Responses to Notification to the Parties No 2018/035

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BELIZE FISHERIES DEPARTMENT

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES, FORESTRY, THE ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT & IMMIGRATION

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Belize Response to CITES Notification to Parties No. 2018/035
Belize City, Belize. May 10, 2018.

QUEEN CONCH SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN BELIZE

1. **Extent to which scientific research is used in the making of non-detriment findings.**

Scientific research field data collected in bi-annual national Queen conch underwater surveys since 2003 provide vital information for decision-making in the management of the conch fishery and in the formulation of a Non-Detriment Findings (NDF). The Total Allowable Catch (TAC) limit is estimated based on the results of analysis of population structure and abundance of legal size animals from data obtained through underwater surveys and the application of at least two surplus production models applied to the data set. Queen conch previous years' catch landings, population structure (shell length-frequency distribution), density and abundance estimates together with Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) data collected from landing sites are employed in the determination of a TAC limit. The harvesting strategy takes into consideration the proportion of legal size (7 inches or 178 mm) conch in the sampled population and the precautionary approach principle. In addition, in the last 5 years Belize has adopted an Adaptive Management Framework with practical management recommendations for hypothetic scenarios in key performance indicators of the fishery.

While Belize has not completed a NDF for Queen conch, the elements of the bi-annual underwater surveys and methodology used for establishment of a TAC are consistent with guidelines for the development of a NDF. It is anticipated that Belize will develop its first NDF for the 2018/19 Queen conch fishing season.

2. **Process for establishing levels of export for specimens of Queen conch.**

In May 2012, a Queen Conch Expert Workshop was held in Miami, USA. A recommendation coming out of this workshop was that a default 8% of the estimated mean or median fishable biomass could be used to set a precautionary sustainable yield if only estimates of biomass are available and the stock is not depleted.

This workshop was followed by the first meeting of the CFMC/OSPESCA/WECAFC/CRFM Working Group on Queen conch that was held in Panama City, Panama, 23–25 October 2012. This meeting provided an opportunity to clarify the above-mentioned recommendation and noted that the yield estimate would be useful for data-poor fisheries and as a precautionary harvest level while further research and monitoring was conducted. The Working Group also emphasized the need for stock assessment and yield estimates based on best available science rather than basing harvest levels on the

experience of a few countries. Therefore, range states were encouraged to continue to develop precautionary harvest levels based on scientific research and the on-going evaluation of their harvest strategy.

It is noted that Belize has been carrying out bi-annual Queen conch surveys since 2003 with the objective of estimating biomass availability to assist in the establishment of a TAC. In this context and having sufficient scientific data to support its management decisions Belize has consistently exceeded the recommended 8% of the fishable biomass. This is as a result of consistently high recruitment levels of pre-legal size animals observed in surveys and the proportion of legal-size size animals being higher than 8% of the fishable biomass available to the fishery and harvesting without putting at risk the viability and sustainability of the natural stock.

The TAC for Queen conch is considered the export level on a bi-annual basis but rapid assessments done between survey years and which have been carried out in the past can result in either increase or decrease of the TAC limit established in the previous full national survey.

3. **The process for, and objectives of setting "scientific quotas" for Queen conch.**

Belize does not set scientific quotas for Queen conch.

4. **Whether catch from scientific surveys contributes to overall exports.**

Bi-annual underwater scientific Queen conch surveys in Belize does not involve the collection or harvesting of Queen conch for export.

Tegucigalpa, M.D.C., 10 de Mayo de 2018

Doctor Tom De Meulenaer
Jefe Servicios Científicos Secretaria CITES
Ginebra, Suiza

Asunto: Dictámenes de extracción No Perjudicial para el Caracol Pala (Strombus gigas) en Honduras, periodo 2017-2018 y, Examen del proceso para establecer cupos científicos para el caracol pala (Strombus gigas); notificación de las partes No. 2018/035.

Distinguido Doctor Tom De Meulenaer:

Tengo el agrado de dirigirme a usted, en ocasión de adjuntarle los documentos del asunto, respondiendo así a su atenta nota: TDM/DKA del pasado 24 de abril del presente y a nuestra responsabilidad sistemática interanual con relación a los Dictámenes de Extracción No Perjudicial del Caracol Pala en Honduras.

El informe de resultados del Plan de Manejo con sus principales conclusiones y recomendaciones se le estará enviando a más tardar el próximo lunes 14 de mayo del presente.

Esperando haber satisfecho sus requerimientos informativos, aprovechamos la ocasión para saludarle muy cordialmente,

Atentamente,

José Roberto Hernández Molina
Director General de Pesca y Acuicultura y
Coordinador del Plan de Manejo de Caracol (Strombus gigas)

Cc: Ing. José Julián Suazo/Coordinador Nacional CITES

GOBIERNO DE LA REPÚBLICA DE HONDURAS

SECRETARÍA DE AGRICULTURA Y GANADERÍA

8-5-2018

REVIEW OF THE PROCESS FOR THE SETTING OF SCIENTIFIC QUOTAS FOR QUEEN CONCH (Strombus gigas) IN HONDURAS (Notification to the Parties)

Dirección General de Pesca y Acuicultura (DIGEPESCA)

CITES Report

DIGEPESCA/SAG

REVIEW OF THE PROCESS FOR THE SETTING OF SCIENTIFIC QUOTAS FOR QUEEN CONCH (Strombus gigas) IN HONDURAS

With the support of the regional technical experts of La Ceiba/Atlántida

Ramón Cáceres
José Ángel González Dueñas
and APICAH

By:

Comité Técnico Investigación Pesquera (Technical Committee for Fisheries Research)
Dirección General de Pesca y Acuicultura (Directorate General of Fisheries and Aquaculture)
Secretaría de Agricultura y Ganadería (Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Farming)

Table of contents (only in Spanish)

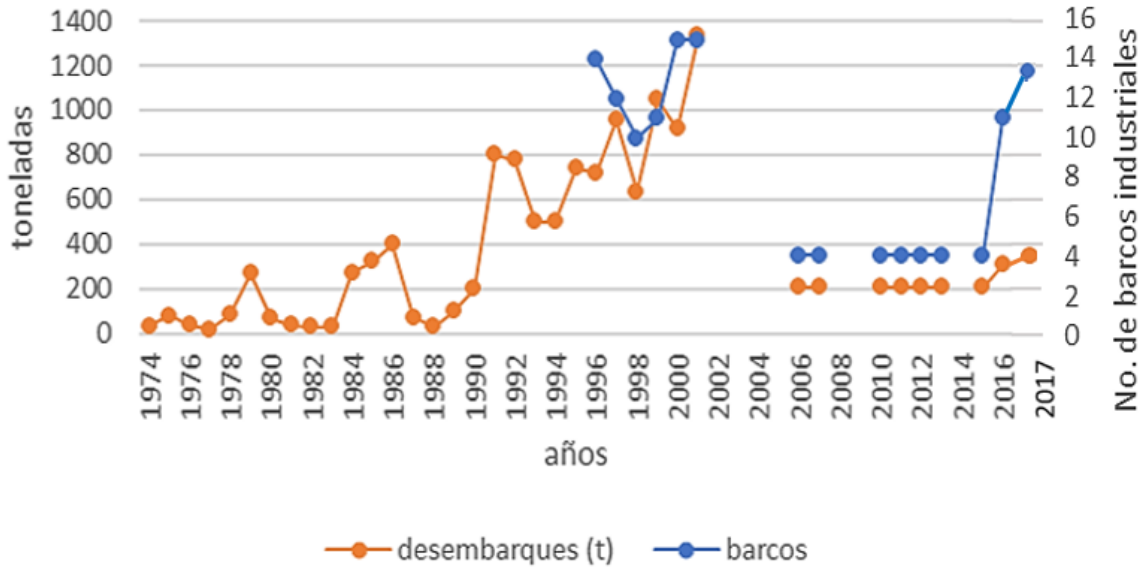
I. Introduction

The queen conch *Strombus gigas* has historically been of great importance as a food resource for the large human populations that live on the Atlantic coast of Honduras, which is one of the poorest areas of the country. However, from the mid 1980s there started to be an interest in the commercial exploitation of this resource in Honduras. This led to a considerable growth in annual exports, which reached 1,000 metric tonnes of clean meat in 2003 (Fig. 1).

The fishery of queen conch *Strombus gigas* in Honduras was very significant during the 1990s, with catches reaching their maximum levels during the fishing season of 2003, although production started to be reported from the 1970s (Graph 1). It was on this year that the species was included in CITES Appendix II because of the lack of control mechanisms.

Graph 1. Landings (tonnes) of queen conch and industrial fleet (vessels) operating in the queen conch fishery of Honduras, 1974-2018 (source: *Informe Caracol* 2017-2018).

Note: Toneladas=tonnes; No. de barcos industriales=no. of industrial vessels; años=years; desembarques=landings; barcos=vessels;



1.2 The fishery after the moratorium

There has been a moratorium on exports from the commercial fishery of queen conch *Strombus gigas* since September 2003. This is one of the actions taken by the Government of Honduras as a result of the review of international trade in this protected species included in CITES Appendix II.

