

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



Seventieth meeting of the Standing Committee  
Rosa Khutor, Sochi (Russian Federation), 1-5 October 2018

Species specific matters

HUMPHEAD WRASSE (*CHEILINUS UNDULATUS*):  
REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At its 17th meeting (CoP17, Johannesburg, 2016), the Conference of the Parties renewed and adopted the following Decisions on *Humphead wrasse* (*Cheilinus undulatus*):

***Directed to Parties***

16.139 (Rev.CoP17)

*To implement effectively the Appendix-II listing of the humphead wrasse, Parties should:*

- a) *use existing documents listed in paragraph 13 of document CoP16 Doc. 62 (Rev.1) in their implementation of the Appendix-II listing of the humphead wrasse; and*
- b) *investigate reported violations of the Convention and of related national laws in relation to trade in the humphead wrasse, and take appropriate enforcement actions in accordance with their national legislation; and*

*In addition, range States and importing Parties should strengthen bilateral and regional cooperation, including intelligence exchange and enforcement actions.*

***Directed to the Standing Committee***

15.87 (Rev. CoP17)

*The Standing Committee shall:*

- a) *review the actions taken by relevant Parties to implement the Appendix-II listing of the humphead wrasse;*
- b) *consider whether it is necessary to ask range States and importing States to provide further information on their actions taken to ensure the effective implementation of the Convention regarding trade in this species;*
- c) *develop, as appropriate, recommendations for improving the regulation of international trade in the humphead wrasse, and the enforcement of controls, to ensure the effectiveness of the Appendix-II listing of the species; and*

- d) *report its conclusions and recommendations for any appropriate follow-up actions at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

**Directed to the IUCN**

16.140 (Rev. CoP17)

*The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Groupers and Wrasses Specialist Group continue its support to Parties in achieving sustainable fishing of the humphead wrasse and in making non-detriment findings in compliance with CITES.*

**Directed to the Secretariat**

17.201 *Subject to external funds, the Secretariat shall collaborate with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in undertaking an FAO project to support Indonesia in achieving sustainable management of, and trade in humphead wrasse, and shall cooperate with FAO to report on the progress and outcomes of this project to the Standing Committee.*

17.202 *The Secretariat shall report on the implementation of the decisions on humphead wrasse (Cheilinus undulatus) at the 69th or 70th meeting of the Standing Committee.*

Background

3. At its 69th meeting (SC69, Geneva, November 2017), the Standing Committee adopted the following recommendations in support of the implementation of Decision 15.87 (Rev. CoP17) (see SC69 summary record, pp. 48-49):

*The Standing Committee congratulated Hong Kong SAR and Indonesia on their work and progress being made on this matter, particularly regarding harvest management, production systems, export / import control and tracking, and habitat protection.*

*The Standing Committee recognized advances made by Indonesia in the implementation of its National Plan of Action, with development of a non-detriment finding (NDF) that facilitates legal international trade in specimens of humphead wrasse ensuring that it does not threaten their survival;*

*The Standing Committee appreciated the efforts of the Groupers and Wrasses Specialist Group of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), with the assistance from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), in collaborative efforts to move towards sustainable production and trade of humphead wrasse.*

*However, the Standing Committee also recognized that there is still ongoing and observed illegal trade of live and frozen fish with little understanding of the origin of the product in the market.*

*The Standing Committee encouraged donors to make external funding available to the CITES Secretariat, FAO and IUCN in a timely manner to continue to support Indonesia in achieving sustainable fishery management of the species, including fishing in relation to ranching and novel production systems, pursuant to Decisions 16.140 (Rev. CoP17) and 17.201.*

*The Standing Committee requested the Secretariat to issue a further Notification to request Parties to share information on national regulation in place on the management, conservation and trade in humphead wrasse prior to the 70th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC70).*

*The Standing Committee urged source and consumer States of humphead wrasse to intercept and take action on illegal shipments, and, as appropriate and to the extent possible, share information on such illegal catch and illegal trade, with the Secretariat, as well as CITES authorities of relevant Parties.*

