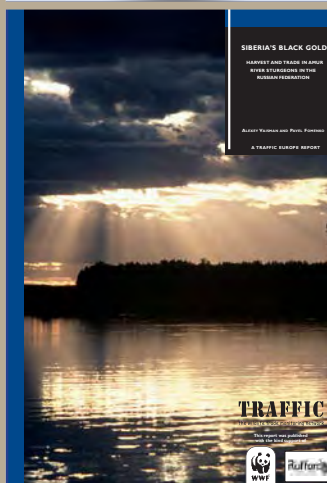
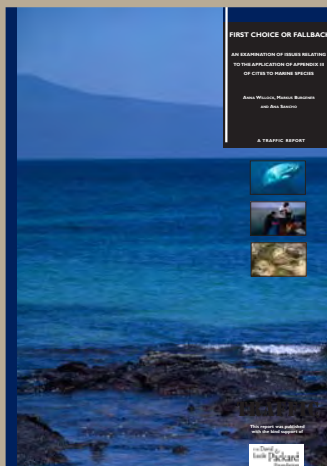


TRAFFIC CATALOGUE

October 2014

FISHERIES

TRAFFIC is working to reverse the decline of high seas and coastal fisheries resources through reducing trade in illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) and/or unsustainably sourced products



TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring network, is the leading non-governmental organization working globally on trade in wild animals and plants in the context of both biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.

TRAFFIC was established in 1976 and has developed into a global network, research-driven and action-oriented, committed to delivering innovative and practical conservation solutions based on the latest information

MISSION STATEMENT

TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring network, works to ensure that trade in wild plants and animals is not a threat to the conservation of nature.

TRAFFIC'S VISION

TRAFFIC's vision is of a world in which trade in wild plants and animals is managed at sustainable levels without damaging the integrity of ecological systems and in such a manner that it makes a significant contribution to human needs, supports local and national economies and helps to motivate commitments to the conservation of wild species and their habitats.

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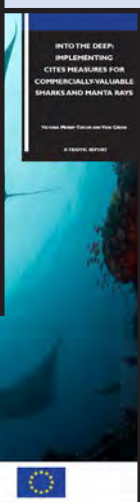
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TRAFFIC is grateful for support from the Rufford Foundation in the preparation of this catalogue



TRAFFIC
the wildlife trade monitoring network



REPORTS

Illegal Caviar Trade in Bulgaria and Romania: Results of a Market Survey on Trade in Caviar from Sturgeons (*Acipenseridae*)

www.traffic.org/fisheries-reports/traffic_pub_fisheries14.pdf

Jutta Jahrl

2013. 50pp

Published by: WWF Austria and TRAFFIC

The project involved local surveyors visiting selected shops, restaurants, markets, street vendors and sturgeon farms in different parts of the two countries in order to buy caviar. The findings of the survey suggest that illegal fishing of sturgeons and illegal trade in caviar continues in both Romania and Bulgaria.

Into the Deep: Implementing CITES Measures for Commercially-Valuable Sharks and Manta Rays

(PDF, 1.8 MB)

www.traffic.org/fisheries-reports/traffic_pub_fisheries15.pdf

Victoria Mundy-Taylor, Vicki Crook

June 2013. 106pp.

ISBN 978 1 85850 357 8

Published by: TRAFFIC

This study was commissioned by the European Commission and written in the wake of the shark and manta ray species being listed within the Appendices of CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) at a meeting held in Bangkok, Thailand, in March this year.

An Overview of Shark Utilisation in the Coral Triangle Region.

(PDF 510 KB)

http://www.traffic.org/fisheries-reports/traffic_pub_fisheries12.pdf

Mary Lack, Glenn Sant

September 2012. 46pp plus annexes.

Published by: TRAFFIC and WWF

An overview of shark catch and trade is focused on the six Coral Triangle countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea (PNG), the Philippines, Solomon Islands and Timor Leste) and the neighbouring countries of Viet Nam and Fiji.

Available online only



The Future of Sharks: a Review of Action and Inaction

(PDF, 1.1 MB)

http://www.traffic.org/fisheries-reports/traffic_pub_fisheries11.pdf

Mary Lack, Glenn Sant

May 2011. 44pp.

Published by:

TRAFFIC International

and the PEW Environment Group

This report assesses the nature and extent of management measures in place for sharks by the Top 20 "shark catchers" identified from shark catch data provided to the FAO.

Trade in Sturgeon Caviar in Bulgaria and Romania: Overview of Reported Trade in Caviar, 1998-2008

(334KB)

www.traffic.org/species-reports/traffic_species_fish47.pdf

May 2011

Katalin Kecse-Nagy

ISBN 978 2 930490 14 4

Published by: TRAFFIC Europe

A TRAFFIC report for WWF Austria, Budapest, Hungary

Trade in Anguilla Species, with a Focus on Recent Trade in European Eel *A. anguilla*

(647KB)

http://www.traffic.org/species-reports/traffic_species_fish38.pdf

Vicki Crook

June 2010. 51pp.

ISBN 9782930490120

Prepared by: TRAFFIC Europe for the European Commission

This report assessed the most recent data available from the principal sources covering trade in the European Eel, using different data sources. Data from FAO were used to identify global eel production, trade patterns and to estimate European Eel exports from non-EU range States. EUROSTAT provided information specifically on EU exports and imports and intra-Community trade.

Understanding China's Fish Trade and Traceability Systems

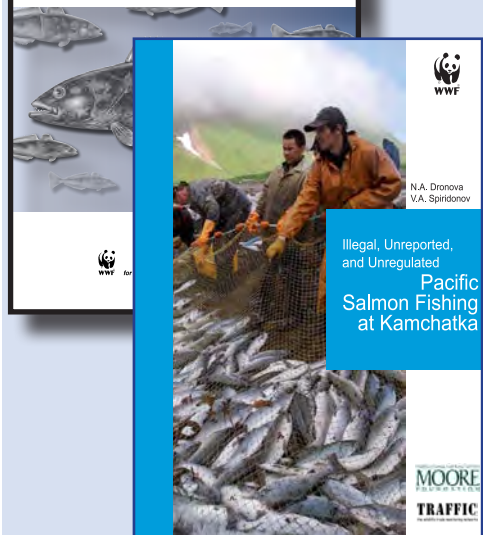
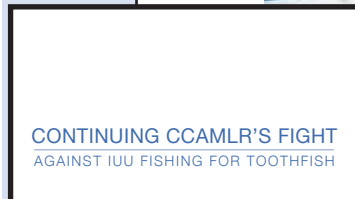
(PDF, 3 MB)

http://www.traffic.org/fisheries-reports/traffic_pub_fisheries9.pdf

Shelley Clarke

February 2009. 98pp.

ISBN 978 1 85850 239 7



Published by: TRAFFIC East Asia

This study has aimed to compile information comprehensively from a wide variety of sources in a fair and consistent manner around two major themes. The first describes the historical development and current structure and operation of China's fish re-processing trade. The second theme documents current systems for fish traceability in China to understand where there may be weaknesses which allow infiltration of illegally sourced fish.

Continuing CCAMLR's Fight Against IUU Fishing for Toothfish

(1.5 MB)

http://www.traffic.org/species-reports/traffic_species_fish31.pdf

Mary Lack

November 2008. 50pp.

Published by:

WWF Australia and TRAFFIC International.

Despite the introduction of a range of monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) measures, most notably the introduction of a Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) for *Dissostichus* spp., IUU catch remains a concern.

Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Pacific Salmon Fishing at Kamchatka

(PDF, 3.4 MB)

http://www.traffic.org/species-reports/traffic_species_fish32.pdf

N.A. Dronova, V.A. Spiridonov

October 2008. 52pp.

ISBN 978 587317 522 2

Published by:

WWF Russia and TRAFFIC Europe

This report presents an analysis of different forms of poaching, figures on illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) salmon catch and proposed measures to decrease IUU catch. Useful information on Kamchatka salmon catch, its main producers and buyers, and fish products chain of custody is provided.

Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Shark Catch: A Review of Current Knowledge and Action

(1 MB)

http://www.traffic.org/species-reports/traffic_species_fish30.pdf

M. Lack, G. Sant

April 2008. 57pp.

Published by: Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage & the Arts and TRAFFIC

As the world's demand for sharks continues to grow, shark populations are plummeting. This report describes the impact of illegal fishing as an unacceptable additional threat to the survival of populations of sharks.

The Case for a Catch Documentation Scheme in the Western and Central Pacific

(1.6 MB)

http://www.traffic.org/fisheries-reports/traffic_pub_fisheries8.pdf

Mary Lack

2008. 19pp.

Published by: WWF South Pacific

Programme and TRAFFIC International.

The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) has been discussing the introduction of a documentation scheme for Bigeye Tuna *Thunnus obesus* since 2005. Since then the views of members have polarized around whether the documentation scheme should apply to all fish caught and traded (a CDS) or only to traded product (a TDS).

Briefing on the Evolution of the Caviar Trade and Range State Implementation of Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. Cop 14)

Part I

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/cites/pdf/reports/caviar.pdf>

M. Engler and A. Knapp

2008.

A report to the European Commission.

An Assessment of the Implementation of Caviar Labelling and Licensing Provisions in the European Union

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/cites/pdf/studies/caviar_labelling.pdf

A. Knapp

2008

A report to the European Commission.

Trading Tails: Linkages Between Russian Salmon Fisheries and East Asian Markets

(1.8 MB)

http://www.traffic.org/fisheries-reports/traffic_pub_fisheries7.pdf

Shelley Clarke.

November 2007. 120pp.

ISBN 978 1 85850 230 4

Published by: TRAFFIC East Asia.

**Illegal, unreported and
unregulated shark catch:**

*A review of current
knowledge and action*



This study describes the trade of Russian salmon through East Asian markets. The overarching aim is to identify means of encouraging demand for legally sourced products and discouraging IUU fishing in the Russian Federation.

With an Eye to the Future: Addressing Failures in the Global Management of Bigeye Tuna

(1.5 MB)

www.traffic.org/species-reports/traffic_species_fisheries6.pdf

*Gunnar Knapp, Cathy A. Roheim,
James L. Anderson.*

January 2007. 301pp.

ISBN 0 89164 175 0.

ISBN 978 0 89164 175 9.

Published by: TRAFFIC North America

The best scientific advice available indicates that the Eastern Pacific Ocean stock of Bigeye Tuna is overfished. The analysis in this report has found that management of Bigeye Tuna has been far from swift and effective to date.

Catching On? Trade-related Measures as a Fisheries Management Tool

(692 KB)

http://www.traffic.org/fisheries-reports/traffic_pub_fisheries1.pdf

Mary Lack.

February 2007. 49pp.

ISBN 978 1 85850 227 6.

Published by: TRAFFIC International

This report examines the experience of regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) with the use of trade-related measures. There has been a marked increase in the use of trade-related measures by RFMOs over the last decade. This has been driven by: the deteriorating status of many fish stocks; uncertainty as to the actual levels of fishing mortality on these stocks; and the undermining of conservation and management measures by illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

The Great Salmon Run: Competition between Wild and Farmed Salmon

<http://www.worldwildlife.org/trade/salmonreport.cfm>

*Gunnar Knapp, Cathy A. Roheim,
James L. Anderson.*

January 2007. 301pp.

ISBN 0 89164 175 0.



Published by: TRAFFIC North America

This report examines economic and policy issues related to wild and farmed salmon in North America. These issues have received a great deal of attention in recent years, reflecting the environmental, economic and cultural importance of salmon to Americans.

For full report, contact TRAFFIC North America office.

Confronting Shark Conservation Head On!

(528 KB)

http://www.traffic.org/speciesreports/traffic_species_fish4.pdf

M. Lack, G. Sant

December 2006. 29pp.

ISBN 1 85850 225 X.

Published by: TRAFFIC International

This paper identifies the main players in the catch and trade of shark products, examines the progress of these States/entities and RFMOs in implementing the International Plan of Action IPOA-Sharks and makes recommendations for the adoption of best practice approaches to shark conservation and management.

Conservation of Spiny Dogfish *Squalus acanthias*: A role for CITES?

(628 KB)

http://www.traffic.org/speciesreports/traffic_species_fish5.pdf

Mary Lack.

November 2006. 34pp.

Published by: TRAFFIC International

This report examines the characteristics of the fisheries for and trade in Spiny Dogfish and, based on those characteristics, assesses the issues surrounding the implementation of an Appendix-II listing and the benefits a listing may provide to the conservation of the species.

Follow the Leader: Learning from Experience and Best Practice in Regional Fisheries Management Organizations

(1.3 MB)

http://www.traffic.org/fisheries-reports/traffic_pub_fisheries3.pdf

A Willock, M Lack.

May 2006. 56pp.

Published by: WWF International and TRAFFIC International

This report examines the experiences of RFMOs with respect to the broader expectations of the global community, as reflected in legal instruments and internationally-agreed standards and protocols.





World Shark Catch, Production & Trade 1990 - 2003

(372 KB)

http://www.traffic.org/speciesreports/traffic_species_fish22.pdf

M. Lack, G. Sant.

April 2006. 29pp.

Published by: TRAFFIC Oceania.

Commissioned by:

Australian Government's Department of the Environment and Heritage.

This report examines trends in the catch, production and trade of sharks and shark products.

Conservation Implications of Allocation under the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission

(1.2 MB)

http://www.traffic.org/fisheries-reports/traffic_pub_fisheries2.pdf

A. Willock, A.I. Cartwright.

2006. 23pp.

Published by:

WWF Australia and TRAFFIC Oceania.

Siberia's Black Gold: Harvest and Trade in Amur River Sturgeons in the Russian Federation

(501 KB)

http://www.traffic.org/species-reports/traffic_species_fish26.pdf

Alexey Vaisman, Pavel Fomenko.

2006.

ISBN 978 2 930490 05 2.

Published by TRAFFIC Europe.

A study of the population status of Kaluga and Amur Sturgeons, evaluating the legal and illegal harvest of these species and assessing efforts to prevent illegal sturgeon fishing in the Amur River basin.

First Choice or Fallback? An Examination of Issues Relating to the Application of Appendix III of CITES to Marine Species

(2.5 MB)

http://www.traffic.org/general-reports/traffic_pub_gen6.pdf

Anna Willock, Markus Bürgener, Ana Sancho.

December 2004. 45pp.

ISBN 1 85850 207 1.

ISBN 978 1 85850 207 6.

Published by: TRAFFIC International

This study looks at the appropriateness of Appendix III

of CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Wild Species of Fauna and Flora) as a tool for conserving marine species.

Shark Product Trade in Hong Kong and Mainland China and Implementation of the CITES Shark Listings

(2.2 MB)

http://www.traffic.org/species-reports/traffic_species_fish16.pdf

S. Clarke.

September 2004. 53pp.

ISBN 962 86197 6 4.

ISBN 978 962861 976 4

Published by: TRAFFIC East Asia

This report examines regulatory and monitoring systems in mainland China and Hong Kong for implementing the recent listing of three shark species in the Appendices of CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora).

A Guide to the Identification of Seahorses

(PDF, 4 MB)

http://www.traffic.org/species-reports/traffic_species_fish29.pdf

(Chinese edition, PDF, 8.4 MB)

Sara A. Lourie, Sarah J. Foster,

Ernest W.T. Cooper, Amanda C.J. Vincent.

March 2004. 114pp.

ISBN: 0 89164 169 6.

ISBN: 978 0 89164 169 8

*Published by: Project Seahorse and
TRAFFIC North America.*

A pdf file of the full report is available from the Project website: <http://seahorse.fisheries.ubc.ca/ldguide.html>

Regional Fisheries Organizations and the World Trade Organization: Compatibility or Conflict?