In 2005, the Government of Honduras agreed to establish a research plan based on scientific fisheries in the so-called *Proyecto Caracol*. This has provided greater insight on the status of the queen conch and on how to improve the management of this fishery so as to be able to resume its commercial activities in the future.

This involved setting an annual quota of 210 metric tonnes (462,000 pounds) to explore all the major fishing grounds of the country. Four industrial vessels were initially used for this purpose following a research protocol resulting from the recommendations of the representative of the CITES Secretariat.

At the meeting held by the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC) in November 2014 in Panama City it was agreed to gradually increase the quota. In 2016 it was decided to include the 12 vessels holding a licence for fishing queen conch and increase the quota of catches for export to 310 metric tonnes (682,000 pounds), with an additional harvest quota of a maximum of 200,000 pounds (90.9 metric tonnes) for domestic trade and consumption. The implementation of the first management plan for this fishery began in 2017 and involved the participation of 13 industrial vessels (fleet agreement 241-17 attached). Honduras set a commercial quota of 100,000 pounds for the domestic market and 360 metric tonnes to be exported with CITES certificates.

Given the high level of exports from Honduras observed and the experience that *Strombus gigas* is a species that can be highly vulnerable to exploitation if no adequate regulations are established for its conservation, **CITES** communicated the following to the Government of Honduras: in accordance with Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP13), on the Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species, the CITES Animals Committee, in consultation with the CITES Secretariat, issued a series of recommendations in August 2003 on international trade in *Strombus gigas* in Honduras. Such recommendations included an action to be implemented in the immediate term: the establishment of a moratorium on export permits for products of the species.

Indeed, through Notification to the Parties No. 2003/057 of 29 September 2003, the CITES Secretariat reported that it had determined, after consultation with the Chair of the Animals Committee, that Honduras had implemented the first short-term action. Later, in January 2004, Honduras submitted preliminary information about the implementation of the other short-term actions and indicated that it had started to address the long-term actions recommended by the Animals Committee. ***Since then, Honduras has established a permanent voluntary moratorium*** on the commercial harvest of queen conch in order to obtain baseline information to determine the abundance of the species and the level of harvest that would imply a sustainable use of the resource. To do so, the Government of Honduras collected statistical information on the experimental harvests made during the existing closed period and received financial help from the fishing industry to analyze the data collected and reach preliminary conclusions about the information requested by CITES.

This report contains information about the long-term actions with historical data from 2005 to 2017. It is important to mention that Ministerial Agreement SAG 240-17 introduced the possibility of establishing a management plan for the suspension of the moratorium. This plan is currently under way through the implementation of 6 subprogrammes.

1.3 Regulatory framework

It is particularly important to mention that Article 340 of the Constitution of Honduras declares that the technical and wise use of the natural resources of the country is a matter of public need and interest. According to this article, the State must regulate their harvest according to social interest and lay down the conditions to grant them to private individuals.

The executive power, through the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Farming (Secretaría de Estado en los Despachos de Agricultura y Ganadería), is the leading authority of the fisheries and aquaculture sector and is responsible for designing the policies, strategies and plans that determine the national fishing and aquaculture effort.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Farming, through the Directorate General of Fisheries and Aquaculture (Dirección General de Pesca y Acuicultura, DIGEPESCA), has the responsibility of establishing the regulatory framework for the management, protection and promotion of hydrobiological resources regarding the fisheries and aquaculture operations of the State of Honduras, including their harvest, culture, processing, transport, trade and other related activities. For this reason, there are agreements that regulate the harvest and distribution of quotas as well as the authorization of the vessels that take part in the harvest.

II. Development

In its report to the 29th meeting of the Animals Committee, the Secretariat pointed out that Honduras is one of the two Parties to CITES that has established export quotas for scientific purposes for *Strombus gigas.* As a result, on behalf of the Animals Committee, the Secretariat invites Honduras to submit information about the use of its scientific quotas for the harvest of queen conch, in particular about the following issues:

2.1 To what extent does Honduras use its scientific research in the making of non-detriment findings?

Currently, Honduras administers the fishery of queen conch by means of a management plan that entered into force in September of 2017 through the implementation of Ministerial Agreement SAG 294-17, which is managed under 6 subprogrammes:

1. Monitoring at sea
2. Monitoring in processing plants
3. Control and surveillance
4. Technology transfer
5. Capacity building
6. Social responsibility

It should be underlined that through the implementation of the management plan Honduras undertakes programmes for the monitoring of sizes both in processing plants and at sea in order to ensure that the harvest of *Strombus gigas* is not detrimental or causes damage to the species.

2.2 How are levels of export for specimens of queen conch established in Honduras?

Currently, Honduras has a scientific export quota of 360 metric tonnes, which are harvested by 13 industrial vessels. Each vessel is assigned an individual quota (27.69 tonnes, equivalent to 61,051.02 pounds (lbs) per vessel. These vessels sell the harvested conch to the processing plants, which apply for CITES certificates to be able to export the conch to all parts of the world and are not allowed to export more than the assigned quota.

2.3 What process is used for setting scientific quotas for the harvest of queen conch and what objectives are pursued by setting them?

In Honduras the harvest of queen conch is industrial and not artisanal, with 13 industrial vessels approved through Ministerial Agreement 241-17 by the Minister of Agriculture and Livestock Farming and administered by DIGEPESCA.

The main objective of the harvest quotas is to ensure that harvests are ecologically feasible and economically profitable without causing damage to the stock. They involve two stages: 4 days of exploratory fishing by means of transects and 11 days of commercial fishing. In the 4 days of exploratory fishing, a certain number of queen conch samples is harvested from the prospection areas and brought to land to be analyzed by a group of technical experts who record the following data:

1. Sex identification
2. Lip thickness
3. Length from the tip of the siphonal canal to the apex of the spire
4. Shell volume in ml
5. Shell height
6. Nominal weight
7. 50 percent fillet (weight)
8. 65 percent fillet (weight)
9. 85 percent fillet (weight)
10. 100 percent fillet (weight)
11. Application of statistical models

The procedures described above are established in order to meet the requirements of CITES and respect the conversion factors proposed by FAO and the WECAFC with the aim of managing the fishery by applying a code of conduct for responsible fisheries.

2.4 Do catches for scientific studies contribute to overall exports?

In Honduras there is a scientific quota of 360 metric tonnes, all of which are exported by issuing a CITES certificate, which is accompanied by an executive report describing the catch areas, the landings per processing plant and the amount counted against the quota, both overall and per vessel.

III. Notification to the Parties

The Secretariat further notes that there is no clearly defined end to the commitment that Honduras made in 2006, other than that Honduras will "maintain a moratorium on the harvest of queen conch until an annual harvest and export quotas with a scientific basis can be established for the species, based on research and analyses of the status of the exploitation and abundance of the resource in Honduras". The only exception to this self-imposed fishery and trade moratorium are scientific catches realized under a research programme, for which Honduras committed to "issue CITES export permits for the scientific catch to cover the considerable costs required to implement a queen conch stock assessment plan over a wide area of the Honduras continental shelf".

With this context in mind, the Secretariat is of the view that Honduras' response to the Notification to the Parties should also aim to provide additional information on the following questions:

3.1 Which type of quotas are currently established in Honduras in the framework of its fishery of queen conch? For example, scientific, commercial or harvest quotas

Honduras applies quotas on harvests for export in the framework of a scientific exploration programme; additionally, there is a commercial quota for the domestic market of 130,000 pounds of 100% clean meat.

3.2 Are the scientific quotas harvest quotas for scientific purposes, export quotas for scientific purposes or both?

The quotas in Honduras are of both types: there are 5 days of exploratory fishing to verify the abundance of the species, during which a certain number of samples are taken per fishing trip to be analyzed on land; and 10 days of commercial fishing.

3.3 How is the scientific information acquired through the scientific catch scheme used for the management of the queen conch fishery, in particular for establishing future catch and/or export quotas and the making of non-detriment findings?

The analysis of the catches and the fishing effort as well as a morphological analysis of the samples make it possible to prepare a report that is sent to the CITES authorities to inform them of the current status of the resource. Relative abundances, densities, maximum

sustainable yield, and models of growth and linear regression are used to generate a baseline for making decisions on a country level. This enables us to determine whether the optimal biomass that can be harvested from this stock could be affected by adding an additional vessel to the 13 existing ones. We also analyze the scientific harvest quotas allocated from an economic point of view because, if very low quotas are assigned, the fishery is not profitable for the shipowners or the plants, considering the operating costs of the vessels.

Currently, Honduras sends form 2 of the non-detriment findings, which can be completed only if there is information on the scientific parameters (e.g., spatial distribution, captures, densities, earnings and socioeconomic data, among others). If this fishery for scientific purposes did not take place it would not be possible to provide responses to CITES.

