

CONVENTION SUR LE COMMERCE INTERNATIONAL DES ESPÈCES  
DE FAUNE ET DE FLORE SAUVAGES MENACÉES D'EXTINCTION



Trente-et-unième session du Comité pour les animaux  
Genève (Suisse), 13 – 17 juillet 2020

Questions spécifiques aux espèces

ADDENDUM AU DOCUMENT INTITULÉ TORTUES MARINES  
(CHELONIIDAE SPP. ET DERMOCHELYIDAE SPP.)

1. Le présent document a été préparé par le Secrétariat.

Progrès réalisés depuis août 2020

2. Ainsi qu'il est indiqué au paragraphe 5 du document AC31 Doc. 24, le Secrétariat a publié la Notification aux Parties No 2020/035 le 22 avril 2020, en application des dispositions du paragraphe f) de la décision 18.210. Cette partie de la décision indique que les réponses à la notification doivent être examinées par le Comité permanent à sa 73<sup>e</sup> session. Ainsi qu'il est expliqué au paragraphe 10 du document AC31 Doc. 24, le Secrétariat a proposé de transmettre toute information de nature scientifique contenue dans les réponses au Comité pour les animaux, en application des dispositions du paragraphe g) de la décision 18.210.
3. Les Parties suivantes ont répondu : Australie, Canada, Chine, États-Unis d'Amérique, Jamaïque, Japon, Monaco, et Thaïlande. Ces réponses figurent à l'annexe 2 du présent addendum, dans la langue et selon la présentation dans lesquelles elles ont été reçues, et les informations de nature scientifique sont résumées aux paragraphes 4 à 6 ci-dessous.

Résumé des réponses à la Notification aux Parties No. 2020/035

4. Dans leurs réponses, toutes les Parties ont indiqué que les espèces de tortues marines présentes dans leurs eaux sont protégées, et la Chine, la Jamaïque, Monaco et la Thaïlande ont également noté l'existence de réserves marines ou de zones protégées. Cinq Parties ont fourni des informations sur les actions de rétablissement et de conservation en faveur des tortues marines (Australie, Canada, Chine, États-Unis d'Amérique et Jamaïque) et noté l'existence de programmes de suivi en cours, notamment par des études par prélèvements, marquage ou traçage, et/ou surveillance des sites de pontes.
5. Plusieurs Parties ont fourni des informations sur les études concernant les tortues marines (Australie, Canada, Chine, États-Unis d'Amérique, Jamaïque et Thaïlande). Celles-ci incluaient des évaluations de populations, marquages par satellite et prélèvements destinés à mieux connaître le comportement des tortues marines, leur écologie et leurs migrations, ainsi que des analyses génétiques et d'isotopes destinées à améliorer les connaissances de bases sur les tortues marines. L'Australie et le Canada ont fourni des données d'évaluation des populations et l'Australie a communiqué les résultats d'une étude montrant une diminution de la population reproductrice de la tortue imbriquée (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) de Milman Island, dans le nord de la Grande Barrière de Corail, et le Canada a noté un déclin des populations de tortue luth (*Dermochelys coriacea*) et le fait que l'abondance de la tortue caouanne (*Caretta caretta*) dans les eaux canadienne montre une tendance ambiguë.
6. Un certain nombre de Parties a explicitement noté la participation à la coopération internationale en matière de recherche, de formation et/ou d'actions de suivi (Australie, Canada, Chine et États-Unis d'Amérique). Les États-Unis d'Amérique ont également fourni des données sur une action collaborative globale de collecte

de prélèvements pour analyses d'ADN et d'isotopes destinée à améliorer les connaissances de base, indiquant que les prélèvements effectués dans le monde entier sont déposés aux collections de la Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Research Collection.

Proposition de marche à suivre

7. Un examen préliminaire de l'étude sur les tortues marines et un projet de recommandations ont été préparés par Mr. Hugh Robertson (représentant de l'Océanie, l'un des coresponsables des tortues marines au Comité pour les animaux) dont le texte figure à l'annexe 2 du document AC31 Doc.24. Une grande partie des informations de l'annexe 2 reste valable, mais il serait nécessaire de les actualiser au vu des modifications de calendrier des sessions et des réponses à la Notification aux Parties No 2020/035. Afin de faciliter le travail du Comité, le Secrétariat a donc actualisé le texte et présenté un projet révisé à l'annexe 1 du présent addendum, pour examen par le Comité pour les animaux.

Recommandations révisées

8. Le Comité pour les animaux est invité à :
  - a) prendre bonne note des informations contenues dans le document AC31 Doc. 24 et dans le présent addendum.
  - b) examiner le texte actualisé de l'étude sur les tortues marines et le projet de recommandations présenté à l'annexe 1 du présent addendum ; et
  - c) soumettre, le cas échéant, des recommandations pour examen par le Comité permanent.

Proposition d'amendements au texte de l'Annexe 2 du document AC21 Doc. 24

Les ajouts proposés sont soulignés, et les suppressions barrées.

Tortues marines (Cheloniidae et Dermochelyidae)

1. Le présent document a été préparé par M. Hugh Robertson (représentant pour l'Océanie), en sa qualité de co-responsable de l'examen de l'étude sur les *tortues marines* auprès du Comité pour les animaux, en réponse à une demande du président du Comité pour les animaux concernant un examen préliminaire de l'étude mentionnée dans la décision 18.216 et la préparation de projets de recommandations à examiner lors de la 31<sup>e</sup> session du Comité pour les animaux.

Contexte de la décision 18.216

2. Le Secrétariat a expliqué dans le document CoP18 Doc 70 que l'Australie (par l'intermédiaire du Secrétariat de la CMS), les États-Unis d'Amérique et l'Union européenne [par l'intermédiaire du Secrétariat du Groupe des États d'Afrique, des Caraïbes et du Pacifique (ACP)], avaient accordé le soutien financier nécessaire pour entreprendre une étude du commerce international légal et illégal des tortues marines, pour analyser notamment sa situation, son ampleur et ses tendances, ainsi que ses effets sur la conservation et les stratégies de gestion possibles, et pour identifier des zones où des mesures immédiates d'atténuation pourraient s'avérer nécessaires, comme demandé dans la décision 17.222, paragraphe a).
3. L'étude sur le commerce international légal et illégal des tortues marines a été réalisée par la Marine Research Foundation (MRF), le Réseau de surveillance du commerce des espèces sauvages (TRAFFIC) et le Fonds mondial pour la nature (WWF). Elle a été réalisée en étroite collaboration avec, notamment, la Convention interaméricaine pour la protection et la conservation des tortues marines (IAC), et le Secrétariat de la Convention sur la conservation des espèces migratrices appartenant à la faune sauvage (CMS), en particulier son Mémorandum d'accord sur la conservation et la gestion des tortues marines et de leurs habitats de l'océan Indien et de l'Asie du Sud-Est (MdA de l'IOSEA sur les tortues marines).
5. L'étude, intitulée *Status, scope and trends of the legal and illegal international trade in marine turtles, its conservation impacts, management options and mitigation priorities*, (étude du commerce international légal et illégal des tortues marines, pour analyser notamment sa situation, son ampleur et ses tendances, ainsi que ses effets sur la conservation, les stratégies de gestion possibles et les priorités des mesures d'atténuation), a été présentée dans le document d'information CoP18 Inf. 18. L'étude présente des évaluations *in situ* réalisées dans huit pays de trois sous-régions géographiques (de l'Afrique de l'Est, interaméricaine et de l'Asie du Sud-Est/ Triangle de corail). Huit pays (Madagascar, Mozambique, Colombie, Nicaragua, Panama, Indonésie, Malaisie et Viet Nam) ont été sélectionnés parce qu'ils semblaient être potentiellement impliqués dans le commerce illégal des tortues marines, après examen de la documentation récente et consultations avec des experts [notamment avec le Groupe de spécialistes des tortues marines de la Commission de la sauvegarde des espèces de l'Union internationale pour la conservation de la nature (IUCN/SSC MTSG)].
6. Lors de sa 69<sup>e</sup> session, le Comité permanent a établi un groupe de travail intersessions [États-Unis d'Amérique (présidence), Australie, Chine, Indonésie et Japon ; ainsi que Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture, Humane Society International, Union internationale pour la conservation de la nature, TRAFFIC et Fonds mondial pour la nature] sur les tortues marines chargé d'examiner l'information et les recommandations figurant dans l'étude entreprise par le Secrétariat conformément à la décision 17.222 a); d'examiner les informations et les recommandations figurant dans l'étude et de formuler ses propres recommandations pour examen par le Comité permanent à sa 70<sup>e</sup> session et rapport à la Conférence des Parties, à sa 18<sup>e</sup> session.
7. Lors de la 70<sup>e</sup> session du Comité permanent, le Secrétariat a expliqué dans le document SC70 Doc. 50 que l'étude avait été retardée et que le groupe de travail n'était pas en mesure de soumettre un document contenant ses propres recommandations pour examen par le Comité permanent à ladite session,

conformément à son mandat. Le Comité permanent a décidé de proposer à la Conférence des Parties, lors de sa 18<sup>e</sup> session (CoP18), de prolonger les décisions 17.222 et 17.223.

8. Compte tenu de la nature scientifique et technique de certaines parties de l'étude, et sur la base des discussions lors de la 70<sup>e</sup> session du Comité permanent, le Secrétariat a estimé que la décision 17.223 pouvait être modifiée afin d'inclure le Comité pour les animaux dans le processus d'examen, comme convenu dans la décision 18.216.
9. Notant que la CoP18 a adopté la décision 18.216, ainsi qu'une série de décisions (en particulier 18.211-18.213) en se fondant sur un examen superficiel et non détaillé de l'étude, le Comité pour les animaux peut s'attacher à identifier des constatations exploitables et à reprendre les recommandations de l'étude qui ne figurent pas encore dans les décisions adoptées à la CoP18, et qui sont susceptibles d'aider les Parties et le Comité permanent à s'acquitter des tâches qui leur incombent vertu de ces décisions relatives aux tortues marines.