(792 KB)

http://www.traffic.org/fisheries-reports/traffic_pub_fisheries4.pdf

Richard G. Tarasofsky.

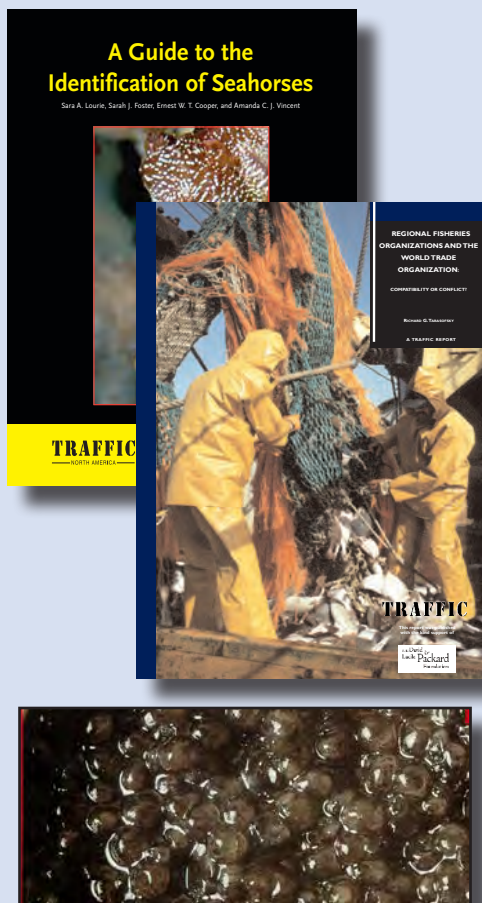
September 2003. 36pp.

ISBN 1 85850 202 0.

ISBN 978 1 85850 202 1

Published by: TRAFFIC International

This report assesses the RFO/WTO relationship by identifying the types of trade measures used or potentially used by RFOs and assessing the potential for conflict between RFOs and WTO rules.



Caviar and Conservation: Status, Management, and Trade of North American Sturgeon and Paddlefish

(1.5 MB)

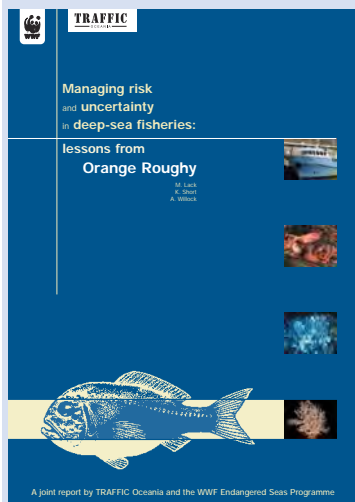
http://www.traffic.org/species-reports/traffic_species_fish3.pdf

Douglas F. Williamson.

May 2003. 240pp.

Published by: TRAFFIC North America.

If the Caspian Sea fisheries continue to decline and industry attention shifts to North America as an alternative, what might the future hold for US and Canadian populations of sturgeon and paddlefish? This report addresses several aspects of that question, focusing on the preparedness of US and Canadian management bodies and current trends in legal and illegal trade.



Managing Risk and Uncertainty in Deep-Sea Fisheries: Lessons from Orange Roughy

(2 MB)

http://www.traffic.org/species-reports/traffic_species_fish10.pdf

M. Lack, K. Short, A. Willock.

2003. 73 pp.

ISBN 1 87594 156 8.

ISBN 978 1 87594 156 8

Published by: TRAFFIC Oceania and the WWF Endangered Seas Programme

Eels: Their Harvest and Trade in Europe and Asia

(1.6 MB)

http://www.traffic.org/species-reports/traffic_species_fish6.pdf

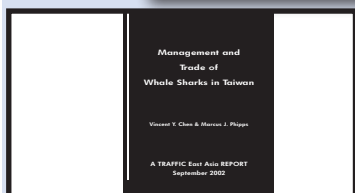
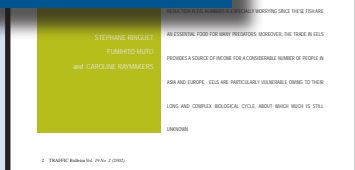
Stephane Ringuet, Fumihito Muto, Caroline Raymakers.

2003. 73pp.

Edition: English and Japanese

Published by: TRAFFIC East Asia – Japan.

First published in the TRAFFIC Bulletin, Vol. 19, no.2, November 2002.



La Pesca y el Comercio de Bacalao de Profundidad Dissostichus eleginoides en América del sur: una Perspectiva Regional

(Fisheries Activities and Trade of Patagonian Toothfish in South America: A Regional Perspective)

(English summary & full Spanish report, 2.2 MB)

http://www.traffic.org/species-reports/traffic_species_fish8.pdf

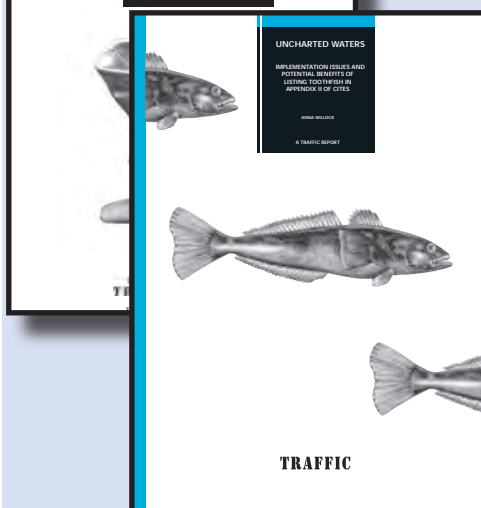
Edited by: Ana Sancho Andrade, Bernardo Ortiz-von Halle, Nicolas Cuvil.

December 2002. 178pp.

ISBN 9978 42 721 X.

ISBN 978 9 97842 721 7.

Published by: TRAFFIC South America



Management and Trade of Whale Sharks in Taiwan

(512 KB)

http://www.traffic.org/species-reports/traffic_species_fish9.pdf

Vincent Y. Chen, Marcus J. Phipps.

September 2002. 25pp.

ISBN 957986282-6.

ISBN 978 9 57986 282 0

Published by: TRAFFIC East Asia - Taipei.

The Whale Shark *Rhincodon typus* is the largest fish on

earth. In 2001, TRAFFIC East Asia-Taipei carried out market and trade surveys of Whale Shark meat in 14 countries and cities around Taiwan.

Uncharted Waters: Implementation Issues and Potential Benefits of Listing Toothfish in Appendix II of CITES

(3 MB)

http://www.traffic.org/species-reports/traffic_species_fish20.pdf

Anna Willock.

April 2002. 36pp.

ISBN 1 85850 191 1.

ISBN 978 1 85850 191 8

Published by: TRAFFIC International and TRAFFIC Oceania.

Offprint from TRAFFIC Bulletin, Vol.19, No.1

Queen Conch Fisheries and their Management in the Caribbean

(Scanned PDF, 2.5 MB)

http://www.traffic.org/species-reports/traffic_species_invertebrates5.pdf

Stephanie Theile.

December 2001. 95pp.

Published by: TRAFFIC Europe

The Queen Conch *Strombus gigas*, an edible marine gastropod, is one of the most important fishery resources in the Caribbean. The purpose of this study was to examine the current status of the Queen Conch fishery in the region, to provide an overview of the various measures in place to manage and regulate the harvest and trade in Queen Conch products.

Antarctic Toothfish: An Analysis of Management, Catch and Trade

(536 KB)

http://www.traffic.org/species-reports/traffic_species_fish2.pdf

M. Lack G.Sant

October 2001. 27 pp.

Published by: TRAFFIC Oceania

Trawling in the Mist: Industrial Fisheries in the Russian Part of the Bering Sea

(1.6 MB)

http://www.traffic.org/fisheries-reports/traffic_pub_fisheries5.pdf

Alexey Vaisman.

August 2001. 88pp.

ISBN 1 85850 188 1

Published by: TRAFFIC International.

