

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



Twenty-ninth meeting of the Animals Committee  
Geneva (Switzerland), 18-22 July 2017

Species specific matters

Aquatic species

Sturgeons and paddlefish (*Acipenseriformes* spp.)

CONSERVATION OF AND TRADE IN STURGEONS AND PADDLEFISH

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At its 17th meeting (CoP17, Johannesburg, 2016), the Conference of the Parties adopted several revisions to Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP17) on *Conservation of and trade in sturgeons and paddlefish*.

Trade in caviar and meat of *Acipenseriformes* species from shared stocks

3. Paragraph 3 of Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP17) recommends, with regard to catch and export quotas, that Parties not accept the import of caviar and meat of *Acipenseriformes* species from stocks shared between different range States which are listed in Annex 3 to the Resolution, unless export quotas have been set in accordance with the procedures outlined in subparagraphs 3 a) i)-vi).
4. Annex 3 of Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP17) consists of a table entitled "Overview about stocks shared by range States and the respective species". Possible amendments to the species and range States that are mentioned in this overview were discussed at CoP17, but no consensus could be reached. The main point of disagreement concerned a proposed split of the shared stock "North-West Black Sea and Lower Danube River" into two shared stocks named "Black Sea" and "Danube River" [see summary record [CoP17 Com. II Rec. 13 \(Rev. 2\)](#) and information document [CoP17 Inf. 82](#)].
5. Consequently, the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 17.182 to 17.184 on *Sturgeons and paddlefish (*Acipenseriformes* spp.)*, as follows:

***Directed to range States for *Acipenseriformes****

17.182 *All Range States of *Acipenseriformes* are invited to submit data relating to the content of the table contained in Annex 3 of Resolution 12.7 (Rev. CoP17) on Conservation of and trade in sturgeons and paddlefish to the Secretariat to be considered at the next meeting of the Animals Committee.*

***Directed to the Animals Committee***

17.183 *The Animals Committee shall, based on the information submitted by range States, discuss the content of the table contained in Annex 3 of Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP17), including possible amendments, and report to the Standing Committee.*

### **Directed to the Standing Committee**

17.184 *The Standing Committee shall, based on the report of the Animals Committee, propose possible amendments to the table contained in Annex 3 of Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP17), as appropriate, to the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

6. To assist with the implementation of Decision 17.182, the Secretariat sent letters to all range States of Acipenseriformes with shared stocks in April 2017, inviting them to submit any relevant data relating to the content of the table contained in Annex 3 of Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP17). The Secretariat will make the responses received available to the Animals Committee for its consideration.

#### Export quotas for shared stocks

7. In paragraph 3, subparagraph a) iv) of Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP17), range States of shared stocks are to provide to the Secretariat, by 31 December of the previous year, the export quota for caviar and meat of Acipenseriformes, as well as the scientific data used to establish the catch and export quotas. In subparagraph vi), the Secretariat is instructed to communicate the agreed quotas for shared stocks to the Parties through its website within one month of receipt of the information from the range States. In paragraph 4, the Conference of the Parties:

4. *DIRECTS the Secretariat, in cases where range States of shared wild stocks have agreed on export quotas in the previous year, to provide to the subsequent meeting of the Animals Committee a written report, based on information submitted by the range States concerned as requested in subparagraph 3 a) iv) above, including references to relevant documents, on its activities related to the conservation of and trade in sturgeons and paddlefish;*

8. No relevant export quotas have been communicated to the Secretariat by the deadline set in the Resolution, i.e. by 31 December 2016.

#### Definition of “country of origin of caviar”

9. In document [CoP17 Doc. 50](#), the Standing Committee proposed to include in Annex 1 to Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP17) a definition for “country of origin of caviar”. The definition that was proposed in the document had been agreed by the majority of the Sturgeon Working Group of the Standing Committee. The proposal was further discussed at the Conference of the Parties, but no agreement could be reached. No definition for “country of origin of caviar” was included in the revision of Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP17) [see summary record [CoP17 Com. II Rec. 13 \(Rev. 2\)](#)].

10. To resolve this matter intersessionally, the Conference of the Parties adopted Decision 17.185 as follows:

### **Directed to the Standing Committee**

17.185 *The Standing Committee shall, in collaboration with the Animals Committee, discuss the issue of the definition of country of origin of caviar, taking into account the draft definition proposed by the majority of the Standing Committee Working Group on Sturgeons and Paddlefish, which reads: “country of origin of caviar: country in which a registered processing plant harvests roe of Acipenseriformes species to process caviar,” and report to the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

11. The Secretariat’s views on a definition for “country of origin of caviar” were summarized in its report to the 67th meeting of the Standing Committee [see document [SC67 Doc.18 \(Rev.1\)](#)].

#### Recommendations

12. The Animals Committee is invited to consider the information submitted by range States of Acipenseriformes regarding the content of the table “Overview about stocks shared by range States and the respective species” in Annex 3 of Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP17), and discuss possible amendments to this table for reporting to the Standing Committee.
13. The Animals Committee is further invited to consider the issue of the definition of “country of origin of caviar” outlined in paragraphs 9 to 11 above, and its collaboration with the Standing Committee in that regard.