*The Standing Committee recognized that the novel practice of grow-out and ranching of newly settled humphead wrasse in shallow water algal beds may offer significant livelihood and stock recovery opportunities that would benefit from further research support and benefit policy development related to these novel practices, in order, inter alia, to minimize the risk of product acquired in violation of the Convention and related national laws entering the market.*

*The Standing Committee encouraged Parties and donors to collaborate in the development and use of cost-effective tracing techniques, including technologies for tracking live-fish-transporting vessels, individual fish recognition and tracing techniques to assist in excluding from the market product acquired in violation of the convention and related national laws.*

*The Standing Committee agreed to consider at its 70th meeting information provided by range, trading and market States to determine whether other interventions, e.g. additional draft decisions to be reported to the 18th Conference of the Parties, are required to adequately address reported violations of the convention and related national laws.*

#### New information since SC69

4. In response to the request from the Standing Committee, the Secretariat issued Notification to the Parties [No. 2018/066](#) of 4 July 2018, asking Parties to share information on national regulation in place on the management, conservation and trade in humphead wrasse prior to the 70th meeting of the Standing Committee.
5. The Secretariat received five responses to the Notification No.2018/066 from Australia, China, Singapore, Thailand and the United States of America, contained in Annex 2 of this document (in the language in which they were submitted). The responses are summarised below:
  - a) **Australia:** Australia provides information on fisheries management at both the national and sub-national levels, and the measures available in the country to protect humphead wrasse, including the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999. The only commercial fishery of the species for export is limited to 50 individuals per year. Since 2 January 2017 Australia has issued three CITES export permits for a total of 54 live specimens of humphead wrasse.
  - b) **China:** China outlines its activities, including legislation, trade and enforcement for China, Hong Kong SAR of China and Macao SAR of China. Import of humphead wrasse is taking place into mainland China and Hong Kong SAR of China. Hong Kong SAR of China reports imports of both wild and ranched specimens from Indonesia.
  - c) **Singapore:** Singapore outlines its implementation of the Convention with regard to humphead wrasse under its Endangered Species (Import & Export) Act and related awareness raising activities. There are only very few trade transactions with very low volumes reported that involve Singapore.
  - d) **Thailand:** Thailand outlines its national regulations with regard to humphead wrasse under “the Ministerial Notification of Natural Resources and Environment on Export-Import Prohibition of Wildlife and Carcasses”, dated 12 April 2017, and reports that no permits for the species have been issued.
  - e) **United States of America:** The United States outlines fishing activities, as well as management actions, in four U.S. territories with regard to humphead wrasse. Only low numbers of fish are caught, and no exports have taken place according to the CITES trade database.
6. With regard to the specimens originating from Indonesia mentioned in the response from China, the Secretariat draws attention to Notification to the Parties [No. 2018/022](#) of 27 February 2018, which the Secretariat published on Indonesia’s behalf. While Indonesia has set a voluntary annual national export quota of 1,800 heads of live humphead (Napoleon) wrasse of wild origin for 2018 that can be exported by air-only, the Notification explains that these restrictions do not apply under certain conditions for specimens of Napoleon Fish produced from sea ranching activities (source code R) with specified size of 1,000 to 3,000 grams.
7. With regard to Decision 17.201, the Secretariat has collaborated closely with FAO to try to secure external funding for the implementation of this Decision, but, at the time of writing of this document, no such funding had become available.

#### Discussion and conclusions

8. The Secretariat notes that since the adoption of Decision 15.87 at CoP15 (Doha, 2010), a significant amount of work has been undertaken to improve the effectiveness of the Appendix-II listing of the species and that the trade volumes and patterns have changed significantly as well, as can be seen in Figure1, with Australia and Indonesia remaining the only notable exporters.

