations in domestic markets associated with illegal trade, ~~and take action to decrease consumer demand for illegal marine turtle parts, products and other derivatives;~~
- d) take action to decrease consumer demand for illegal marine turtle parts, products, and other derivatives; and
- e) promote public understanding (including among vendors, tourists, and others) of the legal provisions and implications of engaging in the illegal take, use, and trade of marine turtles;

35. RECOMMENDS Parties ~~improve:~~

- a) enhance monitoring, detection, and law enforcement ~~activities-efforts~~ at all key transaction points (e.g., including markets, online platforms, ports) ~~to help and landing sites to combat the illegal take and trade of marine turtles; and enhance~~
- b) strengthen cooperation and collaboration ~~in the control of trade in marine turtles amongst between~~ wildlife-law enforcement agencies at national and international levels ~~to address illegal take and trade in marine turtles, including in-through the exchange of information and actionable intelligence regarding the illegal take and trade of marine turtles;~~

46. URGES Parties ~~whose national legislation is not sufficient to control~~ put in place mechanisms to collect data on the ~~unsustainable harvest of and illegal~~ trade in marine turtles, ~~to enact legislation in a standardized manner from different governmental agencies to protect and manage these species appropriately facilitate comprehensive and accurate submissions of data on illegal trade in marine turtles by Parties in their annual illegal trade reports to the Secretariat;~~

57. RECOMMENDS Parties collect samples from seized marine turtles for ~~scientific-genetic~~ analysis to determine the species involved and populations of origin, and as appropriate ~~provide these to,~~ collaborate with forensic and research institutions capable of reliably determining the species and geographic origin of the samples in support of research, investigations, and prosecutions;

- ~~68.~~ RECOMMENDS Parties develop and follow best practice protocols for safe handling, care and rehabilitation, and release back into the wild of confiscated live marine turtles and marine turtles caught as bycatch;
- ~~9.~~ **URGES Parties, as far as possible,** to coordinate efforts at the regional level, ~~including working closely with Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs), Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and other relevant regional bodies organizations,~~ to identify and address ~~illegal trade, use, and other threats, including to marine turtles, such as fisheries bycatch, use, and illegal trade;~~
- ~~710.~~ **URGES RECOMMENDS Parties, where relevant,** to address ~~the fisheries related threats that contribute to illegal trade in marine turtles by working with fisheries fishing communities and fisheries bodies RFBs to ensure effective fisheries management measures are in place, and capture in fisheries is not undermining efforts to tackle the illegal trade, including by: implementing best practice such as:~~
- ~~a)~~ measures to reduce ~~and document sea catch of marine turtles catches whether~~ (targeted or bycatch; ~~assessing~~) and improve post release survival rates;
  - ~~b)~~ measures requiring documentation of fisheries interactions with marine turtles;
  - ~~c)~~ measures to assess ~~assessing~~ catch rates and mortality based on reported interactions and the best scientific data available, continuing improving the;
  - ~~d)~~ measures that continue to strengthen observer ~~programme programmes~~ through the Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs)/RFB's framework in ~~Organization (RFMO)/RFB frameworks to increase data collection in fisheries and improve our understanding of fisheries where bycatch of related impacts on marine turtles is not adequately addressed; and~~
  - ~~e)~~ measures that are enforceable and effectively ~~addressing address~~ Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing that ~~is a threat to threatens~~ marine turtles.
- ~~811.~~ ENCOURAGES Parties to share information and provide training to fishers on bycatch mitigation strategies, such as turtle exclusion devices, selective fishing gear, and safe handling and release practices, that have proven effective at reducing bycatch or bycatch and associated mortality;
- ~~912.~~ ENCOURAGES Parties to undertake, as appropriate, research that can support the development of ~~protection and~~ conservation measures for the protection of marine turtle foraging, nesting and migratory areas;
- ~~103.~~ ENCOURAGES Parties, where marine turtles ~~turtle~~ hatchery establishments exist, to develop science-based operational protocols for marine turtle hatchery establishments to and ensure that they provide conservation value to marine turtle populations;
- ~~144.~~ RECOMMENDS that:
- ~~a)~~ any Party seeking to allow international trade in products of sea turtle ranches satisfy all the requirements of the Convention and Resolution Conf. 11.16 (Rev. CoP15) on Ranching and trade in ranched specimens of species transferred from Appendix I to Appendix II;
  - ~~b)~~ any Party seeking to transfer a marine turtle population from Appendix I to Appendix II pursuant to Resolution Conf. 11.16 (Rev. CoP15) provide information in accordance with the guidelines contained in Annex to the present Resolution; and
  - ~~c)~~ any Party whose population of marine turtle is transferred to Appendix II pursuant to the present Resolution and Resolution Conf. 11.16 (Rev. CoP15) ensure that procedures for regular adequate reporting to the Secretariat exist and are implemented. Failure to satisfy this requirement and to demonstrate conservation benefit to the population or compliance with other requirements of Resolution Conf. 11.16 (Rev. CoP15) may result in the application of paragraph 5 d) of that Resolution.
- ~~125.~~ ENCOURAGES Parties to share holistic regional marine turtle survival probability models and their output and other information to assess the sustainability of current harvest and bycatch levels while taking into account other threats to the populations 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;

