

CONVENCIÓN SOBRE EL COMERCIO INTERNACIONAL DE ESPECIES
AMENAZADAS DE FAUNA Y FLORA SILVESTRES



Septuagésima reunión del Comité Permanente
Rosa Khutor, Sochi (Federación de Rusia), 1-5 de octubre de 2018

Cuestiones específicas sobre las especies

PEZ NAPOLEÓN (*CHEILINUS UNDULATUS*):
INFORME DE LA SECRETARÍA

1. El presente documento ha sido preparado por la Secretaría.
2. En su 17ª reunión (CoP17, Johannesburgo, 2016), la Conferencia de las Partes adoptó las siguientes decisiones sobre el pez napoleón (*Cheilinus undulatus*):

Dirigida a las Partes

16.139 (Rev.CoP17)

A fin de aplicar de manera eficaz la inclusión del pez napoleón en el Apéndice II, las Partes deberían:

- a) *utilizar los documentos existentes enumerados en el párrafo 13 del documento CoP16 Doc. 62 (Rev. 1) en su aplicación de la inclusión del pez napoleón en el Apéndice II; e*
- b) *investigar las violaciones a la Convención y a la legislación nacional conexas notificadas en relación con el comercio de peces napoleón y tomar medidas de observancia apropiadas en virtud de su legislación nacional; y*

Además, los Estados del área de distribución y las Partes importadoras deberían reforzar la cooperación bilateral y regional, incluyendo el intercambio de información confidencial y las medidas de observancia.

Dirigida al Comité Permanente

15.87 (Rev. CoP17)

El Comité Permanente deberá:

- a) *examinar las medidas adoptadas por las Partes pertinentes para dar aplicación a la inclusión del pez napoleón en el Apéndice II;*
- b) *considerar si es necesario preguntar a los Estados del área de distribución y los países de importación que proporcionen nueva información sobre las medidas que han adoptado para garantizar la efectiva aplicación de la Convención en lo que concierne al comercio de esta especie;*

- c) *preparar, según proceda, recomendaciones para mejorar la reglamentación del comercio internacional de peces napoleón, y la observancia de controles, a fin de garantizar la eficacia de la inclusión de la especie en el Apéndice II; e*
- d) *informar sobre sus conclusiones y recomendaciones en lo que concierne a las correspondientes medidas de seguimiento a la Conferencia de las Partes en su 18ª reunión.*

Dirigida a la UICN

16.140 (Rev. CoP17)

El Grupo de Especialistas en Meros y Lábridos de la Unión Internacional para la Conservación de la Naturaleza (UICN) continúe apoyando a las Partes para lograr la pesca sostenible del pez napoleón y formular dictámenes de extracción no perjudicial de conformidad con la CITES.

Dirigida a la Secretaría

- 17.201 *Sujeto a la disponibilidad de financiación externa, la Secretaría deberá colaborar con la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura (FAO) en la realización de un proyecto de la FAO destinado a prestar asistencia a Indonesia para lograr una gestión y un comercio sostenibles del pez napoleón, y cooperar con la FAO para presentar un informe sobre los progresos y resultados de este proyecto al Comité Permanente.*
- 17.202 *La Secretaría deberá informar acerca de la aplicación de las decisiones sobre el pez napoleón (*Cheilinus undulatus*) en las reuniones 69ª o 70ª del Comité Permanente.*

Antecedentes

- 3. En su 69ª reunión (SC69, Ginebra, noviembre de 2017), el Comité Permanente aprobó las siguientes recomendaciones en apoyo de la aplicación de la Decisión 15.87 (Rev. CoP17) (véase el acta resumida de la 69ª reunión del Comité Permanente, páginas 48-49):
 - *El Comité Permanente felicita a Indonesia y la RAE de Hong Kong por su labor y los progresos alcanzados en relación con este asunto, especialmente en lo que respecta a la gestión de las capturas, los sistemas de producción, el control y seguimiento de la exportación e importación y la protección de los hábitats.*
 - *El Comité Permanente reconoce los adelantos logrados por Indonesia en la preparación de un plan nacional de acción actualizado, con la elaboración de un DENP que facilite el comercio internacional legal del pez napoleón, garantizando que este no sea una amenaza para su supervivencia.*
 - *El Comité Permanente aprecia los esfuerzos de colaboración del Grupo de Especialistas en Meros y Lábridos de la Unión Internacional para la Conservación de la Naturaleza (UICN), con la asistencia de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura (FAO), para avanzar hacia la producción y el comercio sostenibles del pez napoleón;*
 - *No obstante, el Comité Permanente reconoce además que aún se registra y observa el comercio ilegal de especímenes vivos y congelados, con escasos conocimientos acerca del origen del producto en el mercado.*
 - *El Comité Permanente alienta a los donantes a que pongan fondos adicionales a disposición de la Secretaría CITES, la FAO y la UICN de manera oportuna a fin de continuar prestando apoyo a Indonesia para lograr una gestión sostenible de la pesca de la especie, incluida la pesca en relación con la cría y los sistemas de producción novedosos, de conformidad con las Decisiones 16.140 (Rev. CoP17) y 17.201.*
 - *El Comité Permanente solicita a la Secretaría que publique otra notificación para solicitar a las Partes que compartan información sobre la reglamentación nacional en vigor para la gestión, la conservación y el comercio del pez napoleón, antes de la 70ª reunión del Comité Permanente (SC70).*

