

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

BLACK SEA BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN  
(*TURSIOPS TRUNCATUS PONTICUS*)

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At its 17th meeting (CoP17, Johannesburg, 2016), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 17.299 to 17.301 on *Black Sea bottlenose dolphin* (*Tursiops truncatus ponticus*) as follows:

***Directed to range States for the Black Sea bottlenose dolphin (Tursiops truncatus ponticus)***

**17.299** *Parties are encouraged to:*

- a) *use genetic analysis to confirm the subspecies of the specimen of Tursiops truncatus and its origin prior to the issuance of an export permit;*
- b) *establish, on a national or regional basis, repositories where relevant genetic identification data are stored and to make these accessible on-line; and*
- c) *report to the Animals Committee on exports of Tursiops truncatus ponticus and their origins.*

***Directed to the Animals Committee***

**17.300** *The Animals Committee shall consider at its 30th meeting the information submitted by the Parties pursuant to Decision 17.299 to evaluate the effectiveness of the zero annual export quota for Tursiops truncatus ponticus from the wild for primarily commercial purposes, and if necessary make recommendations to the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

***Directed to the Secretariat***

**17.301** *The Secretariat shall, subject to available resources, cooperate with the Secretariats of the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS), the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), the Bern Convention, and the Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution (Bucharest Convention), in order to coordinate efforts and to avoid duplication regarding conservation of, and trade in Tursiops truncatus ponticus.*

## Background

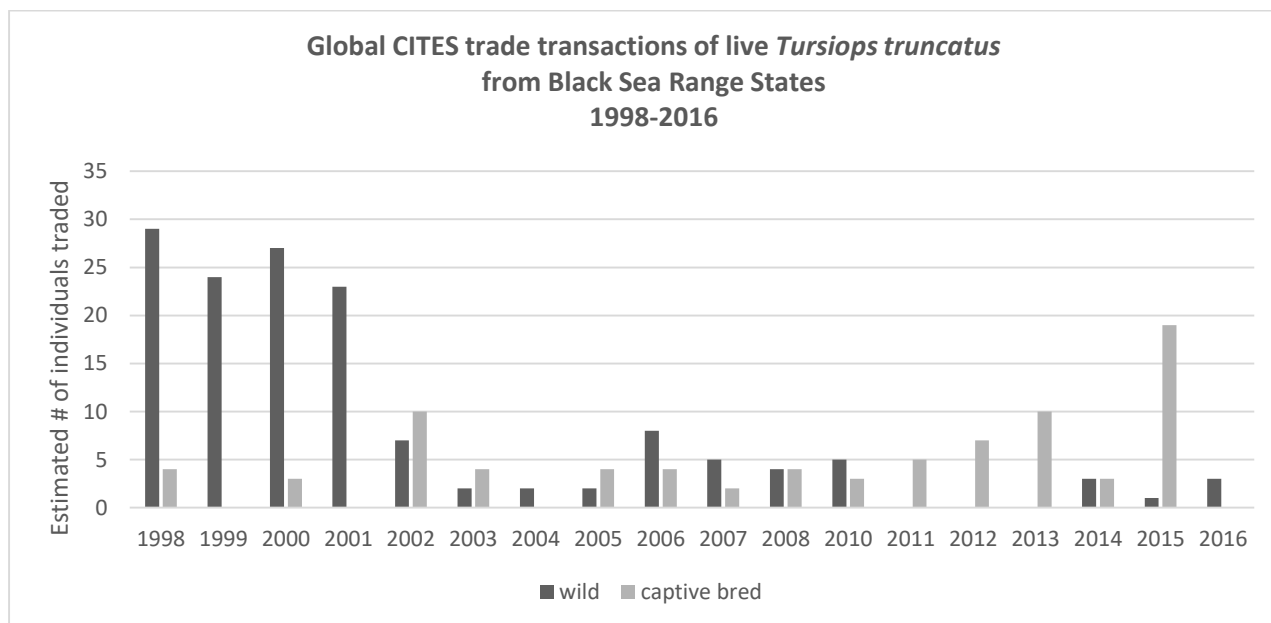
3. As previously reported to the Animals Committee in document [AC29 Doc. 27](#), the Secretariat informed, in April 2017, the organizations specified in Decision 17.301 about the Decisions adopted at CoP17.
4. In support of the implementation of Decision 17.299, the Secretariat sent letters in March 2018 to the range States of *Tursiops truncatus ponticus* (Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, Russian Federation, Turkey and Ukraine), inviting them to submit any relevant information pertinent to elements a), b) and c) of Decision 17.299. By May 2018, the Secretariat had received responses by Bulgaria, Georgia and Turkey, which are attached in the Annex to this document.

