

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



Twenty-eighth meeting of the Animals Committee
Tel Aviv (Israel), 30 August-3 September 2015

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Species trade and conservation

Sturgeons and paddlefish [Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP16)]

IMPLEMENTATION BY THE ANIMALS COMMITTEE OF RELEVANT
PROVISIONS IN RESOLUTION CONF. 12.7 (REV. COP16)

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. In Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP16) on *Conservation of and trade in sturgeons and paddlefish*, the Conference of the Parties:

DIRECTS the Animals Committee, in collaboration with the Secretariat, interested Parties, international organizations and relevant experts, to monitor progress on the relevant provisions of this Resolution and to carry out on a three-year cycle starting in 2008, and using information from preceding years, an evaluation of the assessment and the monitoring methodologies used for stocks of Acipenseriformes species subject to the provisions under RECOMMENDS further, paragraph a) above,

and

DIRECTS the Animals Committee to provide to the Standing Committee its recommendations on actions to be taken based upon the above-mentioned monitoring of progress and three-year cycle evaluation.

The Conference of the Parties further

URGES range States to cooperate with the Animals Committee and the Secretariat with a view to implementing the provisions under RECOMMENDS further, paragraph a), and the [first] paragraph DIRECTS the Animals Committee mentioned above.

3. The Animals Committee is directed to monitor progress on the relevant provisions of this Resolution, in collaboration with the Secretariat, interested Parties, international organizations and relevant experts. The Resolution does not specify what provisions are considered relevant for the Animals Committee to monitor.
4. The Animals Committee is also directed to undertake an evaluation of the assessment and the monitoring methodologies used for stocks of Acipenseriformes species subject to the provisions under RECOMMENDS further, paragraph a) above, on a three-year cycle starting in 2008 and using information from preceding years. As indicated in document AC28 Doc. 16.1, for the last six years, none of the range States of Acipenseriformes that are subject to these provisions have established export quotas for caviar or meat from stocks shared with other range States. Therefore, no relevant information or data have been submitted to the Secretariat that it could convey to the Animals Committee for undertaking these

evaluations. Evaluation documents with a focus on the Caspian Sea sturgeon species were prepared for the 24th and 25th meetings of the Animals Committee (see documents [AC24 Doc. 12.2](#) and [AC25 Doc. 16.2](#)), but the Committee has not evaluated other stocks of Acipenseriformes that are shared between different range States. The Secretariat is not aware of external resources that would be available to the Animals Committee for organizing such evaluations.

5. Finally, the Animals Committee is directed to provide to the Standing Committee its recommendations on actions to be taken based upon the above-mentioned monitoring of progress and three-year cycle evaluation.
6. Accordingly, at its 27th meeting (AC27, Veracruz, April 2014), the Animals Committee formulated the following recommendations to the Standing Committee (SC):
 - a) *In light of the lack of response of range States to the reporting requirements under Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP16), in order for the AC to be able to fulfil its mandate, the AC encourages the SC to consider ways to improve the reporting of the range States.*
 - b) *With respect to Resolution Conf.12.7 (Rev. CoP16), the Animals Committee recommends that the Standing Committee provide advice on its implementation and in doing so the SC should amongst others consider the following aspects: possible impacts on wild populations of increasing trends of aquaculture facilities, including in range States, and potential illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities.*
 - c) *Concerning document [AC27 Doc. 21.3 Annex](#), submitted by Germany, the AC would ask the SC to consider the document and make appropriate recommendations to CoP17.*
7. At its 65th meeting (Geneva, July 2014), the Standing Committee:
 - a) *encouraged affected range States to make available to the Animals Committee the information on assessment and monitoring methodologies used for stocks of sturgeons and paddlefish subject to the provisions under "RECOMMENDS further", paragraph a) of Resolution Conf.12.7 (Rev.CoP16);*and
 - b) *established an intersessional working group to review Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev.CoP16), taking account of the proposals by Germany in the Annex to document [SC65 Doc.47](#) and the comments made during the debate, and to report at the 66th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC66). The membership of the working group was agreed as follows: China, France, Germany (Chair), Italy, Japan, Poland, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, Ukraine, United States of America, International Caviar Importers Association, IWMC–World Conservation Trust and UNEP-WCMC, and a representative of the United States state fish and wildlife agencies.*
8. The work of this intersessional working group is ongoing.

Recommendation

9. The Animals Committee is invited to consider the implementation of its mandates under Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP16), i.e.: monitoring of progress with relevant provisions in the Resolution; three-year cycle evaluations of assessment and monitoring methodologies used for shared stocks of Acipenseriformes species that are subject of catch quotas and export quotas for caviar and meat; and reporting to the Standing Committee.