- *El Comité Permanente insta a los Estados de origen y consumidores de pez napoleón a que intercepten los envíos ilegales y, según proceda y en la medida posible, intercambien información sobre esas capturas y comercio ilegales con la Secretaría y con las autoridades CITES de las Partes correspondientes.*
- *El Comité Permanente reconoce que la práctica novedosa de cría de engorde en fase de crecimiento y cría en viveros de peces napoleón juveniles en lechos de algas en aguas poco profundas puede ofrecer importantes oportunidades de medios de vida y recuperación de las poblaciones para las que resultaría útil contar con más apoyo de investigaciones y la elaboración de políticas relacionadas con estas prácticas novedosas, entre otras cosas, para reducir al mínimo el riesgo de que ingresen en el mercado productos adquiridos en violación de la Convención y las leyes nacionales conexas.*
- *El Comité Permanente alienta a las Partes y los donantes a que colaboren en el desarrollo y el uso de técnicas de rastreo eficaces en función del costo, tales como tecnologías para el seguimiento de los buques que transportan peces vivos, reconocimiento de peces individuales y técnicas de rastreo para contribuir a que se excluyan del mercado los productos adquiridos en violación de la Convención y las leyes nacionales conexas.*
- *El Comité Permanente acuerda considerar en su 70ª reunión la información proporcionada por los Estados del área de distribución, comerciales y de mercado para determinar si se requieren otras intervenciones, por ejemplo, proyectos de decisión adicionales sometidos a la 18ª reunión de la Conferencia de las Partes, para abordar adecuadamente las violaciones de la Convención denunciadas y las leyes nacionales conexas.*

Información nueva recibida desde la 69ª reunión del Comité Permanente

4. En respuesta a la petición del Comité Permanente, la Secretaría envió la Notificación a las Partes No. 2018/066 del 4 de julio de 2018 para pedir a las Partes que compartieran información sobre la legislación nacional vigente relativa a la gestión, la conservación y el comercio del pez napoleón antes de la 70ª reunión del Comité Permanente.
5. La Secretaría recibió cinco respuestas a la Notificación No. 2018/066 de Australia, China, Singapur, Tailandia y los Estados Unidos de América. Las respuestas figuran en el Anexo 2 del presente (en el idioma en que fueron enviadas); se resumen de la siguiente manera:
 - a) **Australia:** Australia proporciona información sobre la gestión de las pesquerías en los ámbitos nacional y subnacional, y sobre las medidas existentes en el país para la protección del pez napoleón, entre ellas, la Ley sobre la protección del medio ambiente y de la diversidad biológica de 1999. La única pesquería comercial de la especie para la exportación está limitada a 50 ejemplares por año. Desde el 2 de enero de 2017, Australia ha emitido tres permisos de exportación CITES correspondientes a un total de 53 especímenes vivos de pez napoleón.
 - b) **China:** China resume las actividades realizadas por China, la RAE de Hong Kong (China) y la RAE de Macao (China), incluyendo información sobre la legislación, el comercio y la aplicación de las leyes. Hay importaciones del pez napoleón a la China continental y a la RAE de Hong Kong (China). La RAE de Hong Kong (China) informa de importaciones procedentes de Indonesia, tanto de especímenes silvestres como de especímenes de piscifactoría.
 - c) **Singapur:** Singapur resume su aplicación de la Convención, en lo que se refiere al pez napoleón, en el marco de su Ley sobre (la importación y exportación de) especies amenazadas, incluyendo las actividades de concienciación relacionadas. Las transacciones comerciales de Singapur son escasas y de muy poco volumen.
 - d) **Tailandia:** Tailandia resume su normativa nacional relativa al pez napoleón en el marco de la "Notificación del Ministerio de recursos naturales y medio ambiente sobre la prohibición de la exportación e importación de especímenes vivos o muertos de fauna silvestre", de fecha 12 de abril de 2017, e informa de que no se ha emitido permiso alguno relativo a la especie.
 - e) **Estados Unidos de América:** Estados Unidos resume las actividades pesqueras y las medidas de gestión relativas al pez napoleón en cuatro territorios de los Estados Unidos. Solo hay pequeñas capturas de la especie y según la base de datos sobre el comercio CITES, no se han realizado exportaciones.

