

# **2020 MAFWA Committee Report on the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)**

## **MEETINGS TIME & PLACE**

(meetings that were attended by at least one CITES Technical Work Group Representative)

CITES 18<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties, August 2019; Geneva, Switzerland

109<sup>th</sup> AFWA Annual Meeting, September 2019; St. Paul, MN

Joint State/Federal CITES Meeting & AFWA International Relations Committee

CITES Technical Work Group/USFWS International Affairs, March 2020; Falls Church, VA

85<sup>th</sup> North American Wildlife & Natural Resource Conference, March 2020; Omaha NE

CITES Technical Work Group Meeting & AFWA International Relations Committee

CITES Interagency Coordination Committee, hosted quarterly by USFWS in Washington DC

CITES Technical Work Group also conducted business via numerous conference calls

## **CITES TECHNICAL WORK GROUP REPRESENTATIVES**

Carolyn Caldwell- MAFWA (MAFWA CITES Technical Work Group Representative)

Michael Bednarski-NEAFWA (Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries)

Buddy Baker- SEAFWA (Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries)

Jim deVos- WAFWA (Arizona Game & Fish Department)

Deborah Hahn- Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies

Rick Jacobson- U.S. CITES Delegate Representing the State Fish & Wildlife Agencies and

International Relations Committee Co-Chair (Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection)

## **CITES OVERVIEW**

The Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) is an international trade agreement among 182 countries (and the European Union) to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten species' survival. CITES works by subjecting international trade in specimens of selected species to certain controls. These require that all imports, exports, re-exports, and introductions from the sea of species covered by CITES have to be authorized. The species covered by CITES are listed in three Appendices, according to the degree of protection they need. Appendix I includes species threatened with extinction. Trade in specimens of these species is only permitted in exceptional circumstances. Appendix II includes species not necessarily threatened with extinction, but for whom trade must be controlled in order to avoid utilization incompatible with their survival. Appendix III contains species that are protected in at least one country, which has asked other CITES countries for assistance in documenting trade.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Office of International Affairs, administers CITES for the United States. The USFWS solicits input and feedback on issues of importance from the state fish and wildlife agencies through the CITES Technical Work Group of the International Relations Committee of AFWA. The Technical Work Group consists of one representative from each of the four regional associations who work on behalf of states in concert with the USFWS on CITES matters. This state-federal partnership has been effectively working since 1994.

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OVERVIEW**

CITES updates presented in greater detail include: 1) CITES 18th Conference of the Parties; 2) China Prohibits the Consumption of Terrestrial Wildlife Taken From the Wild; 3) Case Study: U.S.

Freshwater Turtles and Tortoises in International Trade; and 4) CITES Technical Work Group/USFWS International Affairs Meeting.

### **DIRECTOR ACTION ITEM**

No action items at this time.

### **DIRECTOR INFORMATION ITEMS**

#### **CITES 18th Conference of the Parties**

The signatories or Parties to CITES gather every three years to amend species lists and make policy decisions at the Conference of the Parties (CoP). The CITES Technical Work Group (Carolyn Caldwell (MAFWA), Buddy Baker (SEAFWA), Jim deVos (WAFWA) and Deb Hahn (AFWA)) represented the state fish and wildlife agencies and where applicable the Provinces and Territories at the 18th CoP in Geneva, Switzerland from August 17-28, 2019. AFWA International Relations Committee Co-chair Rick Jacobson (Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection) served as the state representative on the U.S. Delegation. The CITES Secretariat, because of a change in meeting venue, constrained participant registrations which resulted in Mike Bednarski (NEAFWA) not being able to attend as the new NEAFWA representative.