This report presents the findings of the study on industrial fisheries in the Russian part of the Bering Sea region. It reveals Kamchatka's fishing sector in a crisis situation that encourages the illegal harvesting of marine biological resources. Based on this study, strategies and recommendations to address unsustainable and illegal harvest and trade in marine resources were developed.

Review of Trade in Live Corals from Indonesia

(scanned PDF, 6 MB)

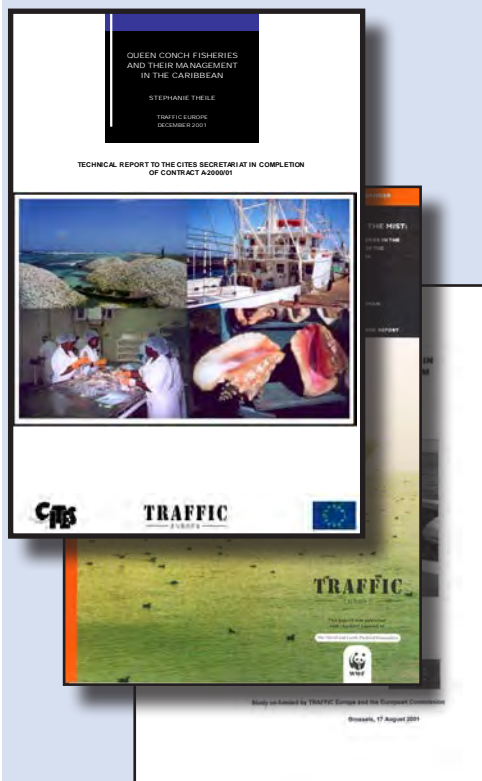
www.traffic.org/species-reports/traffic_species_invertebrates8.pdf

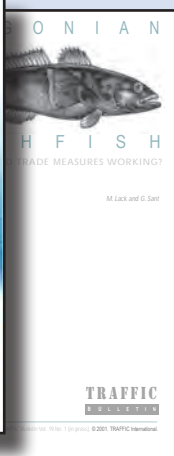
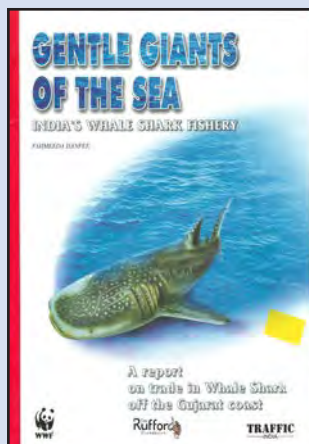
Caroline Raymakers.

August 2001. 32pp plus appendixes.

Study co-funded by: TRAFFIC Europe and the European Commission.

International trade in live corals has rapidly increased and expanded in response to the demand of the tropical marine aquarium trade.





Gentle Giants of the Sea: India's Whale Shark Fishery

(Scanned PDF, 3.6 MB)

http://www.traffic.org/species-reports/traffic_species_fish35.pdf

Fahmeeda Hanfee.

January 2001. 38pp.

Published by: TRAFFIC India and WWF-India

The objective of the current study was to document the extent and composition of trade in Whale Shark *Rhincodon typus* along the coast of Gujarat.

Patagonian Toothfish: Are Conservation and Trade Measures Working?

(552 KB)

http://www.traffic.org/species-reports/traffic_species_fish13.pdf

M. Lack, G. Sant.

2001. 18pp.

Offprint from TRAFFIC Bulletin, Vol. 19, No. 1



Stormy Seas for Marine Invertebrates: Trade in Sea Cucumbers, Sea Shells and Lobsters in Kenya, Tanzania and Mozambique

(Scanned PDF, 3.2 MB)

http://www.traffic.org/species-reports/traffic_species_invertebrates4.pdf

Edited by:

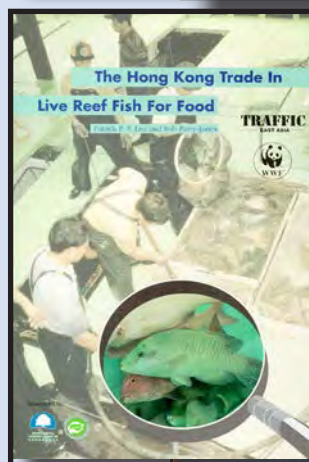
Nina Marshall, S.A.H. Milledge, P.S. Afonso.

2001. 70pp.

Published by:

TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa -Kenya.

TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa undertook a review of the trade in lobsters, sea cucumbers and seashells in Kenya, Tanzania and Mozambique in 1997 and 1998, with the overall aim of improving the future management, conservation and regulation of these marine resources, in order to ensure that utilisation proceeds on a sustainable and legal basis.



Evaluation of the Trade of Sea Cucumber *Isostichopus fuscus* (Echinodermata: Holothuroidea) in the Galapagos Islands During 1999

July 2000. 19pp

Edition: English and Spanish

Published by: TRAFFIC South America.

Slipping the Net: Spain's Compliance with ICCAT Recommendations for Swordfish and Bluefin Tuna

(356 KB)

http://www.traffic.org/species-reports/traffic_species_fish17.pdf

Caroline Raymakers, Jacqui Lynham.

November 1999. 58pp.

ISBN 1 85850 170 9.

ISBN 978 1 85850 170 3

Published by: TRAFFIC International

This report presents the findings from investigations of Swordfish and Northern Bluefin Tuna fisheries carried out on Spanish landing sites in Mediterranean and Atlantic. It also points out the implementation and enforcement gaps remaining in ICCAT and EU conservation and fishing regulations, and recommends needed actions.

Species in Danger Series

Sustainable Use of Large Migratory Fish in the Southern and Indian Oceans: Gaps in the international legal framework.

Martin Tsamenyi, Felicity Woodhill.

October 1999. 53pp.

ISBN 0 86418 615 0.

ISBN 978 0 86418 615 7

Published by: TRAFFIC Oceania

The Hong Kong Trade in Live Reef Fish for Food

(Executive summary, 124 KB)

http://www.traffic.org/species-reports/traffic_species_fish18.pdf

Patrick P.F. Lau, Rob Parry-Jones.

June 1999. 65pp.

Published by: TRAFFIC East Asia

Fishing for Solutions: Can the Live Trade in Wild Groupers and Wrasses from Southeast Asia be Managed. Trade Review

(Executive summary, 180 KB)

http://www.traffic.org/species-reports/traffic_species_fish7.pdf

Nokome Bentley.

1999. 100pp.

ISBN 9 83992 463 X.

ISBN 978 9 83992 463 3

Published by: TRAFFIC Southeast Asia

This report describes the trends, patterns and diversity of the live food reef fish industry in Southeast Asia. This analysis is then used to identify appropriate management interventions at various points in the trade to ensure the sustainability of the fishery.

Indagine Sul Commercio Degli Elasmobranchi: La situazione in Italia

Alberto Laurenti, Massimiliano Rocco.

April 1998. 61pp.

Edition: Italian

Published by: TRAFFIC Europe

Shark Fisheries and Trade in the Americas, Volume 1: North America

(Scanned PDF, 10 MB)

http://www.traffic.org/species-reports/traffic_species_fish45.pdf

Debra A. Rose.

March 1998. 143pp.

Published by: TRAFFIC North America

Sturgeon Catch and Trade in the Russian Part of the Caspian Sea

(scanned PDF, 1.5 MB)

http://www.traffic.org/species-reports/traffic_species_fish39.pdf

Alexey Vaisman.

December 1997. 21pp.

Edition: English

Published by: TRAFFIC Europe – Russia

A Review of the Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery: Implications for Ecologically Sustainable Management

(Executive summary, 164 KB)

http://www.traffic.org/species-reports/traffic_species_fish1.pdf

Elizabeth E. Hayes.

July 1997. 34pp.

ISBN 0 95870 082 6

ISBN 978 0 95870 082 5

Published by: TRAFFIC Oceania

Spiral bound photocopy only (218)

Managing Shark Fisheries: Opportunities for International Conservation

(scanned PDF, 6.7 MB)

http://www.traffic.org/species-reports/traffic_species_fish42.pdf

Michael L. Weber, Sonja V. Fordham.

