

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



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

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Species trade and conservation

HUMPHEAD WRASSE

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At its 15th meeting (Doha, 2010), the Conference of the Parties adopted the following Decisions:

***Directed to Parties***

15.86 *All Parties are urged to:*

- a) *consider adopting appropriate stricter domestic measures under the remit of the legislation of the Party, including limiting the international trade in humphead wrasse to be conducted by air only, to strengthen the control and enforcement of the Appendix-II listing for the species;*
- b) *improve monitoring of trade in humphead wrasse, especially through inspections of boxes of mixed live reef fish by exporting, re-exporting and importing countries;*
- c) *exchange law enforcement information of relevance to humphead wrasse with other relevant Parties, and regularly compile and forward to the Secretariat for distribution a comprehensive summary of Convention violations for the species;*
- d) *increase awareness of the CITES listing for humphead wrasse, including by improving identification capacity among law enforcement officers through the use of training and educational materials;*
- e) *facilitate discussion on practicable and acceptable options for action to be taken in case of illegally imported/confiscated live fish; and*
- f) *provide information to the Secretariat on actions taken to implement this Decision, in order to inform the work of the Humphead Wrasse Working Group to be established by the Standing Committee pursuant to Decision 15.87.*

***Directed to the Standing Committee***

15.87 *The Standing Committee shall, contingent on the availability of external funding, establish a Humphead Wrasse Working Group, which is to:*

- a) *review the actions taken by relevant Parties to implement this decision;*
- b) *develop and recommend to the Standing Committee further options for improving control and enforcement in relation to the international trade in humphead wrasse, and ensuring the effectiveness of the Appendix-II listing of the species; and*

- c) *report back and recommend appropriate follow-up actions at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to support this initiative.*

***Directed to the Secretariat***

15.88 *The Secretariat is requested:*

- a) *to assist Parties in the capacity-building activities outlined in paragraph d) of Decision 15.86; and*
- b) *where necessary, to provide assistance or advice to Parties to address the handling of confiscated live humphead wrasse.*

3. To encourage submission of information, as requested of the Parties in Decision 15.86, paragraph f), the Secretariat issued Notification to the Parties No. 2011/015 of 10 February 2011. It asked therein that relevant information be submitted by 29 April 2011.
4. The Secretariat received only one response to the Notification. This was from the United States of America and is a detailed report of a workshop that was conducted in Indonesia in June 2010 on humphead wrasse and CITES implementation. It is annexed to the present document (in English only).

Recommendation

5. The Secretariat invites the Standing Committee to establish the working group envisaged in Decision 15.87. The Secretariat notes that the Decision refers to such a group being established “contingent on the availability of external funding”. It presumes, however, that such a group could, at least initially, work by email. Perhaps its first task could be to review the workshop report and prepare recommendations for consideration by the Standing Committee at its 62nd meeting. The Secretariat would wish to be a member of such a working group, should it be established.