Environment Canada Environnement Canada

Canadian Wildlife Service
Ottawa, ON
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13 January 2011

Mr. John Scanlon
Secretary-General, CITES Secretariat
15, chemin des Anemones
CH-1219 CHATELAINE – Geneva
Switzerland

Dear Mr. Scanlon:

Canadian Response to CITES Notification 2010/027: ***Information to be submitted for the 19th meeting of the Plants Committee and the 25th meeting of the Animals Committee***

In response to CITES Notification 2010/027 concerning information to be submitted for the 19th meeting of the Plants Committee and the 25th meeting of the Animals Committee, Canada is pleased to provide the attached response.

Please contact the CITES Scientific Authority at +1 (819) 953-1429 or cites-science@ec.gc.ca if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,

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Director, Population Conservation
Canadian Wildlife Service

c.c. Carolina Caceres, Manager, Species Assessment
Gina Schalk, CITES Scientific Authority
Mary Taylor, CITES Management Authority

Canada's response to Notification to the Parties No. 2010/027

1a) Sharks

Since March 2007, Canada has had a *National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks* (NPOA-Sharks) [http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/npoa-pan/npoa-pan/npoa-sharks-eng.htm] that was developed in accordance with the principles and provisions of the *International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks* (IPOA-Sharks), as developed by the FAO. Canada intends to provide an update to its 2007 NPOA-Sharks in advance of the 2012 FAO meeting.

Canada's NPOA-Sharks incorporates ecological considerations, integrated fisheries management, and the precautionary approach to ensure the long-term sustainability of sharks within Canadian directed and non-directed fisheries. In addition, Canada also has a number of legislative measures that are relevant to managing and maintaining the long-term sustainability of shark populations and fisheries. These legislative instruments, along with the policies and programs that support them, are consistent with the principles of the IPOA-Sharks as well as the FAO *Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries*.

Canada has directed fisheries for four shark species considered to be of economic value: Porbeagle, Blue, Shortfin Mako, and Spiny Dogfish (Table 1). The *Canadian Atlantic Pelagic Shark Integrated Fisheries Management Plan* and the *Pacific Region Integrated Fisheries Management Plan – Groundfish* aim to establish these fisheries as a biologically and commercially sustainable resource that supports a self-reliant fishery.

Canada promotes the full utilization of all harvested marine resources by having the carcasses of sharks landed as well as the fins. For enforcement purposes, shark fins cannot make up more than 5 per cent of the overall weight of shark onboard a Canadian fishing vessel (5% rule). The act of removing the fins from sharks and discarding the remainder of the carcass (i.e. a practice known as 'finning') has been prohibited in Canada since 1994 by regulation under its 'Fisheries Act'.

Canada provides its annual catch data for Atlantic shark species to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas. It is difficult to quantify species-specific exports of sharks from Canada, although it is likely that the majority of landed catches enter international trade owing to the very small domestic market.

Table 1. Shark species of economic interest in Canada.

Species	Common Name	Total Allowable Catch (tonnes)	Average Annual Landings (tonnes)	Status of Fishery	Status of Species
Isurus oxyrinchus	Shortfin Mako shark	250	70	Limited directed commercial fishery in Atlantic. Majority of landings are incidental harvests in other pelagic fisheries.	• Abundance in Atlantic is stable, but mean size has decreased • Considered 'Threatened' in Atlantic by COSEWIC[1] • Pacific population not yet assessed
Prionace glauca	Blue shark	250	1	Directed catch-and-release recreational fishery in Atlantic; landed catch represents bycatch from other pelagic fisheries.	• Population trend is unclear for Atlantic population, but mean size has decreased • Considered 'Special Concern' in Atlantic by COSEWIC[1] • Pacific population not yet assessed
Lamna nasus	Porbeagle shark	185 (135 directed and 50 bycatch)	125	Limited directed commercial fishery.	• Abundance is low but stable • Considered 'Endangered' by COSEWIC[1]
Squalus acanthias	Spiny Dogfish	2500 (Atlantic fishery) 15000 (Pacific fishery)	1800 (Atlantic) ~3500 (Pacific)	Directed commercial fishery.	• Atlantic population considered abundant and biomass is high. • Atlantic population considered 'Special Concern' by COSEWIC[1] • Pacific population is considered abundant; formal assessment by COSEWIC[1] pending.

[1]COSEWIC: Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada

1b) Sturgeons

Canada is not a Caspian range state.

1c) Orchids: Annotation for species included in Appendix II

Trade in hybrids probably does not negatively impact wild plants and probably all hybrids could be exempted with little risk of detriment to wild populations. However, given the difficulty in distinguishing between hybrids and species, perhaps a practical alternative would be to exempt all orchid hybrids but only if they are in a flowering state. Perhaps the current annotation could be extended to include more genera (e.g. Miltonia, Odontoglossum, Oncidium) while the possibility of exempting all orchid hybrids is considered.

Another suggestion is to have artificial human-made genera such as Colmonara, Brassocattleya, Odontocidium, etc., be exempted under a new annotation.