#### Mise en œuvre de la décision 18.216

10. Conformément à la décision 18.210, paragraphe a), le 22 avril 2020, le Secrétariat a publié la notification 2020/035 qui comprenait un exemplaire du rapport intégral sur le commerce international légal et illégal des tortues marines (tel que présenté au départ en anglais uniquement dans le document d'information CoP18 Inf. 18), ainsi que des traductions des sections les plus importantes de l'étude (résumé, discussion et conclusions générales, ainsi que recommandations). La notification demandait également aux Parties de soumettre des informations sur l'état d'avancement de la mise en œuvre des décisions 18.211 à 18.214, y compris les activités de mise en œuvre prévues.
11. Le paragraphe f) de la décision 18.210 charge le Secrétariat de « publier une notification demandant aux Parties de fournir des informations sur la mise en œuvre des décisions 18.210 à 18.214 pour examen par le Comité permanent à sa 73<sup>e</sup> session », par contre la décision 18.216 prie le Comité pour les animaux d'examiner, à sa 31<sup>e</sup> session, l'étude contenue dans le document d'information CoP18 Inf. 18 et toute information supplémentaire communiquée au Secrétariat en réponse à la notification émise conformément à la décision 18.210, paragraphe f).
12. Puisque que les réponses à la notification 2020/035 ne sont pas attendues avant le 30 juin 2020 et qu'on ne connaît ni leur nombre ni leur contenu qui peut être plus ou moins détaillé, il pourrait s'avérer difficile pour le Comité pour les animaux d'examiner de manière approfondie les réponses à la notification lors de sa 31e session, à moins que le Secrétariat ne soumettre un rapport lors de cette session.
13. Les sept espèces de tortues marines – tortue imbriquée (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), tortue caouanne (*Caretta caretta*), tortue verte (*Chelonia mydas*), tortue luth (*Dermochela coriacea*), tortue de Kemp (*Lepidochelys kempii*), tortue olivâtre (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) et tortue à dos plat (*Natator depressus*) - sont inscrites à l'Annexe I de la CITES. De ce fait, le commerce international à des fins commerciales est strictement interdit pour ces espèces.
14. L'étude sur les tortues marines a permis de découvrir, grâce aux enquêtes et aux entretiens menés sur le terrain, ainsi qu'aux données relatives aux saisies, des preuves de prélèvement et de commerce illégaux de tortues marines dans huit pays situés dans trois régions géographiques très éloignées les unes des autres. Toutefois, ces pays ont été sélectionnés en se fondant sur des données récentes prouvant leur implication significative dans des échanges commerciaux illégaux ; il est donc difficile de définir dans quelle mesure l'exploitation des tortues marines est répandue dans le monde.
15. Des informations supplémentaires ont été fournies sur les prélèvements et le commerce illégaux de tortues marines dans deux autres régions, la Méditerranée et l'Afrique de l'Ouest, où le tableau est similaire à celui des pays sélectionnés.
16. Dans tous les cas, les lois et réglementations nationales offraient une protection totale ou partielle des animaux vivants et de leurs œufs. La protection partielle était due au fait que certaines régions ou sites spécifiques la pêche des tortues marines adultes ou de leurs œufs était autorisée ou légale.
17. Les espèces de tortues marines les plus exploitées étaient la tortue imbriquée (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), principalement pour sa carapace, et la tortue verte (*Chelonia mydas*), essentiellement pour sa viande. Les œufs d'un plus grand nombre d'espèces sont prélevés et, dans certains pays, on a pu observer d'autres produits tels que des pénis et des animaux naturalisés.

18. Les tortues marines sont capturées dans le cadre de pêches ciblées et non ciblées, les prises accessoires des pêches semi-industrielles et industrielles étant réduites par l'utilisation de dispositifs d'exclusion des tortues. La majorité des prises de tortues marines proviennent de la pêche artisanale et la plupart des animaux sont consommés localement ou commercialisés à l'intérieur des pays. L'utilisation et le commerce intérieurs dans ces huit pays sont beaucoup plus importants que le commerce international, qui se limite principalement au commerce avec les pays voisins ou au sein d'une sous-région. Dans la sous-région Asie du Sud-Est/Triangle de corail, on a observé des signes de commerce international illégal plus organisé, tels que l'utilisation accrue du marketing en ligne et la saisie d'un grand nombre de tortues marines sur des navires de pêche étrangers.
19. Le nombre de spécimens confisqués ou saisis, principalement pour « usage personnel », enregistré au niveau mondial dans la base de données CITES sur le commerce entre 2000 et 2017 a révélé un recul du nombre de transactions illégales entre 2008 et 2013, suivie d'un plateau, mais le rapport n'a pas pu établir si cette baisse était réelle ou si elle reflétait un manque de rigueur dans la lutte contre la fraude ou les déclarations de la part des Parties à la CITES.
20. Les décisions 18.211 - 18.215 sur les tortues marines qui ont été adoptées lors de la CoP18 sont complètes et couvrent un large éventail de mesures scientifiques, liées aux rapports, juridiques et de lutte contre la fraude découlant directement des « recommandations axées sur la CITES » et des « recommandations générales » figurant dans l'étude sur les tortues marines.
21. Paragraphes particuliers de ces décisions à fort volet scientifique :
- 18.211 g) *prélever des échantillons de tortues marines pour analyse génétique, notamment sur les spécimens saisis, afin de déterminer les espèces en cause et les populations d'origine, et les fournir aux instituts de recherche médico-légales et autres centres de recherche capables de déterminer de manière fiable l'origine ou l'âge des échantillons à l'appui, par exemple, de la recherche, des enquêtes et des poursuites ;*
  - 18.213 a) *recherches socio-économiques associées au prélèvement et à l'utilisation légaux et illégaux de spécimens de tortues marines, dont les œufs, notamment évaluation de la durabilité des moyens d'existence de remplacement pour les communautés qui dépendent des tortues marines et de leurs motivations à les adopter ;*
  - 18.213 b) *recherches qui établissent une base de référence pour l'état et la répartition des tortues marines dans les différents pays/régions ; et*
  - 18.213 c) *recherche sur l'ampleur et l'impact de la pêche artisanale, semi-industrielle et industrielle nationale (et internationale), y compris la pêche illégale, non déclarée et non réglementée, sur les populations de tortues marines et leurs liens avec le commerce illégal.*
22. Les recommandations de nature spécifiquement biologique ou socioéconomique de l'étude qui s'appliquent au commerce international et qui n'ont pas été prises en compte dans les décisions relatives aux tortues marines adoptées lors de la CoP18 sont les suivantes :
- 5. *Lorsque des quotas de prélèvement de spécimens de tortues marines sont nécessaires, élaborer des cadres fiables et normalisés pour déterminer des quotas de prélèvement nationaux. Ceux-ci devront être fondés sur des données scientifiques, intégrer la détermination de niveaux de prélèvement durables, tenir compte des quotas existants dans d'autres États partageant le ou les stocks de tortues marines et tenir compte des capacités nationales de lutte contre la fraude.*
  - 8. *Travailler avec les États et leurs communautés de pêcheurs pour s'assurer qu'il existe au niveau national un relevé d'information efficace sur les prises accessoires et la mortalité des tortues marines dans les pêcheries pouvant éclairer les mesures de conservation et de gestion futures.*
  - 13. *Élaborer des protocoles opérationnels scientifiquement fondés que les établissements de maintien en captivité et d'écloserie de tortues marines doivent suivre afin de garantir que leurs établissements ont une valeur pour la conservation des populations de tortues marines.*
  - 24. *Entreprendre des recherches comparatives dans les lieux et auprès des communautés ayant fait l'objet de la présente évaluation afin de comprendre comment le commerce a évolué.*

27. Développer des modèles holistiques régionaux de probabilité de survie des tortues marines pour évaluer la durabilité des niveaux de prélèvement actuels. Ces modèles devront prendre en compte les menaces dans plusieurs pays (nombre de tortues de différentes classes d'âge prélevées dans les populations), les limites des zones de reproduction d'origine (nombre de tortues recrutées par an), les probabilités de survie naturelle et la biologie des tortues marines. Dans la mesure du possible, ces modèles devront s'appuyer sur des modèles existants, tels que ceux élaborés par le Groupe de spécialistes des tortues marines de l'IUCN.
28. Entreprendre des recherches biologiques et socio-économiques pouvant soutenir l'élaboration et la mise en œuvre de mesures de protection (supplémentaires) (spatiales) des zones d'alimentation, de ponte et de migration des tortues marines.

