



## NOTICE TO THE WILDLIFE IMPORT/EXPORT COMMUNITY



March 13, 2009

**Subject: International Trade in European Eel (*Anguilla anguilla*)**

**Background:** The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) agreed to list the European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*) on Appendix II at the 14<sup>th</sup> Conference to the Parties in 2007. The CITES member countries also agreed to delay the effective date of the listing for 18 months in order to allow exporting countries to put mechanisms in place for permit issuance and implementation. We wish to remind importers and exporters that the delayed effective date is March 13, 2009.

**Action:** Effective March 13, 2009, the European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*) is now included in CITES Appendix II. All imports into the United States or exports/re-exports from the United States require appropriate CITES Appendix-II documents. Any shipments of European eel imported, exported, or re-exported without the required CITES documents are subject to seizure and forfeiture.

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