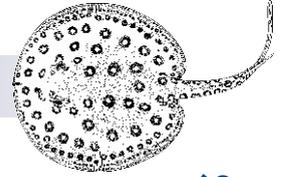




## Raya *Potamotrygon motoro*



### Does Not Meet CITES Listing Criteria

Scientific assessment in accordance with CITES biological listing criteria



*Approximate occurrence of Raya in river basins.*

*No loss in distribution identified.*

Raya, *Potamotrygon motoro* has a wide distribution, occurring in the major South American river basins (Amazon, Orinoco and Paraná-La Plata), in rivers, floodplains, floodplain lakes and some lakes, and thus cannot be considered under the restricted area criterion. There is adequate information describing the biological parameters of the Raya for the Panel to conclude that the species meets the medium productivity criteria.

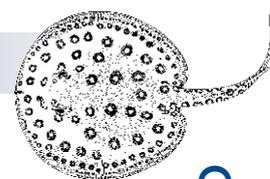
The Proposal presents no evidence of decline in the area of distribution of the species and no evidence of populations meeting the

criterion of a small population. The Panel recognised that this species is subject to a number of vulnerability factors that if not adequately addressed could potentially be a cause of decline.

Under the CITES criteria for commercially exploited aquatic species (Conf. Res. 9.24 Rev. CoP16), a decline of a medium productivity species to 15–25 percent of the historical baseline might justify consideration for Appendix II. However, no overall population decline is available for this species for comparison with the CITES decline criteria.

In conclusion, according to the data made available to the Panel, there is no population trend, nor decline consistent with an Appendix II listing criteria.

Raya can be confused with other species of freshwater ray, especially in relation to Brazilian endemic species that can have similar dorsal colour and patterns. However, with training and support materials, species identification is possible and has been achieved in Brazil where enforcement officers identify species in the quota system, including *P. motoro*.



## Management

The Raya is fished for the ornamental trade (mainly juveniles) and food production (mainly adults). In addition, a fishery exists to clear the species from tourist locations to limit interactions.

There are specific quota regulations to control

ornamental harvest and trade of Raya in Colombia and Brazil, while Bolivia seems to be developing similar measures. Most of the other 11 range states have indicated the need for national regulation; Brazil, Colombia, Peru and Uruguay have NPOAs, either in place or undergoing

revision, that are relevant to the species.

The unregulated fisheries is a risk factor for the management of the species, however overall, few specific management measures are in place in Bolivia.

## Trade

Raya is one of the most popular freshwater stingrays in the ornamental fish trade, where depending on the dorsal colour pattern, it can reach high prices, and illegal cross-border trade of individuals among range States is reported.

Very little data for trade of Raya in Bolivia was presented in the Proposal, however export data is

available for Colombia and Brazil, which indicates that at least 99 000 live Raya's were exported from between 1999 and 2011. In Peru, the Raya constitutes up to 87 percent of the total exports of live freshwater stingrays, which ranged from 7 000 to 44 000 individuals per year between 2000 and 2014 (the total number of this species that was exported during these 15 years is unknown). Legal

exports from Brazil during the last decade have fluctuated partially in response to changes in national regulations for international trade, but were reported to have dropped drastically in 2014.

The increase in captive breeding over the last 10 years in Asia is likely reducing the dependency on catches of wild stocks for export.

## LIKELY EFFECTIVENESS FOR CONSERVATION

If the Raya was listed in CITES Appendix II it would enhance the few existing measures to control exports of the species (in particular live specimens for the ornamental trade).

To comply with CITES provisions, management at the level of range States would have to be strengthened to improve data collection on local marketing and trade that would be needed to prepare in NDFs for this migratory species. States would also need to ensure legality of trade.

However, harvesting for domestic use and sale, including for food and population control would not directly be affected by a CITES Appendix II listing, although it would need to be accounted for in NDFs. In addition, enforcement officers would need materials and training to be able to identify Raya in trade.

CITES has, on many occasions, directed range States to consider listing these freshwater rays in Appendix III (three). The Panel supported this

recommendation as a useful step to improve collection of trade data, but noted that to date, no range State has adopted this option.

If a listing was to proceed without access to data, the following outcomes could occur: i) States could invest in better management systems to enable compliance with CITES provisions, ii) trade ceases, iii) trade continues without proper CITES documentation (i.e. illegal trade) and/or iv) trade continues with inadequate NDFs.