3.4 Is Honduras planning to continue its scientific catch scheme for the foreseeable future?

The lessons learnt have shown us that when a fishery is managed through the implementation of a scientific scheme it is managed more wisely and sustainably and in a more organized fashion, which makes it possible to conduct biological monitoring during each season and helps us determine the current status of this species. In addition, the design of queen conch fisheries using transects and spatial zoning has helped Honduras to identify its critical habitats, areas of upwelling and strata, to make zoning decisions according to maturity stage, and to reduce work accidents involving nitrogen narcosis in divers, since they make their catches in shallower waters with depths of 40-90 feet. Each skipper is given a map showing the sampling stations and boundaries for each fishing ground. For these reasons and many more, Honduras is planning to continue its fishery of queen conch implementing the management plan, as long as CITES approves our research protocols and our commercial harvest quotas, both for the local market and for export.

3.5 What is the proportion of specimens obtained by the scientific catch scheme in the export quota and are there any expected changes in the makeup of the overall export quota?

So far, in Honduras, of an export quota of 360 metric tonnes (equivalent to 793,663 pounds), 750,306.62 pounds have been exported. For the domestic market, of a quota of 130,000 pounds, 127,470 have been harvested. The sum of both amounts to a total of 921,133 pounds. This is equivalent to 3,789,155.74 individuals harvested from the continental shelf in Honduras.

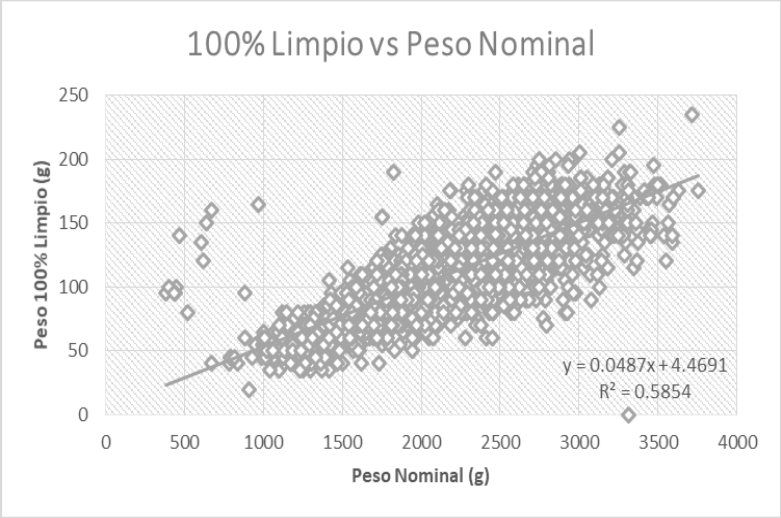
Table 1. Conversion factors and relative abundance per fishing ground

Note: banco de pesca=fishing ground; libras totales=total pounds; FC (ind/libra)=conversion factor (ind./pound); Nº de individuos=no. of individuals; % de aprove. por banco=% of harvest per fishing ground; días por banco=days per fishing ground; prof. en pies=depth in feet; abundancia relativa o CPUE (lb/buzo/salida)=relative abundance or CPUE (lb/diver/trip); densidad indv/has=density (ind./ha); densidad indv/m3=density (ind./m3); total libras/temporada=total pounds/season; promedios=averages;

BANCO DE PESCA	Libras TOTALES	FC (ind/libra)	N° DE INDIVIDUOS	% DE APROVE. POR BANCO	DIAS POR BANCO	PROF. EN PIES	ABUNDANCIA RELATIVA O CPUE (LB/BUZO/SALIDA)	DENSIDAD INDV/HAS	DENSIDAD INDV/M ²
ONEIDA	62,691.00	3.90	244,771.42	6.81	52.00	80.00	19.33	150.95	0.01509537
ROSALINDA	421,706.31	4.17	1,756,761.65	45.78	326.00	79.00	21.94	182.81	0.01828056
GORDA ESTE	153,711.46	3.78	581,619.22	16.69	105.00	56.00	24.89	188.38	0.01883787
GORDA OESTE	72,631.00	4.53	329,162.15	7.88	65.00	62.00	20.19	182.97	0.01829695
ROSARIO	16,802.00	3.69	62,067.60	1.82	15.00	78.00	33.81	249.77	0.02497690
MISTERIOSA	81,394.50	4.35	354,437.99	8.84	63.00	89.00	24.09	209.79	0.02097887
MIDDLE BANK	90,010.00	4.20	377,907.18	9.77	60.00	77.00	29.43	247.16	0.02471597
VIVORIOS	11,702.00	3.86	45,127.25	1.27	11.00	65.00	16.81	129.68	0.01296760
PARCHE DE CORAL	8,803.00	3.64	32,016.66	0.96	5.00	66.00	24.87	180.89	0.01808851
ALAGARDO REEF	1,682.00	3.14	5,284.62	0.18	2.00	36.00	20.77	130.48	0.01304845
TOTAL LIBRAS / TEMPORADA	921,133.26		3,789,155.74	100.00	704.00	688.00	236.13	1,852.87	
PROMEDIOS	92,113.33	3.93	378,915.57	10.00	70.40	68.80	23.61	185.29	0.01852870
MAX	421,706.31	4.53	1,756,761.65	45.78	326.00	89.00	33.81	249.77	0.0249769
MIN	1,682.00	3.14	5,284.62	0.18	2.00	36.00	16.81	129.68	0.01296760

Graph 1. 100 percent fillet to nominal weight ratio

Note. 100% Limpio vs Peso Nominal=100 percent fillet to nominal weight; Peso 100% limpio (g)= 100 percent fillet weight (g); Peso Nominal=nominal weight; Prom.=average;



	Peso Nominal	Peso 100% Limpio
Max	3,755.00	235.00
Min	380.00	20.00
Prom.	2,177.13	110.55

I sincerely hope that Honduras has responded to your request.

Yours faithfully,

Ing. Mauricio Guevara
Minister of Agriculture and Livestock Farming

Cuadro 2: Formato de Evaluación Rápida para Determinar el Estado de Conservación del Caracol Rosado

Las categorías incluidas en el Formato de Evaluación Rápida también se puede encontrar en el Cuadro 1, que es una guía de formato de Dictamen de Extracción No perjudicial (DEP) comprehensivo en base de "diligencia debida" y de buena práctica para los países que actualmente no hacen DEPs y/o que tienen dificultades para determinar el contenido requerido. Para países que ya producen DEPs, la guía propuesta puede ser interesante y adecuada por razones de comparación y uniformidad regional.

Cuadro 2 no sustituye al Cuadro 1 y se recomienda que se utilice como una evaluación rápida intermedia entre dos evaluaciones comprehensivos de DEP. Esto puede suceder en ocasiones como la ocurrencia de fenómenos naturales y/o grandes cambios en los regímenes prevalecientes de ordenamiento. El Formato de Evaluación Rápida está destinado a ser ejecutivo y por esta razón algunas de las categorías se han acortado y/o fusionado

Las categorías mencionadas en el Cuadro 2 son las recomendadas por M. Rose en su artículo sobre los Dictámenes de Extracción No Perjudicial en CITES (Versión 1.2; 2014), basado en el listado de verificación original de la UICN y complementado por el autor y los participantes en la reunión de Grupo de Trabajo de CFMC/COPACO/OSPESCA/CRFM/CITES sobre el Caracol Rosado, que tuvo lugar del 18 al 20 de noviembre de 2014 en la Ciudad de Panamá.

También este formato aspira ser adecuado para aplicación nacional y regional, lo que permite la toma de decisiones a nivel unilateral, así como proporcionar una base para las comparaciones y la colaboración regional.

Especie: Caracol Gigante *(Strombus gigas)* **País: Honduras**

Estado de Conservación de la Especie (Listado rojo de IUCN): **Estatus Nacional de Conservación:**

Fecha de Evaluación Rápida: 21/04/2016 **Fecha del Último DENP:**

Evaluación Rápida preparada por (Autoridad/ Organización): Autoridad Administrativa/ Científica
Funcionario Encargado / Asignado: Grupo de Trabajo
Autoridad Científica (AC) Nacional Competente: DIGEPESCA Funcionario Encargado / Asignado: Director General
Autoridad Administrativa (AA) Nacional Competente: Secretaria de Agricultura y Ganadería /SAG

Funcionario Encargado / Asignado: Secretario de Estado.
Actual Cuotas Voluntarias Anuales: A) Carne Limpia: _210___ TM; B) Recortes: _7,497.20____ Lbs.; C) Perlas: __0___ Unidades; D) Otras: __Opérculo____486.71_____Lbs.

