

Sturgeons and paddlefish (*Acipenseriformes* spp.)

Directed to the Secretariat

16.136 The Secretariat shall:

- a) subject to external funding and in consultation with the Animals Committee, organize a study to:
 - i) provide an overview of molecular, DNA-based and other forensic methods that could assist in identifying the species and populations of *Acipenseriformes* specimens in trade, determining the origin or age of specimens, and differentiating wild from captive-bred or aquacultured specimens;
 - ii) review relevant developments in this area, including the availability and reliability of uniform identification systems;
 - iii) evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of the different methods (including practicality, costs, time-efficiency, reliability, technical requirements, etc.); and
 - iv) formulate relevant guidance for CITES Parties, enforcement agencies, the private sector and other stakeholders;
- b) ensure consultation with Parties that authorize trade in specimens of sturgeons and paddlefish, appropriate experts, institutions and organizations, and the private sector in the conduct of the study;
- c) make the results of the study available to the Animals Committee at its 27th or 28th meeting for its consideration; and
- d) disseminate the recommendations formulated by the Standing Committee pursuant to Decision 16.138 in a Notification to the Parties.

Directed to the Animals Committee

16.137 The Animals Committee shall assist the Secretariat in determining the specifications for the study referred to in Decision 16.136 and monitoring its conduct. It shall review the report of the study at its 27th or 28th meeting, and make recommendations as appropriate for consideration by the Standing Committee.

Directed to the Standing Committee

16.138 The Standing Committee shall review the study undertaken in accordance with Decision 16.136 and the recommendations that the Animals Committee formulated in compliance with Decision 16.137, and make its own recommendations, as appropriate, for communication to Parties concerned or for consideration at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.