#### Évaluation et recommandations

23. Bien que la décision 18.216 b) ne précise pas quand le Comité pour les animaux doit soumettre ses recommandations à l'examen du Comité permanent, la décision 18.217 a) prie le Comité permanent d'examiner les recommandations du Comité pour les animaux à sa 73e session, qui se tiendra entre les ~~avant la 31<sup>e</sup> et 32<sup>e</sup>~~ sessions du Comité pour les animaux.
24. Nous, les coresponsables, recommandons que le Comité pour les animaux dans le rapport intermédiaire indique à la 73<sup>e</sup> 74<sup>e</sup> session du Comité permanent que l'étude réalisée avec l'appui financier de l'Australie, des États-Unis d'Amérique et de l'Union européenne, a utilement permis d'identifier les points les plus importants sur lesquels la CITES, notamment, peut contribuer à la conservation des tortues marines. Le rapport a fourni une analyse utile des prélèvements et du commerce légaux et illégaux de tortues marines dans huit pays, situés dans trois régions géographiques différentes, qui ont été sélectionnés sur la base d'informations récentes révélant leur implication dans l'exploitation et le commerce illégaux de tortues marines. Il est toutefois difficile d'établir clairement combien d'autres pays rencontrent des problèmes similaires ou sont confrontés à des problèmes complètement différents.
25. Les réponses des Parties à la notification no. 2020/035 peuvent donner des indications utiles sur leur mise en œuvre des décisions 18.211 à 18.214, apportant ainsi des éclaircissements sur les problèmes auxquels elles sont confrontées qui pourraient utilement être examinés par le Comité pour les animaux.
26. ~~Puisque que les réponses des Parties à la notification 2020/035 ne seront probablement pas disponibles avant 31<sup>e</sup> session du Comité pour les animaux, il serait peut-être judicieux d'établir un groupe de travail intersessions chargé d'examiner les réponses reçues et de faire un rapport sur leur analyse et les conclusions qui en découlent à la 32<sup>e</sup> session du Comité pour les animaux en vue de faire des recommandations au Comité permanent lors de sa 74<sup>e</sup> session, en temps voulu pour que le Comité permanent puisse soumettre ses recommandations à la 19<sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence des Parties.~~
27. Les décisions 18.211 à 18.214 sont très complètes, et couvrent toutes les « recommandations axées sur la CITES » et la plupart des « recommandations générales » figurant dans le rapport sur l'étude. Seules quelques recommandations générales de nature biologique ou socioéconomique figurant dans le rapport relatives au commerce international n'ont pas été clairement prises en compte dans les décisions relatives aux tortues marines adoptées lors de la CoP18 (voir paragraphe 22).
28. On peut toutefois reprocher à l'étude la faiblesse de son analyse des tendances mondiales du commerce international illégal, car il semble que les données présentées sont le fruit des efforts déployés par certaines Parties pour soumettre des déclarations et ne reflètent pas la situation réelle. Une analyse plus approfondie serait particulièrement utile lorsque les rapports annuels sur le commerce illégal se généraliseront et que les Parties soumettront ainsi plus systématiquement des informations normalisées sur les spécimens confisqués et saisis.
29. Nous, les coresponsables, recommandons que si un groupe de travail en session intersessions est établi lors de la 31<sup>e</sup> session du Comité pour les animaux, il ait pour mandat de faire rapport à la 32<sup>e</sup> session du Comité pour les animaux et de soumettre des recommandations, le cas échéant, à la 74<sup>e</sup> session du Comité permanent. Ce rapport devrait aborder les points en suspens notés au paragraphe 22 et tout autre point supplémentaire soulevé lors de la 31<sup>e</sup> session du Comité pour les animaux, ainsi que les questions soulevées par les Parties en réponse à la notification aux Parties No. 2020/035 qui relèvent du Comité pour les animaux.

Responses to Notification to the Parties No. 2020/035

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## Australia

**From:** Rhedyn Ollerenshaw <[Rhedyn.Ollerenshaw@awe.gov.au](mailto:Rhedyn.Ollerenshaw@awe.gov.au)>  
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**Subject:** Response to Notification 2020/035 - Australia - Marine turtles [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Dear Karen

Hello from Australia! I hope you are keeping well. I'm sorry that we won't be meeting in person in July.

Please find below Australia's response to Notification 2020/035 concerning implementation of Decisions 18.210 to 18.217 on Marine turtles.

- Six of the world's seven species of marine turtle occur in Australian waters. These species are the: loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*), olive ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*), leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*), green (*Chelonia mydas*), flatback (*Natator depressus*) and hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) turtles. All six are listed under the Australian *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) as threatened, migratory and marine. This listing affords them protection as a matter of national environmental significance. If an activity has the potential to have a significant impact on a matter of national environmental significance, the activity must be referred for assessment under the EPBC Act.
- The *Native Title Act 1993* identifies activities such as hunting and fishing as potential native title rights and interests and permits Native Title holders to hunt turtles for the purposes of satisfying their personal, domestic or non-commercial communal needs. The *Torres Strait Fisheries Act 1984* allows for the traditional take of marine turtles by traditional inhabitants of Torres Strait within the area of the Torres Strait Protected Zone and the surrounding outside, but near, areas as described in the Torres Strait Treaty.
- Management of marine turtles in Australia is coordinated through the national *Recovery Plan for Marine Turtles in Australia* (2017). The Recovery Plan recognises the threat of illegal take of marine turtles as a high priority threat, particularly in regards to international take of Hawksbill turtles. The Recovery Plan identifies priority actions to address illegal take and reduce the illegal trade in marine turtle products, including working on a regional scale to reduce illegal, unreported and unregulated take and trade of turtles and increase education and communication of marine turtle conservation.
- The Australian Government has actively engaged through regional agreements to protect marine turtles from illegal take and trade.
  - Australia is an active member of the Illegal Trade Working Group to the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles and their Habitats of the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia (IOSEA Marine Turtle MOU).
  - The Australian Government provided \$20 000 through the *Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals* (CMS) to CITES to facilitate the development of the study the "*Status, scope and trends of the legal and illegal international trade in marine turtles, its conservation impacts, management options and mitigation priorities*".
  - At the 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Signatories to the IOSEA Marine Turtle MoU held in October 2019, Australia reiterated its commitment to the protection of turtles and the Native Title rights of Indigenous people to hunt on their land and sea country.

- Dr Colin Limpus (Queensland Government) is undertaking an assessment of Hawksbill turtles in IOSEA region.
- The Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission (ACIC) completed an investigation in 2016 into the practice of illegal killing, poaching and transportation of turtle and dugong meat. The key findings of this investigation include:
  - Poaching and the illegal sale of meat throughout Queensland and the Torres Strait Indigenous communities is almost certainly minimal and usually opportunistic, but the full extent is unknown.
  - There is no substantive evidence to suggest that an organised commercial trade in turtle and dugong meat exists in Queensland, including the Torres Strait, and it is unlikely that a commercial market and organised trade in turtle and dugong meat exists in Queensland.
  - Indigenous community members are generally supportive of the development of enforceable measures to stop poaching activities within their sea country.
  - Turtle and dugong poaching in the Torres Strait is almost certainly minimal primarily because the legislative framework permits hunting by all traditional inhabitants, including those from PNG coastal villages, subject to certain restrictions.
- Australian Commonwealth, state and territory governments facilitate monitoring of marine turtle population demographics for all species of marine turtle found in Australia. Many of these programs regularly publish outcomes in the peer reviewed scientific literature. Of particular relevance to CITES Decisions 18.210 to 18.217, Bell et al (2020) identified a decline in the nesting hawksbill turtles population at Milman Island in the northern Great Barrier Reef over 28 years. The cause of this decline was not determined, but it was hypothesised that a combination of reduced hatching success combined with exploitation of mature animals at unprotected foraging grounds may have led to the observed reduction in nesting turtles.
- Bell, I. P., J. J. Meager, T. Eguchi, K. Dobbs, J. D. Miller and C. A. Madden Hof (2020). "Twenty-eight years of decline: Nesting population demographics and trajectory of the north-east Queensland endangered hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*)." *Biological Conservation* 241: e108376.

Warm regards

Rhedyn

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 Rhedyn Ollerenshaw  
 A/g Assistant Director | Policy  
 Wildlife Trade Regulation  
 CITES Management Authority of Australia

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 Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment  
 E: [Rhedyn.ollerenshaw@awe.gov.au](mailto:Rhedyn.ollerenshaw@awe.gov.au)

**From:** [no\\_reply@cites.org](mailto:no_reply@cites.org) <[no\\_reply@cites.org](mailto:no_reply@cites.org)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 23 April 2020 2:05 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Communications <[dehcommunications@environment.gov.au](mailto:dehcommunications@environment.gov.au)>

**Subject:** New Notification to the Parties to CITES

**Importance:** High

The following Notification to the Parties was posted on the CITES website on 22 April 2020:

Notification to the Parties No. 2020/035:

[Implementation of Decisions 18.210 to 18.217 on Marine turtles \(\*Cheloniidae spp.\* and \*Dermochelyidae spp.\*\)](#)

[Annex 2: Status, scope and trends of the legal and illegal international trade in marine turtles, its conservation impacts, management options and mitigation priorities](#)

The Notification can be viewed on the page below:

<http://cites.org/eng/notif/index.php>

CITES Secretariat  
International Environment House  
11 Chemin des Anemones  
CH-1219 Chatelaine, Geneva  
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## ***Canada Response to Marine Turtles CITES Notification 2020-035***

### ***Population and Conservation Status***

Canadian waters provide seasonal habitat for several species of marine turtles. Loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*) and Leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) sea turtles are frequently encountered in Canadian Atlantic waters. Leatherbacks are occasionally encountered in Canadian Pacific waters. There are three other species that have been documented in Canadian waters but are extremely rare and seldom encountered: Green (*Chelonia mydas*) Atlantic and Pacific waters, Kemp's Ridley (*Lepidochelys kempii*) Atlantic waters and Olive Ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) Pacific waters. All sea turtles are protected in Canadian waters as targeted harvest is prohibited.

#### **Leatherback**

There are two foraging populations of Leatherbacks in Canadian waters, one corresponds to the Northwest Atlantic Distinct Population Segment, and the other to the Western Pacific population. Both populations are listed under the federal Canadian *Species at Risk Act* as Endangered.