CATEGORÍAS	DESCRIPCIÓN	INDICADORES	REF.
1.1 Ubicación taxonómica de la especie	La identificación correcta es crucial para CITES: 1. Proporciona las taxonomías y las nomenclaturas correctas de las especies de género Strombus que se encuentran en las aguas nacionales. 2. Indique sinónimos y nombres locales.	1. Especies del género Strombus: gigas 2. Nombres y sinónimos locales: Caracol Gigante	
2.2 Densidad de población y adultos por hectárea	Densidad de adultos por hectárea es uno de los atributos más fácilmente medido y monitoreado para evaluar la probabilidad de supervivencia de la población de caracol rosado. A pesar de opiniones encontradas de expertos y países de la región, parece haber consenso que los siguientes temas deben ser investigados: 1. Información sobre la densidad promedia de adultos por hectárea de acuerdo a resultados de estudios locales. 2. Información sobre la densidad de adultos por hectárea actualmente usada como referencia por las autoridades nacionales competentes. 3. Sugerencia de punto de referencia regional en torno al nivel de adultos por hectárea.	Puntos de referencia de adultos por hectárea: 240 individuos adultos por hectárea. (Punto de referencia mínima de CITES: 56 adultos / hectárea). 1. El promedio nacional: aprobada 100,000 libras para comercio local 2. Dato de referencia nacional: Informe 2013 Ehrhardt, 3. Sugerencia de referencia mínimo regional: documento Reunion COPACO/FAO Panamá 2014.	Appeldoorn et al., 2011 NMFS – ESA, 2014 (pag. 1820). Stoner and Ray-Culp, 2000 QCWG, Miami, 2012
3.1 Distribución nacional	Generalmente, existen diferencias sustanciales en los patrones de distribución espacial dentro de un área como resultado de la profundidad, sustrato, tipo de alimento y de los factores que contribuyen a la mortalidad general. 1. Proporciona información sobre la disponibilidad de datos de distribución espacial por área de pesca.	Datos sobre la distribución del recurso: 1. Información/mapas de distribución espacial del recurso: Estaciones de pesca, bancos Middle Bank, Misteriosa y El Rosario, Banco Gorda Este y Rosalinda. 2. Parámetros determinantes en la distribución geográfica: Latitud, Longitud, estrato y Morfología y transeptos circulares con radio de 3 millas náuticas. 3. Sub-poblaciones detectadas: No detectadas 4. Parámetros biológicos utilizados: Peso-Talla (Concha, entero y procesado) y factores de conversión por grado de procesamiento 5. Protocolos / metodologías utilizados: Protocolo de Evaluación de *S. gigas*, bajo la metodología de transeptos (estaciones por banco de pesca cada tres millas náuticas).147 estaciones	

	2. Proporciona datos sobre los factores que determinan la distribución geográfica por etapa del ciclo de vida. 3. Proporciona información de sub-poblaciones detectadas. 4. Menciona los parámetros biológicos incluidos en el análisis nacional de distribución. 5. Indique el protocolo o metodología utilizado en el análisis de la distribución del caracol rosado.		
3.2 Abundancia nacional	La abundancia espacial por área de pesca debe ser incluida en la evaluación del recurso. 1. Proporciona información sobre estudios de línea de base de la población. 2. Informa sobre la abundancia por área de pesca. 3. Proporciona información sobre diferencias en abundancia por zonas dentro el mismo territorio nacional: 4. Indica el protocolo y/o metodología utilizado en el análisis de la abundancia del caracol rosado a nivel nacional.	Datos sobre la abundancia del recurso: 1. Datos sobre la línea de base. Ehrhardt, 2008 2. Datos de la abundancia espacial o mapas: Mapa de densidad relativa, DIGEPESCA 2016. 3. Datos sobre diferentes abundancias en respectivas zonas dentro del territorio nacional: Se obtuvieron por Banco de pesca (ver sección 3.3.1.) 6. Protocolo / metodología utilizado: Protocolo de Evaluación de *S. gigas*, bajo la metodología de transeptos (estaciones por banco de pesca cada tres millas náuticas).	CFMC Manual sobre Valoración del Recurso del Caracol Rosado. Ehrhardt, 2008
1.2; 5.8; 8.8: Calidad de datos utilizados en la Evaluación Rápida: • Datos biológicos y ecológicos de caracol rosado (1.2) • Datos sobre el sector pesca de caracol rosado (5.8) • Datos sobre el comercio de caracol rosado (8.8)	Para CITES la confiabilidad, exactitud, coherencia y exhaustividad de los datos utilizados en la evaluación es de gran importancia ya que establece el tono para el nivel de precaución que se aplicará para el nivel de comercio permitido y los niveles de captura. 1. Proporciona opinión sobre calidad de datos biológicos y ecológicos utilizados. 2. Evalúe los factores que afectan el nivel de confianza en los datos del sector pesquero. (Escala 1-4). 3. Evalúe los niveles de confianza en las fuentes de datos de comercio. (Escala 1-4). (Escala: 1- Ninguno; 2- Limitado; 3-Regular; 4-Alta)	1. Nivel cualitativo y cuantitativo de los datos biológicos y ecológicos en relación al estado del recurso: • Bajo ……..……..……..☐ • Medio ……..……..……☐ • Bueno ……..……..……☐ • Alto ……..……..…… **X** • No sé ……..……..……..☐ 2. Factores que influyen en los niveles de confianza de los datos del sector pesquero ☹Escala 1-4) • Deficiencias en reportes de datos de extracción: …… **4** • Captura es procesada en el momento de extracción: ….. **1** • Incongruencias en cálculo de conversión de…..... **4** vivo/entero al producto final. • Baja eficacia de los sistemas de monitoreo: …..... **4** • Otros:..…….... 3. Niveles de confianza en las fuentes de datos comerciales (Escala 1-4): • Estadísticas nacionales: …..……..……... **3**	

		• Estadísticas de países importadores: ……..... **2** • Estadísticas de la FAO: …..……..... **2** • Estadísticas de CITES: …..……..... **3** • Registros de exportadores: …..……..…… **4** • Datos extrapolados sobre el comercio: ..…….....**2** • Otras: …..……	
4.2 Plan de manejo o equivalente	La existencia de un plan de manejo y su eficacia en términos de ejecución, seguimiento, control y cumplimiento, es de gran importancia para la evaluación de parte de la AC. La información necesaria para la evaluación consiste en: 1. Orientación del plan de manejo. 2. Tipo y resultado de análisis de ejecución y eficacia de gestión del plan de manejo.	1. Orientación del plan: • Adaptivo: ..…….……..…… X Co-manejo:.. …….……..…….. • Eco-sistémico: ……..……..…..☐ • Otros: ……..……..……..☐ 2. Datos sobre análisis de ejecución y eficacia de gestión: • FODA: ……..……..……..☐ • Otros: ……..……..…… X	
4.3 Medidas de manejo	Indique las medidas de control y mitigación contempladas para asegurar que la pesca no es perjudicial para la supervivencia de la especie. 1. Enumera las diferentes medidas de gestión que se lleva a cabo. Medidas de manejo no son mutuamente excluyentes.	1. Las medidas de manejo establecidas: • Cuotas para la exportación: ……..……..……**X** • Cuotas de extracción: ……..…….. **X** • Áreas Marinas Protegidas (AMP): ……..……..☐ • Otras cuotas específicas: ……..…… **X** • Número mínimo de adultos por hectárea: ……..……... **X** • Tamaños mínimos de concha y labio: ……..……..….. **X** • Periodos de veda: ……..……... **X** • Sistema de licencias: ……..……... **X** Limitaciones de artes y métodos de pesca: ….…….. **X** • Cuotas individuales no transferibles: ……..…….. **X** • Sistema de Vigilancia por Satélite: ……..…….. **X** • Principio de Precaución: ……..……..…….... **X** • Otros: ……..……..…….... **X**	

4.6 Nivel de confianza en la eficacia de la gestión de manejo	La confianza en el manejo de la explotación es un factor clave en la explotación sostenible del recurso. La confianza y la eficacia van de la mano. Evalúe los factores que inciden en la eficacia del plan de manejo y que afectan la confianza en la gestión de manejo de la explotación. Indique el nivel de confianza en una escala de 1 a 4.	La confianza y la eficacia de la gestión de manejo se pueden ver obstaculizadas por: • Restricciones presupuestarias: ……..……...3 • Escasez de personal (capacitado): ……..……....1 • Falta de cumplimiento: ……..……....1 • Falta de retroalimentación: ……..……..3 • Limitado participación de los interesados (“Stakeholders”):….1	
	(Escala: 1- Muy poco; 2- poco; 3-Regular; 4- sustancial)	• Otros: ……..…….....….3	
6.2 Confianza en monitoreo	La AC tiene que evaluar los factores que afectan de manera positiva y negativa los niveles de confianza en los sistemas de monitoreo establecidos. 1. Establecer los niveles de confianza en el monitoreo mediante la evaluación de impacto y desempeño de los diferentes factores, en una escala de -2 a +2. (Escala: -2 Muy negativo; -1 Negativo; 0-Sin afectación; +1-Positivo; +2- Muy positivo)	1. Nivel de confianza en el monitoreo depende de (escala de -2 a +2): • Periodicidad de las revisiones: ……..…...…….....+2 • Calidad de las fuentes de datos utilizadas: ……..…….....+2 • Colaboración del sector privado: ……..…….....−1 • Niveles de competencia en la autoridad de……..…….....+2 gestión. • Colaboración interinstitucional: ……..……..…….....−2 • Nivel y eficacia en la aplicación: ……..……..……...+1 • Niveles de cumplimiento: ……..……..……..+1 • Retroalimentación sobre medidas: ……..…….....+2 • Las evaluaciones externas: ……..……....+2 • Los niveles de pesca INN: ……..……...−2 • Bases de datos eficiente: ……..……..…….....+2 • Otros: ……..……..……..□	McGowan and Hay, 2008.

