

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



Sixty-sixth meeting of the Standing Committee  
Geneva (Switzerland), 11-15 January 2016

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Species trade and conservation

HUMPHEAD WRASSE (*CHEILINUS UNDULATUS*)

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At its 16th meeting (CoP16, Bangkok, 2013), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 15.87 (Rev. CoP16), 16.139 and 16.140 on humphead wrasse (*Cheilinus undulatus*) as follows:

**Directed to Parties**

16.139 *To implement effectively the Appendix-II listing of the humphead wrasse, Parties should:*

- a) *use existing documents listed in paragraph 13 of document CoP16 Doc. 62 (Rev.1) in their implementation of the Appendix-II listing of the humphead wrasse; and*
- b) *investigate reported violations of the Convention and of related national laws in relation to trade in the humphead wrasse, and take appropriate enforcement actions in accordance with their national legislation; and*

*In addition, range States and importing Parties should strengthen bilateral and regional cooperation, including intelligence exchange and enforcement actions.*

**Directed to the Standing Committee**

15.87 *The Standing Committee shall:*  
(Rev.

- CoP16)
- a) *review the actions taken by relevant Parties to implement the Appendix-II listing of the humphead wrasse;*
  - b) *consider whether it is necessary to ask range States and importing States to provide further information on their actions taken to ensure the effective implementation of the Convention regarding trade in this species;*
  - c) *develop, as appropriate, recommendations for improving the regulation of international trade in the humphead wrasse, and the enforcement of controls, to ensure the effectiveness of the Appendix-II listing of the species; and*
  - d) *report its conclusions and recommendations for any appropriate follow-up actions at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

## Directed to the IUCN

*16.140 The IUCN Groupers and Wrasses Specialist Group continue its support to Parties in achieving sustainable fishing of the humphead wrasse and in making non-detriment findings in compliance with CITES.*

3. The Standing Committee at its 65th meeting (SC65, Geneva, July 2014) requested the Secretariat to issue a notification seeking updated information on trade in humphead wrasse and to report on it at the 66th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC66, Geneva, January 2016).
4. On 30 July 2015, the Secretariat issued Notification to the Parties [No. 2015/042](#) inviting range States and importing States to report to the Secretariat on the actions taken to ensure the effective implementation of the Convention regarding trade in humphead wrasse. In response to the Notification, the Secretariat received reports from China and Greece.
5. China reported that a full investigation of the breeding and exhibition of humphead wrasse in aquariums will soon be carried out by the fishery authorities of China. No further details were provided and China might wish to provide additional information about this initiative to the Standing Committee at the present meeting. Greece reported that no import or re-export of humphead wrasse occurred in the country during the last 3 years. While particularly grateful for the two replies received, the Secretariat notes that the information available to the Standing Committee for its implementation of Decision 15.87 (Rev. CoP16) remains very limited.
6. In support of Decision 16.140, the Secretariat concluded a Small-Scale Funding Agreement (SSFA) with IUCN, aimed at supporting key range States in achieving sustainable fishing of humphead wrasse by providing guidance on the making of non-detriment findings (NDF) for trade in the species. The SSFA also provides for: a workshop to bring together relevant Scientific Authorities and other experts to address and provide training on NDFs (now expected to be held in Indonesia in December 2015); the collation of the results of long-term monitoring of several populations affected by trade, and the implications thereof for making NDFs; and updates on trade levels and trends.
7. The Secretariat regrets that the implementation of the SSFA indicated above was significantly delayed as a result of the implementation of a United Nations-wide enterprise resource planning system known as 'Umoja'<sup>1</sup>, but nevertheless hopes to be able to proceed as soon as possible. The Secretariat expects that the results and outputs of the SSFA may also contribute to the implementation of Decision 16.139 by generating information that could be useful for regional discussions amongst range States and importing Parties concerning the management of trade in humphead wrasse in compliance with CITES.

## Recommendation

8. The Standing Committee is invited to take note of this document.

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<sup>1</sup> See <https://cites.org/sites/default/files/notif/E-Notif-2015-018.pdf>