



## NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2005/053

Geneva, 1 September 2005

CONCERNING:

### Trade in sturgeons and paddlefish

1. In Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP13) regarding Conservation of and trade in sturgeons and paddlefish, the Conference of the Parties recommends that:
  - a) *range States license legal exporters of specimens of sturgeon and paddlefish species and maintain a register of such persons or companies and provide a copy of this register to the Secretariat by 30 November each year. The Secretariat should distribute this information via a Notification to the Parties;*
  - b) *each importing, exporting and re-exporting Party should establish, where consistent with national law, a registration system for processing and repackaging plants in its territory and provide to the Secretariat the list of these facilities and their official registration codes. The list should be updated as needed. A copy of the list should be provided to the Secretariat by 30 November each year. The Secretariat should distribute this information via a Notification to the Parties; ...*
  - i) *Parties should supply to the Secretariat, on a regular basis, copies of all export permits and re-export certificates issued to authorize trade in caviar.*
2. Since this text was adopted at the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Bangkok, 2004), the Secretariat has received very limited information, especially with regard to licensed legal exporters and processing and repackaging plants. Furthermore, many Parties, known to be active in the trade in caviar, have either not supplied copies of permits and certificates that have been issued to authorize trade in caviar or only supplied them on an irregular basis.
3. The Secretariat is currently investigating the possibility of establishing a mechanism to track the trade in caviar. This is primarily intended to reduce the opportunities for the laundering of illegally-obtained caviar. However, for this to be successful each relevant Party must supply the information recommended in the Resolution.
4. The Secretariat urges every Party that authorizes trade in caviar to fully implement the recommendations in Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP13). To promote compliance, the Secretariat shall decline to confirm the authenticity and validity of a permit when queried by an importing country unless it has on file a copy of the original document.

5. Any Party that has difficulty in providing copies of its permits and certificates to the Secretariat is encouraged to contact the Secretariat so that a means can be agreed whereby the necessary information can be supplied.