

CITES UPDATE

Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora & Fauna

Midwest Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies

July 13, 2004
Bismarck, North Dakota

Issues of Importance to the MAFWA

Deletion of *Lynx rufus* from Appendix II of CITES

The United States has submitted a delisting proposal for the *Lynx rufus* from Appendix II of CITES for the Convention of the Parties (COP)13 in Bangkok, Thailand in October. The bobcat was listed on Appendix II because it looks so much like the other more rare spotted cats that there is the potential for "laundering." The bobcat was only one of the many "look-alike" listings that were made in the early days of CITES. Many listings were fostered by protectionists with the ultimate goal of eliminating trade in otherwise secure populations.

Bobcats are legally harvested in 38 U.S. states as well as regions of Canada and Mexico. Bobcat harvests in North America have varied due to changes in pelt value and fur harvest intensity for other species. Although bobcat harvests increased during 1976-1984, recent harvest levels in the United States have been comparable to those observed prior to CITES listing. Woolf and Hubert (1998) concluded that, based on harvest-associated data, it was unlikely that bobcat populations were reduced during high harvest years; rather, these populations were thought to have remained stable.

Cal DuBrock, NEAFWA CITES Representative has been the principal author of the delisting materials. To view the complete proposal visit the CITES website @ <http://www.cites.org/eng/cop/13/props/E13-P05.pdf>

Work Group on CITES Implementation—Furbearers

A work group formed in 2003 consisting of IAFWA International Relations, Furbearer Resources, and Law Enforcement Committee Members and the USFWS to undertake an in-depth study of the Appendix II Export Program specifically related to furbearers (i.e., river otters and bobcats). Gordon Batcheller with the NY Division of Fish, Wildlife & Marine Resources serves as chair. Both otters and bobcats listed in Appendix II as "look alike" species require tagging for export and an annual USFWS determination of a "no detriment" finding. In addition, extensive documentation is required for states applying for export authority.

States were surveyed to solicit their opinion on the current process and methods for improvements. Based on recommendations of the work group members, tags produced for 2004-05 will have no year indication for 28 states and 7 tribes and year designations will still be produced for 16 other states. The group will continue to work to streamline the export process and resolve issues of concern voiced by the states.

USA Considers Listing Alligator Snapping Turtles & all Species of Map Turtle in Appendix III

Information on all state herpetofauna regulations is being compiled by the IAFWA to appropriately advise the CITES Secretariat of the USA's intention to list the alligator snapping turtle (*Macrochelys [Macrochelys] temminckii*) and all species of map turtle (*Graptemys spp.*) in Appendix III. This information will be used by the USFWS's Division of Management Authority to make a legal acquisition finding for any permit applications received for wild speci-

mens. The Appendix III approach doesn't change any management responsibilities and relies on extant regulations and authorities in the states, hence the importance of accurate state information. The United States has never had any Appendix III listings. Appendix III is an export trade monitoring system. Species can be added and removed by the range state at any time.



<http://www.cites.org/>

Multi State Grant Application Submitted for CITES Team

On June 10th, a Multi State Grant application was submitted on behalf of the four regional association presidents by Don MacLauchlan to assure that through Regional Fish and Wildlife Associations' representation, all 50 state fish and wildlife agencies have the ability to monitor and participate in meetings of the various international conventions and protocols where state competencies are threatened, and to represent member agencies in those meetings. Participation and protection of state members' interests in CITES are principal concerns.

The Associations have been represented in CITES meetings regularly over the last eight years. During the last few years, a representative has followed all CITES notices and attended the Conventions of the Parties as well as the Animals and Plants Committees.

In addition to direct participation in CITES meetings, the CITES Team has fostered a positive relationship with the USFWS personnel who administer CITES and provide a unified voice on behalf of the state wildlife agencies.

IAFWA CITES

Technical Subcommittee's Mission

To advocate for state management of fish and wildlife at various CITES meetings by promoting a worldwide understanding of the critical role of the states in North American resource management and positively influencing global decisions that effect state management programs.

Meetings Attended on Behalf of the MAFWA

- * IAFWA Annual Meeting, September 2003; Madison, Wisconsin
- * North American Wildlife & Natural Resource Conference, March 2004; Spokane, Washington
- * CITES: Animals Committee Meeting, March 2004; Johannesburg, South Africa

CITES Team:

Roles & Responsibilities

- Ensuring State's Authority is Maintained
- Keeping the State Wildlife Directors Informed
- Serving as a Liaison Between the States & USFWS
- Providing Objective Input on CITES Issues
- Identifying & Recommending Ways to Improve CITES and its Implementation



Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Caldwell

Wildlife Management & Research Group
Division of Wildlife, ODNR
1840 Belcher Drive
Columbus, Ohio 43224
614.265.6329 phone
614.262.1143 fax
carolyn.caldwell@dnr.state.oh.us