

CoP17 Prop 48. [Fiji, India, Palau and the United States of America] Inclusion of the Family Nautilidae (Blainville, 1825) in Appendix II

The Family Nautilidae, or Chambered Nautilus, is a highly distinctive group of marine molluscs occurring in tropical, reef, and deepwater habitats in the Indo-Pacific. Chambered Nautilus are generally believed to occur in small, scattered populations. They are highly vulnerable to overexploitation and are known to be targeted in fisheries, with international trade in shells occurring at high levels. Harvest of the main species in trade, *Nautilus pompilius*, has been associated with severe local population declines; large quantities of Chambered Nautilus have been exported by the Philippines and there are indications that harvest for trade has now shifted to Indonesia. There are reports of historic and ongoing declines associated with harvest in other parts of the range.

Given the extreme vulnerability of Chambered Nautilus to overharvest, any additional fishing pressure is likely to lead to depletion or local extirpation of populations. This problem is further compounded by the absence of management plans for the species, an absence of Customs codes to track international trade, and the absence of market measures to ensure that the trade is legal. Given these factors, it is likely that *N. pompilius* at least meets the criteria for inclusion in Appendix II in Annex 2a of Res. Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP16).

Chambered Nautilus species resemble each other in the major form in which they appear in trade (shells). Given that *N. pompilius* appears to meet the criteria, all other species in the Family Nautilidae would therefore appear to meet the criteria in Annex 2b as lookalikes.

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