In the Northwest Atlantic, most leatherback turtles nest in the southern United States, Caribbean, and South and Central America, from February through to July. They migrate north to forage in Canadian waters during summer and fall. Atlantic Canada has one of the highest densities of foraging Leatherback sea turtles in the North Atlantic during the summer, in large part due to a predictable abundance of jellyfish. When in Canada, Leatherbacks can be found in coastal, shelf and offshore waters. The Northwest Atlantic population is decreasing; consistent with the global decline of the species. Over 1,000 Leatherback Sea Turtles are thought to visit Atlantic Canada each year to feed.

Leatherbacks in Pacific Canadian waters migrate long distances from Indo-Pacific nesting beaches, to forage on jellyfish. Leatherbacks are only occasionally observed in Canadian Pacific waters, with 145 sightings reported since the 1930's. A low population size, occurrence at the northern extent of the species' range and challenges in surveying foraging turtles, contribute to a poor understanding of leatherback turtle in Canadian Pacific waters. The Pacific Leatherback population has exhibited declines of up to 95% in the last 50 years.

#### **Loggerhead**

Juvenile Loggerhead sea turtles migrate to Atlantic Canadian waters to feed in spring through to the fall. The foraging population corresponds to the Northwest Atlantic Distinct Population Segment. Loggerhead turtles found in Canada principally originate from nesting populations in the southeastern United States, including Georgia and Florida. In Canada, Loggerhead habitat is defined temporally and geographically, in part, by sea surface temperature, and includes thermally dynamic waters along the shelf break and further offshore, where the warm waters of the Gulf Stream mix with the cooler waters of the Labrador Current. While in Canadian waters, Loggerhead sea turtles are mostly found offshore. The trend in abundance for this subpopulation is not clear. However, globally the species is in decline. Loggerhead sea turtle is listed under the Canadian *Species at Risk Act* as Endangered.

## **Management**

All sea turtles are protected from harvesting in Canadian waters. Under the Canadian *Species at Risk Act*, Recovery Strategies outline the objectives and goals for protecting and recovering species at risk. Action Plans are based on the Recovery Strategy and summarize measures necessary to meet Recovery Strategy goals and objectives, and include the identification of critical habitat and details of measures necessary to promote the recovery of the species. The Recovery Strategy for Leatherback Turtle in Atlantic Canada was published in 2007 and the Action Plan for Leatherback in Atlantic Canada was published in 2020. A Report on the Progress of Recovery Strategy Implementation was published in 2013. A Recovery Strategy for Leatherbacks in the Canadian Pacific Ocean was published in 2006 and the Action Plan for Leatherback in Pacific Canada was published in 2019. A Report on the Progress of Recovery Strategy Implementation for the Pacific Population was published in 2013. A Recovery Strategy and Action Plan for the Loggerhead Sea Turtle in Canada is in the process of being developed.

Canada works closely with local and international partners to study Leatherbacks and Loggerheads and mitigate known threats. Collaborative research includes, deploying satellite tags on turtles in Canada and on southern nesting beaches; work which has been instrumental to improving understanding of migratory and foraging behaviours of both species. Sampling and tagging research also helps define species' distributions and habitat use within Atlantic Canada.

Work is ongoing to better understand interactions between sea turtles and fishing gear in Canada. Creative solutions to minimize the risk of such encounters are being explored with the fishing industry. Licence conditions for the pelagic longline fleet in Atlantic Canada were recently updated to ensure current best practices in sea turtle handling and bycatch prevention are being adopted, such that recovery of marine turtles in Atlantic Canadian waters is not compromised. Fisheries and Oceans Canada has worked with the fishing industry to develop and implement the Atlantic Canadian Loggerhead Turtle Conservation Action Plan. The plan seeks to monitor and mitigate incidental capture and post-release mortality of sea turtles by Canadian commercial fishing fleets. The Canadian government has also worked with the fishing industry to develop and implement the species at risk logbook program, requiring fishers to record both Leatherback and Loggerhead interactions.

Sea Turtle sightings are reported in Atlantic Canada to the Canadian Sea Turtle Network, and to the BC Cetacean Sighting Network in the Pacific. Along the west coast of the United States and Canada, a multi-jurisdictional collaborative project is in place to fortify the capacity for sea turtle stranding response by developing basic response protocols, obtaining necessary supplies, and training network members to streamline response efforts and data collection.

## **Products in Trade**

The trade of marine turtle products into and out of Canada is small. The imports of products over the last ten years have mostly been preconvention items such as carvings, jewelry and carapaces, or biological samples for scientific purposes. The majority of exports over the last ten years have also largely been preconvention items such as carvings, jewelry and carapaces, or biological samples for scientific purposes. In Canada, pre-convention sea turtle products still require CITES import, export permits and re-export certificates. In addition, the Canadian legislation prohibits the possession of sea turtle products for the purpose of trade or offering for trade (some exemptions may apply).

## **Response to Notification No.2020/035 Regarding Marine turtles**

**(*Cheloniidae* spp. and *Dermochelyidae* spp.)**

In recent years, China has continuously attached great importance to the conservation and management of marine turtles, implementing the relevant provisions of CITES Resolutions and Decisions, carrying out series of measures to strengthen the protection and conservation.

### **1. Legislation and action plans**

All species of marine turtles distributed in China have been included in the List of Wildlife under the State Key Protection, which means that any hunting and killing of marine turtles are prohibited. Further, they will be transferred from state second-class protection to state first-class protection. Based on Wildlife Conservation Law and Fisheries Law, a series of supporting regulations and plans such as the “*Implementation Regulations for the Protection of Aquatic Wild Animals*”, “*Outline of Action for Conservation of Aquatic Living Resources in China*” and “*China Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan (2011-2030)*”, have been promulgated, with marine turtle protection as the key content. The “Marine turtles Conservation Action Plan (2019-2033)” has been issued, which clarifies the basic principles, action objectives and route map of marine turtle conservation work, and provides strong guidance for the scientific conservation and effective management of turtle conservation.

## 2. Scientific research and the protection of marine turtle species and their habitats

Using satellite tracking and other methods to investigate marine turtle's wild resources and main habitats in China, preliminary studies on turtle's activity and distribution have provided basic support for turtle conservation. At the same time, a nature reserve and two conservation stations have been established along the coast to specially and effectively protect marine turtle and their habitats. For many years, marine turtle release activities have been carried out along the coast, which have promoted the restoration of the wild marine turtle population. For example, in 2019, such marine turtle release activities were held in Shandong, Guangdong provinces.

## 3. International exchange and cooperation

Several international meetings/workshops, such as the academic exchange meeting on sea turtle conservation, international seminar on marine turtle conservation, were held in China, to strengthen academic and information exchange, and to summarize and learn successful experience of other countries and organizations in marine turtle conservation.

## 4. Multisectoral coordination mechanism

The "Marine Rare and Endangered Wildlife Rescue Network" and "China Sea Turtle Conservation Union" have been established to carry out various forms of protection such as sea turtles rescue activity, in which fishery administrations, conservation agencies, scientific research institutes, aquariums, non-governmental organizations jointly

participated

## 5. Publicity awareness

Some noted public figures have been invited as ambassador for the Image of Aquatic Wildlife Conservation. The Marine Wildlife Conservation Award has been established. In the major social functions such as the annual celebration of the World Turtle Day, Aquatic Wildlife Science Promotion Month, World Wildlife Day, a series of targeted publicity activities have been carried out to raise awareness of the protection of turtles and other aquatic wildlife from all walks of life.

## 6. Joint law enforcement

The law enforcement and supervision of aquatic wildlife is the key work of the annual special enforcement actions named "China Fishery Sword". In such actions, various departments, including the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, General Administration of Customs, State Administration for Market Regulation, Marine Guard, and China CITES Management Authority, are working together to ensure effectiveness of joint law enforcement actions on aquatic wildlife. For example, in 2018, more than 50,000 law enforcement personnel were deployed in such joint departmental operations, with remarkable results achieved. All the illegal trade information of marine turtles were collected in a standardized manner and submitted in the annual illegal trade report to CTIES Secretariat.

## Report to the CITES Secretariat on Marine Turtles

This document has been prepared by the National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA), Jamaica, concerning the implementation of Decisions 18.210 and 18.217 on marine turtles (*Cheloniidae spp.* and *Dermochelyidae spp.*) Notification to Parties No. 2020/035

### MANAGEMENT AND ACTION PLANS FOR CONSERVATION

The Sea Turtle Recovery Action Plan for Jamaica was prepared in 2011 and provides the framework and direction for programmes to save Jamaica's sea turtle populations from extinction. The document describes a five-year national Sea Turtle Conservation Programme to achieve, inter alia: national consultations on the implementation of the Plan; an inventory of active sea turtle nesting beaches; a national network of long-term monitoring at Index sites (nesting, foraging); genetic fingerprinting of domestic populations (nesting, foraging); professional training in sea turtle research and monitoring techniques; an assessment and report of sea turtle products in Jamaica (including measures in place to eliminate the sale of worked shell products); an inventory of threats to sea turtle survival (nesting, foraging) in Jamaica; an assessment and report on sea turtle bycatch in Jamaica; development of best practices and handbooks on "Turtle-friendly Beach Development and Management" and "Recommended Regulations and Guidelines for Sea Turtle Conservation in Protected Areas"; inclusion within the national system plan for protected areas habitats important to sea turtle nesting and foraging; workshops on the development of area specific sea turtle management plans; and certain benchmarks related to public education and awareness.

### CURRENT LEGISLATION

#### 1. The Wild Life Protection Act, 1945

The Wild Life Protection Act makes it an offence to have a sea turtle or any part of the animal in one's possession. Anyone found guilty of this offence is liable to a fine of up to J\$100,000 or 12 months imprisonment.

Every person who- takes or attempts to take; or (b) sells or has in his possession for the purpose of sale, any turtle eggs shall be guilty of an offence against this Act. The following species are found on the THIRD SCHEDULE of the act.

