



NOTICE TO THE WILDLIFE IMPORT/EXPORT COMMUNITY



April 26, 2011

Subject: Identification of CITES Hard Corals

Background: The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) requires that permits and certificates describe the specimen(s) using a complete scientific name, including species and often subspecies. Due to the difficulties in identification and the fact that many corals have not yet been described to species, the CITES Conference of the Parties agreed to use higher taxon names for trade in some CITES-listed corals. The attached table lists coral taxa where identification to genus level is acceptable.

Action: The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service will take the following actions regarding identification of CITES-listed hard corals.

- (1) The Service will accept CITES permits and certificates for specimens that are readily recognizable as coral rock (as defined in 50 CFR § [23.5](#)) but where the genus cannot be determined, when the specimens are identified on a permit or certificate as the Order Scleractinia. The Service will use Order Scleractinia as the scientific name when issuing CITES re-export certificates for coral rock.
- (2) The Service will accept CITES permits and certificates when the corals listed in the attached table are identified on the permit or certificate at the genus level. These corals, however, should be identified to the species level when feasible.
- (3) While the Service may issue U.S. CITES re-export certificates for the corals listed in the table at the genus level, we will issue certificates at the species level when satisfactory information is available. U.S. applicants must submit U.S. CITES permit applications (3-200-73) with the most specific information available at the time of application.
- (4) For the genus *Acropora*, applicants for U.S. CITES permits must submit information at the species level so that the Service can make the necessary determinations for species listed under the Endangered Species Act.

Attachment

Contact:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Office of Law Enforcement

703-358-1949; 703-358-2271 (fax)

lawenforcement@fws.gov (email)

http://www.fws.gov/le/ImpExp/Info_Importers_Exporters.htm

Attachment

Table: CITES corals that may be identified to genus

Acanthastrea	Ctenactis	Goniastrea	Mycetophyllia	Psammocora
Acropora*	Cyphastrea	Goniopora	Oculina	Scolymia
Agaricia	Dendrophyllia	Leptastrea	Oxypora	Siderastrea
Alveopora	Distichopora	Leptoseris	Pavona	Stylaster
Anacrapora	Echinophyllia	Lobophyllia	Pectinia	Stylocoeniella
Astreopora	Echinopora	Madracis	Physogyra (dead)	Stylophora
Balanophyllia	Euphyllia (dead)	Millepora	Platygyra	Symphyllia
Barabattoia	Favia	Montastrea	Plerogyra (dead)	Tubastrea
Caulastrea	Favites	Montipora	Pocillopora	Turbinaria
Coscinaraea	Fungia	Mussismillia	Porites	

* Note: *Acropora palmata* and *Acropora cervicornis* are listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.