



NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2020/059

Geneva, 1 October 2020

CONCERNING:

Intersessional decision-making of the Standing Committee

1. On 28 September 2020, under Rule 20 of the Committee's Rules of Procedure, the Chair of the Standing Committee recommended to the Committee the creation of two new intersessional working groups shown below with their draft terms of reference (drawn from the relevant Decisions):

Labelling system for trade in caviar (Decision 18.146)

Terms of reference:

Taking into account work undertaken previously by the Animals Committee and the Standing Committee the Working Group shall:

- a) consider the practical challenges in the implementation of the provisions of the Convention with regard to the application of the "CITES guidelines for a universal labelling system for the trade in and identification of caviar" contained in Annex 1 of Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP17) on Conservation of and trade in sturgeons and paddlefish in light of the recognized shift in many instances from trade in wild-caught specimens to non-wild specimens produced in aquaculture facilities;
- b) as needed, prepare draft recommendations for CoP19 to address the identified challenges with the aim of arriving at a practical approach for trade in caviar from aquaculture production, including as necessary amendments to Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP17); and
- c) report on the above to the Standing Committee.

Sharks and rays (Elasmobranchii spp.) (Decision 18.224)

Taking into consideration the responses to Notification to the Parties No. 2020/016 requesting for new information on shark and ray conservation and management activities, the Working Group shall:

- a) develop guidance on the making of legal acquisition findings, and related assessments for introductions from the sea for CITES-listed shark species in the context of the implementation of Resolution Conf. 18.7 on Legal acquisition findings;
- b) develop new guidance or identify existing guidance on the control and monitoring of stockpiles of shark parts and derivatives, in particular for specimens caught prior to the inclusion of the species in Appendix II; and
- c) report its findings under Decision 18.224, paragraphs a) and b) to the Standing Committee.

2. In accordance with Rule 20.1 of the Committee's Rules of Procedure, the Secretariat invites Parties to provide comments on the creation of these two intersessional working groups and their terms of reference to the Standing Committee Member(s) of their Region for submission to the Secretariat by **7 November 2020**. Contact details for the Members of the Standing Committee can be found on the [CITES website](http://www.cites.org).

3. Before this date, Parties have the opportunity to consult with relevant authorities, agencies and stakeholders with an interest in the matters covered by the two proposed intersessional Working Groups as indicated above.
4. After 7 November 2020, the Standing Committee Chair, with the assistance of the Secretariat, will submit the recommendation (revised, if appropriate, in the light of the comments received) to the Committee for final decision.
5. Members may object to the recommendation (or revised versions of the recommendation should that be the case) within 25 days of it being submitted to them. If there are no objections received by the Secretariat within the deadline, then the recommendation will be considered as adopted.
6. If any Member objects to the recommendation (or revised recommendation should that be the case) within the 25-day period, then the matter will be put to a vote by the Members in accordance with Rule 20.4 of the Rules of Procedure.
7. The Secretariat will advise in due course by Notification to the Parties and seek expressions of interest in joining the intersessional working group(s) from Members, Parties and observer organizations that have been accredited to attend recent meetings of the Standing Committee (see the Annex to Notification 2018/059).
8. In accordance with Rule 17.1, the Standing Committee Chair will then determine which Members and non-member Parties and observers with expertise on the matter should be invited to join the intersessional working group(s), ensuring fair and balanced representation of Members, non-member Parties and observers, with the number of observers not exceeding the number of Parties.