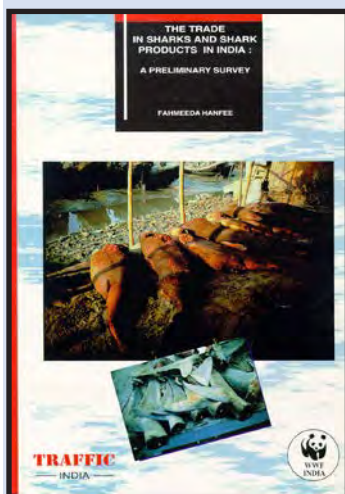
March 1997. 61pp.

ISBN 1 85850 115 6.

ISBN 978 1 85850 115 4

Published by TRAFFIC International

This report is a joint project of the Center for Marine Conservation and TRAFFIC International, regarding existing international agreements that may promote



the conservation of sharks. The report analyses several existing international fisheries regimes, and identifies gaps in the conservation of sharks. A comparison of the range of key species of sharks with the jurisdiction of existing fisheries management regimes reveals large gaps in some areas.

Species in Danger Series

The Trade in Sharks and Shark Products in the Western Indian and Southeast Atlantic Oceans. Trade Review

(PDF, 7.2 MB)

http://www.traffic.org/species-reports/traffic_species_fish27.pdf

Edited by: Nina T. Marshall and Rob Barnett.
1997. 132pp.

ISBN 1 85850 126 1

ISBN 978 1 85850 126 0

Published by: TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa

Shark Fisheries and Trade in Europe

(scanned full report PDF, 4.5 MB)

http://www.traffic.org/species-reports/traffic_species_fish15.pdf

Elizabeth H. Fleming, Philippe A. Papageorgiou.
1997. 78pp.

ISBN 9 07524 303 0

ISBN 978 9 07524 303 1

Published by: TRAFFIC Europe

Shark Fisheries and Trade in Taiwan.

(Scanned PDF, 3.1 MB)

www.traffic.org/species-reports/traffic_species_fish43.pdf

George C. T. Chen, Kwang-Ming Liu, Shouu-Jean Juong, Marcus Phipps.
July 1997. 57pp.

Edition: English and Chinese

Published by: TRAFFIC East Asia

This report consists of three principal sections, the first dealing with Taiwan's shark fisheries; the second examining markets and trade in shark products; and the third section containing conclusions and recommendations.

Trade in Sharks and Shark Products in India: A Preliminary Survey

(scanned PDF, 4 MB)

www.traffic.org/species-reports/traffic_species_fish41.pdf

Fahmeeda Hanfee.

May 1997. 50pp.

Published by: TRAFFIC India

The International Trade in Seahorses

(Scanned PDF, 10.9 MB)

http://www.traffic.org/species-reports/traffic_species_fish33.pdf

Amanda C.J. Vincent.

June 1996. 160pp.

ISBN 1 85850 098 2.

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Published by TRAFFIC International

The global trade in seahorses involves more than 20 million seahorses and 32 countries and territories each year. This report provides an overview of the trade, with an emphasis on China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, the Philippines, Taiwan, and Vietnam. It presents information on fishing methods, trade routes, volumes and values of the seahorses in trade, the key players and the issues of concern.

Species in Danger Series

An Overview of World Trade in Sharks and Other Cartilaginous Fishes

(Scanned PDF, 5.7 MB)

http://www.traffic.org/species-reports/traffic_species_fish36.pdf

Debra A. Rose

December 1996. 106pp.

ISBN 1 85850 114 8.

ISBN 978 1 85850 114 7.

Published by TRAFFIC International

This report presents an overview of the findings of regional TRAFFIC studies in Europe, India, East and southern Africa, Southeast Asia, East Asia, Oceania and North and South America. It highlights the fisheries, shark products in trade, and the processing, preparation and use of these products in domestic and international markets. It also discusses the management and conservation implications of this trade.

Species in Danger Series

Shark Fisheries and the Trade in Sharks and Shark Products of Southeast Asia

www.traffic.org/species-reports/traffic_species_fish37.pdf

Edited by: Chen Hin Keong.

October 1996. 38pp.

Published by TRAFFIC Southeast Asia

This report compiles available fisheries information on sharks through published reports, statistics, interviews and field questionnaire surveys

The Oceania Region's Harvest, Trade and Management of Sharks and other Cartilaginous Fish: An overview

Edited by: Glenn Sant, Elizabeth Hayes.

December 1996. 70pp.

ISBN 0 95870 080 X

Published by TRAFFIC Oceania

Sturgeons of the Caspian Sea and the International Trade in Caviar.

(Scanned PDF, 6.2mb)

www.traffic.org/species-reports/traffic_species_fish40.pdf

Compiled by: T. De Meulenaer, C. Raymakers.

October 1996. 71pp.

ISBN 1 85850 113 X.

Published by TRAFFIC International

This report presents the findings from investigations of sturgeon fisheries, and information from caviar importers in consuming countries, sturgeon specialists and fisheries agencies.

Species in Danger Series

The World Trade in Sharks: A Compendium of TRAFFIC's Regional Studies

1996. 1-456pp.

Published by TRAFFIC International

Volume I

The World Trade in Sharks: A Compendium of TRAFFIC's Regional Studies

1996. 457-945pp.

Published by TRAFFIC International

Volume II

Marine Invertebrates of the South Pacific: An Examination of the Trade

(Scanned full report, 6.2 MB)

http://www.traffic.org/species-reports/traffic_species_invertebrates6.pdf

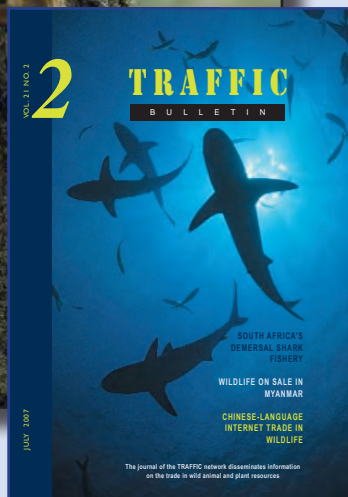
Glenn Sant.

October 1995. 81pp.

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Published by TRAFFIC International



This report examines the international trade in Trochus, pearl oyster, bêche-de-mer and giant clam of the South Pacific and recommends needed actions.

Species in Danger series.

Ornamental Fish Trade in the Netherlands

Tonnie Woeltjes.
1995. 48pp.

Annotated List of Ornamental Fish Species to be Found in Trade in the Netherlands 1992-1994.

Tonnie Woeltjes.

Bluefin Tuna. An Examination of the International Trade with an Emphasis on the Japanese Market.

(scanned PDF, 3.6 MB)

http://www.traffic.org/species-reports/traffic_species_fish44.pdf

Andrea L. Gaski

October 1993. 71pp.

ISBN 1 85850 016 8.

Published by TRAFFIC International

An analysis of the data on catch figures for bluefin tuna and an examination of the trade in this fish for international markets.

Species in Danger series

JOURNALS AND ARTICLES

What a Tangled Net: Unravelling the International Complications of Tuna Conservation

(PDF)

<http://theconversation.edu.au/what-a-tangled-net-unravelling-the-international-complications-of-tuna-conservation-6178>

Glenn Sant, Quentin Hanich, Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources & Security at University Wollongong
2012

The eighth meeting of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission concluded in Guam on Friday 30 March 2012. Five hundred delegates from more than 40 countries argued for a week about how to reduce

overfishing in the Western and Central Pacific tuna fisheries and sustainably manage the world's largest tuna fisheries.

Fish and Multilateral Environmental Agreements

(793 KB)

<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-6120>

G. Sant, G. Goodman, V. Crook,
M. Lack, T. E.E. Oldfield
2012.

Published by: Joint Nature Conservation
Committee, Peterborough

Developing a method to identify high risk commercially-exploited aquatic organisms in trade and an analysis of the potential application of MEAs.

