

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



Twenty-seventh meeting of the Animals Committee
Veracruz (Mexico), 28 April – 3 May 2014

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Species trade and conservation

FRESHWATER STINGRAYS (FAMILY POTAMOTRYGONIDAE)
(DECISIONS 16.131 AND 16.132)

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP16, Bangkok, 2013), the following interconnected Decisions on freshwater stingrays were adopted:

Directed to the Secretariat

16.130 *The Secretariat shall issue a Notification requesting the range States of freshwater stingrays (Family Potamotrygonidae) to report on the conservation status and management of, and domestic and international trade in the species.*

Directed to the Animals Committee

16.131 *The Animals Committee shall establish a working group comprising the range States of freshwater stingrays in order to evaluate and duly prioritize the species for inclusion in CITES Appendix II.*

16.132 *The Animals Committee shall consider all information submitted on freshwater stingrays in response to the request made under Decision 16.131 above, and shall:*

- a) identify species of priority concern, including those species that meet the criteria for inclusion in Appendix II of the Convention;*
- b) provide specific recommendations to the range States of freshwater stingrays; and*
- c) submit a report at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the progress made by the working group, and its recommendations and conclusions.*

Directed to Parties

16.133 *Range States of freshwater stingrays are encouraged to provide information to the Working Group, the Animals Committee and the Secretariat, as requested under Decision 16.131.*

16.134 *Range States are encouraged to cooperate in the development and implementation of research and monitoring programmes for the purpose of supporting evaluations of the conservation status and threats affecting populations of freshwater stingrays in their natural range.*

Directed to the Parties, the Secretariat and interested organizations

16.135 *Subject to external funding, the Parties, the CITES Secretariat and other interested organizations shall organize activities, including regional workshops, in order to facilitate the exchange of trade, conservation and management data on freshwater stingray species.*

3. In compliance with Decision 16.130, the Secretariat issued Notification to the Parties No. 2013/056 of 6 December 2013, inviting range States of freshwater stingrays¹ to report on the conservation status and management of and domestic and international trade in these species. The Secretariat requested that these reports be submitted by 31 January 2014 in order to have sufficient time to collate and summarize the information for consideration by the Animals Committee. However, at the time of writing (February 2014), no reports had been received.
4. With regard to Decision 16.135, the Secretariat has not yet been able to secure external funding for undertaking the proposed activities, and is not aware of relevant regional initiatives or programmes in support of the implementation of Decisions 16.134 or 16.135.
5. The Secretariat draws attention to information on freshwater stingrays contained in proposals CoP16 Prop. 47 on *Paratrygon aiereba* (submitted by Colombia) and Cop16 Prop. 48 on *Potamotrygon motoro* and *P. schroederi* (submitted by Colombia and Ecuador), proposing the inclusion of these species in Appendix II (with an entry into effect of the inclusion delayed by 18 months). These proposals were not adopted at CoP16. Some additional information on these species can be found in comments on the proposals from Parties, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Secretariat (see documents CoP16 Doc. 77 and CoP17 Inf. 55), as well as from some intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and other experts [see for example document CoP16 Inf. 14 (Rev. 1)].
6. Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev. P16) on *Conservation and management of sharks* contains the following provisions on freshwater stingrays:

ENCOURAGES range States of species in the family Potamotrygonidae to:

- a) *note the findings and conclusions of the freshwater stingray workshop (document AC24 Doc. 14.2), and increase their efforts to improve data collection on the scale and impact of the threats facing stingray species and populations from collection for ornamental trade, commercial fisheries for food and habitat damage;*
- b) *consider implementing or reinforcing national regulations regarding the management and reporting of capture of and international trade in freshwater stingrays for all purposes, including commercial fishing for food and ornamental trade, and standardizing these measures across the region, for example through existing South American intergovernmental bodies; and*
- c) *consider the listing of endemic and threatened species of freshwater stingrays (Potamotrygonidae) in CITES Appendix III as needing the cooperation of other Parties in the control of trade.*

In its implementation of Decisions 16.131 and 16.132, the Animals Committee may wish to take into consideration any measures that range States of species in the family *Potamotrygonidae* have taken in response to the provisions in Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP16) indicated above, as well as the interim draft report and conclusions presented in document AC24 Doc. 14.2.

7. A list of species in the family *Potamotrygonidae*, and their range States, as indicated in document AC24 Doc. 14.2, is provided in the table below.

Species	Basin or river drainage	Range States
<i>Plesiotrygon iwamae</i>	Amazon	Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru
<i>Paratrygon aiereba</i>	Amazon, Orinoco	Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela

¹ Argentina, Brasil, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia, Ecuador, French Guiana, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru, Surinam, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

Species	Basin or river drainage	Range States
		(Bolivarian Republic of)
<i>Potamotrygon boesemani</i>	Corantijn	Surinam
<i>Potamotrygon brachyura</i>	Paraná, Rio de la Plata, Uruguay, Paraguay	Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay
<i>P. castexi</i>	Amazon, Paraná, Paraguay, Guaporé	Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Paraguay, Peru
<i>P. constellata</i>	Amazon	Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru
<i>P. dumerilii</i>	Amazon, Paraná, Paraguay	Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay
<i>P. falkneri</i>	Cuiabá, Paraná, Paraguay	Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Peru
<i>P. henlei</i>	Amazon	Brazil
<i>P. histrix</i>	Paraná, Paraguay (and Uruguay?)	Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, (Uruguay?)
<i>P. humerosa</i>	Amazon	Brazil
<i>P. leopoldi</i>	Amazon	Brazil
<i>P. magdalenae</i>	Magdalena, Atrato	Colombia
<i>P. marinae</i>	Oyapok, Maroni	French Guiana
<i>P. motoro</i>	Amazon, Orinoco, de La Plata	Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, French Guiana, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru, Surinam, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
<i>P. ocellata</i>	Amazon	Brazil
<i>P. orbigny</i>	Amazon, Orinoco, Paraná, Paraguay	Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia, French Guiana, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru, Surinam, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
<i>P. schroederi</i>	Amazon and Orinoco	Brazil, Colombia, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
<i>P. schuemacheri</i>	Paraná, Paraguay	Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay
<i>P. scobina</i>	Amazon basin	Brazil, Ecuador
<i>P. signata</i>	Parnaíba basin	Brazil
<i>P. yepezi</i>	Maracaibo basin	Colombia, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
<i>Potamotrygon</i> sp. "cururu" ¹	Negro basin	Brazil
<i>Potamotrygon</i> sp. "itaituba" ²	Tapajós river basin	Brazil
<i>Potamotrygon</i> sp. "pearl" ²	Tapajós river basin	Brazil

¹ obs. Despite being undescribed, this species is included because it is legally exported from Brazil under the quota system regulation as *Potamotrygon cf. histrix*.

² obs. Despite being undescribed, these species are included because they are endemic valuable species that are being illegally exported.

It should be noted that when this table was established by IUCN in 2009, it referred to "taxonomic problems and shortage of biological and population data". However, in the meantime new information may have become available regarding the nomenclature and distribution of the species in the family *Potamotrygonidae*.

Recommendation

8. The Animals Committee is invited to establish a working group in compliance with Decision 16.131, and initiate the implementation of Decision 16.132.