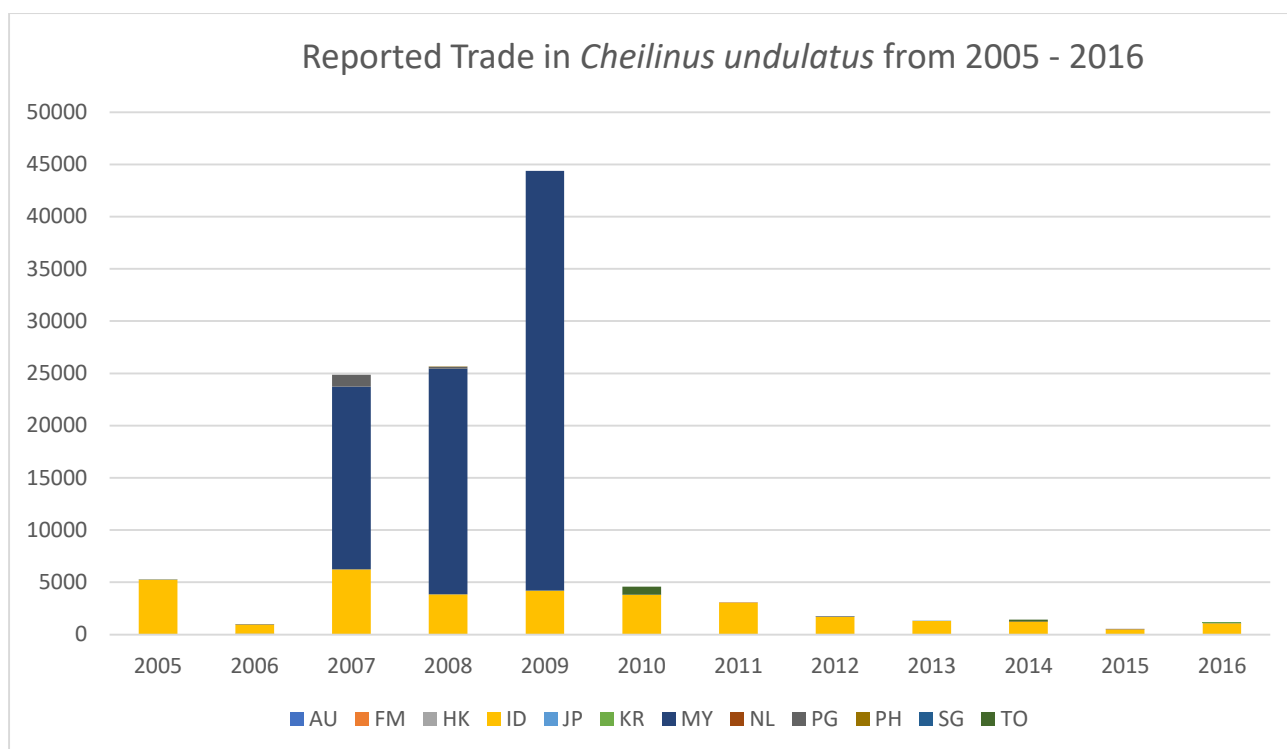


Fig.1: Reported Trade in *Cheilinus undulatus* in the CITES Trade Database from 2005-2016 (accessed 02.08.2018). Years are depicted on the x-axis, trade volume on the y-axis (unit = number of individuals), exporting countries by colour.

9. The Secretariat notes however that the request for FAO and CITES to support Indonesia in achieving sustainable management of, and trade in *Cheilinus undulatus* contained in Decision 17.201 has not been fulfilled due to lack of external funding.
10. The Secretariat notes further that if trade volume in *Cheilinus undulatus* were to increase in the future and there were concerns about the detriment of that trade for the survival of the species in the wild, these cases could be referred to the Review of Significant Trade [Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17)] or the Review of trade in animal specimens reported as produced in captivity (Resolution Conf. 17.7) depending on the source code of the specimens. Furthermore, the new annual illegal trade report submitted by Parties pursuant to Resolution Conf. 11.17 (Rev. CoP17) on *National reports* is expected to provide information on any future reported violations of the Convention pertaining to *Cheilinus undulatus*.
11. Based on these observations, the Secretariat has prepared a draft decision in Annex 1 for the consideration of the Standing Committee at its current meeting that it could consider in the context of fulfilling its mandate under Decision 15.87 (Rev. CoP17) to report its conclusions to the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

#### Recommendations

12. The Standing Committee is invited to:
  - a) review the information contained in this document and its Annexes; and
  - b) propose the adoption of the draft decision in Annex 1 of the present document as part of its report to the Conference of the Parties at its 18th meeting under paragraph d) of Decision 15.87 (Rev. CoP17).