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5.2 Cuotas de extracción	Cuotas de extracción son una herramienta importante para limitar el esfuerzo de pesca y los niveles generales de explotación, siempre y cuando son aplicadas correctamente y debidamente fiscalizadas. Dentro de la pesquería de caracol rosado, una serie de opciones de cuotas puede ser empleada por las autoridades competentes y que puedan ser evaluadas de forma expedita por la AC mediante la obtención de información sobre los siguientes temas: 1. Indique si, además de la cuota de extracción comercial, se ha asignado por parte de CITES una cuota científica de extracción. Proporciona volumen de la cuota comercial y la cuota científica asignadas y porcentaje de cumplimiento. 2. Indique los productos de caracol rosado que se encuentran bajo el régimen de cuotas de extracción 3. Evalúe la tendencia de la(s) cuota(s) y de los niveles de cumplimiento.	Evaluación de las cuotas de extracción: 1. Tipo de cuota • Científico: ……....……....**X** • Comercial: …….....**X** 2. Los productos con régimen de cuotas: • Carne (filetes): ……..…….....**X** • Recortes (“Trimmings”): ……...……..... **X** • Perlas: ……..……..…....**NO** • Opérculo: ……....**X** • Concha: ……..……..... **NO** • Otros: ……..…..... **NO** 3. Evolución de los cupos de captura y niveles de cumplimiento: 100% cuota CITES y 93.4 % comercial	
5.5 Pesca ilegal, noreportada y no-reglamentada (INN)	La AC requiere información sobre el impacto de la extracción ilegal, no declarada y no reglamentada (INN) en el total de los desembarques y los mecanismos para combatir estas prácticas. 1. Proporciona información sobre los mecanismos en marcha para luchar contra la pesca INN. 2. Compruebe con fuentes locales los niveles de las prácticas (y volúmenes) de extracción INN en una escala de 1 a 4. 3. Proporcionar información sobre la tendencia en la pesca INN durante los últimos 5 años. 4. Indique el nivel de impacto de la pesca INN sobre la sostenibilidad del recurso en escala de 1 a 4. (Escala: 1- Muy poco; 2- Limitado; 3 - Notable; 4- Sustancial)	1. Mecanismos para detectar y frenar la pesca INN: • El uso de vigilancia por satélite: …….….....**si** • Vigilancia directa: ……..…….……**si** • Acuerdos de co-gestión y de tenencia:…….**NO** • Colaboración interinstitucional: ……...**SI** • Protocolos de trazabilidad: ……. **SI** • Ninguno: ……..…….....□ • Otros: ……..……..... 2. Niveles de pesca IUU (escala 1-4): • Ilegal: ……..…….…….....**2** • No declarada: ……....……....**1** • No reglamentada: …….....**1** 3. Tendencia en la pesca INN durante los últimos 5 años…….**2** 4. Impacto de la pesca INN en la sostenibilidad ……**3** del recurso: (Escala 1-4) .	

8.7 Comercio ilegal, no reportado y no reglamentado (INN)	¿Qué importancia tiene el comercio ilegal, no declarada y no reglamentada? 1. Determine si el comercio INN es de productos que entran o salen del país. 2. Proporciona información sobre los productos que forman parte del comercio INN. 3. Examina los niveles de INN comercial estimados en comparación con el total del comercio nacional en estos productos. 4. Enumera las medidas vigentes para detectar y erradicar el comercio INN. 5. Metodología utilizada para el cálculo del comercio INN.	1. Dirección del comercio INN: • Entrante para la re-exportación: …….....NO • Entrante para el consumo local…….....SI Saliente para la re-exportación……NO • Saliente para el consumo directo…….....SI 2. Los productos sujetos al comercio INN: • Carne (filetes): ……..…..…..…….....**SI** • Recortes (“Trimmings”): ……....**NO** • Perlas: ……..…..……....**NO** • Opérculo: ……....**NO** • Concha: ……....**NO** 3. Nivel de INN en relación con el total del comercio • Carne: ..NA % del comercio total de carne • Recortes NA% del comercio total de recortes • Perlas: .NA% del comercio total de perlas • Opérculo: NA% del comercio total de opérculo • Otros: ….NA% del comercio total 4. Medidas para frenar el comercio INN: ACUERDO 1550-15 Y 01-16 5. Metodología utilizada para calcular el comercio INN.= NA

NA= NO APLICA

S/D SIN DATOS

Cinco productos son generalmente producidos en base de caracol rosado (usar datos del último año disponible):DATOS AL 3/6/2016								
Año	Participación en volumen y valor		Destinos					% estimado de INN en total volumen comercializado
	En volumen (Kilos)	En valor(US$)	Países de Exportación	Mercado Local	Subsistencias	Total		S/D %
Carne(filetes limpios)	75,250.72	1,100,114.13	CURACAO,ESTADOS UNIDOS ,ISALAS CAYMAN 80%	20%	0%	100%		S/D %
Recortes	861.84	0	ESTADOS UNIDOS 100%	0%	0%	100%		S/D %
Perlas	0	0				100%		S/D %
Opérculo	1,073	18,241	Hong Kong 100%	0%	0%	100%		S/D %
Concha	0	0	0			100%		S/D %
Otro	0	0	0			100%		S/D %
	100%	100%	0					S/D %

8.2 Productos & destinos

7

Impacto socio-económico del aprovechamiento del recurso (3.7 & 3.8)	La contribución socio-económica del sector a la economía nacional a través de la extracción y el comercio es un importante indicador en la evaluación del estado del recurso por sus repercusiones en las medidas de ordenamiento para la conservación. Datos cuantitativos deben ser proporcionadas sobre: 1. Contribución de caracol rosado en las exportaciones pesqueras totales. (divisas) 2. Contribución del caracol rosado al PIB del sector primario (tendencia). (banco central) 3. El empleo generado por la pesca y el comercio del caracol rosado (directo e indirecto). 4. Composición de la población de los pescadores de acuerdo a categoría de ingreso, el nivel de educación y la estructura por edad y social. Estructura de la población de los pescadores de Caracol 1. PLANTAS PROCESADORAS 2. ARMADORES 3. CAPITANES 4. BUZOS 5. CAYUQUEROS 6. MARINOS	Datos de rendimiento económico (en %, volumen y/o valor): 1.La tendencia de exportaciones de caracol rosado en las exportaciones pesqueras totales: R/492,966 libras 2. Caracol rosado en el PIB del sector primario. R/ 0.37% del PIB AGRICOLA DE 6, 714, 000,00 millones de Lempiras. Un aproximado de 25,082,602.16 millones de lempiras. 3.Número total de empleo: R/ 1-DIRECTO:600 PERSONAS EN 5 EMBARCACIONES 2-LOS INDIRECTOS ,3600 PERSONAS 6 DE CADA DIRECTO EN PROMEDIO 4-Estructura de la fuerza laboral por: ***1-Plantas Procesadoras*** • Categoría de ingreso: Generan un promedio de 700 empleos directos con un sueldo base de 400 U$ por operario por una temporada de 8 meses. • Estructura de edad: la edad están entre los 21 y 50 años • Nivel de escolaridad: secundaria generalmente • Otro ***2-Armadores*** • Categoría de ingresos Dueños de las embarcaciones, está temporada tuvieron ganancias en promedio de 550,000 U$ por bote a bordo

		…… • Estructura de edad: la edad están entre los 36 y 60 años. • Nivel de escolaridad: secundaria y universitaria • Otros. Título de Capitán graduado en la escuela de Marina Mercante de Honduras. ***3-Capitanes*** • Categoría de ingreso: Generalmente ganan un promedio de 25% de la producción del bote. • Estructura de edad: la edad están entre los 25 y 50 años • Nivel de escolaridad: secundaria generalmente • Otro ***4-Buzos*** Generalmente procedentes de las comunidades de la Mosquitia Hondureña ubicadas en el departamento de Gracias a Dios. • Categoría de ingreso: Generalmente ganan un promedio de 10,000 Lempiras por viaje en cada barco con un promedio de 50,000 lempiras por temporada (U$ 2,500) en 4 meses. • Estructura de edad: la edad están entre los 20 y 50 años • Nivel de escolaridad: primaria in completa

generalmente……

- Otro

  Carpinteros ,pescadores artesanales, artesanos etc.

5-Cayuquero

Generalmente procedentes de las comunidades de la Mosquitia Hondureña ubicadas en el departamento de Gracias a Dios, son los encargados de remar la balsa de fibra de vidrio llamada cayuco y estar pendiente de las herramientas del buzo maestre(gech,profundimetro 4 tanques por salida,gafas ,flapas reguladores profunf+dimetros y maya de nylon para subir el producto).

- Categoría de ingreso:

  ganan un promedio de 2,500 Lempiras por viaje en cada barco con un promedio de 10,000 lempiras por temporada (U$ 500) en 4 meses.

