

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



Thirtieth meeting of the Animals Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 16-21 July 2018

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. Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP17) on *Conservation of and trade in sturgeons and paddlefish* instructs the Secretariat in paragraph 4 as follows:
 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;*
3. By 31 December 2017, no relevant export quotas had been communicated to the Secretariat by range States of shared wild stocks of Acipenseriformes species in accordance with the procedures set out in paragraph 3 of Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP17).

Discussion

4. The Secretariat notes that no export quotas for caviar and meat of Acipenseriformes species from shared stocks have been communicated to the Secretariat since 2010. This was also reported by the Secretariat to the Animals Committee at one of its previous meetings (see document [AC28 Doc. 16.1](#)), and in its comments on the Standing Committee's report to the Conference of the Parties (document [CoP17 Doc. 50](#)).
5. Footnote 1 of Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP17) provides that range States that have no commercial caviar harvest or export from shared (wild) stocks are exempted from the provisions in paragraph 3 of the Resolution. For over eight consecutive years, no commercial harvest or export of caviar of wild sturgeons was reported by any of the range States from the shared stocks indicated in Annex 3 to the Resolution. The Secretariat consequently has applied the exemption to these range States and their shared stocks, stopped making annual enquiries to the range States concerned, and published yearly zero export quotas for caviar and meat of Acipenseriformes species from wild stocks shared between these range States. The Secretariat will bring to the attention of the Standing Committee or the Conference of the Parties any significant changes in the harvest or export of sturgeon products from such stocks.
6. Against this background and in accordance with the provisions in Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP17), the Secretariat will only provide written reports to meetings of the Animals Committee in cases where range States of shared wild stocks of species Acipenseriformes spp., as indicated in Annex 3 of the Resolution, have agreed in the previous year on export quotas for caviar or meat of wild origins from such stocks.

Recommendations

7. The Animals Committee is invited to take note of this document and the information provided by the Secretariat in paragraph 6.