

AMENDMENTS TO APPENDICES I AND II OF THE CONVENTION

Ten-Year-Review proposals

A. PROPOSAL

Revise the listing of freshwater mussels by (1) transferring *Epioblasma sulcata* (= *obliquata*) *perobliqua* and *Lampsilis satura* from Appendix I into Appendix II, (2) labeling *Epioblasma sampsonii* as p.e. (probably extinct), (3) deleting the species presently included in Appendix II, because they will be included in the following broader taxon listing, and (4) including all other North American freshwater mussels in the family Unionidae in Appendix II except for the following reasonably identifiable, white-nacred, thick-shelled mussel species and all pearls that should be presumed to be made from pearl "blanks" cut from these species: *Amblema plicata*, *Ellipsaria lineolata*, *Fusconaia ebena*, *Fusconaia flava*, *Ligumia recta*, *Megalonaias nervosa*, *Obliquaria reflexa*, *Pleurobema cordatum*, *Quadrula apiculata*, *Quadrula metanevra*, *Quadrula nodulata*, *Quadrula pustulosa*, *Quadrula quadrula*, and *Tritogonia verrucosa*.

B. PROPONENT

The United States of America.

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxonomy

11. Class: Pelecypoda (= Bivalvia)
12. Order: Unionoida
13. Family: Unionidae
14. Species: Genus and Species names used in this proposal are those in "Common and Scientific Names of Aquatic Invertebrates from the United States and Canada: Mollusks. 1988. D.D. Turgeon, A.E. Bogan, E.V. Coan, W.K. Emerson, W.G. Lyons, W.L. Pratt, F.E. Roper, A. Scheltema, F.G. Thompson, & J.D. Williams. American Fisheries Society Special Publication 16. Bethesda, Maryland.
15. Common Names: English: Naiads, Pearly Mussels, Freshwater Mussels
 French:
 Spanish:

16. Code Numbers:2. Biological Data

There are 297 taxa of 281 species of unionids occurring in the United States and/or Canada. Of these, 58 are listed as endangered or threatened under the U.S. Endangered Species Act, and another 55 are being considered for listing as endangered or threatened.

3. Trade Data

31. National Utilization

32. Legal International Trade: White-nacred, thick-shelled freshwater mussels are exported to manufacture "blanks" (beads) used as seed to produce pearls, and pearls produced from these beads are traded. Adoption of this proposal would exempt these reasonably identifiable, white-nacred, thick-shelled unionids used in the pearl industry, and thereby also exempt all pearls.

Some species are also used in the making of jewelry, and while personal jewelry would be exempt under the personal effects provision of Article VII, specimens traded for manufacture of jewelry or commercially sold jewelry shipments would require permits.

In 1988, reportedly about 5,000 metric tons of raw shell were being exported annually, principally for the cultured pearl industry. The dominant species recorded in this trade are *Amblema plicata*, *Fusconaia ebena*, *Megaloniais nervosa*, *Pleurobema cordatum*, *Quadrula quadrula*, and *Quadrula pustulosa*, which are all proposed for exclusion from the appendices.

At least 32 taxa, representing 21 genera, have been reported as harvested for trade. A couple of these are listed as endangered, and at least 5 are listed in the appendices to CITES.

33. Illegal Trade:

34. Potential Trade Threats

Collection by shell collectors or for jewelry could pose a threat to the extremely rare species.

4. Protection Status

41. National: Fifty-eight taxa are listed as endangered or threatened under the U.S. Endangered Species Act.
42. International: Twenty-six species are listed in Appendix I of CITES, and an additional six species are listed in Appendix II.

5. Information on Similar Species

Information on Similar Species: The reasonably identifiable, white-nacred, thick-shelled North American unionids have been excluded from this proposal. Other species of Unionidae occur in Europe.

6. Comments from Countries of Origin

Canada and Mexico indicated no objection to this proposal.

7. Additional Remarks

This proposal is intended to provide reasonable protection to the U.S. endangered species by requiring CITES documents for all exports from the United States (except for the reasonably identifiable, white-nacred, thick-shelled species), and placing the burden of identifying the species being exported on the United States.

A few additional species may be added to the list of species to be excluded from the appendices if identification concerns can be addressed.