

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

Thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Bangkok (Thailand), 2-14 October 2004

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Exemptions and special trade provisions

Personal and household effects

AMENDMENT TO RESOLUTION CONF. 12.9

1. This document has been submitted by Australia.

Background

2. At the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP12, Santiago, 2002), the Secretariat and Venezuela submitted documents CoP12 Doc. 54.1 and Doc. 54.2 respectively. These documents led to the adoption of Resolution Conf. 12.9 on Personal and household effects.
3. Australia believes that the control on personal and household effects, as well as tourist souvenirs, requires a significant allocation of enforcement resources and personnel as reflected in document CoP12 Doc. 54.1. The regulation of personal and household effects contributes little or nothing to the conservation objectives of the Convention.
4. Australia has regulated the export of all native *Hippocampus* spp. for many years. Our experience has demonstrated that the issuing of permits for personal use of manufactured seahorse items is extremely impractical and resource intensive. Notwithstanding the need to manage the entire trade in *Hippocampus* spp., Australia considers that the low volume of trade for personal use does not in itself represent a major conservation concern, and therefore an exemption appears warranted.
5. Therefore, Australia is submitting this proposal in order to amend Resolution Conf. 12.9 in adding the following to the current list of dead specimens, parts and derivatives of Appendix-II species that do not require export or import permits, or re-export certificates, for personal or household effects except where the quantity exceeds the specified limits:

seahorse (*Hippocampus* spp.) – up to five specimens per person.

The numeric total of five specimens of seahorse was reached by giving consideration to the relative proportion of specimens sold in the tourist souvenir trade, as the vast majority of dead specimens are exported commercially for therapeutic and medicinal purposes.

Recommendation

6. Accordingly, Australia submits the amendment to Resolution Conf. 12.9 that appears in the Annex.

COMMENT FROM THE SECRETARIAT

The Secretariat supports the proposed revision of Resolution Conf. 12.9, paragraph b).

DRAFT RESOLUTION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Amendment to Resolution Conf. 12.9 on Personal and household effects

Add to paragraph b) under the first RECOMMENDS, the following new subparagraph:

- v) seahorse (*Hippocampus* spp.) – up to five specimens per person.