## Responses by range States

5. All three range States reported that they had not issued export permits for *Tursiops truncatus ponticus*. In the case of Georgia and Turkey, this is also due to a general prohibition of take of specimens of this species from the wild.
6. Bulgaria further reported that they had not carried out any genetic analyses of the species/sub-species, but that the ACCOBAMS Secretariat may be able to provide information on the availability of a regional, on-line accessible repository of relevant genetic identification data.
7. In addition to the information received in responses to the letters, the Management Authority of Ukraine shared with the Secretariat a genetic study of two specimens of *Tursiops truncatus ponticus*, which may be an example pertinent to Decision 17.299, paragraph b). The Secretariat has encouraged Ukraine to make this study available to the present meeting of the Animals Committee.

## CITES trade data

8. In comparison to information presented in document [CoP17 Doc. 41](#), which had formed the basis for Decisions 17.299 to 17.302, the Secretariat notes that the CITES trade database shows very low levels of trade in live specimens of *Tursiops truncatus* from Black Sea range States during the last decade, with a decreasing trend for specimens traded with source code "W" over time, and some increase of specimens traded with source code "C" or "F", starting in 2012 (see figure 1 below)<sup>1</sup>. The very few trade transactions of specimens with source code "W" are mostly for the purposes of zoos (purpose code: "Q") or travelling circuses and exhibitions (purpose code: "Z").



<sup>1</sup> For a full explanation of the Purpose and Source codes used in the CITES trade database, please refer to the ["Guide to using the CITES trade database"](#) by UNEP-WCMC available under [trade.cites.org](http://trade.cites.org).

9. The Secretariat notes however that trade records for 2014 show the commercial exportation of 3 live specimens of *Tursiops truncatus* from the wild from Ukraine to Thailand. *Tursiops truncatus* is included in Appendix II with the following annotation: “A zero annual export quota has been established for live specimens from the Black Sea population of *Tursiops truncatus* removed from the wild and traded for primarily commercial purposes.” From the trade record, it is not clear if the specimens concerned were of the sub-species *Tursiops truncatus ponticus*.

#### Recommendations

10. The Animals Committee is invited to consider the information contained in this document and the responses by Parties contained in its Annex and, if necessary, make recommendations to the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
11. The Animals Committee may further wish to consider inviting Ukraine to provide additional information on the trade transaction referred to in paragraph 9 of this document.



## R E P U B L I C O F B U L G A R I A

## M I N I S T R Y O F E N V I R O N M E N T A N D W A T E R

Ref. No. 99-00-122/11.05. 2018 г.

**TO**  
**TOM DE MEULENAER**  
**CHIEF SCIENTIFIC SERVICES**  
**SECRETARIAT OF THE**  
**CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL**  
**TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES**  
**OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA (CITES)**

Your ref. No TDM/DKA, 12.04.2018

**Subject:** *Decision 17.299 on Black sea bottlenose dolphin (Tursiops truncatus ponticus)***DEAR MR. MEULENAER,**

In response to your letter concerning submission of information related to Decision 17.299 on Black sea bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus ponticus*), herewith I would like to present the following information.

The CITES Management Authority of Republic of Bulgaria has not issued any export permits for the species Black sea bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus ponticus*). With this regard no genetic analysis for species/subspecies identification have been carried out, data of which is required to be stored in relevant repositories.

Concerning availability of a regional, on-line accessible repository of relevant genetic identification data, we believe that ACCOBAMS Secretariat would be able to provide specific information.

Yours sincerely,

**MIROSLAV KALUGEROV***Director National Nature Protection Service Directorate*

Sofia, 1000, 22 Kn. Maria Louiza blvd.

Tel: +359(2) 940 6194, Fax: +359(2) 986 2533



## Daniel Kachelriess

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**From:** teona karchava <teonakarchava@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 23, 2018 8:32 PM  
**To:** t.karchava@moe.gov.ge; Daniel Kachelriess  
**Cc:** Thomas De Meulenaer  
**Subject:** Re: CITES Decision 17.299 - Black Sea Bottlenose Dolphin

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Daniel,

Thank you for the email and letter.