- Estructura de edad: la edad están entre los 15 y 20 años ya que después de esta edad pasan a ser buzos

- Nivel de escolaridad: primaria in completa generalmente.

5-Marinos

Son los encargados de limpiar el caracol a bordo de la embarcación de 120 pies de eslora, a su vez son los responsables de la higiene del bote,rotar el producto en los cuartos frios ayudantes de maquinista y compresorista ,timoneles y procesamiento a bordo del producto.

- Categoría de ingreso:

  Ganan un promedio de 5,000 Lempiras por viaje

		en cada barco con un promedio de 25,000 lempiras por temporada (U$ 1,200) en 4 meses. • Estructura de edad: la edad están entre los 15 y 30 años • Nivel de escolaridad: primaria, secundaria y hasta universitaria. Dirección General de Pesca Secretaria de Agricultura y Ganadería Tegucigalpa M.D.C 3 de junio de 2016.

REPORT TO CITES ON MANAGEMENT OF AND TRADE OF QUEEN CONCH

BY JAMAICA

2017

1. Introduction

Jamaica is recognized as one the major producers and exporters of the Queen Conch (*Strombus gigas*) regionally. This export-oriented fishery is of significant economic importance to Jamaica, as it earns millions of dollars in foreign exchange each year. There were twelve (12) industrial companies in 2017. The industrial Queen Conch fishery is regulated by three legislative / regulatory instruments:

1. The Fishing Industry Act, 1975 Amendments and Regulations (a new revised Fisheries Bill is in the final stage);
2. The Aquaculture, Inland and Marine Products and By- Products (Inspection, Licensing and Export) (Change of Name and Amendment) Act 2013 and Regulations; and
3. The Endangered Species (Protection, Conservation and Regulation of Trade) Act 2000 and Regulations.

The legislative framework is also supported by a Queen Conch Management Plan, 1994. In 2016 this Plan was reviewed and new Plan was prepared by two international consultants, Dr. Martha Prada and Dr. Richard Appeldoorn. In March 2017 the new Queen Conch Fishery Management Plan was finalized and accepted for implementation.

The industrial commercial fishery for Queen Conch is based on the Pedro Bank (a large offshore oceanic bank) and is managed based on annual total allowable catch limits as well as a national export quota system with individual non-transferable quota. Total allowable catches (TACs) are established based on scientific assessments of the status of the conch population on the Pedro Bank.

The National Export Quota (NEQ) is established by the Jamaican CITES Management Authority, the Natural Resources Conservation Authority, taking into account the recommendation of the Scientific Authority (SA) of Jamaica. The SA recommends the level of the NEQ after consultation with the Fisheries Division based on the report prepared for the determination of total allowable catch, using the scientific data described above.

Each year a Close Season is declared under the Fishing Industry Act.

2. Scientific Research in Making of Non- Detriment Findings

Jamaica has conducted six (6) conch abundance surveys, the most recent of which was conducted in 2015. Scientific sampling methods were used to guide the appropriate management decisions. The analyses conducted took into consideration earlier estimates of population densities (conch/ha) and abundance (population size); a description of population structure (size/age) and the maximum sustainable yield (MSY).

3. Process for Establishing Levels of Export

Since 1994, when the quota system was introduced, all conch assessments have been based on biomass (stock abundance) surveys of the conch population on the Pedro Bank (Appeldoorn, 1995; Tewfik and Appeldoorn, 1998). In the absence of abundance surveys, annual assessments are conducted which includes a review of catch and effort data collected for the fishing season, in order to determine the impact of catch per unit effort (CPUE) of the conch fishery on the densities of Queen Conch on the Pedro Bank in comparison with the most recent Pedro Bank conch survey (Fisheries Division, 2015). This approach follows the method utilized for previous fishing seasons (Murray, 2014; Morris, 2013; Murray et al., 2012; Murray, 2011; Smikle 2010; Morris et al., 2016) to recommend a total allowable catch quota for the Queen Conch fishery. The National Export Quota for Queen Conch is established only for commercial trade.

4. Objectives of Setting Scientific Quotas

Jamaica has not established or issued scientific quotas.

5. Traceability of Specimens

Jamaica has now developed the expertise in molecular genetics under a Memorandum of Understanding signed between the University of the West Indies (UWI), Mona, Jamaica and the Smithsonian Institute, United States of America. Two persons have been trained in the analysis of microsatellite genetic markers along with other methods related to determining the metapopulation structure of conch around Jamaica and in the Caribbean and now have nucleotide sequences for the Queen Conch populations found in Jamaican waters.

The expertise developed in DNA extraction can also be used forensically to manage illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU) by foreigners (poaching). The value of poaching losses from Jamaican waters has been conservatively estimated to be least US$8M annually (Aiken et al., 2013).

6. Regional Cooperation

Jamaica has actively participated in the regional meetings and workshops on Queen Conch over the years. However, the issue of IUU of Queen Conch by foreigners remains of great concern to the country.

Prepared by: National Environment and Planning Agency/ Fisheries Division and Scientific Authority
8 May 2018

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Respuesta a la Notificación a las Partes 2018/035

Caracol pala (*Strombus gigas*)

Autoridad Científica de México ante la CITES (CONABIO) 9 de mayo de 2018,

Con el fin de facilitar la aplicación de las Decisiones 17.287 y 17.288, se solicita a los Estados del área de distribución del caracol pala (*Strombus gigas*) que presenten información sobre:

a) La medida en que utilizan investigaciones científicas para formular dictámenes de extracción no prejudicial;

El aprovechamiento de caracol rosado en México se encontró en veda del 20 de marzo del 2015 al 28 de febrero del 2017, y a partir del 2018, se estableció una veda temporal en los meses de febrero y del 1 de mayo al 30 de noviembre de cada año (DOF, 2013).

El aprovechamiento de la especie se rige por criterios mínimos científicos establecidos en la NOM-013-SAG/PESC-2016 (http://www.dof.gob.mx/normasOficiales/6092/sagarpa_19082016_1/sagarpa_19082016_1.html).

b) El proceso que siguen para establecer niveles de exportación para especímenes de caracol pala

Previo al aprovechamiento de la especie, el Instituto Nacional de Pesca (INAPESCA) realiza dictámenes de biomasa disponible con muestreos *in situ* para poder determinar la posibilidad del aprovechamiento de la especie. Un ejemplo de estos dictámenes puede ser encontrado en:
http://www.cofemersimir.gob.mx/expediente/11333/mir/26809/anexo/803947

El proceso para la exportación se realiza bajo el marco del Artículo IV del Texto de la Convención e implica considerar, además de los criterios antes mencionados, la totalidad de las extracciones de ejemplares de la población (para aprovechamiento nacional, fines científicos u otros), cualquier información científica adicional con la que se cuente, y las recomendaciones del Plan Regional para el Ordenamiento y Conservación del Caracol Rosado en la emisión de los NDF (http://www.fao.org/fi/static-media/MeetingDocuments/WECAFC16/Ref20s.pdf). Cabe destacar que no han habido exportaciones legales del medio silvestre de la especie desde hace 7 años, y en su momento todas fueron conchas (un subproducto).

c) El proceso y los objetivos para el establecimiento de 'cupos científicos', si los hay, para el caracol pala

No aplica

d) Si las capturas para estudios científicos contribuyen a sus exportaciones totales.

Se considera la totalidad de extracciones de ejemplares de la población; esto incluye aprovechamiento nacional, aprovechamientos con fines científicos, para comercio internacional u otros.

Referencias

DOF. 2013. Acuerdo por el que se establece una red de zonas de refugio pesquero en aguas marinas de jurisdicción federal ubicadas en las áreas de Banco Chinchorro y Punta Herrero en el Estado de Quintana Roo. Diario Oficial de la Federación. 12-sep-2013, Sección 1, p. 15-24. Ed. Matutina.

