

CoP17 Prop 45. [Plurinational State of Bolivia] Inclusion of Ocellate River Stingray *Potamotrygon motoro* in Appendix II

The Ocellate River Stingray *Potamotrygon motoro* has a very wide distribution in South America. Information on the species is sparse and variable, being reported as abundant in some places and as occurring at low densities in others. There are indications of declines in some locations. The species is taken for local consumption of its meat and export of live specimens for the ornamental fish trade. Three out of eleven range States (Brazil, Colombia and Peru) are known to export the species— of the order of a few tens of thousands of specimens annually. These exporters comprise a fair proportion of the overall range of the species, although it is not known how extensive harvest is, or in general what proportion of the catch is destined for export rather than local consumption. There is overall insufficient information to determine whether the species meets the criteria for inclusion in Appendix II.

The species is readily available in the aquarium trade, however the provenance of many of these specimens is unknown. This species is reported to breed easily in captivity, and captive-breeding is known to be occurring in Europe, Southeast Asia and the USA. There is reportedly a surplus of captive-bred *P. motoro* individuals in European public aquaria, and therefore any demand for wild-caught specimens in Europe is believed to come mainly from private collectors. The USA reported the export of over 3500 captive-bred *Potamotrygon* specimens in 2004 to 2013.

Brazil, Colombia and Peru have specific regulations in place governing harvesting and trade of ornamental species, including *P. motoro*, and Bolivia reports having draft legislation to control trade in ornamental fish underway. At an international level, this group of species has been the focus of several CITES Decisions aimed at improving the available information on their taxonomy, biology, population sizes/trends, harvesting and trade, with an expert workshop in 2014 identifying possible priority species and future actions, including Appendix II and III listings. The Supporting Statement does not provide details on how this proposal fits within the wider picture and recommended actions of this work. Four draft Decisions recommended by the Animals Committee on freshwater stingrays (Potamotrygonidae) (CoP17 Doc. 87) are being considered by the Parties at the present CoP.

REJECT. Parties are encouraged to consider the four draft Decisions recommended by the Animals Committee on freshwater stingrays (Potamotrygonidae) (CoP17 Doc. 87) at the present CoP