



DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

Fish and Wildlife Service

For release: December 11, 1991

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INTERNATIONAL BLACK BEAR REGULATIONS CHANGING

Effective September 1991, new requirements established under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) require hunters taking black bear in Canada to obtain an export permit. This action applies to both the export of the animal from Canada and its import into the United States.

"By requiring this permit, Canada is moving to prevent exploitation of the black bear in the illegal wildlife market," said John Turner, Director of the Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Much of the illegal trade involving the black bear is focused in Eastern Asia--providing bear gall bladders and paws to lucrative markets in China, Korea, and Japan, where these parts are thought to have medicinal properties. Asiatic bears cannot be traded at all, so according to Service law enforcement officials, illegal traders attempt to mask their sources by describing the parts they sell as being from unlisted species, namely the American black bear.

(more)

As a result of this recent listing, a CITES export permit will be required when exporting a black bear or its parts from Canada. The skull and/or a skin with claws attached are exempt from this permit requirement.

"Restrictions as to who must obtain the permit (non-resident hunter or outfitter) vary from province to province. In order to comply with CITES requirements and to avoid any inadvertent permit violations, hunters should call in advance the appropriate provincial management authority (listed below)," Turner said.

The new export permit must be presented at Canadian Customs for validation prior to leaving Canada, and must be presented to U.S. Customs before it can be imported.

<u>Province</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Fax</u>
Alberta	403-427-6735	403-422-9559
British Columbia	604-387-9764	604-356-9145
Manitoba	204-945-6809	204-945-3077
New Brunswick	506-453-2433	506-453-4279
Newfoundland	709-729-2817	709-729-6629
Northwest Territories	403-873-7411	403-873-0291
Nova Scotia	902-678-8921	902-678-1326
Ontario (Toronto)	416-314-1026	416-314-1049
Ontario (Rexdale)	416-675-7650	416-675-4599
Prince Edward Island	902-368-4683	902-368-5471
Quebec (fauna)	418-643-5498	418-643-3330
Quebec (flora)	418-644-3378	418-643-3754
Saskatchewan	306-787-5869	306-787-8441
Yukon Territory	403-667-5715	403-667-7209