A record 140 documents proposing new measures and policies on international trade were submitted to the CoP for consideration. Fifty-seven proposals to amend the species listed in Appendix I and II were also considered. Issues included but were not limited to eels, coral, paddlefish, turtles, and sea cucumber conservation; captive bred and ranched specimens; traceability of wildlife; rural communities and livelihoods; and the 2021-2030 CITES Strategic Vision. One thousand seven hundred Party delegates, observers, and journalists attended including 169 member governments and the European Union as well as Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) representing groups from the Humane Society International to the Wildlife Conservation Society to the Safari Club International Foundation. In her opening remarks, the new CITES Secretary-General Ivonne Higuero stated, "It is our opportunity to advance the role of CITES in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity...As an environmental economist, I believe that creative ways need to be explored so that the costs of conservation and enforcement are recognized. Custodians of wildlife and local communities play a vital role in managing wildlife and deserve to be rewarded. The contribution of conservation and legal wildlife trade to sustainable development is evident. It provides for our food, our well-being, our jobs and economic development." Ms. Higuero is a Panama national who grew up in Missouri and received a Bachelors in Biology from the University of Missouri and a Masters in Natural Resource Economics and Policy from Duke University. The CITES Technical Work Group participated in working group meetings and attended numerous side events while continuing to develop relationships with CITES partners and promote sustainable use principles for the management and conservation of species around the globe. The CoP18 CITES Technical Work Group report is attached.

#### **China Prohibits the Consumption of Any Terrestrial Wildlife Taken From the Wild**

On March 5<sup>th</sup> the CITES Secretariat published a Notification from China regarding wildlife trade. The Notification clarified the February 24<sup>th</sup> Decision from the Chinese government to prohibit the consumption of any terrestrial wildlife taken from the wild. It excludes aquatic wildlife, wild plants, and farmed amphibians and reptiles. Non-consumptive use of wild terrestrial animals for scientific research, medicinal use, and display, continue to be regulated by existing laws.

The decision by the Chinese government was in response to reports suggesting the link between the sale of live wildlife held in tight quarters in a heavily utilized open market setting and COVID-

19 pandemic. Since then there has been a heightened interest in zoonotic disease and the role of wildlife trade in the pandemic. As result there has been a call for the complete ban of all import and export of live wildlife and the strengthening of the CITES treaty to prohibit international commercial wildlife trade to reduce the risk of future pandemics. Approximately 5,000 wild animal species are listed on CITES Appendix II, which allows for regulated international trade as long as it is legal and sustainable, and another 670 species listed on Appendix I, which prohibits all international trade for commercial purposes. CITES deals with threatened or potentially threatened species that are at risk from international trade and aims to ensure their conservation in the wild. CITES has no mandate to regulate or prohibit trade that may threaten the health of people, livestock, or other wildlife. The large majority of wildlife species internationally traded for human consumption are not covered by CITES. It is unlikely that amending the CITES treaty to include species that are not threatened by international trade would be adopted by the two thirds majority vote of the member countries.

### **Case Study: U.S. Freshwater Turtles and Tortoises in International Trade**

The CITES Technical Work Group is developing a case study document on "U.S. Freshwater Turtles and Tortoises in International Trade" which was started last summer by an AFWA intern working for Deb Hahn. Our goal is to provide current information on the international demand and trade in U.S. species of freshwater turtles and tortoises and to identify information gaps and future steps needed so that appropriate management and regulatory decisions are implemented at the state, regional, and national level to ensure wild turtle populations are sustainable. The document should be available later this summer.

### **CITES Technical Work Group/USFWS International Affairs Meeting**

The CITES Technical Work Group meets at least twice annually with the USFWS International Affairs staff to discuss pertinent CITES issues and plan for upcoming meetings. We met in March at USFWS Headquarters for a full day session and discussed a broad range of topics. The USFWS staff was fully engaged in our meeting and continues to demonstrate a sincere desire to work cooperatively with the states. We participated in a brown bag lunch presentation open to all branches of the USFWS where we shared a presentation highlighting the role of the CITES Technical Work Group (Attachment 2).

### **TIME & PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next CITES meeting would have been the 31<sup>st</sup> Animals Committee scheduled for July 13-17<sup>th</sup>. However, on May 28<sup>th</sup> the CITES Secretariat announced the meeting was postponed until 2021. The 73<sup>rd</sup> Standing Committee is scheduled for October 5-10<sup>th</sup> in Geneva. Our CITES team will participate and engage in agenda items relevant to the states. It is likely that significant discussions will occur concerning live wildlife markets.

Respectfully submitted May 29, 2020, by

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# CITES Technical Work Group Report



## Report of the Eighteenth meeting of the CITES Conference of the Parties 17-28 August 2019 Geneva, Switzerland

### INTRODUCTION:

The CITES Technical Work Group (Team) (Buddy Baker (Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries), Carolyn Caldwell (MAFWA CITES Technical Work Group Representative), Jim deVos (Arizona Game and Fish Department) and Deb Hahn (Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA)) represented the state fish and wildlife agencies and where applicable the Provinces and Territories at the 18th Conference of the Parties (CoP) in Geneva, Switzerland. AFWA International Relations Committee Co-chair Rick Jacobson (Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection) served as the state representative on the U.S. Delegation. The CITES Secretariat, because of a change in meeting venue, constrained participant registrations which resulted in Mike Bednarski (Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries) not being able to attend as the new Northeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies representative.

