



NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2009/020

Geneva, 13 May 2009

CONCERNING:

Implementation of the Appendix-II listing of *Anguilla anguilla* within the European Community

1. This Notification is being distributed at the request of the European Community.
2. The European Community would like to inform Parties about the management measures being implemented as well as recent CITES implementation decisions by the Community with regard to this species. This information can be found in the Annex to the present Notification.



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
ENVIRONMENT
Directorate E - International affairs & LIFE
ENV.E.2 - Environmental Agreements and Trade

Brussels, 03 04 2009
DG ENV.E2 Ares (2009) 61744

Mr. Willem Wijnstekers
CITES Secretariat
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1219 chatelaine-Genève
Suisse
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Subject: Implementation of Appendix II listing of *Anguilla anguilla* within the European Community

Dear Mr Wijnstekers,

The listing in Appendix II of the Convention of *Anguilla anguilla* entered into force on 13th March 2009. The European Community would like to inform you about the management measures being implemented as well as recent CITES implementation decisions by the Community with regard to this species.

The European Community has adopted Council Regulation (EC) No. 1100/2007 establishing measures for the recovery of the stock of European eel in order to improve the conservation status of the species. In accordance to the obligations set out in this Regulation, Member States of the EU have developed eel management plans at national level and/or river basin level. These plans, which are to be approved by the European Commission, include management measures (e.g. reduction in fisheries, improving river continuity, reducing pollution) aiming to ensure that the escapement of adult eels towards their marine spawning grounds reaches at least 40% in the long term.

With regard to CITES implementation, the Scientific Review Group established under Council Regulation (EC) No. 338/97 on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora by regulating trade therein has decided to accept national exports for glass eels (juvenile specimens, less than 12cm long), whose maximum levels are to be set by those EC Member States intending to export such specimens under their eel management plans, along the following procedure:

- the fishing season for glass eels lasts from November to April/May and fishing quota as well as export quota are to be set for 1st November-31st October calendar years;
- a baseline of catches, against which future quota reductions will be measured, is taken from the 2007/2008 fishing season which Member States have to report to the European Commission;

- the export levels for the 2008/2009 fishing season will be set at a maximum of 85% of the baseline;
- the export levels for the 2009/2010 fishing season will be set at a maximum of 43% of the baseline for those countries for which eel management plans are approved, under Council Regulation (EC) No. 1100/2007 by the European Commission and set at zero for those countries for which such management plans have not been approved;
- the situation will be reviewed by the Scientific Review Group in 2010 for the fishing seasons 2010/2011 and 2011/2012; in the framework of this review, countries proposing further exports should report further data and good evidence in order to reconsider the situation before further exports are agreed. The implementation of the eel management plans will be considered as well.

Exports of other live eels and eel products can take place until the review of the situation in 2010, but need to be considered on a case by case basis by national CITES authorities of the EC Member States based on the national eel management plans.

The Management Authorities of the European Community co-operate under Council Regulation (EC) No. 338/97 on exports of *Anguilla anguilla* specimens. This requires i.a. the issuance of internal EC certificates to control internal trade before specimens can be exported from other Member States than those where the specimens were harvested. The Management Authorities agreed as well to set up a system (possibly through a central database) by which actual export levels of eels (in particular glass eels) can be monitored and controlled in order to ensure that national quota are not exceeded.

The European Community will set export quota levels for EC Member States intending to export glass eels for the 2009/2010 season (November 2009 – October 2010) and the Community intends to report this to the CITES Secretariat as voluntary export quota in accordance with the provisions of Resolution Conf. 14.7.

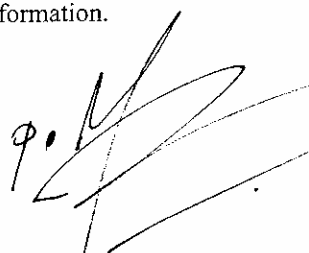
With regard to identification, the European Community as proponent of the species proposal at CITES CoP14 has developed detailed identification material which has been made available to the CITES Secretariat.

The material can be assessed through the following weblink:

<http://www.naturvardsverket.se/sv/Nedre-meny/Webbokhandeln/ISBN/5900/978-91-620-5943-9/> and we would be grateful if the CITES secretariat could place this information on the CITES website.

We would be grateful if you could notify the Parties of this information.

Yours sincerely



Hugo-Maria Schally
Head of Unit