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

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

Sturgeons and paddlefish (*Acipenseriformes* spp.)

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

PROPOSAL OF RUSSIAN FEDERATION REGARDING THE AMENDMENTS TO RESOLUTION CONF. 12.7
(REV. COP17) *ON CONSERVATION OF AND TRADE IN STURGEONS AND PADDLEFISH*
REGARDING ANNEX 3

This information document has been submitted by Russian Federation in relation the Recommendations of the Working group on sturgeons at the Twenty-ninth meeting of the Animal Committee (Geneva, Switzerland, 18 – 22 July 2017) (Document AC29 Com. 4 (Rev. by Sec. - https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/com/ac/29/com/E-AC29-Com-04-R.pdf) [*].

Background

1.  With respect to Annex 3 of Resolution 12.7 (Rev. CoP17) on *Conservation of and trade in sturgeons and paddlefish*, the Working group on sturgeons at the 29th meeting of the Animal Committee recognized that there is no enough scientific information to make conclusive recommendations on the amendments regarding the delimitation of the Black Sea sturgeon stock.

2.  The Working group recommends to encourage all CITES Parties bordering the Black Sea and Danube river to collaborate on research to address knowledge gaps regarding the distribution and migration of stocks of sturgeon species in their respective jurisdictions, in particular molecular and genetic studies, to establish the basis for science-based delimitation of stocks in the Danube and Black Sea and submit the results of such research to the next meeting of the Animals Committee or the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

3.  As a compromise, the Standing Committee was invited to consider the sturgeon stock of the Black Sea and the Lower Danube as unified, subject to the availability of relevant scientific data and consultation with Parties from this region.

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A.  Russian Federation has extensive experience in genetic tagging and identification of sturgeon and other fish stocks. All broodstocks of Russian sturgeon hatcheries have genetic passports.

B. Between 2003 and 2017, 128 samples of Russian sturgeon, 103 samples of stellate sturgeon and 42 samples of beluga were selected in the Black Sea basin. Genetic samples of sturgeon, available in the collection, are tied to the geographical regions of the Black Sea (Table).

Table - The number of samples of sturgeon, from which genetic material was selected, with reference to the regions of the Black Sea

| Species | Selection Area | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Caucasus | Crimea | North-West |
| *Acipenser gueldenstaedtii* | 40 | 26 | 63 |
| *Acipenser stellatus* | 8 | 14 | 80 |
| *Huso huso* | 20 | 11 | 11 |

Caucasus Area – from Kerch Strait to the Psou River;
Crimea Area – along the entire coast of the peninsula, including the Karkinitsky Gulf;
Northg-West – the Danube delta front, the Odessa Gulf, the Dnieper and Tender Bays.

C. Russian Federation invites all littoral Black Sea countries to carry out joint scientific research on the sturgeon population-genetic structure of the Black Sea basin.

D. Perhaps such cooperation could help indirectly in promoting Decision 16.136 (Rev. CoP17) on providing an overview of molecular, DNA-based and other forensic methods that could assist in identifying the species and populations of Acipenseriformes specimens in trade, determining the origin or age of specimens, and differentiating wild from captive-bred or aquacultured specimens.