

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



Sixty-ninth meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 27 November - 1 December 2017

HUMPHEAD WRASSE (*CHEILINUS UNDULATUS*):
REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT

This document has been prepared by the in-session working group on humphead wrasse, in relation to agenda item 48 and submitted at the request of the Standing Committee in its fourth session.

Recommendations

1. The working group recommends that the Standing Committee:
 - a) Congratulating Hong Kong SAR and Indonesia on their work and progress being made on this matter, particularly regarding harvest management, production systems, export / import control and tracking, and habitat protection;
 - b) Recognizing advances made by Indonesia in the preparation of an updated National plan of Action, with development of an NDF that facilitates legal international trade in specimens of HHW ensuring that it does not threaten their survival;
 - c) Appreciating the efforts of the IUCN Groupers and Wrasses Specialist Group, with assistance from FAO, in collaborative efforts to move towards sustainable production and trade of humphead wrasse; and
 - d) However also recognizing that there is still ongoing and observed illegal trade of live and frozen fish with little understanding of the origin of the product in end market
2. The working group recommends that the Standing Committee:
 - a) urges Source and Consumer States of humphead wrasse to intercept and take action on illegal shipments, and, as appropriate and to the extent possible, share information on such illegal catch and illegal trade, with the Secretariat, as well as CITES authorities of relevant Parties;
 - b) recognizes that the novel practice of grow-out and ranching of newly settled HHW in shallow water algal beds may offer significant livelihood and stock recovery opportunities that would benefit from further research support and benefit policy development related to these novel practices, in order, inter alia, to minimize the risk of product acquired in violation of the convention and related national laws entering the market;
 - c) encourages donors to make external funding available to the CITES Secretariat, FAO and IUCN in a timely manner to continue to support Indonesia in achieving sustainable fishery management of the species, including fishing in relation to ranching and novel production systems, pursuant to Decisions 16.140 (Rev. CoP17) and 17.201;
 - d) encourages Parties and donors to collaborate in the development and use of cost-effective tracing techniques, including technologies for tracking live-fish-transporting vessels, individual fish recognition and tracing techniques to assist in excluding from the market product acquired in violation of the convention and related national laws ;

- e) requests the Secretariat issue a further notification to request Parties to share information on current country management in place to manage and conserve humphead wrasse prior to SC70; and
- f) decides that SC70 will consider information provided by range, trading and market States to determine whether other interventions are required to adequately address reported violations of the convention and related national laws.