

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



Eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Geneva (Switzerland), 17–28 August 2019

Committee I

Queen conch (*Strombus gigas*)

DRAFT DECISIONS OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

This document has been prepared by Belize, the European Union, Jamaica and the United States of America on the basis of document CoP18 Doc. 85 after discussion in the fourth session of Committee I (see document CoP18 Com. I Rec.4).

Directed to the range States of *Strombus gigas*

18.AA The range States of *Strombus gigas* are encouraged to:

- a) collaborate to implement the *Regional Queen Conch Fisheries Management and Conservation Plan*, and develop national Queen Conch Fisheries Management and Conservation Plans, as appropriate;
- b) continue to collect data on weight of *S. gigas* by processing grade in order to update and improve the regional conversion factors, and establish or update national conversion factors, taking into account the spatial variability and characteristics of the species;
- c) collaborate in developing and implementing joint research programmes at the sub-regional or regional level to support the making of non-detriment findings that take into account all fishing mortality, promote relevant research and capacity-building activities through regional fisheries management entities and mobilize financial resources for data collection;
- d) promote and collaborate in developing and implementing public education and awareness programmes regarding the conservation and sustainable use of *S. gigas*;
- e) continue to collaborate in exploring ways to enhance the traceability of specimens of *S. gigas* in international trade, including, but not limited to, catch certificates, labelling systems and the application of genetic techniques, and consider sharing relevant experiences with the Secretariat, Parties and the Standing Committee, as appropriate, in the context of discussions on traceability systems for trade in CITES-listed species;
- f) collaborate on combatting Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing activity;
- g) make available to the Standing Committee, through the Secretariat, information concerning illegal trade in queen conch, including surveillance and enforcement activities, as appropriate; and
- h) provide information to the Secretariat on the implementation of paragraphs a) to f) of this decision to allow it to report at the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in accordance with Decision 18.FF, as appropriate.

Directed to the Animals Committee

- 18.BB If requested by range States of *S. gigas* or the working group on queen conch composed of the Caribbean Fishery Management Council (CFMC), the Central American Fisheries and Aquaculture Organization (OSPESCA), the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC), the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) and CITES, the Animals Committee shall provide advice regarding the making of non-detriment findings for trade, and on any other technical matters.

Directed to the Standing Committee

- 18.CC On the basis of reporting by the Secretariat in compliance with Decision 18.AA paragraphs e) and g), the Standing Committee shall review traceability, especially for meat, and enforcement issues concerning international trade in queen conch and make recommendations as appropriate.

Directed to the Secretariat

- 18.DD The Secretariat shall continue to collaborate with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the CFMC/OSPESCA/WECAFC/CRFM/CITES working group on queen conch, WECAFC and other relevant international organizations, and, subject to external funding,
- a) provide assistance to range States of *S. gigas* in order to enhance the capacity of their CITES Management and Scientific Authorities, fisheries authorities and other stakeholders to implement the *Regional Queen Conch Fisheries Management and Conservation Plan* and national management plans and make scientifically robust non-detriment findings; and
 - b) provide assistance to range States of *S. gigas* on relevant enforcement issues and report new developments in this regard to the Standing Committee, as appropriate.
- 18.EE The Secretariat shall monitor the development of traceability systems for queen conch and report relevant developments to the Standing Committee, as appropriate.
- 18.FF The Secretariat shall collate the information provided in accordance with Decision 18.AA paragraph h), and report on the progress in the implementation of these Decisions at the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.