Green Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) L.N. Hawksbill Turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), Loggerhead Turtle (*Caretta caretta*), Atlantic Ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea* ), Kemp's Ridley (*Lepidochelys kempii*), Atlantic Leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*)

#### 2. Endangered Species (Protection, Conservation and Regulation of Trade) Act, 2000

The Endangered Species Act provides for the conservation, protection and regulation of trade in endangered species. The Act was prepared to allow the Government

of Jamaica to fulfil its obligations under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

Marine turtles (*Cheloniidae spp.* and *Dermochelyidae spp.*) are listed under the First Schedule of the Endangered Species Act. Anyone found guilty of an offence under this act is liable to a fine of up to J\$1,000,000.00 or up to 2 years imprisonment.

## **ANNUAL SEA TURTLE MONITORING**

1. The National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA) conducts annual sea turtle nesting monitoring and reconfirmation of historical nesting beaches at select beaches islandwide. These surveys are typically conducted during the months of June to November which are considered the peak nesting season for the island's main nester, the Hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*). NEPA also actively seeks to collect information on nesting activity from non-governmental organizations, private individuals and hotels. This monitoring report provides information on the index beach in the Palisadoes-Port Royal Protected Area, the reconfirmation of historical nesting beaches, and nesting information from select beaches around the island which are monitored and reported on by non-governmental organizations, private individuals and hotels.
2. Public private partnership with various organizations, hotels and individuals monitor sea turtle nesting activity on their beaches. Currently, NEPA has Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with two community-based non-governmental organizations (NGOs) located on the south coast of Jamaica. In addition, there are other NGO's and individuals who conduct monitoring of nesting beaches and share the data with NEPA. Not all entities monitored consistently throughout the monitoring period for each year and so there may be gaps in data for some monitoring sites.

## **TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING**

Training for community members at NGO's with which NEPA has MOUs was done through public-private partnership with the assistance of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in 2017. NEPA provided further training in monitoring protocols and reporting and supplies the NGOs

with tags that are applied to the flippers of the nesting females they encounter. In addition, one NEPA staff member received training in Bermuda in 2017 in an international open water course on biology and conservation of sea turtles.

### **ILLEGAL DOMESTIC HARVEST**

Anecdotal evidence of sea turtle poaching is often received. In addition both the discarded carcasses of typically Green and Hawksbill turtles and abandoned live turtles are rescued and released

### **KNOWN CRAFT ITEMS**

Hawksbill shell jewellery is often sold in resort towns such as Negril. The use of turtle shells is not very extensive but is believed to be used opportunistically as a by-product of turtles poached for meat. Craft with vendors claimed they would find the shell scutes on the beach washed up and do not butcher turtles for the purpose of jewellery. Raids and seizures have been carried out in the past.

### **RECENT SUCCESSFUL PROSECUTIONS**

1. In 2016, one person was captured on video butchering a Hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) in Alligator Pond, Manchester and was sentenced to serve one month in prison or pay a fine of \$50,000 and was also ordered to carry out 50 hours of community service. The incident took place in 2015, the video was widely circulated on social media.
  
2. In 2018, two persons were each fined \$50,000 for breaches under the Wildlife Protection Act (WLPA) The men, who were filmed killing a Green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) at 9 Miles in Bull Bay, St Andrew, They, had pled guilty to hunting a protected animal (WLPA section 6) and possessing the whole or any part of a protected animal (WLPA section 6A).

**Information from Japan in response to CITES Notification 2020/035 regarding the request for information on the status of implementation of Decisions on marine turtles (Cheloniidae spp. and Dermochelyidae spp.)**

In response to CITES Notification 2020/035 regarding the request for information on implementation of Decisions 18.211 to 18.214 on marine turtles, Japan hereby submits the following:

1. Japan prohibits direct harvest of marine turtles except for special occasions (e.g. scientific research permitted by central/local government) in accordance with relevant legislations.
2. In addition, Japan has been addressing incidental harvest of marine turtles through relevant Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs). In accordance with regulations adopted by RFMOs and domestic legislations for the implementation, Japan has been taking measures for: (1) mitigating the incidental capture of marine turtles; and (2) ensuring the safe handling of captured ones to secure their survival.

**Commented [A1]:** ヒメウミガメ、オサガメについては、水産資源保護法施行規則第1条に基づき採捕禁止。

アオウミガメ、アカウミガメ、タイマイについては、漁業法第67条に基づき、各県の行政委員会たる海区漁業調整委員会の指示に基づき原則採捕禁止。

**Commented [A2]:** マグロ RFMO の決議及び勧告（例えば、WCPFC の CMM2018-04）。

**Commented [A3]:** 指定漁業の許可及び取締り等に関する省令第56条の2等で担保。

**NOTIFICATION 2020/035**  
**Mise en œuvre des décisions 18.210 à 18.215,**  
**Tortues marines (Cheloniidae spp. et Dermochelyidae spp.)**

Conformément à cette notification, voici les éléments concernant la gestion de tortues marines à Monaco.

### **1. PROTECTION**

Le Code de la mer prévoit des mesures générales de protection de la faune et de la flore marines visant à leur conservation et leur développement naturels et, à ces fins, visant à les préserver de tous troubles. Ces mesures s'appliquent à l'ensemble des rivages, des eaux intérieures et des eaux territoriales (art. L.230-1).

Des mesures particulières sont prévues pour les espèces inscrites à l'annexe II du Protocole de Barcelone du 10 juin 1995 relatif aux aires spécialement protégées et à la diversité biologique (art. O. 230-1) dans laquelle sont inscrites les espèces de tortues marines suivantes :

- Tortue Caouanne (*Caretta caretta*, Linnaeus, 1758)
- Tortue Verte (*Chelonia mydas*, Linnaeus, 1758)
- Tortue Luth (*Dermochelys coriacea*, Vandelli, 1761)
- Tortue imbriquée (*Eretmochelys imbricata*, Linnaeus, 1766)
- Tortue de Kemp (*Lepidochelys kempii*, Garman, 1880)

Conformément à ces mesures, sont interdites pour ces espèces ainsi que de leurs œufs, parties ou produits :

- la perturbation intentionnelle,
- la capture,
- l'importation,
- la détention,
- la mise à mort,
- le commerce,
- le transport et
- l'exposition à des fins commerciales.

Ces mesures sont complétées par des dispositions relatives à la pêche qui confirment l'interdiction de vendre, de transporter, de colporter ou de faire quelque usage que ce soit du produit des pêches prohibées (art. L.244-5) ainsi que l'interdiction de prélever toutes les espèces protégées telles qu'elles figurent dans les accords internationaux auxquels Monaco est Partie (art. O.244-23).

En cas de capture accidentelle d'un spécimen d'une espèce répertoriée au titre des espèces animales inscrites à l'annexe II du Protocole de Barcelone du 10 juin 1995 relatif aux aires spécialement protégées et à la diversité biologique, le spécimen doit (art. O.230-1) :

- être immédiatement relâché dans des conditions propres à assurer sa survie ;
- à défaut, être déclaré et remis à la Direction de l'Environnement dans les plus brefs délais.

Par ailleurs, il existe dans les eaux territoriales monégasques deux aires marines protégées : la zone protégée du Larvotto et la zone protégée du Tombant des Spélugues.

## **2. DEROGATIONS**

Le Code de la mer prévoit également des dispositions dérogatoires (art. O.230-1).

Cela concerne en tout premier lieu les fonctionnaires et agents de la Direction des Affaires Maritimes, de la Direction de l'Environnement, de la Sûreté Publique et du Corps des Sapeurs-pompiers agissant dans l'exercice de leurs missions.

Les dérogations concernent ensuite les activités de recherche scientifique comportant la capture, la pêche ou le prélèvement d'espèces protégées au titre de leur inscription à l'annexe II du Protocole de Barcelone du 10 juin 1995 relatif aux aires spécialement protégées et à la diversité biologique. Ces recherches doivent être autorisées par le Ministre d'État, conformément à l'article L. 241-1 du Code de la mer.

Sont enfin également prévues des dérogations aux interdictions, à condition qu'elles ne nuisent pas au maintien, dans un état de conservation favorable, des populations des espèces concernées dans leur aire de répartition naturelle, accordées par le Ministre d'État, après avis de la Direction des Affaires Maritimes et de la Direction de l'Environnement, pour les cas suivants :

- a) dans l'intérêt de la protection de la faune et de la flore sauvages et de la conservation des habitats naturels ;
- b) dans l'intérêt de la santé et de la sécurité publiques ou pour d'autres raisons impératives d'intérêt public majeur, y compris de nature sociale ou économique, et pour des motifs qui comporteraient des conséquences bénéfiques primordiales pour l'environnement ;
- c) à des fins de recherche scientifique et d'éducation, de repeuplement et de réintroduction de ces espèces et pour des opérations de reproduction nécessaires à ces fins, y compris la propagation artificielle des plantes ;
- d) pour permettre, dans des conditions strictement contrôlées, d'une manière sélective et dans une mesure limitée, la prise ou la détention d'un nombre limité et spécifié de certains spécimens ;
- e) à des établissements, pour la détention ou l'élevage hors du milieu naturel de spécimens d'espèces à des fins de conservation et de reproduction.

### **3. SANCTIONS**

Le non-respect de ces dispositions est sanctionné conformément à l'article L.230-3 du Code de la mer selon les modalités suivantes : emprisonnement de six jours à un mois et amende prévue au chiffre 1 de l'article 26 du Code pénal, ou de l'une de ces deux peines seulement.

En cas de récidive, l'emprisonnement est de un mois à six mois et l'amende est celle prévue au chiffre 2 de l'article 26 du Code pénal.