Regarding the points "a" and "c" of the decision, please be informed that the Black Sea bottlenose dolphin is included in the red list of Georgia since 2006. At the same time, based on the Georgian Law on Red List and Red Data Book, prohibition is in place on removal of the red list species from the wild. Therefore, it is impossible to issue a permit for export of this species, either live individual or a part. As you know a zero quota has been established under CITES for live specimens removed from the wild and traded for primarily commercial purposes. Though, the national legislation is stricter and prohibition applies to both commercial and non-commercial purpose.

The only allowed options are necessity for survival of deceased individuals and obtaining biological samples for justified scientific research. Though such specimens have not been exported for more than 10 years.

Please also note that we are not considering any changes in this policy.

I will come back to you on point "b" later next week.

Please do not hesitate to contact me in case of any questions.

Best wishes

Teona

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Teona Karchava  
Senior Specialist of the Biodiversity Division  
Biodiversity and Forestry Department  
Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture of Georgia  
6 Gulua street, 0114, Tbilisi, Georgia  
Tel/Fax: +995 32 272 72 31  
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On Thursday, April 19, 2018, 7:00:21 PM GMT+4, Daniel Kachelriess <daniel.kachelriess@un.org> wrote:

Dear Ms. Karchava,

please find attached a letter pertaining to CITES Decision 17.299 on Black Sea Bottlenose Dolphin by Mr. Tom de Meulenaer, the Chief of the Scientific Services Team of the CITES Secretariat, inviting the submission of any relevant information by 13 May 2018. Thank you very much in advance,

Best regards,  
Daniel Kachelriess

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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



## Daniel Kachelriess

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**From:** Murat TOPLU <murat.toplu@tarim.gov.tr>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 11, 2018 8:22 AM  
**To:** Daniel Kachelriess  
**Cc:** cites; Demet AŞÇI ; Zuhul AKDOĞAN  
**Subject:** RE: CITES Decision 17.299 - Black Sea Bottlenose Dolphin

Dear Daniel,

I would like to refer to the letter dated 12 April 2018, regarding your information request on Black Sea bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus ponticus*).

I kindly inform you that catching, retaining on board, transshipping, landing, storing, selling, displaying for sale of aforesaid species is completely prohibited according to the article 16 of the Notification 4/1 Regulating Commercial Fishing in Turkey.

In this regard, there is no export of this species from Turkey and there is no export document for this species issued by the Management Authority.

By taking this opportunity, I would like to express my willingness to continue our cooperation and dialogue.

Sincerely,



**Murat TOPLU**  
Coordinator of  
Information Systems Group

Republic of Turkey  
Ministry of Food Agriculture and Livestock  
Directorate General of Fisheries and Aquaculture  
Department of Statistic and Information Systems  
Tel : 00 90 (312) 258 3196  
Fax: 00 90 (312) 258 3070

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**From:** cites [mailto:cites@ormansu.gov.tr]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 24, 2018 10:37 AM  
**To:** Murat TOPLU <murat.toplu@tarim.gov.tr>; asci.demet@gmail.com; Zuhul AKDOĞAN <zuhul.akdogan@tarim.gov.tr>  
**Subject:** İLT: CITES Decision 17.299 - Black Sea Bottlenose Dolphin

**Turkish CITES Team / Türk CITES Birimi**  
Main Management Authority / Ana Yönetim Otoritesi  
The Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs /

Orman ve Su İşleri Bakanlığı  
General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks /  
Doğa Koruma ve Milli Parklar Genel Müdürlüğü

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**Kimden:** Daniel Kachelriess [daniel.kachelriess@un.org]  
**Gönderildi:** 19 Nisan 2018 Perşembe 18:08  
**Kime:** cites  
**Konu:** CITES Decision 17.299 - Black Sea Bottlenose Dolphin

Dear colleagues,

please find attached a letter pertaining to CITES Decision 17.299 on Black Sea Bottlenose Dolphin by Mr. Tom de Meulenaer, the Chief of the Scientific Services Team of the CITES Secretariat, inviting the submission of any relevant information by 13 May 2018. Thank you very much in advance,

Best regards,  
Daniel Kachelriess

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Daniel Kachelriess  
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CITES Secretariat, Scientific Services Team  
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T.C Orman ve Su İşleri Bakanlığı  
Beştepe Mahallesi Alparslan Türkeş Caddesi No: 71 ANKARA  
(0312) 207 50 00

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