JNCC Report No. 453.

TRAFFIC BULLETIN

The TRAFFIC Bulletin is the only journal devoted exclusively to wildlife trade issues. It provides news on the trade in wildlife resources, the latest in related legislation, investigations and seizures, and original reports.

Vol.24, No.2 (October 2013)

http://www.traffic.org/traffic-bulletin/traffic_pub_bulletin_24_2.pdf

Sea cucumber (bêche-de-mer) trade in Hong Kong and Mainland China

Vol.23, No.2 (April 2011)

(750 KB)

http://www.traffic.org/traffic-bulletin/traffic_pub_bulletin_23_2.pdf

Trade in European eels: recent developments under CITES and the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations

Vol.23, No.1 (December 2010)

(1.5 MB)

http://www.traffic.org/traffic-bulletin/traffic_pub_bulletin_23_1.pdf

*Evaluation of the CITES Appendix III-listing and delisting of South African Abalone *Haliotis midae**

Vol.22, No.2 (June 2009)

(2.5 MB)

http://www.traffic.org/traffic-bulletin/traffic_pub_bulletin_22_2.pdf

An assessment of the trade in Hawksbill Turtles in Papua New Guinea

Vol.22, No.1 (November 2008)

(1.4 MB)

http://www.traffic.org/traffic-bulletin/traffic_pub_bulletin_22_1.pdf

Mexico's trade in echinoderms

Vol.21, No.3. (January 2008)

(1.1 MB)

http://www.traffic.org/traffic-bulletin/traffic_pub_bulletin_21_3.pdf

Introduction from the Sea

Vol.21, No.2 (August 2007)

(2.3 MB)

http://www.traffic.org/traffic-bulletin/traffic_pub_bulletin_21_2.pdf

South Africa's demersal shark meat harvest

Vol.20, No.2 (February 2005)

(1.7 MB)

http://www.traffic.org/traffic-bulletin/traffic_pub_bulletin_20_2.pdf

South Africa's abalone fishing industry

Vol.19, No.3 (October 2003)

(1.2 MB)

http://www.traffic.org/traffic-bulletin/traffic_pub_bulletin_19_3.pdf

*Trade in pipehorses *Solegnathus* spp. for traditional medicine in Hong Kong*

Vol.19, No.2 (November 2002)

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Giant clams: their status and trade in Milne Bay Province, Papua New Guinea.

Eels: their harvest and trade in Europe and Asia

Vol.19, No.1 (November 2001)

(4.4 MB)

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Patagonian Toothfish: are conservation and trade measures working?

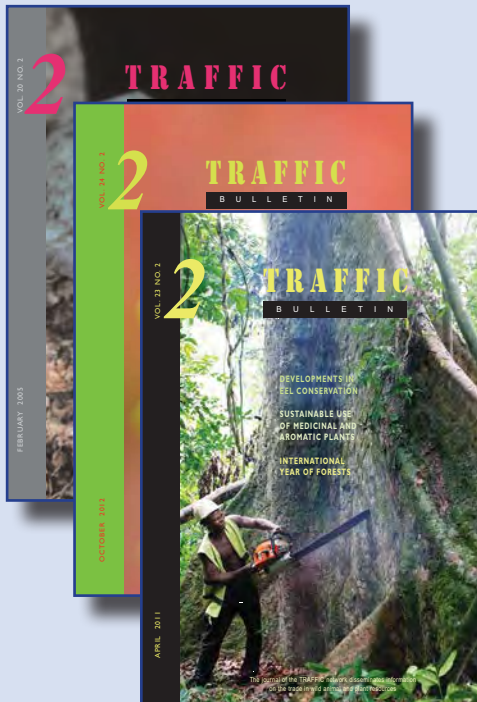
The status of sturgeon resources in Russia

Vol.18, No.3 (December 2000)

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Homalopsine watersnakes: the harvest and trade from Tonle Sap, Cambodia



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Vol. 5, No. 1. (March 2007)

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PROCEEDINGS AND WORKSHOPS

Fish and Multilateral Environmental Agreements

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Developing a method to identify high risk commercially-exploited organisms in trade and an analysis of the potential application of MEAs.

Report of an expert review workshop: Aberdeen, Scotland, 26 & 27 September 2011.

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Proceedings of the First Pacific Shark Workshop, December 13-15, 2011, Vancouver, Canada

(PDF, 1.15 MB)

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Edited by: Gordon A. McFarlane, Ursula M. Arndt, Ernest W.T. Cooper

March 2012. 60pp.

ISBN 978 0 9693730 5 6

Published by: TRAFFIC North America - Canada

The development of the First Pacific Shark Workshop and production of this publication was made possible

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CITES “Introduction From the Sea”: A Practical Way Forward

(383 KB)

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*A. Knapp, C. Kitschke, S. von Meibom.
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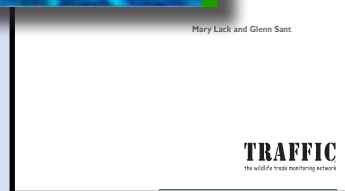
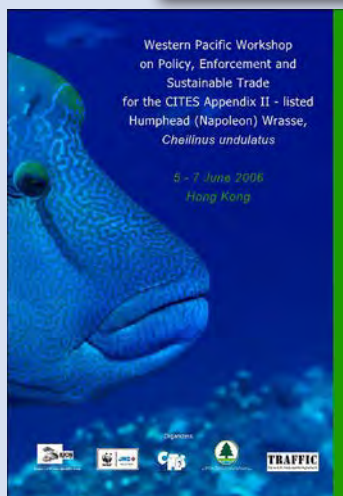
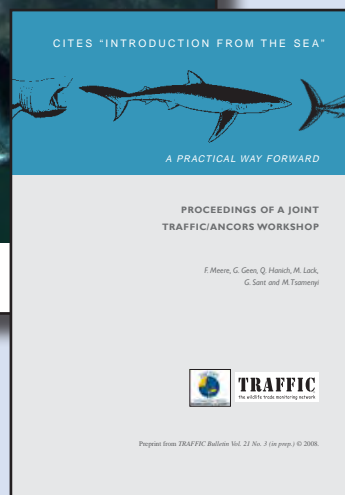
Western Pacific Workshop on Policy, Enforcement and Sustainable Trade for the CITES Appendix II – listed Humphead (Napoleon) Wrasse, *Cheilinus undulatus*

(4 MB)

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**CITES priority:
Humphead Wrasse and the Thirteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES, Bangkok, Thailand 2004**

**IUCN, TRAFFIC and WWF briefing document
September 2004**

At the Thirteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (COP13), Parties will consider a proposal to include the Humphead Wrasse *Chelinus undulatus* in Appendix II. It is naturally rare and extremely vulnerable to overexploitation. There is evidence of targeted fishing of spawning aggregations, increasing the already high level of threat to this species. Demand for Humphead Wrasse already is high and expected to increase and currently, illegal trade is difficult to control. An Appendix II listing can complement and strengthen current national management and monitoring initiatives and provides a valuable tool in moving towards the sustainable management of the species.




Humphead Wrasse *Chelinus undulatus* can grow to over two metres in length.

Cathy Cheng / WWF-Hong Kong

The Humphead Wrasse *Chelinus undulatus*, a distinctive coral reef fish which can grow to over two metres in length, occurs broadly in the Indo-Pacific, from East Africa to French Polynesia, Australia to India. The species has a slow natural mortality and adults, which are naturally uncommon and protect outer reefs, reef channels and passes, can live for more than 30 years. Consequently, it is predicted to have a low rate of intrinsic population growth. Within the last 10 years, the species has become heavily targeted, especially for the international trade in live reef fish. Approximately 10 countries are involved in the export trade, which is estimated at several hundred metric tonnes annually. The species is specifically targeted as it is not typically taken in traditional multi-species fisheries.