Les infractions ou tentatives d'infractions commises dans une aire marine protégée destinée à favoriser le repeuplement, la conservation et le développement de la faune et de la flore marines, sont punies d'un emprisonnement de trois mois à un an et de l'amende prévue au chiffre 3 de l'article 26 du Code pénal. Les infractions ou tentatives d'infractions, commises entre le coucher et le lever du soleil sont punies d'un emprisonnement de six mois à trois ans et de l'amende prévue au chiffre 4 de ce même article 26.

Les navires, embarcations ou matériels ayant servi à commettre l'une des infractions prévues au présent article peuvent être saisis. À cette saisie peut être substituée la consignation d'une somme d'argent d'un montant égal au double du taux maximal de l'amende encourue.

En cas de condamnation le tribunal peut prononcer soit la confiscation des navires, embarcations ou matériels et ordonner leur vente ou leur destruction, soit la confiscation de la somme consignée.

Au titre des dispositions relatives à la pêche, les sanctions sont fixées par l'article L.244-7 qui prévoit :

*Sans préjudice de l'application des dispositions de l'article L. 230-3, les infractions aux autres dispositions du présent chapitre ainsi qu'à celles des ordonnances souveraines et des arrêtés ministériels pris pour son application, sont punies de l'amende prévue au chiffre 4 de l'article 29 du Code pénal.*

*En cas de récidive, dans le délai d'une année, l'emprisonnement est de six jours à un mois et l'amende est celle du chiffre 1 de l'article 26 du Code pénal.*

#### **Pour information :**

Article 26 du Code pénal :

Le montant de la peine d'amende est fixé pour chaque délit suivant les catégories ci-après :

- chiffre 1 : de 1 000 à 2 250 euros ;
- chiffre 2 : de 2 250 à 9 000 euros ;

- chiffre 3 : de 9 000 à 18 000 euros ;
- chiffre 4 : de 18 000 à 90 000 euros.

Article 29 du Code pénal :

Le montant de la peine d'amende est fixé pour chaque classe de contraventions suivant les catégories ci-après :

- chiffre 1 : de 15 à 75 euros ;
- chiffre 2 : de 75 à 200 euros ;
- chiffre 3 : de 200 à 600 euros ;
- chiffre 4 : de 600 à 1 000 euros.

#### **4. APPLICATIONS DES DECISIONS 18.211 A 18.215**

Monaco, en tant qu'aire de répartition, met tout en œuvre pour protéger les tortues marines.

La législation a été présentée dans les paragraphes précédents.

Aucun trafic illégal d'espèce de tortue marine n'a été recensé sur le territoire monégasque. Il n'existe pas de marché local et les tortues marines ne viennent pas sur les plages monégasques.

Les spécimens de tortues marines recensés à Monaco le sont soit en tant que préconvention (antiquités ou collection du Musée) soit en tant qu'animal repêché dans les eaux territoriales, blessé ou mort.

Dans ce cadre, au titre du Code de la Mer le Musée Océanographique de Monaco est autorisé à :

- Détenir et élever des espèces de tortues marines protégées au titre de l'article 0.230-1 du Code de la Mer (Autorisation du 21 Septembre 2018)
- Réintroduire, dans les espaces maritimes monégasques, les tortues marines recueillies au fins de réhabilitation (Autorisation du 12 mars 2018).

Le Musée Océanographique de Monaco est enregistré comme Institution Scientifique auprès de la CITES sous le numéro MC 002.

Il accueille le Centre monégasque de soins des espèces marines (CMSEM) et est en contact avec le Réseau Tortues Marines de Méditerranée Française (RTMMF).



Thailand

ACTION *Kam.* COPY *Kulap*

07 JUL 2020

REPLY . . . FILE

No. 0510.6/ 1611



Department of Fisheries  
Kaset Klang, Chatuchak  
Bangkok, Thailand 10900

29 June B.E. 2563 (2020)

Dear CITES Secretariat,

**Subject: Implementation of Decisions 18.210 to 18.217 on Marine turtles  
(*Cheloniidae* spp. and *Dermochelyidae* spp.)**

Reference is made to the Notification to the parties No. 2020/035 dated 22 April, 2020 at its 18th meeting (COP18, Geneva, 2019), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 18.210 to 18.217 on Marine turtles (*Cheloniidae* spp. and *Dermochelyidae* spp.). The Secretariat request parties to submit information on the status of implementation of Decisions 18.211 to 18.214, including any planned implementation activities and should be submitted by email no later than 30 June 2020.

In this regard, the Department of Fisheries (DoF), Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, would like to submit relevant information and legislation already exists and implementation related to these decisions as follows:

1. Currently, marine turtles in Thailand are defined as protected and conserved wildlife in accordance with the Wildlife Preservation and Protection Act B.E. 2562 (2019). Activities with regards to hunting, trading, occupying, and breeding of those species are prohibited. The prohibition also includes possession of their carcasses or any parts and derivatives.

2. In addition to that of Wildlife Preservation and Protection Act B.E. 2562 (2019) that covers protection of marine turtles and endangered species, Thailand has also issued Marine National Parks, Protected Wildlife Areas, and other Conservation Areas to Promote Administration and Management of Marine and Coastal Resources B.E. 2558 (2015) for protecting and conserving habitats and feeding grounds of those endangered aquatic species and implemented on improve monitoring, detection and law enforcement activities related to marine turtles and endangered species in coastal areas and at transaction points (e.g. in the marketplace, online, maritime areas, and at air- and seaports).

3. The provisions of the Royal Ordinance Act B.E. 2560 (2017) aim to reorganize fisheries in Thailand and in waters at large with a view to preventing IUU fishing in order to preserve aquatic animal resources as a sustainable source of food for humanity and preserve the environment in an appropriate state along the line of approaches, criteria and standards recognized internationally, as well as to protect endangered aquatic species. Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives issued the Notification on Prohibition of Capture and Retaining Catches of Endangered Aquatic Species Onboard Fishing Vessels. Prohibition of capture and retaining catch of endangered aquatic species and all species of marine turtles (Family) Cheloniidae and Dermochelyidae, including their eggs onboard fishing vessels. This Notification shall not apply in case of life saving for that of aquatic species.

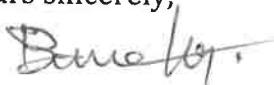
4. In Thailand...

4. In Thailand, a study on marine turtles found that there are five species of marine turtles were found in Thailand, including Green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), Hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), Olive ridley turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*), Leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*) and Loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*), but there are only four species of spawning marine turtles were found which are Leatherback turtle and Olive ridley turtle spawned only on seashore on the mainland of the west coast of Thailand. Green turtle and Hawksbill turtle are often spawned on beaches of various islands, included the Gulf of Thailand and Andaman Sea. There are about 10 important sea turtle spawning places in Thailand, with the largest one at the Khram Island and Similan Island.

5. The Department of Marine and Coastal Resources organized the 1<sup>st</sup> Workshop on Primary Rescue for Endangered Marine Species (2019), for local communities and related government agencies. This workshop aim to educate and lecture on endangered marine species classification, status of endangered marine species in Thailand, threats, laws and regulations that the people should know, basic techniques for rescue endangered marine species and practice on catching animals to enable participants to rescue stranded endangered marine species prior the government officers arrive to the stranded beach.

Should you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,



(Mr. Bancha Sukkaew)  
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For Director-General

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**U.S. Response to CITES Notification 2020/035 on *Marine Turtles* *Marine turtles*  
(*Cheloniidae spp.* and *Dermochelyidae spp.*); Status of implementation of Decisions 18.211 to  
18.214, including any planned implementation activities**

***18.211 Directed to Parties***

**Parties are urged to:**

- a) review the findings of the study presented in information document CoP18 Inf. 18 and use these to inform targeted conservation and management efforts;**

The study results have been shared with the Coordinator within the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) for the Marine Turtle Conservation Fund (MTCF). The U.S. Congress passed the Marine Turtle Conservation Act in 2004 in response to the decline of many marine turtle populations worldwide and the serious threats to their long-term survival. The primary purpose of the Act is to provide financial support for projects that conserve nesting populations and habitat and address other threats to the survival of marine turtles in foreign countries. The study findings could prove useful in informing or even shaping MTCF requests for funding as related to capacity building for addressing illegal trade of marine turtles. Please refer to the response to Decision 18.213 for more information about particularly relevant grant awards issued for the period 2019-2020, which address the trafficking of marine turtle parts or products.

- c) develop and/or update management and action plans for the conservation of marine turtles inclusive of the recommendations in information document CoP18 Inf. 18;**

The U.S. Endangered Species Act (ESA) requires the development and implementation of recovery plans for threatened and endangered species native to the United States, unless such a plan would not promote conservation of the species. A recovery plan serves as a road map for species recovery—the plan outlines the path and tasks required to restore and secure self-sustaining wild populations. Recovery plans are developed with federal, state, tribal, local governmental, nongovernmental, and other interested parties. If successfully implemented, recovery plans result in a listed species being reclassified from endangered to threatened status, or result in the delisting and removal of the species from ESA protections.

Recovery plans must incorporate, at a minimum:

- A description of site-specific management actions necessary to achieve species recovery;
- Objective, measurable criteria which, when met, would result in a determination that the species be delisted; and
- Estimates of the time and costs required to achieve the plan's goal.

