



NOTICE TO THE WILDLIFE IMPORT/EXPORT COMMUNITY



April 21, 2006

Subject: Export Quotas for Sturgeon Caviar and Sturgeon Products

Background: On January 3, 2006, the CITES Secretariat announced that they were unable to publish the 2006 export quotas for caviar and sturgeon products (except for aquaculture) until exporting countries provided more information about the sustainability of their sturgeon catch. (See U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service public bulletin dated January 26, 2006.)

On April 11, 2006, the Secretariat published the 2006 quotas for those nations that share stocks and that have aquaculture operations in place (<http://www.cites.org/common/quotas/2006/Sturgeon2006.pdf>).

Action: *Caspian Sea Stocks:*

Under established quotas, the United States will allow the import of wild sturgeon caviar harvested in 2006 and exported from Iran.

Black Sea/lower Danube Stocks :

Under established quotas, the United States will allow the import of the following wild sturgeon products harvested in 2006:

- . Wild sturgeon caviar, fertilized eggs, and meat from Bulgaria
- . Wild sturgeon caviar and meat from Romania
- . Wild sturgeon caviar, fertilized eggs, and meat from Serbia and Montenegro

Endemic and Aquaculture Stocks:

The United States will allow the import of sturgeon specimens from endemic or aquaculture stocks, which are not subject to export quota restrictions, in accordance with CITES requirements.

The Service reminds the trade community that:

- The United States no longer allows the import of sturgeon caviar harvested from shared stocks in 2005 and exported directly from countries bordering the Caspian Sea, the Black Sea/lower Danube, and the Heilongjiang/Amur River.
- The United States will continue to allow the import of 2005 harvested caviar that was legally exported during 2005 and re-exported to the United States as long as the re-export to the United States takes place within 18 months from the date of issuance of the original export permit.
- The United States will also continue to allow the re-export of 2005 harvested caviar from the United States as long as that re-export takes place within 18 months from the date of issuance of the original export permit.
- The Service has suspended the import of, and foreign commerce in, beluga sturgeon (*Huso huso*) caviar or meat originating in Caspian Sea and Black Sea basin countries. This suspension applies

to shipments that have been exported directly from these countries, re-exported through an intermediary country, or transported as personal or household effects.

Contact:

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