

漁農自然護理署

九龍長沙灣道三〇三號
長沙灣政府合署六樓

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AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND
CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

Cheung Sha Wan Government Offices
303 Cheung Sha Wan Road,
6th floor, Kowloon, Hong Kong

9 January 2009

Dear Sir/Madam,

Amendment to The Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance

Further to our circular letter No. ES 05/07 of 1 August 2007 concerning the amendments as adopted at the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), and the corresponding amendments to the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (the Ordinance) to reflect the CITES changes, please be informed that the amendments to the Ordinance have been published in the Gazette on 9 January 2009 and the new control will come into operation on 13 March 2009.

When the above-mentioned new controls take effect on 13 March 2009, all newly listed species, such as sawfish, European eel and Brazil wood, will be subject to licensing requirements. Moreover, the quantitative limitation on personal or household effects of caviar that is exempted from permit requirement will also be lowered from 250 gram to 125 gram. Please refer to the Gazette or circular letter No. ES 05/07 (uploaded on our website at www.cites.org.hk) for details of the new controls. According to the Ordinance, unless exempted, the import, introduction from the sea, export, re-export or possession of endangered species (including parts and derivatives) requires a licence issued in advance by this department. Any person contravening the licensing requirements will be prosecuted and is liable on conviction to a maximum fine of \$ 5 million and 2 years imprisonment.

Traders now in possession of stock of sawfish, European eel or Brazil wood for commercial purposes are required to declare to the department their existing stock on or before 12 March 2009, so as to allow for the re-export of the stock after the commencement of the new control. A licence to possess must also be applied for specimens of sawfish or European eel (live specimen of wild origin only) within the 3-month grace period which ends on 12 June 2009 if stocks still exists.

Should you have any queries regarding the new control, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Henry Ho (Tel.: 2150 6973) or Ms. Bobo Koh (Tel: 2150 6967).

Yours faithfully,



(C.S. CHEUNG)

for Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

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