The FWS and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) have developed the following Recovery Plans:

Green turtle:

- <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/resource/document/recovery-plan-us-population-atlantic-green-turtle-chelonia-mydas>
- <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/resource/document/recovery-plan-us-pacific-populations-green-turtle-chelonia-mydas>
- <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/resource/document/recovery-plan-us-pacific-populations-east-pacific-green-turtle-chelonia-mydas>

Hawksbill:

- <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/resource/document/recovery-plan-us-pacific-populations-hawksbill-turtle-eretmochelys-imbricata>
- <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/resource/document/recovery-plan-hawksbill-turtles-us-caribbean-sea-atlantic-ocean-and-gulf>

Kemp's ridley:

- [https://www.fws.gov/kempsridley/Finals/kempsridley\\_revision2.pdf](https://www.fws.gov/kempsridley/Finals/kempsridley_revision2.pdf)

Leatherback:

- <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/resource/document/recovery-plan-us-pacific-populations-leatherback-turtle-dermochelys-coriacea>
- <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/resource/document/recovery-plan-leatherback-turtles-us-caribbean-atlantic-and-gulf-mexico>

Loggerhead:

- <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/resource/document/recovery-plan-us-pacific-populations-loggerhead-turtle-caretta-caretta>
- <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/resource/document/recovery-plan-northwest-atlantic-population-loggerhead-sea-turtle-caretta>

Olive ridley:

- <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/resource/document/recovery-plan-us-pacific-populations-olive-ridley-turtle-lepidochelys-olivacea>

**f) improve monitoring, detection and law enforcement activities related to marine turtles in coastal areas and at transaction points (e.g. in the marketplace, online, maritime areas, and at air- and seaports);**

The United States already has effective and robust federal, state and local mechanisms in place.

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**18.211 continued...**

**g) collect samples of marine turtles for DNA analysis, including from seized specimens, to determine species involved and populations of origin and provide these to forensic and other research institutions capable of reliably determining the origin or age of the samples in support of, for example, research, investigations and prosecutions;**

NMFS houses a national sea turtle genetics laboratory at the Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWC) in La Jolla, California. NMFS partners with researchers around the world to collect and archive samples and conduct analyses to inform conservation management. This research includes determining population structure and defining Units to Conserve (UTC); conducting stock identification of sea turtle fisheries bycatch and strandings; and enhancing population assessments by improving knowledge of sea turtle life history, ecology and behavior, population vital rates, and demography.

In situations where genetic samples cannot be exported to the United States, NMFS works collaboratively with international partners to build in-country capacity and provide training to ensure standardization of sample collection, archiving, and laboratory analysis.

In addition to genetic analysis, imported sea turtle tissue samples are used for stable isotope analysis to determine foraging ecology, trophic status, and migratory movements, as well as skeletochronology of imported humerus bones to study growth and age in sea turtles. Efforts for these two lines of research occur in the Stable Isotope Ecology Lab and Sea Turtle Demography Lab at the SWC. Between 1 April 2019 – 1 April 2020, a total of 4,527 samples were imported to the SWC and accessioned into the Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Research Collection from countries around the world.

**i) ascertain key trade routes, methods, volumes, and trade ‘hot-spots’ using available technologies, and enforce national and international regulations or other mechanisms that apply to marine turtles take and trade;**

Since 2018, the FWS Office of Law Enforcement (FWS/OLE) has seized over two hundred shipments imported into the United States containing sea turtle parts or products (Cheloniidae and Dermochelyidae). The majority of the seizures (86%) involved shells, shell products and carapaces, jewelry and meat originating from the Federated States of Micronesia, Mexico, and Palau. The remaining 14% of the seizures reported for the time period were sea turtle eggs, leather products, bodies (bones or skull mounts) and medicinals from other countries.

The United States continues to practice best methods to share information with relevant authorities. FWS/OLE has noticed a trend of commercial shipments of sea turtle parts from Caribbean and South American countries destined to Asia transiting the United States. The FWS/OLE interdicted an in-transit shipment of 1,423 sea turtle scutes covered in blue chalk that was declared as “plastic recycle” destined to Asia. Two species identified in this shipment were the Hawksbill sea turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) and the Green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*). The United States continues to closely monitor in-transit shipments for illegal wildlife products.

**j) improve accountability for the practices undertaken by all vessels and improve the monitoring and control related to CITES-listed marine turtles at landing sites;**

Incidental take of marine turtles is prohibited by the ESA, including take incidental to fishing activity. Fishing activities by U.S. vessels that may incidentally take marine turtles are strictly regulated to restrict certain types of gear, require safe handling procedures for marine turtles that are bycaught, and gear modifications to reduce levels of incidental take. These fishery restrictions are enforced at sea by NMFS and the U.S. Coast Guard, and at fishery landing sites by the NOAA Office of Law Enforcement (NOAA OLE).

Additionally, NOAA OLE works with industry and stakeholders to provide outreach and education to sea turtle measures and regulations.

NOAA OLE participates in joint enforcement inspections and investigations targeting the illegal trade of protected marine products alongside FWS, U.S. Coast Guard, Customs and Border Protection, Homeland Security Investigations, the Food and Drug Administration, and state enforcement partners.

NOAA OLE and FWS continue to provide counter-wildlife trafficking law enforcement expertise during numerous bi- and multi-lateral international engagements.

NOAA OLE supports efforts to improve the capacity of foreign partners to combat the illegal trade in protected marine products by participating in enforcement and prosecution training workshops in multiple countries. These trainings focus on law enforcement best practices such as evidence collection/control, investigation tools, case preparation, and information sharing, as well as regional fisheries management organization conservation and management measures that address prohibited/protected marine species and mitigating the unintentional take of protected species.

NOAA OLE actively participated in INTERPOL's Project SCALE, which supports member countries in identifying, deterring, and disrupting trafficking of protected marine products. These efforts have resulted in coherent international law enforcement collaboration and effective investigative responses worldwide. NOAA OLE also served on the Executive Board of INTERPOL's Fisheries Crime Working Group.

NOAA OLE supported several technical assistance activities that promote successful global implementation of the 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing (Agreement) and enhance enforcement capacities in source countries. Conducting more thorough fisheries inspections in accordance with the Agreement supports improved detection of IUU fishing and crimes associated with IUU fishing such as the illegal harvest of protected marine species.

**k) support fisheries management authorities in implementing turtle mitigation and safe handling practices;**

The United States has implemented various requirements to reduce sea turtle bycatch and to reduce injuries when turtles are bycaught. Bycatch reduction measures and safe handling requirements have been implemented in U.S. pelagic longline fisheries in the Atlantic and Pacific and in certain bottom longline fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico. Bycatch reduction

measures are also mandatory in certain federally managed gillnet fisheries including the mid-Atlantic and the California drift gillnet fishery. The United States requires Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs) in shrimp otter trawls, summer flounder trawls in certain areas, and skimmer trawls (40 feet and greater, beginning in 2021). Certain pound net fisheries and scallop dredge fisheries are also regulated to reduce sea turtle interactions and the severity of injuries if bycaught. The United States also works to transfer turtle “safe” handling practices to increase post-release survivorship and mitigation technologies to international pelagic and coastal fisheries through engagement in the Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (e.g., the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) and through collaborative fishery mitigation and research projects.

**I) coordinate efforts at the regional level, involving Parties and bodies with relevant mandates, to identify and address trade, use and other threats, such as fisheries' interactions with marine turtles (particularly bycatch), with a view to supporting multilateral environmental agreements; and**

The United States works through the Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (e.g., ICCAT, IATTC, WCPFC) to implement measures to reduce bycatch of sea turtles and to foster safe handling practices. For example, the United States proposed, and the WCPFC adopted, a revised sea turtle conservation measure that took effect on January 2020 and will result in expanded mitigation requirements for all shallow-set longline fisheries in the area covered by the Convention for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean [\(WCPFC-CMM-2018-04\)](#) – a change that will increase requirements to cover approximately 20% of WCPFC longline effort compared to approximately 1% previously. The IATTC also recently strengthened their sea turtle conservation measures to include handling measures, and gear mitigation and reporting requirements for shallow-set fisheries, which will come into force in January 2021 ([IATTC-Resolution C-19-04](#)).

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***18.212 Directed to Parties that are marine turtle range States***

**Parties that are marine turtle range States are urged to:**

**a) develop, and where such legislation already exists, conduct a thorough review of legislation that protects marine turtles, taking account of its effectiveness in enforcement and management including direct and incidental harvest, and standardization or alignment with other national and sub-national legislation, neighbouring states, as well as international regulations and commitments;**

The six species of sea turtles in the United States are protected under the [Endangered Species Act of 1973](#). NMFS and the [FWS](#) administer the Endangered Species Act with respect to marine turtles. NMFS leads conservation and recovery of sea turtles when they are at sea, while FWS has the lead when they are on nesting beaches. The ESA protects sea turtles by prohibiting direct and incidental take of these species, interstate and international trade, and requiring the development and implementation of recovery plans to assist in the recovery of these species.

Sea turtles are under threat from a variety of hazards. Major threats in the United States include damage and changes to nesting and foraging habitats, accidental capture during fishing, entanglement in [marine debris](#), and being hit by boats and ships. To reduce harm to sea turtles, NMFS restricts commercial fishers from using certain kinds of fishing gear (gill nets, long-lines, pound nets, and trawls) that are known to catch large numbers of sea turtles as [bycatch](#).

Sea turtles can be accidentally caught in shrimp nets and drown. To prevent this, NMFS, along with environmental and fishing organizations, developed [turtle excluder devices \(TED\)](#). A TED is a grid of bars with an opening at the top or bottom of a shrimp net, similar to a trap door. Small animals, like shrimp, pass through the grid bars and are caught in the net. When sea turtles and other large animals are accidentally captured in the net, they are deflected by the grid bars and can escape through an opening called a TED flap and swim away. TEDs can [dramatically reduce](#) sea turtle death and are [required](#) to use while shrimp fishing in some areas.

