

34th Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries

Written Correspondence Procedure – Comments from China

Agenda Item 6

Decisions and recommendations of the Seventeenth Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Fish Trade

Vigo, Spain, 25–29 November 2019

Regarding WTO negotiations on fisheries subsidies

China considers that the negotiations on fisheries subsidies are an important area in which WTO can contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. The timely completion of the negotiations will make an essential contribution to sustainable development. As a WTO member, China will continue to participate in various forms of consultations in a positive and constructive way. Negotiations should be pragmatic and consensus-seeking, and consultation processes should ensure transparency and inclusiveness. China will continue to make contributions in the negotiations that are appropriate to its capabilities and level of development and will, as always, help other developing members achieve joint development, safeguard the multilateral trading system and promote WTO reform in the right direction.

Regarding CITES

Regarding the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), as one of the most influential environmental protection conventions globally, China joined CITES as a party in 1980. In recent years, China has continuously increased its efforts to protect precious and endangered aquatic wildlife and earnestly fulfill its CITES obligations, including full implementation of the “Wildlife Protection Law” and relevant decisions of the National People’s Congress, and the organization of particular law enforcement actions to crack down on the illegal aquatic wildlife trade.

China has formulated and implemented the “Construction Plan for the Yangtze River Biodiversity Conservation Project (2021-2025)”, created and implemented action plans for the protection of sea turtles, Indo-Pacific humpback dolphin (*Sousa chinensis*), spotted seal (*Phoca largha*), Chinese sturgeon (*Acipenser sinensis*), Narrow-ridged finless porpoise (*Neophocaena asiaeorientalis*), Yangtze sturgeon (*Acipenser dabryanus*), the Asian giant softshell turtle (*Pelochelys cantorii*) and other species, and the organization of protection alliances for each species. China promoted the “land-sea-land” brooder conservation relay of the Chinese sturgeon, strengthened the *ex-situ* protection of the narrow-ridged finless porpoise, and is striving to rebuild the wild population of the Yangtze sturgeon fully.

“The Month of Aquatic Wildlife Protection” has been held for 11 consecutive years in China. Large-scale publicity and campaign activities have been carried out at important times to continuously improve the awareness and participation of the whole society in protecting aquatic wildlife, including the Day of Indo-Pacific humpback dolphin Protection, World Turtle Day, and Fish Release Day.