

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



Sixty-second meeting of the Standing Committee  
Geneva (Switzerland), 23-27 July 2012

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Species trade and conservation

HUMPHEAD WRASSE

1. This document has been submitted by Chair of the Standing Committee Working Group on Humphead Wrasse, in consultation with the Secretariat\*.

Background

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:*

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\* *The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat or the United Nations Environment Programme concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.*

- 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. The Secretariat issued Notification No. 2011/015 inviting Parties to submit information in respect of Decision 15.86. In response, the US submitted the "Workshop Report on the Trade of *Cheilunus undulates* & CITES implementation" as in SC61 Doc 49 Annex and China (HKSAR) also provided information about its actions taken to implement CITES Decision 15.86 as in SC61 Inf. 3.
  4. The chair communicated electronically to members of the working group about his observations on the mandates under Decision 15.86 and invited members to review the two documents received in response to the above Notification.
  5. Due to the fact that this working group started very late, the Working Group is unable to give a substantial report to the Standing Committee. The Working Group needs to continue its activities and, if members so wish, may also meet informally in the margins of the present meeting.

Recommendation

6. It is recommended that Working Group on Humphead Wrasse should continue with its activities after the present meeting and report its findings directly to CoP16.