The Humphead Wrasse has been proposed for listing in Appendix II because of marked declines in landings, and several local extinctions, brought about especially by pressure from the live reef fish export trade. For example, exports from south-east Asia declined by 22% over just one year (1995-1996). Adults are uncommon in most fished areas and 80-90% of individuals seen in trade are large juveniles. Despite the introduction of management measures in a number of countries, illegal, unreported and unregulated harvest for international trade continues and the species has recently been reclassified by IUCN from 'Vulnerable' to 'Endangered'. Although the species does not form a significant economic component of the trade, the high retail value of the Humphead Wrasse (sometimes exceeding USD130/kg) is a considerable incentive to continue fishing even if fish become harder to catch as populations decline. The species cannot be hatchery-reared at commercial levels, demand is expected to grow and exploited populations are therefore projected to continue to decline in the absence of effective or co-ordinated regulation. An Appendix II listing could complement and strengthen current national management and monitoring initiatives and would provide the legal framework to regulate imports of specimens that were obtained illegally from the country of origin.



TRAFFIC
the wildlife trade monitoring network

UNIVERSAL CAVIAR LABELLING REQUIREMENTS

All sturgeon caviar containers in domestic and international trade have to bear a non-reusable label containing details about the source and the country of origin of the caviar. Governments around the world have agreed to a universal caviar labelling system with the aim of ensuring that all caviar entering the market is from legal sources. The caviar labelling system helps governments, traders and consumers in distinguishing legal caviar in trade from illegal caviar. This leaflet highlights requirements that governments and the caviar industry need to implement under the universal caviar labelling system.



Beluga caviar can fetch retail prices of up to EUR 600 per 100 g

BACKGROUND

All species of sturgeon and paddlefish have been listed in the Appendices of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) since 1998. Two species—the Common or Baltic Sturgeon *Acipenser sturio* and the Shortnose Sturgeon *Acipenser brevirostrum*—are listed in Appendix I of the Convention, which prohibits any international commercial trade. All other species are listed in Appendix II, whereby international trade is regulated by governments through a system of permits.

With the aim of facilitating the legal caviar trade around the world and allowing the easy identification of the source and origin of caviar, governments agreed at a CITES meeting in 2000 to introduce a standardized labelling system for all caviar exports. Two years later, they extended the labelling requirements and agreed that all caviar containers in trade, whether imported, exported, re-exported or in domestic markets, should bear a label that would contain a specific set of information, including the country of origin and the year of harvest, to allow identification of the source of the caviar. Governments agreed that, as of January 2004, they would only accept imported caviar shipments marked according to the labelling guidelines. In addition to this they agreed that all caviar sold on domestic markets would also require labels, including caviar that is re-packaged. A detailed description of information that needs to be included on the labels can be found in CITES Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. COP14).

As a result of these developments, governments around the world have started to enact and implement legal and administrative measures at the national level to meet the CITES provisions on caviar. In May 2006, the European Union (EU) adopted Commission Regulation (EC) No. 845/2006, later amended by Regulation (EC) No. 100/2008, which has made the labelling of all caviar containers obligatory in all EU Member States. As a result, all caviar containers in the EU market, regardless of their size, are required to bear a CITES label.

It is therefore essential that everyone involved in the trade and marketing of caviar (including importers, exporters, wholesalers, retailers, restaurants and travel businesses, such as cruise ship operators, airlines and luxury hotels) are aware of the labelling requirements so that all can adequately implement and comply with the new

BRIEFING PAPERS

Assessing the Intrinsic Vulnerability of Harvested Sharks.

<http://www.cites.org/common/AC/26/E26-09i.pdf>

T.E.E. Oldfield, W. Outhwaite,
G. Goodman, G. Sant.
2012

Draft JNCC report provided as an Information Document to CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Wild Species of Fauna and Flora) Animals Committee.

Trends in Global Shark Catch and Recent Developments in Management

(PDF, 800 KB)

http://www.traffic.org/species-reports/traffic_species_fish34.pdf

Mary Lack, Glenn Sant
May 2009. 29pp.

Published by: TRAFFIC International

Briefing paper presented at the World Oceans Conference, Manado, Indonesia providing an analysis of trends in shark catch.

CITES COP14

14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties
The Hague, Netherlands, 03-15 June 2007

Sturgeons and CoP14

(English, 290 KB)

http://www.traffic.org/cites-cop-papers/traffic_pub_cop14_14.pdf

June 2007

Sturgeons and CoP14

(Russian, 520 KB)

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June 2007

Sharks and CoP14

(184 KB)

CITES COP13

13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Bangkok, Thailand, 02-14 October 2004

Introduction From the Sea

(450 KB)

Humphead Wrasse and CoP13

(490 KB)

FACTSHEETS

Sharks: Restoring the Balance

PDF

2014

A joint initiative of WWF and TRAFFIC to conserve Sharks and Rays

Spiny Dogfish: *Squalus acanthias*

2007. 8pp.

Published by: TRAFFIC North America

Fisheries Snapshots Series on trade and conservation issues.

Universal Caviar Labelling Requirements

(195 KB)

http://www.traffic.org/species-reports/traffic_species_fish24.pdf

2006 4pp.

Black Gold: The Caviar Trade in Western Europe

(125 KB)

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2006. 2pp.

Menhaden: Atlantic menhaden (*Brevoortia tyrannus*), Gulf menhaden (*Brevoortia patronus*)

(1 MB)

http://www.traffic.org/species-reports/traffic_species_fish11.pdf

December 2004.

Fisheries Snapshots Series on trade and conservation issues.

Monkfish: *Lophius americanus*

(2.8 MB)

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November 2003.

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Universal Caviar Labelling Requirements

(195 KB)

http://www.traffic.org/species-reports/traffic_species_fish24.pdf

2006 4pp.

TRAFFIC Factsheet

TRAFFIC
the wildlife trade monitoring network

FACT SHEET

Black gold: The caviar trade in western Europe

Overview of legal international caviar trade 1998-2006

The world's largest caviar importers (tonnes-t):

All EU Member States	619 t
Germany	233 t
(France)	231 t
USA	292 t
Switzerland	149 t
Japan	132 t

The world's largest caviar exporters:

Iran	438 t
Russian Federation	138 t
Kazakhstan	95 t
Azerbaijan	35 t
China	29 t
Romania	26 t

Legal international trade between 1998 and 2006: 1313 t

Source: CITES trade data for the years 1998 to 2006.



Caviar, the renowned gourmet delicacy, is the unfertilized roe of sturgeon and paddlefish (Acipenseriformes), a very ancient group of fish that occur in coastal and inland waters of 25 countries in Europe, Asia and North America.

There are 27 species of sturgeon and paddlefish, among them the Beluga Huso huso, which can reach an age of 100 years and can weigh more than two tonnes. It produces the most valuable caviar, the sought-after beluga. Other traditional varieties of caviar include osieter, which comes from the Russian Sturgeon Acipenser guldenstedtii and the Persian Sturgeon Acipenser persicus, and sevruga, which comes from the Stellate Sturgeon Acipenser stellatus. Caviar is one of the most expensive wildlife products, fetching retail prices of up to EUR600 per 100 g in "delicatessens" in western Europe and the USA.

Sturgeons of the Caspian Sea produce what is claimed to be the highest quality caviar and the countries bordering the Caspian Sea have been the source of the majority of the caviar in global trade in recent years. Other important sources are the Amur and the Danube river basins, the Black Sea, the Sea of Azov and the Great Lakes of North America.

Many sturgeon stocks are seriously depleted as a result of illegal fishing of sturgeons and habitat degradation. In response to reported declines in sturgeon populations and with the aim of ensuring that trade in sturgeon products, such as caviar, is sustainable and not threatening the species' survival, all species of sturgeon and paddlefish have been listed in the Appendix of CITES (The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) since 1998. All caviar in international trade (exports, imports and re-exports) must be accompanied by CITES documents. These can only be issued by specific government authorities once certain requirements have been met.