6. Con respecto a los especímenes procedentes de Indonesia mencionados en el informe de China, la Secretaría señala la Notificación a las Partes No. 2018/022 del 27 de febrero de 2018 que fue enviada por la Secretaría a solicitud de Indonesia. Aunque Indonesia tiene establecido un cupo anual voluntario de exportación para 2018 de 1800 ejemplares vivos de pez napoleón extraídos del medio silvestre que únicamente pueden ser exportados por vía aérea, en la Notificación se aclara que estas restricciones no se aplican, en determinadas condiciones, a los especímenes de pez napoleón procedentes de la cría en granjas en el mar (código de origen R), con un tamaño específico entre 1000 y 3000 gramos.
7. En lo concerniente a la Decisión 17.201, la Secretaría ha trabajado en colaboración estrecha con la FAO para intentar conseguir financiación externa para la aplicación de esta Decisión. No obstante, en la fecha de redacción del presente documento, esa financiación externa todavía no se había conseguido.

Discusión y conclusiones

8. La Secretaría señala que desde la aprobación de la Decisión 15.87 en la 15ª reunión de la Conferencia de las Partes (Doha, 2010), se ha trabajado significativamente para mejorar la efectividad de la inclusión de la especie en el Apéndice II, y los volúmenes y pautas del comercio también han variado considerablemente, tal y como se puede apreciar en el gráfico 1, siendo Australia e Indonesia actualmente los únicos países exportadores destacados.