Draft decision prepared by the Secretariat

***Directed to the Secretariat***

Dec. 18.AA

The CITES Secretariat, subject to external funding, shall invite the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Groupers and Wrasses Specialist Group to assist it in supporting major exporting and importing countries of *Cheilinus undulatus*, upon request, to address remaining CITES implementation challenges and ensure well-regulated, sustainable management of, and trade in the species.

**Notification 2018/066 information on national regulation in place on the management, conservation and trade in humphead wrasse (*Cheilinus undulatus*)**

Australia is pleased to provide the following response to Notification 2018/066 concerning the management, conservation and trade in humphead wrasse (*Cheilinus undulatus*). Australia manages fisheries at both the national and the sub-national level. Australia also regulates the export of commercially harvested marine species, and trade in CITES-listed Species.

Humphead wrasse occur over a large range in reef areas from north-western to north-eastern Australia (distribution information is available at [https://biodiversity.org.au/afd/taxa/Cheilinus\\_undulatus](https://biodiversity.org.au/afd/taxa/Cheilinus_undulatus)). In Australia, species are regulated under a range of national and sub-national legislation. Humphead wrasse are protected in the waters in which they are found (relevant legislation includes the *Fish Resources Management Act 1999* (Western Australia), the *Fisheries Act 1994* (Queensland) and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Regulations 2003). As a CITES species, the trade of humphead wrasse is regulated by the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999*.

The Commonwealth Coral Sea Fishery is the only commercial fishery in Australia permitted to export humphead wrasse. The Fishery is conditioned to limit the take of humphead wrasse to no more than 50 individuals per year and is required to evaluate, document and seek to mitigate any risks posed by the fishery on humphead wrasse. Currently only one entity operating under this fishery exports humphead wrasse from Australia. Export numbers are low, typically less than 20 animals per year. The 2016 annual report (<http://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/pages/29af4f6d-d3ce-4f6b-a397-93d10f98dac8/files/coral-sea-2017-annual-status-report-attachment-b.pdf>) from this fishery stated that take was (at that time) less than 10 individuals (harvested that year). This is considered to be very low compared to the likely population size in the fishery area. Additional information about the management of the fishery, including a map of the fishery area, is available on the Australian Fisheries Management Authority website (<http://www.afma.gov.au/fisheries/coral-sea-fishery/>).

In addition to the above measures, Australia has established 60 marine parks around the country to protect marine species and habitat. Many areas of the marine parks strictly regulate, or do not permit, threatening activities such as fishing. More information on marine parks is available at <https://parksaustralia.gov.au/marine/>

For more information on Australia's fisheries management see the Australian Government Department of the Environment and Energy's fisheries webpages at <http://www.environment.gov.au/marine/fisheries>.

Australian records show that there have been 3 permits issued for the export of live Humphead Wrasse (*Cheilinus undulatus*) since 2 January 2017 totalling 54 animals.

Dear Mr. David Morgan,

First of all, I would like to extend my gratitude for your continuous support to the implementation of CITES in China.

According to Notification No. 2018/066, Parties are encouraged to submit the reports requested in Decision 16.139, to the Secretariat by 27 July 2018. By this chance we would like to provide the following information for you. We appreciate it a lot if you could include them into your report to the 70th Meeting of the Standing Committee.

**Legislation:** China published *Regulations of PRC on Administration of Import and Export of Endangered Wild Animals and Plants* in 2006. Both the CITES listed and national protected species are included in the Harmonized System and trade is regulated, including Humphead Wrasse.

**Trade figures:** In the past 5 years, China fishery authority have had two import records for live humphead wrasses from Indonesia, 345 specimens in 2017 and 60 specimens in 2018.

**Enforcement:** Enforcement activities to deter, detect and address illegal international trade in CITES-listed species are enhanced by Chinese Customs. According to the data provided by China fishery authority, no Humphead Wrasse smuggling case was reported.

**Public awareness:** Held promotional exhibition for aquariums and markets, to popularize species conservation and regulatory policy, to promote the public awareness and to encourage rational legal utilization on aquatic resources.

