



NOTICE TO THE WILDLIFE IMPORT/EXPORT COMMUNITY



November 26, 2008

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. For the genus *Acropora*, applicants must submit information at the species level in order to make the necessary determinations for species listed under the Endangered Species Act.

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

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

Table 2. Corals that may be identified to genus.

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

* Note: *Acropora palmata* and *Acropora cervicornis* are listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

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