### SUMMARY:

A record 140 documents proposing new measures and policies on international trade were submitted to the CoP for consideration. Fifty-seven proposals to amend the species listed in Appendix I and II were also considered. Issues included but were not limited to eels, coral, paddlefish, turtle, and sea cucumber conservation; captive bred and ranched specimens; traceability of wildlife; rural communities and livelihoods; and the 2021-2030 CITES Strategic Vision. One thousand seven hundred Party delegates, observers, and journalists attended including 169 member governments and the European Union as well as Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) representing groups from the Humane Society International to the Wildlife Conservation Society to the Safari Club International Foundation. In her opening remarks, the new CITES Secretary-General Ivonne Higuero stated, "It is our opportunity to advance the role of CITES in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity...As an environmental economist, I believe that creative ways need to be explored so that the costs of conservation and enforcement are recognized. Custodians of wildlife and local communities play a vital role in managing wildlife and deserve to be rewarded. The contribution of conservation and legal wildlife trade to sustainable development is evident. It provides for our food, our well-being, our jobs and economic development." Ms. Higuero is a Panama national who grew up in Missouri and received a Bachelors in Biology from the University of Missouri and a Masters in Natural Resource Economics and Policy from Duke University.

### KEY OUTCOMES:

1. The 2021-2030 CITES Strategic Vision was approved with numerous references to supporting sustainable use and trade.
2. The document on traceability was approved with minor changes proposed by the U.S. to ensure that it was clear that the recommendations were voluntary, and that the definition was not an officially adopted CITES definition.
3. No decisions were agreed to that would impose new conservation or management requirements on the states, Provinces or Territories for American eel, coral, seahorses, turtles, or paddlefish conservation.
4. The Mexican population of *Crocodylus acutus* (American crocodile) was transferred from Appendix I to Appendix II. With the Teams urging, an intervention by the U.S. stated that Mexico has work to do in terms of a management plan which should include consultation with the range countries of which the U.S. is one.
5. Shortfin and longfin mako sharks were listed in Appendix II.
6. A proposal to list three species of teatfish (sea cucumber) in Appendix II was approved. Two of the species (*Holothuria (Microthele) whitmaei* (black teatfish) and *Holothuria (Microthele) fuscogilva* (white teatfish)) occur in U.S. waters. The listings should not impact their conservation and management by the states.
7. The proposal to list woolly mammoth in Appendix II was withdrawn .
8. The Team noted an increased number of overarching documents seeking actions related to non-CITES listing species such as those submitted for songbirds and amphibians. It remains to be seen whether this will continue and/or become a burden to CITES implementation at the domestic level.



# CITES Technical Work Group Report

**[Traceability of Wildlife in Trade](#)** (CoP18 Doc. 42 (Rev.1)): Following efforts by an intersessional working group, the Standing Committee put forward a definition of Traceability. While our participation in the working group resulted in a proposed definition that was much less prescriptive than others, we felt that the proposed wording was still less than ideal. In support of the states, the U.S. Delegation proposed amendments to the draft decisions to ensure that the wording of the traceability definition and guidance is clearly non-binding and voluntary. The decisions were adopted with the U.S. amendments.

**[CITES 2021-2030 Strategic Vision](#)** (CoP18 Doc. 10): The Team participated on the Standing Committee Strategic Vision Working Group established in December 2017. The goal was to incorporate more sustainable-use friendly language into the 2021-2030 Strategic Vision at CoP18. The Team supported the document submitted to the CoP that supported sustainable use and trade. The Vision was further strengthened by edits made during the CoP and approved.

**[Eels, Including the American Eel](#)** (CoP18 Doc. 63): The document adopted included recommendations for non-CITES listed eels (e.g., American eel) that were voluntary and should be easy for the states to address over the next few years. The IUCN American eel assessment will likely occur in 2020. The Team will continue to engage with the European Union and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission.



