

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA

Fifty-third meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 27 June-1 July 2005

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

INTRODUCTION FROM THE SEA

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At its 13th meeting (Bangkok, 2004), the Conference of the Parties adopted two decisions relevant to the issue of introductions from the sea.

Directed to the Standing Committee

13.18 The Standing Committee shall:

- a) contingent on the availability of external funding obtained in accordance with Decision 13.19, convene a workshop on introduction from the sea to consider implementation and technical issues, taking into account the two Expert Consultations of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on implementation and legal issues¹, and documents and discussions that occurred at the 11th and 13th meetings of the Conference of the Parties on these issues;*
- b) invite the following participants to the workshop: three representatives from each CITES region to represent a Management Authority, a Scientific Authority, and a fisheries expert; two representatives from FAO; a representative from WCO; and two representatives of NGOs or IGOs with CITES and fisheries expertise;*
- c) through its clearing-house mechanism, decide on the appropriate way to handle the logistics, agenda and reporting for the workshop and set timelines for the work to be done;*
- d) ask the Secretariat to provide the report and recommendations from the workshop to the Parties through a notification and to FAO for consideration and comment; and*
- e) consider the comments received on the workshop report from the Parties and FAO, and ask the Secretariat to prepare a discussion paper and draft resolution for consideration by the Standing Committee before submitting the draft resolution for consideration at the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

Directed to the Secretariat

13.19 The Secretariat shall:

- a) as a matter of high priority, assist in obtaining funds from interested Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and other funding sources to support a workshop on introduction from the sea under the terms of reference set out in Decision 13.18;*

¹ *FAO Fisheries Report No. 741: Report of the expert consultation on implementation issues associated with listing commercially-exploited aquatic species on CITES Appendices, and FAO Fisheries Report No. 746: Report of the expert consultation on legal issues related to CITES and commercially-exploited aquatic species.*

- b) assist the Standing Committee in preparing for the workshop; and*
- c) welcome the consultations convened by FAO and approach the FAO Secretariat concerning further collaboration on introduction from the sea.*

3. Both the United States of America and the European Commission have pledged funds to support the organization of a workshop on introduction from the sea. Operating on the basis that Geneva might be the venue for the workshop and that simultaneous interpretation might be needed, the Secretariat has developed a tentative budget.
4. The Secretariat brought the anticipated workshop to the attention of the FAO Committee on Fisheries at its 26th session (Rome, 7-11 March 2005). During the session, the Secretariat also welcomed the expert consultations on implementation and legal issues convened by FAO in 2004 and expressed its interest to the FAO Secretariat in further collaboration on introduction from the sea.

Recommendation

5. The Secretariat recommends that the Standing Committee specify the Parties and organizations which should be invited to participate in the workshop and instruct its clearinghouse to provide guidance on the logistics, agenda, reporting and timelines for the workshop.