Daniel Kachelriess

From: Pascal PERRAUD <Pascal.Perraud@cites.org> on behalf of INFO-CITES <INFO@cites.org>
Sent: Monday, May 14, 2018 4:30 PM
To: Thomas De Meulenaer
Cc: Daniel Kachelriess
Subject: Fw: Information from the Nertherlands concerning E-notif 2018-35 - Strombus gigas

----- Forwarded by Pascal PERRAUD/UNEP/GVA/UNO on 14-05-18 16:29 -----

From: "Langeveld, ing. M.W.L.H. MSc (Marijke)" <m.w.l.h.langeveld@minez.nl>
To: 'INFO-CITES' <INFO@cites.org>
Cc: "Schelvis, T.I. (Tessa)" <tessa.schelvis@rvo.nl>
Date: 14-05-18 15:57
Subject: Information from the Nertherlands concerning E-notif 2018-35 - Strombus gigas

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Dear CITES Secretariat,

In response to notification 2018-35 The Netherlands can provide you with the following information:

> 5a. The Netherlands does not allow commercial export of conch meat from the Caribbean Netherlands unless scientific research can show that such export is sustainable. Wageningen Marine Research (WMR) was commissioned to determine the population status of S. gigas for the islands St. Eustatius and Saba (Saba Bank) of the Caribbean Netherlands. The results of this research indicate that for the island of St. Eustatius the population is sufficiently large and healthy that there is potentially room for sustainable harvest and export of queen conch and recommend a quotum that would be sustainable.
> 5b. Based on the results of the research and a request from the Public Entity (island government) of St. Eustatius to the CITES MA to establish an export quotum for queen conch from the island, the SA will determine if/what export quotum can indeed be sustainable, taking into account local consumption. Such a quotum will then be reported to the Secretariat.
> 5c. Any quota for export can only be established by the MA, after informing the CITES Secretariat. For the Caribbean Netherlands' this can only be undertaken at the request of an island's government and based on scientific research and verification by the SA. The objectives of such a quotum would be to ensure that the queen conch population of such an island remains healthy and that its exploitation is sustainable
> 5d. Scientific surveys for queen conch in the Caribbean Netherlands do not use targeted catches but are based on fisheries independent, *in-situ* population surveys, and thus do not contribute to the overall export (currently zero)

https://cites.org/sites/default/files/notif/E-Notif-2018-035.pdf

Kind regards,

Marijke Langeveld

Marijke Langeveld

CITES Management Authority and Wildlife Crime
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Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality
Directorate-general for Agro and Nature
Nature and Biodiversity Department
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Daniel Kachelriess

From: Doyle, Alejandro (DEFRA) <Alejandro.Doyle@defra.gsi.gov.uk>
Sent: Tuesday, May 15, 2018 5:14 PM
To: Daniel Kachelriess
Cc: Thomas De Meulenaer; Dejana Radisavljevic; Alison Littlewood; 'Vin Fleming'; Biott, Elizabeth (DEFRA); Blake, Kristopher (DEFRA); Kendall, Elaine (Defra); Skinner, Elif (Defra)
Subject: FW: deadline extension required notification 2018/035

Importance: High

Dear Daniel,

Thank you for extending the deadline until today, I am providing the UK response below (which I have separated into the different overseas territories) to enable you to include it in the report to AC30.

Cayman Islands

a) **the extent to which they use scientific research in the making of non-detriment findings;**

Cayman Islands do not export conch commercially. Any exports, e.g., shells as tourist souvenirs, are from by-products of the local artisanal personal-consumption fishery for local consumption, managed through closed seasons, bag limits and closed areas. Exports only take place as part of the personal effects derogation

b) **their process for establishing levels of export for specimens of queen conch;**

Cayman Islands do not establish levels of export for specimens of queen conch as all exports are of by-products of the local artisanal personal-consumption fishery. That fishery includes a maximum daily possession limit well below commercial scale (five per person per day, i.e., no person or business may stockpile/possess more than five conch).

c) **the process for, and the objectives of setting 'scientific quotas', if any, for queen conch; and**

Quotas are not set. The local fishery is too distributed to be effectively monitored.

d) **whether the catch from scientific surveys contributes to their overall exports.**

There is no scientific catch of queen conch in the Cayman Islands.

Virgin Islands

a) the extent to which they use scientific research in the making of non-detriment findings

Currently the Virgin Islands does not commission scientific research in the assessment of non-detriment findings for queen conch as only exports under the personal effects derogation occur.

b) their process for establishing levels of export for specimens of queen conch

The Virgin Islands uses the personal shell quotas established by CITES and has not established a quota for meat.

c) the process for, and the objectives of setting 'scientific quotas', if any, for queen conch

The Virgin Islands has not established scientific quotas for export as there is not a market for commercial export trade

d) whether the catch from scientific surveys contributes to their overall exports.

The catch from scientific surveys does not contribute to the overall export of Strombus gigas, as there has not been any significant or continuous scientific surveys of the queen conch in the Virgin Islands.

Bermuda

Strombus gigas, is native to Bermuda, and recently listed as "Endangered" under the Bermuda Protected Species Act 2003. Fishing and/or taking has been banned since 1978 under Bermudian legislation. The Queen Conch Recovery Plan, published by the Department of Conservation Services in 2009 is available here.

Montserrat

Local catch of Queen Conch is minimal and catch is purely for local consumption and not traded. (*This is backed up by CITES trade data which shows no reported trade in the last 5 years).*

Kind regards,

Alejandro.

From: Daniel Kachelriess [mailto:daniel.kachelriess@un.org]
Sent: 11 May 2018 13:37
To: Doyle, Alejandro (DEFRA) <Alejandro.Doyle@defra.gsi.gov.uk>; Skinner, Elif (Defra) <Elif.Skinner@defra.gsi.gov.uk>
Cc: Thomas De Meulenaer <tom.demeulenaer@un.org>; Dejana Radisavljevic <radisavljevicd@un.org>
Subject: RE: deadline extension required notification 2018/035

Dear Alejandro,

Thank you very much for your email and conveying the intention of the United Kingdom to submit input for the discussion on Queen Conch (*Strombus gigas*) at the upcoming Animals Committee in response to Notification to the Parties No 2018/035.

The Secretariat welcomes any submissions in response to the Notification also after the deadline, but please note that according to the Rules of Procedure of the Animals Committee and our internal document production deadlines, documents for consideration at an upcoming meeting shall be provided 60 days in advance of the meeting, which in the case of AC30 would be 17 May 2018. For that reason and noting that the Secretariat also requires some time to analyze the information submitted, if it were possible to receive the response of the United Kingdom by 15 May at the very latest, we would be able to still include it in our report to AC30.

Following past practice from previous Animals Committees, any information that is not available in time to be included in the Secretariat's report will be uploaded as an Information document and the Secretariat will mention it in its oral introduction of the document at the meeting. Please kindly advise how you would like to proceed and thank you for continued to commitment to the implementation of the Convention.

Best regards,
Daniel

Daniel Kachelriess
Marine Species Officer (JPO)
CITES Secretariat, Scientific Services Team
11-13, Chemin des Anémones
1219 Châtelaine, Genève, SWITZERLAND
Tel: + 41 (0) 22 917 8239

From: Eleonora PALMERO [mailto:eleonora.palmero@un.org] **On Behalf Of** INFO-CITES
Sent: Friday, May 11, 2018 1:46 PM
To: Thomas De Meulenaer <tom.demeulenaer@un.org>; Daniel Kachelriess <daniel.kachelriess@un.org>
Subject: Fw: deadline extension required notification 2018/035

----- Forwarded by Eleonora PALMERO/UNEP/GVA/UNO on 11/05/2018 13:45 -----

From: "Doyle, Alejandro (DEFRA)" <Alejandro.Doyle@defra.gsi.gov.uk>
To: "info@cites.org" <info@cites.org>
Cc: "Skinner, Elif (Defra)" <Elif.Skinner@defra.gsi.gov.uk>
Date: 11/05/2018 13:30
Subject: deadline extension required notification 2018/035

Dear Cites Secretariat,

I am writing to you in regards to cites notification 2018/035.

Unfortunately the UK will require an extension on the deadline, we endeavour to provide our response as soon as possible.

Kind regards,

Alejandro.

Alejandro Doyle | International Species Conservation | Wildlife, International, Climate and Forestry policy | Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs | Email: alejandro.doyle@defra.gsi.gov.uk |
Phone: 02078955470 | Address: 2nd Floor, Horizon House, 1 Deanery Road, Bristol, BS1 5AH
Website Twitter Facebook LinkedIn Instagram

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United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Washington, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:
FWS/DMA/INV 4-01

CITES Secretariat
International Environment House
11 Chemin des Anémones
CH-1219 Châtelaine-Geneve
Switzerland

MAY 10 2018

Via email: info@cites.org

Dear Sir or Madam:

This letter provides the U.S. response to Notification to the Parties No. 2018/035, concerning queen conch (*Strombus gigas*), specifically related to the information requested in paragraph 5 a-d). Although we are a range State for this species, we do not have any records of exports from the United States. However, we have numerous records of re-exports. Because we have not recorded any international trade in specimens harvested in this country, we have not made a non-detriment finding for the species. In the event that we receive an application to export queen conch from the United States, we would use the best available information on the status of the species and management measures in place to conserve it in making a non-detriment finding.

Our CITES regulations explain in general how the U.S. Scientific Authority makes its non-detriment findings (attached for your reference is 50 CFR 23.61 "What factors are considered in making a non-detriment finding"). In making non-detriment findings for any export, we use the best available scientific information to determine whether the harvest is sustainable. In addition, for establishing sustainable levels of export for any species, we look to ensure that State and/or Federal management measures are in place to effectively conserve the species. To date, the United States has not established any export quotas for scientific purposes for queen conch.

If you have questions regarding the information we have provided, please contact Dr. Rosemarie Gnam, Chief, Division of Scientific Authority, at 703-358-1708 or via email: rosemarie_gnam@fws.gov.

Sincerely,

Craig Hoover, Chief
Division of Management Authority

(10) *Genetic status of the specimen:* From a purebred species to a hybrid.

(e) *Captive-bred wildlife or a cultivated plant.* For a specimen that is captive-bred or cultivated, we may consider whether the parental stock was legally acquired.