1d) *Aniba rosaeodora* and *Bulnesia sarmientoi*

i) Canada believes that the methodology used in creation and application of the international standard (ISO 3761-2005) for chemical composition and content of rosewood oil (*Aniba rosaeodora*) offers a useful initial "best method" for the identification of essential oils and similar chemical derivatives in general. Noting however, that the existing standard for "rosewood oil" includes additional related species (i.e. *A. parviflora*), it appears necessary to develop standards of greater rigor that characterize and differentiate essential oils at the species level.

iii) The inclusion of "essential oil" as a commodity type to which CITES regulations apply may require annotations that cite recognized standards for the chemical content of the essential oil or chemical derivative to which reference is made, in order to achieve the level of regulatory specificity required by the Convention.

iv) Listing closely related plant species known to be included in essential oils will inevitably increase regulatory burden on Parties and should be pursued only if species-level identification of essential oil components by standard proves impossible or operationally impractical.

1e) *Cedrela odorata*, *Dalbergia retusa*, *D. granadillo* and *D. stevensonii*

Compilation of import and re-export of these species: An analysis of Canadian Border Services Agency records of shipments of logs, sawn wood and veneer from January 1, 2009 to October 31, 2010 was conducted for the four species. Individual electronic transactions were selected for review. Paper transactions were not reviewed; thus the following observations indicate a minimum number of shipments of the indicated species imported into Canada. All shipments were sawn wood, except for one shipment of veneer from Brazil (indicated below). These minimum numbers of shipments were extrapolated to estimate total numbers of shipments of these species imported into Canada. Estimates were not possible for *Dalbergia stevensonii* and *D. granadillo*.

Cedrela odorata (Note that shipments reviewed may not in all cases be *Cedrela odorata* – certain shipments were identified by invoice as Spanish cedar, as *Cedrela odorata* or as *Cedrela* species; and in one case as *Cedrela fissilis*); total number of shipments observed = 30; this proportion of the electronic entries (about 1/3) extrapolates to approximately 70-90 shipments of *Cedrela* spp. imported into Canada over the period January 1, 2009 to October 31, 2009.

Origin Bolivia; exported from Bolivia: 6 shipments, quantity ranged from 28 to 55.5 m^3, average quantity 35 m^3 per shipment

Origin Boliva; re-exported from the U.S.: 3 shipments, quantity ranged from 19 to 36 m^3, average quantity 23 m^3 per shipment

Origin Brazil; exported from Brazil: 1 shipment of 27,200 m^2 of veneer

Origin Brazil; re-rexported from the U.S.: 13 shipments, quantity ranged from 6 to 34 m^3, average quantity 14 m^3 per shipment

Origin Ecuador; exported from Equador: 1 shipment of 24 m^3

Origin Guyana: re-exported from the U.S.: 2 shipments, quantity ranged from 28 to 33 m^3, average 31 m^3

Origin Peru; exported from Peru: 1 shipment of 40 m^3

Origin Peru: re-exported from the U.S.: 3 shipments, quantity ranged from 12 to 30 m^3 , average 23 m^3

Dalbergia retusa (note that only "cocobolo" was identified on transactions; it is assumed the shipment was of this species); total of 10 shipments observed imported into Canada; same assumptions as for *Cedrela*; extrapolate to approximately 20-30 shipments of cocobolo imported into Canada over the period January 1, 2009 to October 31, 2010.

Origin Mexico; re-exported from the U.S.: 7 shipments, quantity ranged from less than 1 to 2 m^3 , with average of 1 m^3; plus one shipment of 24 m^3 ; total of 8 shipments

Origin Nicaragua; re-exported from the U.S.: 2 shipments, quantities of 3 and 2 m^3

D. stevensonii (unidentified species of "rosewood" on transactions, which possibly are this species)

Origin Belize, Bolivian, Guayana, and Nicaragua; re-exported from the U.S.: one shipment of 1-2 m^3 from each country; total 4 shipments

D. granadillo (noted one shipment identified on transaction as "granadillo")

Origin Mexico; re-exported from the U.S.: one shipment of less than 1 m^3

1f ii) Non-detriment Findings, report on workshops

Canada undertook a workshop to prepare standing Non-Detriment Finding reports for two species of bear (black bear *Ursus americanus*, and grizzly bear *Ursus arctos*). Standing Non-detriment Finding (NDF) Reports are used to document the current management practices in Canada for commonly-traded Canadian species to support permit decisions on sustainable exports of legally obtained CITES specimens. They are posted on a public website so that the basis for our decision-making is readily accessible and they are updated regularly.

The workshop took place on November 26-28, 2010 in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada and was attended by Canadian provincial and territorial CITES Scientific Authorities and bear experts. In addition to discussions for the standing NDF reports for the bears, the workshop also provided participants with an opportunity to share information on species management throughout Canada and an opportunity to enhance knowledge of CITES. Jurisdictions shared their experiences and understanding of harvest management and control, biology, and status of the species, using a modified version of the IUCN checklist to guide discussions. The discussions led to a better understanding of the sustainable management programs in place for these species across Canada, and a further refinement of the IUCN checklist that is more applicable to the Canadian situation where species are managed with an adaptive management framework. We will be working on finalizing the Standing NDF report in the coming year, for publication on our website (http://www.ec.gc.ca/cites/default.asp?lang=En&n=2942DC30-1).

The Canadian Scientific Authority has already prepared standing NDF reports for several species, including bobcat, grey wolf, polar bear, lynx, American ginseng and goldenseal. We are currently working on standing NDF reports for cougar, northern river otter, black bear, grizzly bear and sandhill crane.