#### **Humphead Wrasse Control in Hong Kong SAR, China:**

##### **Enforcement**

- The Hong Kong Government is committed to the protection of endangered species. The controls on endangered species are vigorously enforced by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD, CITES Management Authority) and the Customs & Excise Department (C&ED). Both departments are in close collaboration in combating illegal endangered species trade.
- The AFCD inspects the export permits for all humphead wrasse (HHW) imported to Hong Kong. The validity of the corresponding permits were verified with the CITES Management Authority of the exporting country if in doubt. The quantity of each shipment was checked against the accompanying export permit.
- There were 11 import consignments of HHW in 2017, which included 350 heads of wild HHW. Within the first half year of 2018, a total of 7 consignments, including 25 wild HHW and 3,092 ranches HHW, have been imported into Hong Kong.
- The AFCD keeps the enforcement momentum in conducting inspections at local markets to detect and deter illicit trade in HHW. AFCD officers carried out more than 660 and 540 inspections at local seafood shops and restaurants throughout the territory in 2017 and the first half of 2018 respectively. To adopt stricter domestic measures, possession of wild live HHW for commercial purposes is only allowed under a license. Suspected illegal possession of HHW was found in 18 local seafood shops or restaurants where a total of 28 HHW were seized in 2017 and the first half of 2018. After investigation, all the shops in question were prosecuted and convicted. The sentences were ranged from a fine of HK\$1,500 - 30,000. The AFCD will stay vigilant against any possible illegal trade in live HHW.
- Some scientific studies found that the facial pattern of HHW was unique to the fish individual. Thus, the AFCD is actively exploring the possibility of making use of this pattern feature in inspections to enhance our enforcement. Currently, there is collaboration between the AFCD and the University of Hong Kong on developing a facial recognition app for smart phone with a view to enhance traceability of HHW specimens.

### **International collaboration**

- Hong Kong SAR recognizes the importance of cooperation with the Government of exporting country. We have contacted Indonesian CITES Management Authority expressing our concern of the transportation mode of HHW exported from Indonesia, and our wish to strengthen collaboration with them in fighting against illegal trade of endangered species.

### **Disposal of confiscated specimens**

- The confiscated HHW are disposed in accordance with the CITES guidelines. In 2017, three confiscated live HHW were donated to Aquamarine Fukushima in Japan for conservation and education purposes. Besides, the AFCD donated four confiscated HHW carcasses to the University of Hong Kong for scientific research.

### **Publicity and Education**

- Circular letters regarding the trade regulation of live HHW have been issued to the operators of seafood restaurants and seafood stalls.
- Education visits to over 500 and 300 local seafood shops and restaurants have been conducted in 2017 and the first half of 2018 respectively. The traders were reminded on the trade regulation of HHW in Hong Kong.

### **Information regarding trade in Humphead wrasse (*Cheilinus undulates*) in Macao SAR, China**

Trade in specimens of CITES species in Macao SAR is currently being regulated by the revised domestic legislation, namely the Enforcement Law of CITES (Law No.2/2017) and its complementary regulation (Administrative Regulation No.19/2017), entry into force from 1 September 2017.

Also, the Appendices to CITES adopted during CoP17 have been enacted as the basis in granting trade authorization in Macao SAR. Being listed under Appendix II, the trade of humphead wrasse (*Cheilinus undulates*) is authorized by granting import, export or re-export CITES certificate and relevant licenses. In case of importation, CITES permit or certificate issuing under provision of CITES by the management authority of exporting countries should be presented at the time of application.

Trade activity of humphead wrasse is considerably minor in Macao SAR. Over the past several years, no CITES certificate has been issued nor violation case has been recorded.

Sincerely yours,



## Singapore's implementation of CITES regulations for Humphead wrasse

Singapore is a Party to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). The Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority (AVA) is the designated CITES Management and Scientific Authority responsible for the implementation and enforcement of CITES in Singapore. AVA regulates the trade of CITES species through issuance of CITES permits, when conditions are met. AVA also conducts inspection on CITES consignments and investigation of enforcement cases.

2 The Endangered Species (Import and Export) Act (ESA) is the national legislation that gives effect to CITES in Singapore. Under the ESA, any person who imports, exports, re-exports or introduces from the sea any CITES species, requires a permit. The ESA empowers AVA to take enforcement action if there are violations of CITES requirements eg. smuggling of CITES species. Under the ESA, the maximum penalties include a fine of up to SG\$50,000 per species (not exceed an aggregate of SG\$500,000) and/or 2 years' imprisonment.

