

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



Seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Johannesburg (South Africa), 24 September – 5 October 2016

Sturgeons and paddlefish (Acipenseriformes spp.)

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

VIEW OF RUSSIAN FEDERATION REGARDING THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS
TO RESOLUTION CONF. 12.7 (REV. COP16) ON CONSERVATION OF AND
TRADE IN STURGEONS AND PADDLEFISH

1. This information document has been submitted by Russian Federation* in relation to agenda item 50 on Sturgeons and paddlefish (Acipenseriformes spp.).

Background

2. At the 66th meeting of the Standing Committee the documents SC66 Doc. 55.1, SC66 Com. 8, referring to sturgeons and paddlefish had been considered, including the proposed amendments to Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP16) to be represented at the 17th meeting of Conference of the Parties.
3. No consensus could be reached at SC66 on the definition of "country of origin of caviar", which is contained in the CITES guidelines for a universal labelling system for the trade in and identification of caviar, in Annex 1 to the proposed revision of Resolution 12.7 (Rev. CoP16), and the Standing Committee in CoP17 Doc. 50 item 10 requested the Secretariat to provide further advice regarding this definition at its 67th meeting (SC67, Johannesburg, September 2016).
4. Furthermore the Standing Committee requested the Secretariat, in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), to verify the content of the proposed Annex 3 of the draft revised Resolution, and to report back at SC67.

VIEW OF RUSSIAN FEDERATION REGARDING THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO RESOLUTION
CONF. 12.7 (REV. COP16)

- A. Russian Federation agree with the definition of "country of origin of caviar: country in which a registered processing plant harvests roe of Acipenseriformes species to process caviar" as proposed in CoP 17 Doc. 50 in Annex 1, as a whole. However, it should be noted that the registered processing plant is not always does harvest roe, but sometimes buying from outside.
- B. Russian Federation considers it's appropriate to draw attention to another new definition, proposed for inclusion into Annex 1 of Resolution 12.7, namely: "Harvest: removal of unfertilized eggs (roe) from specimens of Acipenseriformes species for further processing to become caviar."
- C. These two definitions mentioned above (in A, B), overlooked the unfertilized eggs (roe) of Acipenseriformes species, which are delivered to a processing plant from the outside for further processing to become caviar.

* *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.*

Eggs (roe) can come refrigerated, frozen, and within of the female sturgeon, from which roe are removed at a processing plant for further processing into caviar.

- D. In order to avoid the processing of illegally harvested unfertilized eggs (roe) of Acipenseriformes species delivered to a legal registered processing plant, and to improve the traceability system Russian Federation proposes to include in Annex 1 to Resolution 12.7 the additional definition, namely: "Country of origin of roe: country in which the unfertilized eggs (roe) of Acipenseriformes species were harvested, as well as in which the gravid female sturgeon was caught or grown for further sale not alive to a processing plant to become caviar". New addition: following this definition the year of harvest should be considered as a year of removal of unfertilized eggs (roe) from a specimens.
- E. This new definition will result in an additional indication on the labels of the CITES universal labelling system. For instance: HUS/C/Chi/RU/2015/xxxx/yyyy, where HUS - a standard species code as provided in Annex 2; C - the source code of the caviar; Chi - code for the country of origin of roe; RU - the ISO two-letter code for the country of origin of caviar; 2015 - the year of harvest; xxxx - the official registration code of the processing plant; and yyyy - the lot identification number for the caviar.
- F. If the definition of Country of origin of roe is adopted, the "year of harvest" should be to interpret as a year when the eggs (roe) were harvested.
- G. With regards to the new Annex 3, offered for inclusion into Resolution 12.7, the Russian Federation kindly requests that its proposal to amend the table "Stocks of Acipenseriformes species shared between range States" would be taken into account (see below), especially in the case of the Black Sea. Anadromous Sturgeons are transboundary species and can be caught near the shores of any Black Sea littoral country, not only in the North-West Black Sea.
- H. *Acipenser ruthenus* is suggested to delete from the list of shared stocks of sturgeon in the sea because it is a freshwater species. Moreover the same species occur not only in the border rivers, and therefore can not be considered only as a joint stock.

RUSSIAN PROPOSALS TO AMEND THE TABLE OF SHARED STOCK, RANGE STATES AND CONCERNED STURGEON (STOCK OF ACIPENSERIFORMES SPECIES SHARED BETWEEN RANGE STATES)

Shared stock	Range States	Species
Caspian Sea	Azerbaijan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, Russian Federation, Turkmenistan	<i>Acipenser gueldenstaedtii</i> <i>Acipenser nudiventris</i> <i>Acipenser persicus</i> <i>Acipenser ruthenus</i> <i>Acipenser stellatus</i> <i>Huso huso</i>
<u>Black Sea</u>	<u>Bulgaria, Romania, Turkey, Georgia, Abkhazia, Russian Federation, Ukraine</u>	<i>Acipenser gueldenstaedtii</i> <i>Acipenser nudiventris</i> <i>Acipenser ruthenus</i> <i>Acipenser stellatus</i> <i>Huso huso</i>
North-West Black Sea and Lower Danube River	Bulgaria, Romania, Serbia, Ukrain, <u>Moldova, Hungary, Austria, Germany, Slovakia, Croatia</u>	<i>Acipenser gueldenstaedtii</i> <i>Acipenser nudiventris</i> <i>Acipenser ruthenus</i> <i>Acipenser stellatus</i> <i>Huso huso</i>
Saint John River/Bay Fundy	Canada, United States of America	<i>Acipenser oxyrinchus</i>
Amur/Heilongjian River	China, Russian Federation	<i>Acipenser schrenckii</i> <i>Huso dauricus</i>
Azov Sea	Russian Federation, Ukraine	<i>Acipenser gueldenstaedtii</i> <i>Acipenser nudiventris</i> <i>Acipenser ruthenus</i> <i>Acipenser stellatus</i> <i>Huso huso</i>

Text to be deleted is struck; proposed new text is underlined.