

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

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Sixty-first meeting of the Standing Committee  
Geneva (Switzerland), 15-19 August 2011

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Species trade and conservation

Sturgeons

CAVIAR TRADE DATABASE

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP14) on *Conservation of and trade in sturgeons and paddlefish* contains the following instruction in paragraph k) under the first RECOMMENDS:

*the Secretariat shall submit a written progress report at each meeting of the Standing Committee on the operation of the UNEP-WCMC caviar trade database.*

3. The Caviar Trade Database continues to be maintained by UNEP-WCMC. As export quotas for caviar from wild sources have been limited recently, input to the database has been similarly limited. However, when such trade is taking place, several of the major sturgeon range States are still failing to submit copies of permits in a timely fashion.
4. UNEP-WCMC has noted that there are, from time to time, discrepancies between the quantity of caviar authorized for trade on a permit or certificate and the actual quantity traded. The Secretariat acknowledges that this is not uncommon in relation to the general permitting of trade in specimens of CITES-listed species. However, such discrepancies can lead to confusion and inaccuracies in the database. Consequently, if an issuing authority discovers (for example, when a copy permit or certificate is returned by Customs) that the amount traded has differed from that authorized, it is encouraged to notify UNEP-WCMC so that the database records can be amended accordingly.
5. Whilst not directly related to the caviar trade database, the Secretariat wishes to take this opportunity to remind Parties to ensure that details in its 'Register of licensed exporters and of processing and repackaging plants for specimens of sturgeon and paddlefish species' are kept up to date. It noted recently a case where a company was engaged in international trade in caviar but was not listed in the Register.

Recommendation

6. The Committee is asked to note this report. However, the Secretariat also suggests that the Standing Committee consider whether it is necessary for it to receive such reports at each of its meetings. If it is not, the Secretariat would propose at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties that this requirement be deleted from the text of the Resolution.