



NOTICE TO THE WILDLIFE IMPORT/EXPORT COMMUNITY



January 26, 2015

Subject: Implementation of the International Trade Data System

Background: The Safe Port Act (P.L. 109-347) amended the Tariff Act of 1930 to require participation in the International Trade Data System (ITDS) by all Federal agencies that require documentation for clearing or licensing the importation and exportation of cargo. Participation is also mandated by Executive Order 13659 of February 2014 on Streamlining the Export/Import Process for America's Businesses. The purpose of ITDS is to establish a single portal system, operated by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), for the collection and distribution of standard electronic import and export cargo data required by all participating Federal agencies. The Service is working with CBP to create an interface between CBP's Automated Commercial Environment (ACE) and the FWS electronic filing system (eDecs) and is in discussion on the FWS message set and design requirements for both imports and exports.

CBP has established three mandatory use dates as part of the ITDS project. The filing of all electronic import and export manifest for all transportation modes will be mandatory in ACE by May 1, 2015. The filing of all data associated with the release of imported cargo, including data related to participating government agencies (PGAs) and the associated entry summaries will be mandatory in ACE by November 1, 2015. All remaining electronic portions of the CBP cargo process will be mandatory in ACE by October 1, 2016.

For trade community members filing their customs information electronically through ACE, you will be required to file your FWS data electronically through ACE using the Automated Broker Interface, rather than using eDecs or paper. The Service is slated to begin piloting the collection of required FWS data and documents for cargo shipments through ACE on July 4, 2015 in anticipation of the November 1, 2015 mandate. We are requesting that importers, exporters and brokers volunteer to participate in the July pilot to test the system for FWS filings prior to the mandatory November 1, 2015 filing date. Based upon the responses to this request, we will work with CBP to determine how the pilot will be conducted, including pilot ports and commodities.

Action: The wildlife trade community should be aware of the fast approaching dates for mandatory use of CBP's ACE system for cargo shipments. We will continue to provide updated information on the FWS message set for software development as well as design requirements as we engage in additional discussions with CBP. We are working to develop an FWS ITDS webpage to provide additional information.

We strongly urge any importer, exporter or broker who wishes to volunteer to participate in the July pilot to send an email request to lawenforcement@fws.gov and title the email "ITDS Pilot Participation." Please provide your email and telephone details so we may contact you with further information.

Contact:
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Office of Law Enforcement
703-358-1949; 703-358-2271 (fax)
lawenforcement@fws.gov (e-mail)