**[Identification of Sturgeon and Paddlefish in Trade](#)** (CoP18 Doc. 54.3): The document on sturgeon and paddlefish was approved and did not result in any new requirements. Moving forward the emphasis will be on looking at the challenges to implementing the universal labelling system for the trade in and identification of caviar of Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP17) considering the shift in source from wild to aquaculture.

**[Precious Corals](#)** (CoP18 Doc. 64): The document was approved without changes. The decisions request the Animals Committee to analyze the outcomes of the precious coral survey and the FAO study and prepare recommendations, as appropriate, on actions needed to enhance the conservation and sustainable harvest and use of all precious corals in international trade. The Team will work with the impacted states to review the report to make sure it is accurate and acceptable for the state agencies.



Photo by IISD/Kiara Worth

**[Proposals to Amend the Appendices](#)** (CoP18 Doc. 105): There were a record 57 proposals to increase or decrease controls on international trade of species in the CITES Appendices. While no proposals were highly controversial or concerning to the state, Provinces, and Territories, there appears to be a movement away from science-based decision making for listing species in the Appendices. Some have suggested the goal may be to list as many taxa as possible in Appendix I, irrespective of whether the listing criteria are satisfied, in the mistaken belief that an Appendix I listing and the attendant prohibition of trade will solve conservation problems.

**[Conservation of Amphibians](#)** (CoP18 Doc. 62 (Rev.1)): Costa Rica submitted a document on amphibian conservation. The document recommended general actions that included many non-CITES listed species. A working group was created to reduce the scope of the draft decisions. The updated draft decisions include identifying amphibians in trade, evaluating whether current levels are sustainable, gathering harvest information, and examining current enforcement efforts in an effort to advance recommendations to the next CoP.

**[Songbird Trade and Conservation Management](#)** (CoP18 Doc. 79): The U.S. and Sri Lanka submitted a document on the songbird trade that recommended the examination of the conservation implications of the songbird trade. A working group was created to clarify the draft decisions. The updated draft decisions recommend an analysis of the scale and scope of the songbird trade and a development of a workshop to provide information to the next Animals Committee for potential action.



# CITES Technical Work Group Report

**Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles** (CoP18 Doc. 88): The document submitted to the CoP contained edits to a resolution on tortoise and freshwater turtle conservation which the Team supported. The document was approved. Future discussions will focus on the development of a guide on categories of turtle parts and derivatives in trade and arranging an enforcement meeting.

**Guidance for Making Legal Acquisition Findings** (CoP18 Doc. 39): The Parties have spent considerable time developing guidance to Parties on how to make a legal acquisition finding. A draft resolution that is non-binding guidance was developed and submitted to the CoP. With a few edits that improve the draft resolution, it was approved. The Team will monitor its implementation and potential implications for chain of custody and traceability of CITES-listed species and therefore their management.

**Rural Communities/Livelihoods** (CoP18 Docs. 17.1 and 18.1 (Rev.1)): CITES Parties continue to struggle to find a path forward to engage rural, indigenous, and local communities in CITES. An in-meeting working group was formed to consider developing a working group that would recommend a strategy on engaging rural, indigenous, and local communities to the next CoP.



**American Crocodile Proposal** (CoP18 Prop. 22): Mexico submitted a proposal to transfer the Mexican population of American crocodile from Appendix I to Appendix II. The Mexican down listing proposal for *C. acutus* passed without opposition. As promised, Mexico added an amendment from the floor for a zero quota for wild specimens. IUCN supported as did several countries. The U.S. intervened to support. At our request, the U.S. intervention also included a caution that before any quotas are considered, Mexico has work to do in terms of a management plan which should include consultation with the range states of which U.S. is one.

**Woolly Mammoth Proposal** (CoP18 Prop. 13): Israel submitted a proposal to list woolly mammoth in Appendix II. In the end, the proposal was withdrawn and a new decision was submitted that directs the CITES Secretariat, subject to external funding, to conduct a study concerning trade of mammoth ivory and what impact that has on illegal trade of elephant ivory. They are to report findings to the Standing Committee. The proposed decisions were accepted by consensus.



**Small-clawed Otter and the Smooth-coated Otter Proposal** (CoP18 Props. 6 & 7): The Team was interested in these proposals as they might relate to or impact river otter an Appendix II listed species. The proposals recommended transferring the two species from Appendix II to Appendix I. Both proposals highlighted an undefined increase in trade for the pet market with some information on population declines in the wild. Both proposals were approved. The U.S. voted yes.

