

4th Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the CMS Scientific Council (ScC-SC4)

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REVIEW OF THE ONLINE VERSIONS OF THE FISH AND BIRD REFERENCES FOR THE SPECIES LISTED ON THE APPENDICES

(Prepared by the Secretariat)

Summary:

Resolution 12.27 instructs the Scientific Council to review at its last meeting before each meeting of the Conference of Parties the updated online versions of the standard references for birds and fishes with respect to the species listed on the Appendices and make recommendations as to whether the name of any listed species should be updated.

This document illustrates the results of the comparisons of the taxonomy and nomenclature currently used for bird and fish taxa listed in CMS Appendices with the relevant standard references.

Background

1. Resolution 12.27 *Taxonomy and Nomenclature* instructs the Scientific Council to review at its last meeting before each meeting of the Conference of Parties the online versions of the fish and bird references for the species listed on the Appendices and make recommendations as to whether the name of any listed species should be updated.
2. To support the Sessional Committee in fulfilling this task, the Secretariat undertook comparisons of the taxonomy and nomenclature currently used for bird and fish taxa listed in CMS Appendices with the relevant standard references. The following sections summarize the results of the comparisons.

Birds

3. Resolution 12.27 designates the following as the standard reference for birds:
 - For non-passerine species: Del Hoyo, J. & Collar, N.J. (2014). Handbook of the Birds of the World and BirdLife International Illustrated Checklist of the Birds of the World. Volume 1: Non-passerines. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona;
 - For passerine species: Del Hoyo, J. & Collar, N.J. (2016). Handbook of the Birds of the World and BirdLife International Illustrated Checklist of the Birds of the World. Volume 2: Passerines. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona;
4. As of 31 August 2019, the online version of this standard reference for the species listed on the Appendices is the *Handbook of the Birds of the World and BirdLife Taxonomic Checklist v3*, available at:

http://datazone.birdlife.org/userfiles/file/Species/Taxonomy/HBW-BirdLife_Checklist_v3_Nov18.zip.
5. A comparison of the taxonomy and nomenclature used for bird taxa currently listed on the CMS Appendices with the online reference for birds determined that there are currently no differences.

Fish

6. Resolution 12.27 *Taxonomy and Nomenclature* designates the online version of the Catalog of Fishes: Genera, Species, References. Eschmeyer, W.N., R. Fricke and R. van der Laan (eds). California Academy of Sciences (continuously updated), as the standard reference for fish. The Catalog is available at:

<https://www.calacademy.org/scientists/projects/eschmeyers-catalog-of-fishes>
7. For each fish species currently listed in the Appendices of CMS, an excerpt was downloaded on 28 August 2019 from the Catalog. The excerpts are made available as UNEP/CMS/ScC-SC4/Inf.3.
8. A comparison of the taxonomy and nomenclature used for fish species currently listed in the CMS Appendices with the online reference revealed the following differences in the Family Mobulidae.

Current name in CMS Appendices	Species name in Eschmeyer et al. (online 28.08.19)
<i>Manta alfredi</i>	<i>Mobula alfredi</i>
<i>Manta birostris</i>	<i>Mobula birostris</i>
<i>Mobula eregoodootenkee</i>	<i>Mobula kuhlii</i>
<i>Mobula japonica</i>	<i>Mobula mobular</i>
<i>Mobula rochebrunei</i>	<i>Mobula hypostoma</i>

9. Eschmeyer et al. refer to White and Last (2016)¹ as the scientific reference for the changes in Mobulid taxonomy and nomenclature.
10. The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) also lists all species of Mobulids in its Appendix II using the same nomenclature as CMS.
11. Parties to CITES decided at their Eighteenth Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP18), which was held in Geneva on 18 – 28 August 2019, not to change the taxonomy and nomenclature of the Mobulids at this point in time and requested the CITES Animals Committee to revisit this question at its 31st and 32nd meeting.
12. Recalling that Parties agreed in Resolution 12.27 “to follow a conservative approach in the use of the online reference to update names of listed species, waiting for a new taxonomy to be confirmed by the majority of scientists and other legal frameworks such as CITES before implementing any change”, the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council may wish to consider following the example of CITES and recommend that the Conference of the Parties leaves the taxonomy and nomenclature of fish species in the Appendices of CMS unchanged for the time being.

Recommended Actions:

13. The Sessional Committee is recommended to:
 - a) review the findings of the comparisons of the taxonomy and nomenclature currently used for bird and fish taxa currently listed in CMS Appendices with the relevant standard references;
 - b) make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties as to whether the name of any listed species should be updated.

¹ White, W. T. and P. R. Last 2016 [ref. 35016]

30. Eagle Rays. Family Myliobatidae; 31. Pelagic Eagle Rays. Family Aetobatidae; 33. Devilrays. Family Mobulidae. In: Last et al. (eds.). 2016. Rays of the World [ref. 34990]. 706-725, 726-731, 741-749.