

SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL COMMENTS
(arising from ScC-SC2)

AQUATIC WILD MEAT
UNEP/CMS/COP12/DOC.24.2.3

RECOMMENDATIONS TO COP12

- Recommended for adoption

GENERAL COMMENTS ON THE DOCUMENT

- The Council welcomes this essential step in gaining recognition of a significant threat to marine species. It is considered important that this specific issue is dealt with, since the scale of utilization for some regions and species is immense.
- It notes that this is an emerging issue, that for many marine species there is no assessment of the populations or of the scale of the harvest, that there are significant regional differences, and that different parts of the animals are used for different trade pathways.
- Any work on aquatic wild meat should include consideration of all life stages of affected species, such as take of eggs of turtles and shorebirds.
- The Council recommends that this separate resolution on aquatic wild meat is adopted in order to give visibility and recognition to the problem; CMS might consider combining work streams dealing with aquatic and terrestrial/avian wild meat at a later stage. At this stage, despite the similar terminology, the issue, state of knowledge etc. is not the same, and therefore the topics should be kept separate.
- There is a need for CMS to explore the link between indigenous rights and conservation, taking into account national legislation and traditional knowledge systems.
- The subject is closely linked to work with CITES on illegal trade.

COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC SECTIONS/ INCLUDING POSSIBLE PROPOSALS FOR TEXT REVISION

- Page 22, paragraph 2nd preambular
 - Revise definition to be clear which species groups are included
- Page 22, 2nd preambular paragraph and paragraph 1 of the Resolution
 - Add wording to clarify that all life stages of affected species are included in these considerations, such as take of eggs
- Page 22, 7th preambular paragraph
 - Correct to IWC Scientific Committee