

Memorandum

Sept. 30, 2002

To: Chief, Division of Management Authority

From: Chief, Division of Scientific Authority

Subject: Amendment of Non-Detriment Finding for Ginseng Harvested in 2002

This document is an amendment to our non-detriment finding of August 16, 2002, for the export of American ginseng roots of 5 years of age or older. In our non-detriment finding this year, we included the category of **woods-grown with wild and wild-simulated** American ginseng roots of 5 years of age or older to be harvested during the 2002 season. Upon further discussion with the Division of Management Authority (DMA) and ginseng exporters, we have decided to refer to the language in our non-detriment finding of 2001, which did not include woods-grown with wild and wild-simulated American ginseng roots of 5 years of age or older. **Therefore, in our 2002 non-detriment finding, woods-grown American ginseng is to be included under artificially propagated American ginseng.** We are extending our previous treatment of woods-grown American ginseng to allow further discussion with States and exporters, to avoid difficulties that might occur with a sudden change in interpretation of CITES export requirements for these specimens.

However, we believe that woods-grown American ginseng does not fully meet the CITES criteria for "artificially propagated" as stated in Resolution Conf. 11.11. Additionally, there may be enforcement difficulties with treating woods-grown American ginseng roots as artificially propagated specimens. We also note that all States do not report woods-grown ginseng roots separately, nor is there uniform treatment of such roots by the States.

Therefore, in preparation of our finding for 2003, we will continue to discuss this issue with DMA and State agencies that are involved in the monitoring, protection, and regulation of harvest of wild American ginseng, and representatives of the ginseng industry regarding the inclusion of woods-grown with wild and wild-simulated American ginseng roots for export.