3 The Humphead wrasse or HHW (*Cheilinus undulatus*) was listed on CITES on 12 Jan 2005. Based on CITES permits issued for HHW traded through Singapore for last 5 years (2013-2017), the figures are as follows:-

Year	Import (pcs)	Re-export (pcs)
2013	27	0
2014	0	0
2015	0	0
2016	1	1
2017	0	0

The HHW were mainly imported from Australia and Indonesia with CITES permits. All import consignments of HHW are inspected.

4 Under the ESA, the transshipment of CITES species including HHW is authorized only if the shipments are accompanied by valid CITES permits from the exporting countries and for highly endangered species (ie. Appendix I species), the CITES import permits from the destination countries must also be presented to the State through which the shipment is being in transit via Singapore. This requirement to show CITES export permit applies to any transit of HHW through Singapore as well. For the past 5 years (2013-2018), there were no enforcement cases that involved HHW.

5 To create public awareness and enhance compliance with CITES, AVA has implemented the following outreach programs:-

- (a) Publicised enforcement cases in the mass media including social media.
- (b) Circulars to traders and meetings/dialogue sessions with industry or trade associations about CITES and its requirements.
- (c) Updates about CITES in AVA homepage ([www.ava.gov.sg](http://www.ava.gov.sg)).
- (d) Distribution of CITES brochures at ports of entry/exit, checkpoints, cruise centres, travel fairs, pet shops, schools etc.
- (e) Posters at fishery ports to educate vessel operators, fishermen and merchants about CITES requirements for import and export/re-export CITES fishes such as HHW.

6 To effectively enforce CITES, AVA works closely with other national, regional and international enforcement agencies such as the Immigration & Checkpoints Authority, Singapore Customs, Singapore Police Force and Interpol, CITES Secretariat, CITES and non-CITES Parties, non-government organisations (NGOs) as well as members of the public. AVA acts on any credible and actionable tip-offs relating to illegal trade in CITES species.

7 At the regional level, Singapore is a member of the ASEAN Working Group for CITES and Wildlife Enforcement (ASEAN WG on CITES & WE) which comprises of CITES Management, Scientific and Enforcement Authorities of the 10 ASEAN countries. The WG facilitates cross-border collaboration between ASEAN member countries in CITES matters through information exchange and capacity-building. Singapore also participates in capacity-building and enforcement trainings including identification of CITES species such as HHW.



## **ADVISORY NOTICE ON IMPORT & SALE OF CITES-LISTED HUMPHHEAD WRASSE**

The Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority of Singapore (AVA) would like to remind fishing vessel operators and fish traders of the following:

1. The Humphead or Napoleon Wrasse (*Cheilinus undulates*) is protected under the **C**onvention on the **I**nternational **T**rade in **E**ndangered **S**pecies of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).
2. Under Singapore's Endangered Species (Import & Export) Act, it is an offence to import, export/re-export, tranship, or introduce from the sea, any CITES species, or their parts and products (e.g. meat). It is also an offence to possess, sell, offer/expose for sale, or display to the public any of these illegally imported/acquired species.
3. Offenders shall be liable, on conviction, to a fine of up to S\$50,000 per scheduled CITES species (but not exceeding an aggregate of S\$500,000), and/or jail term of up to 2 years.



**Large adult with distinctive humphead**



**Adult fish**



**25 cm long juvenile live inshore**

Please visit [www.ava.gov.sg](http://www.ava.gov.sg) (*Endangered Animals* section) or contact AVA at tel: +65 6805 2992 for more information.

Dear CITES Secretariat,

Reference is made to Notification to the Parties No. 2018/066, requesting parties to share information on national regulation in place on the management, conservation and trade in Humphead wrasse (*Cheilinus undulatus*) prior to the 70th meeting of the Standing Committee.

