

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



Fifty-eighth meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 6-10 July 2009

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Species trade and conservation

Sturgeons

CAVIAR TRADE DATABASE

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. The Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP14) on *Conservation of and trade in sturgeons and paddlefish*, the Conference of the Parties instructs the Secretariat to "submit a written progress report at each meeting of the Standing Committee on the operation of the UNEP-WCMC caviar trade database."
3. The Caviar Trade Database continues to be maintained by UNEP-WCMC. The rate of submission of permits and certificates that have been issued by Management Authorities to authorize trade in caviar has increased somewhat since the Secretariat reported upon this subject at the 57th meeting of the Standing Committee (Geneva, July 2008).
4. However, a more timely submission of copies would facilitate the use of the database in identifying possible illegal trade.
5. The Secretariat issued Notification to the Parties No. 2009/008, of 6 March 2009, to draw to the attention of Parties discrepancies in the database that have been identified by UNEP-WCMC. It is not clear whether such discrepancies result from inadequacies in data submission or whether they indicate possible illegal trade. The Notification also called upon Parties to advise UNEP-WCMC of any subsequent changes in the amounts authorized for trade or cancellations of permits and certificates.
6. The Secretariat has always stressed the importance of timely submission with regard to copies of permits and certificates that authorize trade in caviar. If such copies can be received, the database can relatively readily identify any suspicious trade.
7. The Secretariat intends to cooperate closely with UNEP-WCMC in the coming months to try and determine whether the initial and any subsequent analysis of the data reflects insufficient submission or possible illegal trade.