(f) *Confiscated specimen.* For a confiscated Appendix-II or -III specimen, we consider whether information shows that the transfer of the confiscated specimen or its offspring met the conditions of the remission decision, legal settlement, or disposal action after forfeiture or abandonment.

(g) *Donated specimen of unknown origin.* For an unsolicited specimen of unknown origin donated to a public institution (see § 10.12 of this subchapter), we consider whether:

(1) The public institution follows standard recordkeeping practices and has made reasonable efforts to obtain supporting information on the origin of the specimen.

(2) The public institution provides sufficient information to show it made a reasonable effort to find a suitable recipient in the United States.

(3) The export will provide a conservation benefit to the species.

(4) No persuasive information exists on illegal transactions involving the specimen.

(5) The export is noncommercial, with no money or barter exchanged except for shipping costs.

(6) The institution has no history of receiving a series of rare and valuable specimens or a large quantity of wildlife or plants of unknown origin.

(h) *Imported previously.* For a specimen that was previously imported into the United States, we consider any reliable, relevant information we receive concerning the validity of a CITES document, regardless of whether the shipment was cleared by FWS, APHIS, or CBP.

(i) *Personal use.* For a wildlife or plant specimen that is being exported or re-exported for personal use by the applicant, we consider whether:

(1) The specimen was acquired in the United States and possessed for strictly personal use.

(2) The number of specimens is reasonably appropriate for the nature of your export or re-export as personal use.

(3) No persuasive evidence exists on illegal transactions involving the specimen.

(j) *Sequential ownership.* For a specimen that was previously possessed by someone other than the applicant, we may consider the history of ownership for a specimen and its parental stock, breeding stock, or cultivated parental stock.

(k) *Wild-collected in the United States.* For a specimen collected from the wild in the United States, we consider the site where the specimen was collected, whether the species is known to occur at that site, the abundance of the species at that site, and, if necessary, whether permission of the appropriate management agency or landowner was obtained to collect the specimen.

§ 23.61 What factors are considered in making a non-detriment finding?

(a) *Purpose.* Articles III and IV of the Treaty require that, before we issue a CITES document, we find that a proposed export or introduction from the sea of Appendix-I or -II specimens is not detrimental to the survival of the species and that a proposed import of an Appendix-I specimen is for purposes that would not be detrimental to the survival of the species.

(b) *Types of detriment.* Detrimental activities, depending on the species, could include, among other things, unsustainable use and any activities that would pose a net harm to the status of the species in the wild. For Appendix-I species, it also includes use or removal from the wild that results in habitat loss or destruction, interference with recovery efforts for a species, or stimulation of further trade.

(c) *General factors.* The applicant must provide sufficient information for us to make a finding of non-detriment. In addition to factors in paragraphs (d) and (e) of this section, we will consider whether:

(1) Biological and management information demonstrates that the proposed activity represents sustainable use.

(2) The removal of the animal or plant from the wild is part of a biologically based sustainable-use management plan that is designed to eliminate over-utilization of the species.

(3) If no sustainable-use management plan has been established, the removal of the animal or plant from the wild would not contribute to the over-utilization of the species, considering both domestic and international uses.

(4) The proposed activity, including the methods used to acquire the specimen, would pose no net harm to the status of the species in the wild.

(5) The proposed activity would not lead to long-term declines that would place the viability of the affected population in question.

(6) The proposed activity would not lead to significant habitat or range loss or restriction.

(d) *Additional factor for Appendix-II species.* In addition to the general factors in paragraph (c) of this section, we will consider whether the intended export of an Appendix-II species would cause a significant risk that the species would qualify for inclusion in Appendix I.

(e) *Additional factors for Appendix-I species.* In addition to the general factors in paragraph (c) of this section, we will consider whether the proposed activity:

(1) Would not cause an increased risk of extinction for either the species as a whole or the population from which the specimen was obtained.

(2) Would not interfere with the recovery of the species.

(3) Would not stimulate additional trade in the species. If the proposed activity does stimulate trade, we will consider whether the anticipated increase in trade would lead to the decline of the species.

(f) *How we make our findings.* We base the non-detriment finding on the best available biological information. We also consider trade information, including trade demand, and other scientific management information. We make a non-detriment finding in the following way:

(1) We consult with the States, Tribes, other Federal agencies, scientists, other experts, and the range countries of the species.

(2) We consult with the Secretariat and other Parties to monitor the level of trade that is occurring in the species.

(3) Based on the factors in paragraphs (c) through (e) of this section, we evaluate the biological impact of the proposed activity.

(4) In cases where insufficient information is available or the factors above are not satisfactorily addressed, we take precautionary measures and would be unable to make the required finding of non-detriment.

(g) *Risk assessment.* We review the status of the species in the wild and the degree of risk the proposed activity poses to the species to determine the level of scrutiny needed to make a finding. We give greater scrutiny and require more detailed information for activities that pose a greater risk to a species in the wild. We consider the cumulative risks, recognizing that each aspect of international trade has a continuum of risk (from high to low) associated with it as follows:

(1) *Status of the species*: From Appendix I to Appendix II.

(2) *Origin of the specimen*: From wild-collected to born or propagated in a controlled environment to bred in captivity or artificially propagated.

(3) *Source of the propagule used to grow the plant*: From documentation that the plant was grown from a non-exempt seed or seedling to documentation that the plant was grown from an exempt seed or seedling.

(4) *Origin of the species*: From native species to nonnative species.

(5) *Volume of legal trade*: From high to low occurrence of legal trade.

(6) *Volume of illegal trade*: From high to low occurrence of illegal trade.

(7) *Type of trade*: From commercial to noncommercial.

(8) *Genetic status of the specimen*: From a purebred species to a hybrid.

(9) *Risk of disease transmission*: From high to limited risk of disease transmission.

(10) *Basis for listing*: From listed under Article II(1) or II(2)(a) of the Treaty to listed under Article II(2)(b).

(h) *Quotas for Appendix-I species.* When an export quota has been set by the CoP for an Appendix-I species, we

will consider the scientific and management basis of the quota together with the best available biological information when we make our non-detriment finding. We will contact the Scientific and Management Authorities of the exporting country for further information if needed.

§ 23.62 What factors are considered in making a finding of not for primarily commercial purposes?

(a) *Purpose.* Under Article III(3(c)) and (5(c)) of the Treaty, an import permit or an introduction-from-the-sea certificate for Appendix-I species can be issued only if the Management Authority is satisfied that the specimen is not to be used for primarily commercial purposes. Trade in Appendix-I species must be subject to particularly strict regulation and authorized only in exceptional circumstances.

(b) *How we make our findings.* We must find that the intended use of the Appendix-I specimen is not for primarily commercial purposes before we can issue a CITES document.

(1) We will make this decision on a case-by-case basis considering all available information.

(2) The applicant must provide sufficient information to satisfy us that the intended use is not for primarily commercial purposes.

(3) The definitions of "commercial" and "primarily commercial purposes" in § 23.5 apply.

(4) We will look at all aspects of the intended use of the specimen. If the noncommercial aspects do not clearly predominate, we will consider the import or introduction from the sea to be for primarily commercial purposes.

(5) While the nature of the transaction between the owner in the country of export and the recipient in the country of import or introduction from the sea may have some commercial aspects, such as the exchange of money to cover the costs of shipment and care of specimens during transport, it is the intended use of the specimen, including the purpose of the export, that must not be for primarily commercial purposes.

(6) We will conduct an assessment of factors listed in paragraph (d) of this section. For activities involving an anticipated measurable increase in revenue and other economic value associated with the intended use, we will conduct an analysis as described in paragraph (e) of this section.

(7) All net profits generated in the United States from activities associated with the import of an Appendix-I species must be used for conservation of that species.

(c) *Examples.* The following are examples of types of transactions in which the noncommercial aspects of the intended use of the specimen may predominate depending on the facts of each situation. The discussions of each example provide further guidance in assessing the actual degree of commerciality on a case-by-case basis. These examples outline circumstances commonly encountered and do not cover all situations where import or introduction from the sea could be found to be not for primarily commercial purposes.

(1) *Personal use.* Import or introduction from the sea of an Appendix-I specimen for personal use generally is considered to be not for primarily commercial purposes. An example is the import of a personal sport-hunted trophy by the person who hunted the wildlife for display in his or her own home.

(2) *Scientific purposes.* The import or introduction from the sea of an Appendix-I specimen by a scientist or scientific institution may be permitted in situations where resale, commercial exchange, or exhibit of the specimen for economic benefit is not the primary intended use.

(3) *Conservation, education, or training.* Generally an Appendix-I specimen may be imported or introduced from the sea by government agencies or nonprofit institutions for purposes of conservation, education, or training. For example, a specimen could be imported or introduced from the sea primarily to train customs staff in effective CITES control, such as for identification of certain types of specimens.

(4) *Biomedical industry.* Import or introduction from the sea of an Appendix-I specimen by an institution or company in the biomedical industry is initially presumed to be commercial since specimens are typically imported or introduced from the sea to develop