**Inclusion of Species in Appendix III** (CoP18 Doc. 100): The Team was satisfied with the draft decisions and the edits to Resolution 9.25 (Rev. CoP17) in the document submitted to the CoP. The discussion of the document in plenary was brief with minor changes to its content before being adopted. The Team will continue to monitor this issue.

**Sea Cucumber Proposal** (CoP18 Prop. 45): The European Union's (EU) proposal to list three species of sea cucumber in Appendix II was adopted. Hawaii and the U.S. Pacific territories are included in two species' ranges. However, the states are at the edge of the species range, there is no international trade, and, in some cases, harvest is banned. The Team has spoken with the EU in the past and reminded them that the state agencies manage the species. This listing should not impact their conservation and management.

**Mako Shark Proposal** (CoP18 Prop. 42): There was considerable discussion around the proposal from Mexico to list these shark species on Appendix II. There were many interventions, both for and against including a debate on population trends. A vote by secret ballot was requested by Japan. The proposal was adopted with the support of 71% of the Parties. The U.S. voted against the proposal.



# CITES Technical Work Group Report



## Additional Meetings, Discussions, and Side Events of Note

- **Electronic permitting:** The Team continues to have discussions with USFWS, the wood products and musical instrument industry, and others to determine how we can support and guide USFWS efforts to advance development of both interim and long-term improvements to permitting, with the ultimate goal of online application, processing, and permit issuance.
- **American Alligator:** Outside of the context of CITES, some of the Team met with alligator farmers from Louisiana and members of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Crocodile Specialist Group to discuss trade and policy issues in the U.S. In addition, our Team met with the Ireland delegation to address their concerns about levels of “wild” American alligator products on the world market. They indicated that they were satisfied following the discussion.
- **Meeting with the CITES Secretary-General Ivonne Higuero:** The Team met with the new CITES Secretary-General. Ms. Higuero shared some perspectives on sustainable use and livelihoods that were positive. We discussed ways the states might assist with sustainable use issues in CITES.
- **Sustainable Use and Livelihoods Side Events:** There were two side events that promoted sustainable use and community livelihoods. They highlighted examples of community-based conservation efforts that include trade and support both species conservation and livelihoods. Examples included polar bear conservation in Canada, crocodile conservation in Kenya and Australia, etc. More information and fact sheets are located [here](#).
- **Sustainable Harvest and Trade of Wild Meat:** The side event included presentations from the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management (CPW), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), IUCN, and TRAFFIC. They discussed several aspects of the sustainable use and trade of wild meat and provided examples of its use from around the world including in Canada through the Wild Harvest Initiative.
- **International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) Dinner:** The CIC hosted a dinner for numerous organizations and entities that support the sustainable use of wildlife. It was a good opportunity for some Team members to engage with sustainable use partners across the globe.
- **CBD and CITES:** A panel discussed how sustainable trade and sustainable use could be integrated into the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework being developed by the Convention on Biological Diversity. They proposed some interesting options that will assist the states in considering their comments on the Framework.
- **Polar Bear and CITES:** The international branch of the German Naturschutzbund (NABU) hosted the side event and called for a renewed effort to uplist polar bear at the next CoP. They presented information from a report they have published (*Sold Out. Polar Bears: Caught Between Skin Trade, Climate Change and Guns*). They stated that the report has evidence that there is insufficient control of trade in polar bear skins and that trade in polar bears is not sustainable.
- **Southeast Asian Reptile Conservation Alliance (SARCA):** SARCA provided an overview of the reptile skin trade (snakes & lizards) in southeastern Asian countries and the structure and mission of SARCA. The SARCA’s work is helping ensure sustainable trade, reducing incentives for illegal trade, and promoting animal welfare strategies. SARCA includes partners from the luxury products industry, government (i.e., Malaysian CITES Authority), intergovernmental, and non-governmental members. The presenters demonstrated how sustainable use of wild caught specimens can be a tool for species conservation and provide social, cultural, and economic benefits to local communities.
- **Small-clawed Otter in the Pet Trade:** This side event was an emotion-based presentation on the ills of keeping live otters as pets with a plea to support an Appendix I listing for the small-clawed otter. While we were unable to get an explanation about the relevance to CITES and trade data on the species, the question we raised effectively reminded the attendees that CITES is a scientific-based trade treaty and not an emotionally-based animal rights treaty.
- **Non-CITES Listed Trade Enforcement:** A meeting with members of the U.S. Delegation, including Rick Jacobson, was held with members of the Republic of Korean Delegation to begin exploration of opportunities to enhance trade enforcement in non-CITES listed species. Follow up discussions are planned for fall 2019.
- **Seahorse Conservation:** Project Seahorse and the IUCN have developed a web-based tool kit that provides relevant information related to management of seahorses. It can be found at [www.iucn-seahorse.org/cites-toolkit](http://www.iucn-seahorse.org/cites-toolkit).