In this regard, the Department of Fisheries (DoF), Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives would like to submit information on national regulation and relevant conservation and trade of this species is called “ the Ministerial Notification of Natural Resources and Environment on Export-Import Prohibition of Wildlife and Carcasses” Dated 12 April 2017 That is the national notification which aim to control and verify export/import of non-reserved/controlled wildlife products. This is also to ensure that those export-import wildlife products are not the protected species and for appropriateness and consistency with the current situation. Appendices for species of wildlife and carcasses that require certificate of permission legal definition for export and import are provided in accordance with Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). However, DoF did not issue any permits for import-export of this specimen since this specie listed under the CITES appendix.

Best regards,

CITES Management Authority of Thailand.  
Fisheries Resources Management and Measures Division



## United States Department of the Interior

### FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

International Affairs  
5275 Leesburg Pike, MS-IA  
Falls Church, VA 22041-3803



CITES Secretariat  
International Environment House  
11 Chemin des Anémones  
CH-1219 Châtelaine, Geneva  
Switzerland

**JUL 23 2018**

VIA EMAIL: [radisavljevicd@un.org](mailto:radisavljevicd@un.org)

Dear CITES Secretariat:

Kindly find the United States response to CITES Notification 2018/066 on the management, conservation and trade in Humphead wrasse (*Cheilinus undulatus*) attached. Please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Laura Noguchi ([laura\\_noguchi@fws.gov](mailto:laura_noguchi@fws.gov)) Chief, Wildlife Trade and Conservation Branch, if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Pamela Scruggs, Acting Chief  
Division of Management Authority





## United States Response to CITES Notification 2018/066 (23 July 2018)

**Table 1. Fishing activities in U.S. territories summarized for the humphead wrasse.**

<b>American Samoa</b>	Although a Federal annual catch limit of 5% of the total estimated stock biomass within American Samoa exists, fishing for humphead wrasse does not occur. The American Samoa Executive Order 002-2012 (enforced by Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources) strictly prohibits any interaction with the species (i.e., possess, sell, kill). SCUBA spearfishing was banned in 2001.
<b>Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands</b>	Federal annual catch limits allow 5% of the estimated stock biomass to be landed and free dive spear fishing at night is the primary method by which humphead wrasses are landed in the CNMI. There have been no reported landings using hook and line. The species is not a target of local commercial fishermen as it does not command a greater price per pound, being taken incidentally to target species harvest. Historically, there has not been an aquarium trade or LRFFT for humphead wrasse in the CNMI.
<b>Guam</b>	Harvest records from 2007-2011 indicate that the species is not targeted as it is of lesser value among reef fish species (species ranks 20 out of 29 for reef and bottom fish based on 5-yr average price; species ranks 12 out of 17 for reef fish only). It is caught opportunistically via spear and consumed locally. With Federal annual catch limits allowing 5% of the estimated stock biomass of humphead wrasse to be landed, 5-year commercial landings for the species average 2,410 lbs/yr with an average price of \$2.78/lb. The species is not commercially exported (Guam Fishermen's Cooperative Association, 2013).
<b>PRIAs</b>	No known fishing; fishing for the species is strictly prohibited within 12 nm of the following areas: Rose Atoll, Howland, Baker, and Jarvis Islands, Kingman Reef, Johnston Atoll, Wake Atoll, and Palmyra Atoll (78 FR 32996, June 3, 2013).

