

TRAFFIC Recommendations on the Proposals to Amend the CITES Appendices at the 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties

Proposal #/ Proponent	Species covered by the proposal	Proposal	RECOMMENDATION
# 31 USA	<i>Malaclemys terrapin</i> Diamondback Terrapin	Inclusion in Appendix II	<p>The Diamondback Terrapin <i>Malaclemys terrapin</i> was historically abundant in the USA but became popular as a gourmet food in the late 19th century, resulting in the population declining greatly through over-harvesting. There is no current range-wide population estimate, but the species is believed to number in the hundreds of thousands. However, since the 1980s, there has been increase in demand for the meat, both domestically and internationally, particularly in Asia. <i>M. terrapin</i> is also harvested for the domestic and international pet trade. Exports increased markedly after 2000, peaking to over 6000 in 2006, which led to the permanent closure of the terrapin fishery in Maryland in April 2007. While, the great majority of exports since then have been declared as captive-bred, a notable number of exports in the most recent year (2012) are of wild or undeclared origin. If a significant proportion of these recent exports are indeed of wild origin, and given the relatively high mortality rates reported from other causes, it is conceivable that the species might meet the criteria for inclusion in Appendix II</p> <p><b>ACCEPT</b></p>