~~136.~~ DIRECTS the Secretariat to maintain close collaboration with RFBs, ~~CMS, its the CMS Secretariat and the IOSEA Marine Turtle MoU, and the IAC~~ on the management and conservation of marine turtles to ensure the compatibility of activities, optimization of resources, promotion of research to address information gaps, and enhancement of synergies;

~~147.~~ DIRECTS the Secretariat, ~~subject to support available resources, to provide capacity-building assistance to Parties, especially developing countries and small island developing states, upon request, with the CITES-relevant aspects of the development and/or implementation of the Convention for marine turtles, including building financial and technical capacity~~ the development, review, or revision of national legislation to help ensure compliance with CITES obligations for the conservation and regulation of international trade in marine turtles;

~~18.~~ DIRECTS the Secretariat to, based on analyses of annual illegal trade reports, bring to the attention of the Standing Committee, as appropriate, any significant changes in the illegal trade of marine turtles;

~~159.~~ DIRECTS the Animals Committee to make recommendations, if necessary, to ensure the conservation of marine turtles;

~~1620.~~ DIRECTS the Standing Committee to provide guidance on compliance with and enforcement of the marine turtle listings in Appendix I, including but not limited to, use of forensic sampling of seized specimens and exchange of information on the illegal trade in marine turtles;

~~1721.~~ DIRECTS the Animals Committee and Standing Committees to report progress on the conservation of marine turtles at meetings of the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate; and

~~1822.~~ REPEALS Resolution Conf. 9.20 (Rev.) on *Guidelines for evaluating marine turtle ranching proposals submitted pursuant to Resolution Conf. 11.16 (Rev. CoP15)*.

**NOTE:** No amendments are proposed to the Annex on  
*Guidelines for evaluating marine turtle  
ranching proposals submitted pursuant to Resolution Conf. 11.16 (Rev. CoP15)*

69. Eels (*Anguilla* spp.) (Decision 19.221)

69.1 Report of the intersessional working group..... SC78 Doc. 69.1

and

69.2 Report of the Secretariat..... SC78 Doc. 69.2

The Committee agreed to establish a drafting group to review the draft resolution on *Trade, conservation and management of anguillid eel species (Anguilla spp.)* in Annex 2 to document SC78 Doc. 69.1, taking into account the comments made in plenary, and the draft decisions on *Eels (Anguilla spp.)* in Annex 1 to document SC78 Doc. 69.1, taking into account the comments made by New Zealand and the United States of America. Membership was agreed as follows: Canada, China, Dominican Republic, European Union, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (Chair), United States of America.