

# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife

news release

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## SECRETARY HICKEL LAUDS INTERNATIONAL FUR TRADE FEDERATION FOR TRADE BANS ON ENDANGERED FURBEARERS

Secretary of the Interior Walter J. Hickel today congratulated the International Fur Trade Federation (IFFT) for recommending to its members a voluntary total ban on trade in skins of five endangered furbearers, including the tiger and the snow leopard. Fur trade associations throughout the world belong to the organization.

The Federation also is recommending a three-year moratorium on trade and use of cheetah and leopard skins until the status of those species can be measured. These constraints will operate from a date to be set in order that the trade may clear existing stocks approved as legitimate sales.

Secretary Hickel, in a letter to Federation President L. J. McMillan in London, commented: "The efforts of all international organizations concerned with conservation and rational use of the living resources of the world must be joined to preserve these life forms for future generations."

The Department of the Interior, working with the American Fur Merchants' Association, Inc., in New York, helped initiate these conservation actions and participated in negotiations leading to an agreement on the ban. The agreement was reached in London in August after lengthy discussions between IFFT and the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN).

The Department of the Interior is a member of the IUCN and is represented on several of its commissions. The IUCN, in cooperation with the World Wildlife Fund, long has been concerned with the preservation and use of endangered and exploited animals and with the preservation of their habitats.

Species involved in the total ban are: La Plata otter (Lutra platensis), giant otter (Pteronura brasiliensis), clouded leopard (Neofelis nebulosa), tiger (Panthera tigris), and snow leopard (Panthera uncia).

Those banned for three years are: leopard (Panthera pardus) and cheetah (Acinonyx jubatus).

IUCN and IFFT will conduct a survey on South American cat species such as jaguar, ocelot, and Margay cat. Skins of these animals are widely used in furcoats. While the animals are not now considered endangered, they are being taken in large enough numbers to cause concern.

Secretary Hickel also sent a note of appreciation to Dr. Gerardo Budowski, IUCN's director general, who announced the international agreement from Morges, Switzerland.