



NOTICE TO THE WILDLIFE IMPORT/EXPORT COMMUNITY



December 15, 2003

Subject: Identification of CITES Hard Corals

Background: The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) requires that permits and certificates describe the specimen(s) using a complete scientific name, including species and often subspecies. Due to the difficulties in identification and the fact that many corals have not yet been described to species, the CITES Conference of the Parties agreed to use higher taxon names for trade in some CITES-listed corals. CITES Notification No. 2003/20, issued 4 April 2003, provides CITES countries with the agreed upon identification level for trade in CITES-listed hard corals. Many CITES countries have already implemented these taxonomic requirements.

Action: **Effective January 1, 2004**, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service will take the following actions regarding the identification of CITES-listed hard corals.

- (1) The Service will accept CITES permits and certificates for specimens that are readily recognizable as coral rock but where the genus cannot be determined, when the specimens are identified on a permit or certificate as the Order Scleractinia. The Service will use Order Scleractinia as the scientific name when issuing CITES re-export certificates for coral rock. Coral rock is defined as hard consolidated material greater than 3cm in diameter, formed of fragments of dead coral, which may contain cemented sand, coralline algae and other sedimentary rocks. Coral rock includes live rock (defined as coral rock to which live specimens of coral and invertebrates are attached and which is transported moist but not in water) and substrate (defined as pieces of coral rock to which invertebrates are attached and which are transported in water).
- (2) The Service will accept CITES permits and certificates only when the live and dead corals (except coral rock) listed in Table 1 are identified on the permit or certificate at the species level. The Service will issue U.S. CITES re-export certificates for the corals listed in Table 1 only at the species level. U.S. applicants must provide the required species information at the time of application. All permits and certificates issued by the United States or a foreign country that identify the corals listed in Table 1 at a higher taxonomic level than species will not be accepted as valid.
- (3) The Service will accept CITES permits and certificates when the corals listed in Table 2 are identified on the permit or certificate at the genus level. These corals, however, should be identified to the species level when feasible. While the Service may issue U.S. CITES re-export certificates for the corals listed in Table 2 at the genus level, we will issue certificates at the species level when satisfactory information is available. U.S. applicants must provide the most specific information available at the time of application.

Table 1. Coral taxa required to be identified to species (includes number of species for multi-species genera).

<i>Acrhelia horrescens</i>	<i>Duncanopsammia axifuga</i>	<i>Isophyllia sinuosa</i>	<i>Physophyllia ayleni</i>
<i>Anomastrea irregularis</i>	<i>Erythrastrea flabellata</i>	<i>Leptoria phrygia</i>	<i>Plerogyra</i> (live) (4 species)
<i>Asteosmilia connata</i>	<i>Euphyllia</i> (live) (9 species)	<i>Lithophyllon</i> (2 species)	<i>Plesiastrea versipora</i>
<i>Australogyra zelli</i>	<i>Eusmilia fastigiata</i>	<i>Manicinia areolata</i>	<i>Podabacia</i> (2 species)
<i>Australomussa rowleyensis</i>	<i>Galaxea</i> (4 species)	<i>Meandrina meandrites</i>	<i>Polyphyllia</i> (2 species)
<i>Blastomussa</i> (2 species)	<i>Gardineroseris planulata</i>	<i>Merulina</i> (3 species)	<i>Pseudosiderastrea tayami</i>
<i>Boninastrea boninensis</i>	<i>Gyrosmlia interrupta</i>	<i>Montigyra kenti</i>	<i>Sandalolitha</i> (2 species)
<i>Cantharellus</i> (3 species)	<i>Halomitra</i> (2 species)	<i>Moseleya latistellata</i>	<i>Scapophyllia cylindrica</i>
<i>Catalaphyllia jardinei</i>	<i>Heliofungia actiniformis</i>	<i>Mussa angulosa</i>	<i>Schizoculina fissipara</i>
<i>Cladocora</i> (4 species)	<i>Helipora coerulea</i>	<i>Mycedium</i> (2 species)	<i>Seriatopora</i> (2 species)
<i>Coeloseris mayeri</i>	<i>Helioseris cuculatta</i>	<i>Nemanzophyllia turbida</i>	<i>Simplastrea vesicularis</i>
<i>Colpophyllia</i> (3 species)	<i>Herpolitha limax</i>	<i>Oulastrea crispata</i>	<i>Solenastrea</i> (2 species)
<i>Ctenella chagius</i>	<i>Heterocyathus</i> (3 species)	<i>Oulophyllia</i> (2 species)	<i>Stephanocoenia intersepta</i>
<i>Cynarina lacrymalis</i>	<i>Heteropsammia</i> (2 species)	<i>Pachyseris</i> (4 species)	<i>Stylarea punctata</i>
<i>Dendrogyra cylindricus</i>	<i>Horastrea indica</i>	<i>Palauastrea ramosa</i>	<i>Trachyphyllia geoffroyi</i>
<i>Dichocoenia</i> (2 species)	<i>Hydnophora</i> (6 species)	<i>Paraclavarina triangularis</i>	<i>Tubipora musica</i>
<i>Diploastrea heliopora</i>	<i>Indophyllia macassarensis</i>	<i>Parasimplastrea simplicitexta</i>	<i>Zoopilus echinatus</i>
<i>Diploria</i> (3 species)	<i>Isophyllastrea rigida</i>	<i>Physogyra</i> (live) (2 species)	

Table 2. Table that may be identified to genus.

<i>Acanthastrea</i>	<i>Ctenactis</i>	<i>Goniastrea</i>	<i>Mycetophyllia</i>	<i>Psammocora</i>
<i>Acropora</i>	<i>Cyphastrea</i>	<i>Goniopora</i>	<i>Oculina</i>	<i>Scolymia</i>
<i>Agaricia</i>	<i>Dendrophyllia</i>	<i>Leptastrea</i>	<i>Oxypora</i>	<i>Siderastrea</i>
<i>Alveopora</i>	<i>Distichopora</i>	<i>Leptoseris</i>	<i>Pavona</i>	<i>Stylaster</i>
<i>Anacrapora</i>	<i>Echinophyllia</i>	<i>Lobophyllia</i>	<i>Pectinia</i>	<i>Stylocoeniella</i>
<i>Astreopora</i>	<i>Echinopora</i>	<i>Madracis</i>	<i>Physogyra</i> (dead)	<i>Stylophora</i>
<i>Balanophyllia</i>	<i>Euphyllia</i> (dead)	<i>Millepora</i>	<i>Platygyra</i>	<i>Symphyllia</i>
<i>Barabattoia</i>	<i>Favia</i>	<i>Montastrea</i>	<i>Plerogyra</i> (dead)	<i>Tubastrea</i>
<i>Caulastrea</i>	<i>Favites</i>	<i>Montipora</i>	<i>Pocillopora</i>	<i>Turbinaria</i>
<i>Coscinaraea</i>	<i>Fungia</i>	<i>Mussissmilia</i>	<i>Porites</i>	

Contact:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Office of Law Enforcement
703-358-1949; 703-358-2271 (fax)
lawenforcement@fws.gov (e-mail)