The European Union is the largest importer of caviar

According to trade statistics reported by countries to CITES, the European Union (EU), the USA and Switzerland are the largest importers of caviar, importing 81% of all caviar reported in legal international trade between 1998 and 2006 (see text box on left). During that period, the volumes of caviar reported in international trade per year plummeted from a peak at 243 tonnes (t) in 1999 to 44 t in 2006. Among the 27 EU Member States, France and Germany are the largest importers. Besides their role as consumers, the EU and Switzerland are also important "transit" points for caviar, which re-export to other countries over 50% of the caviar they import. Besides the caviar reported in international trade, considerable volumes of caviar are also consumed domestically in the countries of origin, for example in the Russian Federation and the USA. The majority of the caviar imported by the EU and Switzerland comes from Iran and the Russian Federation, the two "giants" among the world's caviar producers. Other important exporters of caviar are Kazakhstan, China and Azerbaijan.



FISHERIES SNAPSHOTS

On Trade and Conservation Issues

LITTLE FISH IN BIG DEMAND

Menhaden have been an important high-volume, relatively low-value staple of U.S. fishery landings for centuries. In the last 20 years pollock displaced menhaden as the top-ranking fish, in terms of landings by weight in the United States, but menhaden have consistently retained the number two spot and the Gulf menhaden is among the top 20 species worldwide for landings by weight. Since 1980, the average landings per year for Gulf menhaden have been 666,397 metric tons (1.5 billion pounds).

Menhaden, a type of herring found in both the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico, are small fish used primarily for fish meal and oil. Because fish meal and oil compete in the marketplace with vegetable meal and oil, price has determined whether it has been profitable to pursue the fishery. The United States sends fish meal and menhaden oil all over the world, but mostly to Japan, China, and the Netherlands.

The overall population of Atlantic menhaden has generally increased in recent years, but some parts of the population are decreasing for reasons that are not yet understood. Managers in the region are focused on better understanding the population and ecosystem dynamics. In contrast, Gulf menhaden have fluctuated without a consistent trend. The main

focus of fishery management in the Gulf of Mexico has been on addressing the economic consequences of the consolidation of the industry, which involves many fewer vessels and reduction plants now than were operating in years past.

Although both Atlantic menhaden and Gulf menhaden seem to be at healthy levels overall, TRAFFIC is concerned about the recent decline in the number of juvenile Atlantic menhaden. It will be important to ensure that fishing mortality does not push the population beyond the bounds of resilience during natural

Menhaden

Atlantic menhaden (*Brevoortia tyrannus*)
Gulf menhaden (*Brevoortia patronus*)



Atlantic menhaden © Rex Davis

As consumer demand for healthful foods grows worldwide, more and more producers look to the sea for ingredients. Once used only for industrial oils and animal feeds, the fish oil from menhaden is now a component of major brands of yogurt, breakfast cereal, margarine, and shortening.

TRAFFIC

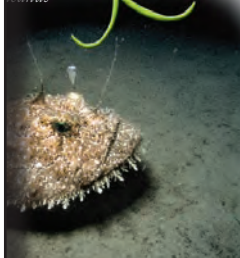
— NORTH AMERICA —

Canadian groundfish fleets. It was not until catch levels had dramatically increased and monkfish populations significantly decreased in some areas, however, that Canada and the United States imposed management plans. To the south, off the Mid-Atlantic states and North Carolina, monkfish remain at low levels. Monkfish populations now appear to be rebuilding somewhat in the northern part of the U.S. range, but even there fishing mortality is still too high. Nevertheless, many in the fishing industry continue to oppose decreases in allowable catch levels.

APSHOTS

MONKFISH

canus



Courtesy of Rudolf Swennen

This fish looks so bizarre that in 18th-century France it was illegal to display the entire creature in the market. But in the 1980s it became the darling of famous chef Julia Child, and today the monkfish is one of the hottest items in seafood cuisine.

recent
ment mea-
m to be
the decline
fish popula-
ome areas,

remains concerned about their status. Years of unsustainable and largely unregulated fishing have

driven populations to low levels. Demand, particularly export demand, and high prices continue to drive high catch levels. Mortality from directed fishing remains high and mortality from bycatch is not fully monitored, meaning that our understanding of the total impact of fishing on monkfish populations involves much uncertainty. It will be important to manage this fishery in a precautionary manner into the future to ensure the health of monkfish populations and the fisheries that depend upon them.

TRAFFIC

— NORTH AMERICA —

Sturgeons and the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES, The Hague, Netherlands, 2007

A TRAFFIC AND WWF BRIEFING DOCUMENT

May 2007

Caviar, the renowned gourmet delicacy, is the unfertilised roe of sturgeons and paddlefish (*Acipenseriformes*), an ancient group of fish found in coastal and inland waters of 25 countries in Europe, Asia and North America. There are 27 species, 25 of them are included in the 2006 IUCN Red List of *Threatened Species*, 17 classified as Endangered or Critically Endangered. Two species are listed in Appendix I of CITES: the remaining 25 are in Appendix II. As this suggests, many sturgeon stocks are seriously depleted, as a result of over-exploitation, illegal fishing and habitat degradation. In 2004, the total official catch of sturgeons in the Caspian Sea had decreased to 760 t, less than 5% of the total 20 years earlier (22 800 t).¹



Caviar and sturgeon meat on sale in Baku, Azerbaijan, 1997



Photo: WWF-Caspian Sea Program

Stemming the black gold rush—sturgeons and paddlefish and the implementation of CITES Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP13)

Sturgeon and paddlefish conservation and trade has been discussed at every meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (CoP) since all species were listed in the Appendices to CITES (1998) and, over the last nine years, CITES Parties have made some progress in strengthening control of trade and conservation of these species. However, there are concerns that CITES agreements for sturgeons and paddlefish are still not being implemented effectively, but it is vital that Parties show their commitment to these agreements, so that trade does not threaten the species' survival.

The key tool for the conservation of sturgeons in the CITES forum is *Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP13)* (see **Box 1** for summary of CITES decisions on sturgeons and paddlefish). This calls for scientifically assessed catch and export quotas for sturgeons, tighter regulation of trade in sturgeon products overall, and regional co-operation between countries to achieve these ends. It also stipulates a role for the CITES Secretariat in confirming that export quotas are agreed by all relevant range States, on the basis of stock assessments. At CoP14, this Resolution will again be up for discussion. The Russian Federation, and the Islamic Republic of Iran (on behalf of the CITES Standing Committee's working group on sturgeons), have submitted proposals to amend various aspects of the Resolution. TRAFFIC and WWF hope that the outcome of discussion of these proposals will be a reavowal of Parties' commitments to conserve sturgeons and paddlefish, followed by visible action. **Specifically, TRAFFIC and WWF believe (see shaded text):**

- **Independent verification of the scientific and legal basis of caviar export quotas** is necessary to ensure that these and sturgeon catch quotas reflect population trends and are sustainable. The important role of the CITES Secretariat in the process should be maintained.
- The stock assessment procedures and the catch and export quota-setting process would benefit from **greater transparency**, such that Parties, non-Parties and non-governmental organizations can assess the scientific basis for the quotas.
- Given the important quantities of caviar consumed on some **domestic markets and of caviar traded illegally**, it is essential that these **are taken into account** when determining export quotas.
- The current Resolution requires **range States to agree by consensus on catch and export quotas for shared stocks**. This requirement is important as a means to ensure sturgeon and paddlefish exports truly reflect population trends and are scientifically proven to be sustainable. However, if the Resolution is amended so that quotas can be decided on the basis of agreement among (a minimum of) two-thirds of the range States sharing the stock, then this amendment should be coupled with a recommendation that Parties do not accept exports from States proposing higher quotas than those agreed by the majority.

Justification: With the agreement of range States, rules on setting sturgeon and paddlefish quotas under CITES have become increasingly rigorous. However, despite these rules (which are set out in *Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP13)*), and despite the fact that recent CITES quotas have been adapted in response to declines in wild sturgeon and paddlefish stocks (**Table 1**), doubt clearly remains over the process for setting quotas, as testified to by the following.

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