

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



Thirty-first meeting of the Animals Committee
Online, 31 May, 1, 4, 21 and 22 June 2021

Species specific matters

ADDENDUM TO SEAHORSES (*HIPPOCAMPUS* SPP.)

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.

Progress since May 2020

2. Since the publication of document AC31 Doc. 26 (22 May 2020), the Secretariat received an additional response from Indonesia to Notification to the Parties No. 2020/015 on 28 February 2020 in fulfilment of Decisions 18.229, paragraph a). Responses were received from the following 14 Parties: Australia, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Peru, Thailand, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America.
3. Pursuant to Decision 18.229, paragraph b), the Secretariat provided a compilation of responses to the Notification as an Annex to document AC31 Doc. 26 in the language and format in which they were received. This Annex has been revised to include the response from Indonesia and is published as AC31 Doc. 26 A (Rev. 1).
4. The Secretariat's compilation is to be communicated to CITES Authorities through a Notification to the Parties and through the CITES website. The Secretariat considers that the publication of document AC31 Doc. 26 A (Rev. 1) serves as fulfilment of the request to make the compilation of responses available on the CITES website. A Notification will be issued to draw attention to the responses.
5. In support of the implementation of Decision 18.229, Project Seahorse, based at the University of British Columbia, Canada, intends to undertake a study on seahorse trade which incorporates the provisions in paragraph c) i) of that Decision.
6. Due to the pandemic, the expert workshop called for in paragraph c) ii) has been further delayed, and external funding for a physical meeting has not been secured. Given the ongoing health crisis and resource limitations, the Secretariat will consider alternative, cost-effective ways to move forward, including organizing a full or partial online workshop. However, the study that should form the basis of the workshop may not be completed until 2022, and it may not be possible to hold the workshop prior to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP19).
7. As it will not be possible to fully implement Decisions 18.229, paragraphs c) ii) and d), 18.232 and 18.233 until after CoP19, the Secretariat proposes submitting the following draft decisions to the 74th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC74) for consideration and submission to CoP19:

19.AA Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall:

- a) subject to eternal funding, organize an expert workshop to discuss the implementation and enforcement of CITES for trade in Hippocampus spp., including the recommendations and outcomes from the Review of Significant Trade process, and propose practical steps to address implementation and enforcement challenges; and
- b) report on the implementation of paragraph a) to the Animals and Standing Committee, as appropriate.

19.BB Directed to the Animals Committee

The Animals Committee shall:

- a) analyse and review the results of any activities under Decision 19.AA, the report produced under Decision 18.229 paragraph c) i), and other relevant available information;
- b) develop recommendations to the Parties, the Secretariat, and relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, to ensure sustainable and legal trade in seahorses; and
- c) report on the implementation of Decision 19.BB to the Standing Committee, as appropriate.

19.CC Directed to the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee shall:

- a) analyse and review the results of any activities under Decision 19.AA, the report produced under Decision 18.229 paragraph c) i) and, as appropriate, the report of the Animals Committee;
- b) develop recommendations to the Parties and the Secretariat, as appropriate, to strengthen CITES implementation and enforcement for trade in seahorses; and
- c) report on the implementation of Decisions 19.AA to 19.CC to the Conference of the Parties at its 20th meeting.

Revised recommendations

8. The Animals Committee is invited to:

- a) take note of document AC31 Doc. 26 and its addendum; and
- b) consider the draft decisions presented in paragraph 6 of this Addendum and present them to the Standing Committee at its 74th meeting for its consideration and submission to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.