### CITES Technical Work Group:

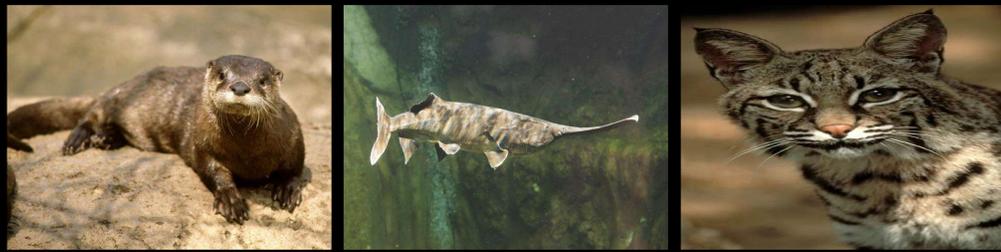
Mike Bednarski: NEAFWA CITES Representative  
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Staff: Deb Hahn: Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies  
Rick Jacobson: U.S. CITES Delegate for State Fish & Wildlife Agencies



To learn more about the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, visit the CITES website at: <http://www.cites.org/>

# CITES Technical Work Group

**Dedicated to preserving state fish and wildlife agency authority and promoting their interests in the implementation of CITES**



1



**Carolyn Caldwell (2003)**  
Terrestrial Endangered Species & Wildlife Diversity Program  
Ohio Division of Wildlife (retired)



**Michael Bednarski (2019)**  
Chief of the Aquatic Wildlife Resources Division  
Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries



**Jim deVos (2013)**  
Assistant Director for Wildlife Management  
Arizona Game & Fish Department



**Deborah Hahn (2011)**  
International Relations Director  
Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies  
Arizona Game & Fish Department (unpaid employee)



**Buddy Baker (2004)**  
Chief of Wildlife Management for the Coastal & Non-game Division  
Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries

2



**Each Technical Work Group representative serves at the pleasure of the Directors of their Regional Association**

**Collectively the 4 regional representatives form the CITES Technical Work Group of the International Relations Committee of AFWA**

3

**CITES Technical Work Group Represents all 50 State Fish & Wildlife Agencies.**

**Implemented in 1994, this approach has proven more efficient and cost effective than each State Fish & Wildlife Agency engaging independently in the CITES process.**



4

## **CITES Federal/State Coordination Procedure**

**Penned in 1997 and reauthorized in 2014 to provide meaningful and timely input by the States on USFWS regulatory proposals, policies, and administrative actions regarding CITES implementation.**

- **State Fish & Wildlife Agencies are represented by the CITES Technical Work Group**
- **Full participate in the interagency CITES Coordination Committee (CCC)**
- **Member of the US delegation**
  - CoP: AFWA International Relations Committee Chair
  - SC: if deemed beneficial by the States
- **Exchange information and discuss CITES administrative & policy issues at closed door Federal/State meeting(s)**

5

## **Work Group Responsibilities:**

**assure state fish and wildlife agencies are appraised of pending CITES issues and can respond.**

**provide a streamlined approach to requesting changes in federal and/or international policies to accommodate state fish and wildlife agency needs.**

**formulate and advocate for policy positions reflecting the interests of state fish and wildlife agencies in international forums.**



6

**minimize unnecessary oversight and restrictions to state fish and wildlife agency authority as a result of CITES' issues.**

**provide biological and administrative information to assist the federal government in executing its international responsibilities.**

**ensure the federal government understands and reacts positively to the needs and authority of state fish and wildlife agencies as it relates to CITES.**

**support sustainable use principles and the North American Model internationally.**



7

8