



NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2007/030

Geneva, 2 October 2007

CONCERNING:

Trade in sturgeons and paddlefish

1. The Conference of the Parties, at its 14th meeting (The Hague, 2007), adopted Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP14) (Conservation of and trade in sturgeons and paddlefish), together with several Decisions relating to this subject. The Secretariat wishes to draw the attention of the Parties to a number of issues arising from the amendments to the Resolution and from the Decisions.
2. Parties are reminded that a caviar trade database has been developed by UNEP-WCMC. The purpose of the database is to record information relating to exports, re-exports and imports of caviar. This will enable the tracking of such trade and will assist in the verification of the authenticity and validity of permits and certificates. It will, for example, be able to identify whether a quantity of caviar, imported from a producing country, has been re-exported and subsequently detect cases where attempts may be made to re-export more caviar than was originally imported. The caviar database can be accessed via the CITES website.
3. To be effective, it is essential that all Parties that issue permits and certificates authorizing trade in caviar submit copies of such documents so that the information can be entered into the database. Parties are encouraged to submit such copies in a timely manner, i.e. no longer than one month after the date of issuance. It is recommended that permits and certificates be scanned and sent by email to UNEP-WCMC at the following email address: caviar@unep-wcmc.org. Copies may also be faxed to the following number:
+ 44 (122) 327 71 36.
4. The Resolution recommends that Parties consult the database before issuing re-export certificates.
5. Parties are asked to encourage traders in caviar, when they declare exports, re-exports and imports, to use (where available) the full eight-digit Customs tariff code for caviar, rather than the six-digit code, which also applies to roe from other fish species.
6. Parties are reminded, when preparing their annual report, to separate trade in caviar and meat from trade in live specimens by using the agreed codes and the preferred units contained in Decision 14.122, namely:
 - a) for caviar: "CAV" as code and "kg" (kilograms) as unit;
 - b) for meat: "MEA" as code and "kg" as unit;

- c) for live fertilized eggs: "EGL" as code and either "no." (number of specimens) as the preferred unit or "kg" as the alternative unit; and
 - d) for live fish (fingerlings, juveniles and adults): "LIV" as code and "no." as unit.
7. Finally, Parties are reminded that, in accordance with Decision 14.119, total export quotas for 2008 (from 1 March 2008 to 28 February 2009) shall not be higher than those agreed to in 2007 for each species. Details of such quotas should be submitted to the Secretariat by 31 December 2007, together with the scientific data used to establish catch and export quotas, in the case of shared stocks.