



## NOTICE TO THE WILDLIFE IMPORT/EXPORT COMMUNITY



December 13, 2006

**Subject: Availability of Factsheet on Buying Imported Caviar**

**Background:** U.S. bans on the importation of beluga sturgeon (including caviar) from the Caspian Sea and Black Sea basins (which went into effect September 30 and October 28, 2005 respectively) have raised questions among consumers about what (if any beluga caviar) can still be legally purchased in this country. Confusion also exists about how 2006 caviar trade quotas agreed to under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) affect the availability of imported caviar in U.S. market. Companies involved in the caviar trade may be asked to answer these questions.

**Action:** Members of the trade community dealing in caviar may want to review the new U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service [factsheet](#) titled "Buying Imported Caviar: Guidelines for U.S. Consumers" and refer customers and consumers to this document when appropriate. This guidance is posted in the "Importers/Exporters" section of the Office of Law Enforcement website (<http://www.fws.gov/le/>).

**Contact:**

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