NMFS works globally to reduce bycatch in fishing operations and address illegal fishing practices to reduce the incidental catch and mortality of fish and other animals including sea turtles. This international work builds on U.S. domestic efforts and includes participation in international agreements, training and education of foreign fisheries, development of international standards and best practices for fishing operations, and enforcement of international laws.

The United States is a Contracting Party to the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC), developed to enhance the conservation of sea turtles and harmonize standards for their protection throughout the Western Hemisphere. Specifically, the IAC requires Parties to promote the protection and conservation of sea turtle populations and their habitats; to reduce the bycatch, injury and mortality of sea turtles associated with commercial fisheries; to prohibit the intentional take of, and domestic and international trade in, sea turtles, their eggs, parts and products; and to foster international cooperation in the research and management of sea turtles.

The United States (represented by the U.S. State Department, NMFS, and FWS) is an active member of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles and their Habitats of the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia (IOSEA).

Because of NMFS' jurisdiction in the marine environment, a significant portion of its work is focused on mitigating sea turtle bycatch in commercial and recreational fisheries. NMFS has developed collaborative projects with countries around the world to test TEDs, modified gillnets, circle hooks in longlines and buoy gear.

More information about these efforts can be found in the biennial report to Congress on the international provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Reauthorization Act, which can be accessed here: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/foreign/international-affairs/identification-iuu-fishing-activities>

In addition to working bilaterally with other countries, NMFS has worked through Regional Fisheries Management Organizations to adopt sea turtle resolutions that require implementation of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization guidelines, increased observer coverage, increased data reporting, and changes in fishing gear and practices.

- b) where domestic harvest of specimens of marine turtles, including eggs, is legal, ensure any domestic harvest quotas are established based on robust science-based methods and the principles of sustainability, including accounting for existing quota or no-take quotas in other States' that share marine turtle stock(s), taking into account national enforcement capacity;**

Harvest of marine turtles is prohibited in the United States by the ESA.

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***18.213 Directed to Parties, governmental, intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations and other entities***

**Parties, governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other entities are invited to provide financial or technical assistance for, *inter alia*:**

- a) training and capacity building of relevant authorities at the national and regional level, including on the implementation and enforcement of national and international regulations that apply to marine turtles, and on identification, monitoring, reporting and wildlife enforcement capability;**

NMFS fishing gear experts train federal and state enforcement agency staff to ensure they are fully capable of enforcing federal ESA requirements, including those to reduce bycatch of sea turtles. NMFS staff conduct workshops on sea turtle safe handling techniques for federally-managed commercial fishery operators. NMFS conducts significant outreach programs to inform fishermen of current requirements and to assist them to ensure compliance.

NMFS also helps to build international capacity by providing training on safe handling and transferring gear mitigation technologies in longline and coastal set-net fisheries. However, key factors in sea turtle decline in international areas include both continued fishery bycatch and persistent poaching of sea turtles and their eggs. Of particular concern is the relationship that may exist between fishery bycatch and wildlife trafficking, given that the bycatch of sea turtles in coastal fisheries may help fuel the black market trade. Activities in Southeast Asia are particularly concerning, as many U.S. managed turtle populations use this region for foraging, migrating, and nesting, and it is likely that turtles from U.S. managed populations are represented in the illegal wildlife trade there. Characterizing the extent of the human activities that negatively impact these sea turtles, understanding the dynamics that drive these practices, and developing mitigation strategies with international partners are needed and have been initiated with both Indonesia and the Philippines.

Through the MTCF (described in 18.211 (a)), a FWS grant was awarded in FY19 to support “*Proactive Enforcement Against the Emerging Marine Turtle Trade in Cambodia*.” It was awarded in partnership with the NGO Wildlife Alliance, with the purpose to counter trafficking of marine turtles in Cambodia by generating actionable intelligence on trafficking routes, networks, and wildlife markets across Cambodia while building the capacity and skills of the

nation's wildlife police unit (Wildlife Rapid Rescue Team) and the Cambodian Fisheries Administration to proactively act on marine turtle trade.

Another MTCF grant, "*Tackling the Illegal Trade of Marine Turtles in Vietnam*," was awarded in partnership with Education for Nature-Vietnam (ENV). The purpose of the project is to reduce marine turtle trafficking in and through Vietnam by deterring the resurgence of operations by known offenders, identifying and eliminating new trafficking operations, and implementing policy and coordination among partners to further protect turtles.

The FWS/OLE has also conducted training to relevant authorities and in range countries when requested.

**b) build community and political awareness on the conservation status of marine turtles and on the importance of promoting the conservation of the species through compliance with CITES at the national level;**

The FWS and NMFS regularly collaborate with other federal agencies, state and local governments, and NGOs on conservation actions identified in our sea turtle Recovery Plans. The FWS and NMFS outreach efforts include raising awareness of the threats sea turtles face and sharing the science on sea turtle biology and status. NMFS reports to Congress every two years on the status of efforts to develop and implement recovery plans, and on the status of all sea turtle species for which recovery plans have been developed. A copy of this report can be found here: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/resource/document/recovering-threatened-and-endangered-species-report-congress-fy-2017-2018>

In addition, the MTCF awarded a grant to "*Protecting Sea Turtles in China*" in partnership with WildAid, Inc. China is the country with the single largest demand for sea turtle meat, ornamental products, and for Traditional Chinese Medicine. The purpose of the project is to reduce demand for sea turtle products in China by implementing mass media campaigns designed to influence consumer behavior.

Another MTCF grant is titled "*Reducing Demand for Hawksbill Turtle Shell Products and Supporting Law Enforcement at Trading Points of Turtle Shell Raw Material in Indonesia*" and was awarded in partnership with the Turtle Foundation, USA. Global hawksbill populations have declined by 90% in the last century. The purpose of the project is to counter wildlife trafficking in Indonesia by utilizing consumer outreach campaigns to reduce the demand for sea turtle products and by supporting law enforcement efforts at previously identified manufacturing centers and trading points.

**c) research into the socioeconomics associated with the legal and illegal harvest and use of specimens of marine turtles, including eggs, including assessments of the sustainability of alternative livelihood options for communities depending on marine turtles and the motivations for their use;**

Harvest of marine turtles in the United States and by any person under U.S. jurisdiction is prohibited by the Endangered Species Act.

**d) research that establishes a baseline for the status and distribution of marine turtles in the different countries/regions; and**

The United States conducts a significant research into the status, distribution, and threats to marine turtles. NMFS and the FWS have developed [plans](#) to guide research and management to improve the health and long-term survival of each sea turtle species. Research on marine turtles in the United States is authorized by scientific research permits issued under the authority of Section 10 of the ESA. Each research permit application is evaluated to ensure the research would contribute to the recovery of sea turtles species and populations before a permit is issued.

The FWS and NMFS conduct and fund research to determine and monitor sea turtle status and trends as well as foundational research on sea turtle biology and ecology. This includes funding for projects both domestically and internationally, in recognition of the fact that sea turtles are highly migratory and are typically considered shared international resources. Therefore, programmatic efforts in international locations help to fill information gaps, but also collect data to monitor nesting and foraging populations, characterize levels of bycatch in coastal fisheries, and understand levels of direct killing of adults, juveniles, and eggs), and build community or institutional capacity for conservation and management.

FWS and NMFS integrate these findings along with other relevant research findings to fulfill ESA mandates (e.g., Section 7 Biological Consultations to ensure Federal actions do not jeopardize the existence of listed species), and conduct Status Reviews/Five Year Reviews for all sea turtle species listed under the ESA. In the Status Reviews/Five Year Review, the NMFS and FWS review each species' status and distribution as well as the current threats.

**e) research into the scale and impact that national (and its international) artisanal, semi-industrial and industrial fisheries, including illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, have on marine turtle populations and their linkage to illegal trade.**

NMFS has a National Observer Program comprising six regional observer programs. Information on the observer programs can be found at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/topic/fishery-observers#observer-programs>. Through an Annual Determination, pursuant to its authority under the ESA, NMFS identifies U.S. fisheries operating in the Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, and Pacific Ocean that will be required to take observers upon NMFS' request. The purpose of observing identified fisheries is to learn more about sea turtle interactions in a given fishery, evaluate measures to prevent or reduce sea turtle takes, and implement the prohibition against sea turtle takes.

Through the information provided by the observer programs, NMFS implements regulations to reduce sea turtle bycatch and mortality in fisheries. Further, the United States evaluates all Federal actions that may affect sea turtles through the Section 7 process of the ESA, as well as the environmental review process required by the National Environmental Policy Act.

Additionally, NMFS and FWS provide assistance to understand and assess impacts to turtles in international coastal artisanal and commercial fisheries through cooperative research projects, and actively work to test gear modifications in international fisheries as well as transfer gear modification technologies that have proven effective in reducing sea turtle bycatch under experimental and in-situ fishery conditions.

***18.214 Directed to the Secretariat, Parties and other organizations***

**Parties, the Secretariat and relevant multilateral agreements such as the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), its Indian Ocean and South-East Asia Marine Turtle Memorandum of Understanding (IOSEA), the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC), and the Ramsar Convention and the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) are encouraged to communicate and collaborate with each other on the management and sustainable use of marine turtles to ensure the compatibility of activities, optimize resources, promote research, and enhance synergies concerning the conservation of marine turtles.**

The United States (represented by the U.S. State Department, NMFS and FWS) is an active member of the IOSEA and IAC. The United States regularly communicates and collaborates on the conservation and management of sea turtles to increase compatibility of activities, optimize resources, promote research, develop measures to reduce and eliminate threats, and enhance synergies concerning the conservation of sea turtles. These efforts also include conducting status assessments, analyzing population trends, and identifying conservation priorities through the IOSEA and IAC regions.