**Table 2. Domestic humphead wrasse regulations and/or conservation actions by U.S. Territory.**

<b>American Samoa</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Listed as a rare marine species, it is prohibited to possess, deliver, carry, transport, ship, import, export, sell, offer for sale, take or kill the humphead wrasse. If the species is caught or captured, it shall be immediately released, whether dead or alive. It is not a defense that the species was caught or captured inadvertently, as bycatch, or from another fishery (American Samoa Executive Order 002- 2012).</li> <li>The National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa is comprised of six protected areas, covering 13,581 square miles of nearshore coral reef and offshore open ocean waters across the Samoan Archipelago (77 FR 43942). Destructive fishing methods such as poisons, electrical charges, and explosives are prohibited within the Sanctuary.</li> <li>Any type of fixed net or drift gill net is prohibited within the Sanctuary.</li> <li>SCUBA spearfishing is prohibited within the Sanctuary.</li> </ul>
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<b>CNMI</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Listed as a Species of Special Concern by CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife.*</li> <li>Four no-take MPAs are designated in the CNMI: Sasanhaya Fish Reserve on Rota; Mānagaha Marine Conservation Area surrounding Mānagaha Island on Saipan, as well as the Bird Island MPA, and Forbidden Island MPA.</li> <li>Explosives, poisons, electronic shocking devices, SCUBA, or hookah while fishing is prohibited.</li> <li>No person shall use drag nets/beach seines (Chenchulun and Iagua), trap net (Chenchulun managam), surround net (Chenchulun Umesugon) or gill nets (Tekken) for taking of fish or other sea life.</li> <li>No person shall possess, sell, or purchase any fish, game, marine, or other aquatic life taken by means prohibited in this section.</li> <li>Use of any of these nets or devices will result in the net or devices being confiscated and the owners will be subject to penalties (fines and/or imprisonment).</li> <li>Fishing gear that is substantially destructive to benthic substrate is prohibited.</li> <li>The sale or export of marine aquarium fish is prohibited.</li> </ul>
<b>Guam</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gill and surround gear net restrictions include: Surround nets must be removed within six hours of setting. All aquatic animals prohibited from take or which do not meet take requirements must be released immediately once determined to be in the net. All animals killed during the take must be recovered and removed from the waters of Guam (no marine finfish are “prohibited”). Gill nets for commercial harvest of aquatic animals is prohibited.</li> <li>Place-based fishing restrictions for the following marine preserves: Tumon Bay, Agana Boat Basin, Piti Bomb Holes, Sasa Bay, Achang Reef Flat, and Pati Point.</li> <li>Bill 11-32 (COR) – bans SCUBA spearfishing (introduced in January 2013 but not yet passed)</li> </ul>
<b>PRIAs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No fishing of any fish including the humphead wrasse within 12 nm of Rose Atoll, Howland, Baker, and Jarvis Islands, Kingman Reef, Johnston Atoll, Wake Atoll, and Palmyra Atoll. **</li> <li>Beyond 12 nm, only allowable fishing gear/methods are permitted.</li> </ul>

\* The CNMI's Division of Fish and Wildlife's designation of the humphead wrasse as a “Species of Special Concern” has no implications to harvest or management.

\*\*Essentially a complete ban on the collection of species since there is no coral reef habitat outside of 12 nm.

### Humphead Wrasse: Updates to Regulations, Management, and Trade:

**Table 3. Summary of Catch (lb) of Humphead Wrasse vs. Annual Catch Limit (ACL) for the three U.S. Pacific Island territories**

Territory	ACL	2014	2015	2016	2017*	Mean	% ACL - Mean	Max	% ACL - Max
American Samoa	1,743	0	0	10	0	2.5	0.1%	10	0.6%
Guam	1,960	98	143	77	2	80	4.1%	143	7.3%
CNMI	2,009	0	69	114	0	45.75	2.3%	114	5.7%
* ACLs not specified for 2017									

Sources: WPRFMC documents for SSC. If catch totals differed between reports, higher value used.

126th SSC - Evaluation of 2016 Catches Relative to its Respective Annual Catch Limits.

173rd SSC - Evaluation of 2017 Catches Relative to Respective Annual Catch Limits.



## Attachment 1

### CNMI

- Humphead wrasse were categorized as one of the 'Species of Greatest Conservation Need' in the [2015 Division of Fish and Wildlife Action Plan](#)
- The no-take MPAs have not changed.
- Gear restrictions remain the same, though you can use large nets on Rota with a local permit now.
- Penalties remain the same.

### Guam

- Rules remain the same - the only restriction is the marine preserves.
- There are no restrictions on harvesting humphead wrasse outside of the marine preserves.
- The scuba spear legislation was NOT passed.
- Local enforcement capacity has been on a steady decline, so preserve enforcement is limited.
- There has also been an increase in commercial fishing with a number of new fish stores opening over the past 5 years.
- The Department of the Navy has fishing instructions for the base that would help protect humphead wrasse, however, they do not have any enforcement program at this time. Spearfishing along the shoreline at the base is prohibited. There are also restrictions in the Navy's Ecological Reserve Areas at Pati Point and Orote Peninsula, but unsure of the current status for these rules. At this time, these rules seem to only be applied to military personnel and dependents and those accessing the water through Navy property.

### American Samoa

No further updates