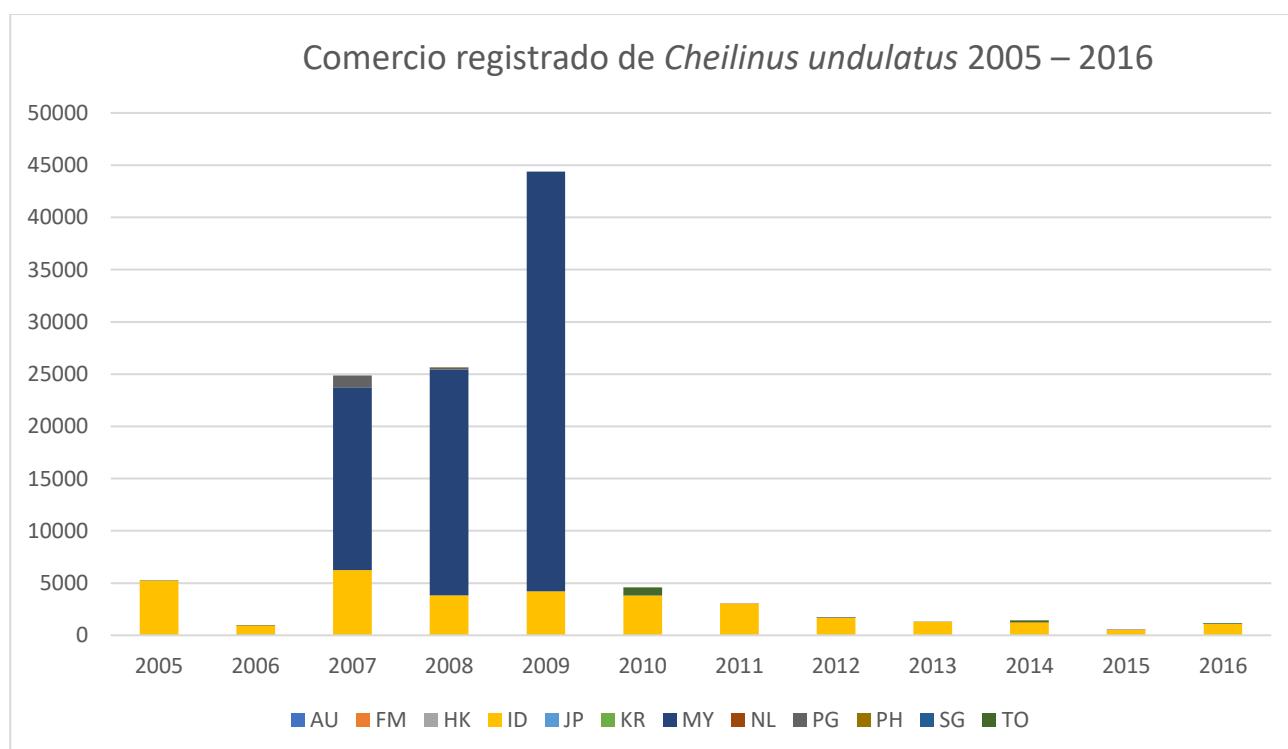


Fig.1: Comercio de *Cheilinus undulatus* registrado en la Base de datos sobre el comercio CITES 2005-2016 (acceso del 02.08.2018). Los años están representados en el eje vertical y el volumen del comercio en el eje horizontal (unidad = número de ejemplares); los países exportadores están representados por colores.

9. No obstante, la Secretaría señala que, debido a la falta de financiación externa, no se ha podido prestar la asistencia solicitada a la FAO y a la CITES en la Decisión 17.201 para que Indonesia pueda lograr una gestión y un comercio sostenibles de *Cheilinus undulatus*.
10. La Secretaría señala que en caso de que hubiese un incremento del volumen del comercio de *Cheilinus undulatus* en el futuro y existiese preocupación sobre la posibilidad de que ese comercio fuera perjudicial para la supervivencia de la especie en el medio silvestre, tales casos podrían ser remitidos al proceso de Examen del Comercio Significativo [Resolución Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17)] o al Examen del comercio de especímenes de fauna declarados como producidos en cautividad (Resolución Conf.17.7), en función del código de origen de los especímenes. Además, se supone que el nuevo informe sobre el comercio ilegal que las Partes tienen que presentar, de conformidad a la Resolución Conf. 11.17 (Rev. CoP17) sobre *Informes nacionales*, aporte información en caso de cualquier presunto incumplimiento futuro de la Convención con respecto a *Cheilinus undulatus*.

11. Basándose en estas observaciones, la Secretaría ha preparado el proyecto de Decisión que figura en el Anexo 1 para que sea examinado por el Comité Permanente durante la presente reunión y para que se tenga en consideración en el contexto del cumplimiento del mandato establecido en la Decisión 15.87 (Rev. CoP17) de informar sobre sus conclusiones a la Conferencia de las Partes en su 18ª reunión.

Recomendaciones

12. Se invita al Comité Permanente a:

- a) examinar la información contenida en el presente documento y sus Anexos; y
- b) proponer que se apruebe el proyecto de Decisión que figura en el Anexo 1 del presente cuando presente su informe de conformidad con el párrafo d) de la Decisión 15.87 (Rev. CoP17) en la 18ª reunión de la Conferencia de las Partes.

Proyecto de decisión preparado por la Secretaría

Dirigida a la Secretaría

Dec. 18.AA

Sujeto a la disponibilidad de financiación externa, la Secretaría de la CITES solicitará a la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura (FAO) y el Grupo de Especialistas en Meros y Lábridos de la Unión Internacional para la Conservación de la Naturaleza (UICN) que colaboren con la Secretaría con el fin de prestar asistencia, a los principales países exportadores e importadores de *Cheilinus undulatus* que así lo soliciten, para resolver las dificultades que persisten para la aplicación de la CITES y lograr la gestión y el comercio sostenibles y bien regulados de la especie.

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). 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).
- (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 (*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

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) 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.

American Samoa	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.
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands	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.
Guam	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).
PRIAs	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.

American Samoa	- 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). - 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. - Any type of fixed net or drift gill net is prohibited within the Sanctuary. - SCUBA spearfishing is prohibited within the Sanctuary.
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CNMI	- Listed as a Species of Special Concern by CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife.* - 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. - Explosives, poisons, electronic shocking devices, SCUBA, or hookah while fishing is prohibited. - 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. - No person shall possess, sell, or purchase any fish, game, marine, or other aquatic life taken by means prohibited in this section. - 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). - Fishing gear that is substantially destructive to benthic substrate is prohibited. - The sale or export of marine aquarium fish is prohibited.
Guam	- 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. - 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. - Bill 11-32 (COR) – bans SCUBA spearfishing (introduced in January 2013 but not yet passed)
PRIAs	- 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. ** - Beyond 12 nm, only allowable fishing gear/methods are permitted.

* 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

