Seafood Trade Advisory Group

New rule in China for the regulations and standards for appraising the "base values" of wild aquatic animals and products

Source: Ministry of Agriculture of China, August and September 2019

On the 27th August 2019, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of the People's Republic of China released *Decree No. 5 (2019) - The Rule for the Appraisal of the Base Values of Wild Aquatic Animals and Their Products*.

This Rule was formulated with a view to formalising the regulations and standards for appraising the base values of wild aquatic animals and their products, in accordance with *the Law of the People's Republic of China on the Protection of Wildlife*. The Decree will enter into force as of 1st October 2019.

Below are some examples of value per animal.

- Eel: *Anguilla marmorata* at 500 RMB; all other species of *Anguillidae* at 50 RMB;
- Sea Cucumber: *Holothuroidea* spp. at 10 RMB;
- Australian lungfish: *Neoceratodus forsteri* at 100 RMB.

Earlier in October 2018, China made *Announcement No. 69 (2018)* which released the list of wild aquatic animals under special protection, ranking them as either first-class protection, or second-class protection. The total value of the wild aquatic animal will be calculated in accordance with the indicators including the base value multiplied by the protection level coefficient, reproduction coefficient, and survival rate coefficient (See Table 1 in Appendix 1: List of base values of wild aquatic animals).

On the 27th September 2019, Mr ZHANG Xianliang, Director General of the Bureau of Fisheries, MoARA, said in a press interview that the purpose of the Decree is to provide the basis for the punishment of criminal damage to wild aquatic animal resources.

According to Mr Zhang, the wild aquatic animal is different from ordinary goods, and cannot be simply based on market price; some species have low or even no market value but may have high values in biology and scientific research.

Mr Zhang explained the detailed method to calculate the total value of the wild aquatic animal = the species base value × protection level coefficient × growth stage

coefficient/reproduction coefficient × criminal-case involvement coefficient × species source coefficient × quantity.

Coefficients based on protection level:

- Coefficient of the species in China's first-class protection: 10;
- Coefficient of the species in China's second-class protection: 5;
- Coefficient of the species in special protection by China's locality, or not yet verified by CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora).

Coefficients based on growth stage:

- Coefficient of full-grown stage: 1;
- Coefficient of growth stage: up to 1, comprehensively in accordance with reproduction, survival, and growth stage (in consideration of opinions by experts);
- Coefficient of the reptile ovum: 0.1;
- Coefficient of the amphibian ovum: 0.001;
- Coefficient of the ovum from the fish or invertebrate should be comprehensively in accordance with reproduction, survival, and growth stage.

Coefficients based on criminal-case involvement:

- Coefficient of the live animal or the complete dead animal carcass: 1;
- Coefficient of the animal carcass part or the partial animal product: up to 1;
- If the involved part of the carcass is the main purpose for usage, the coefficient should be no less than 0.7.

Coefficient based on species source:

- Coefficient of wild source: 1;
- Coefficient of artificial breeding: 0.5;
- Coefficient of species listed in the list of species under artificial breeding: 0.25.

One example of value calculation by Mr Zhang can be demonstrated by the case of the five swim bladders of *Totoaba macdonaldi* smuggled into China. The example is as follows:

- In accordance with the Decree, the base value of *Totoaba macdonaldi* is 16000 RMB/per animal. It is the species in the list of CITES, and under China's first-class protection. Its coefficient of protection level is therefore 10;
- As the five bladders are of full-grown fish, the coefficient of growth stage is: 1;
- As the bladders are for the main purpose of usage, the coefficient of criminal-case involvement should be no less than 0.7 (It is finally determined as 0.9.);

- As all the smuggled *Totoaba macdonaldi* are from a wild source, the coefficient of species source is 1.
- In conclusion, the total value of the five bladders of *Totoaba macdonaldi* = 16000 RMB /per animal × 10 (coefficient of protection level) × 1 (coefficient of growth stage) × 0.9 (coefficient of criminal-case involvement) × 1 (coefficient of species source) × 5 bladders = 720 000 RMB.

Knowing this information, Australian seafood will be impacted to a certain degree by this *Decree No. 5 (2019) -The Rule for the Appraisal of the Base Values of Wild Aquatic Animals and Their Products*, because of the factors below:

- Chinese people usually consider wild seafood as organic and premium products;
- The calculation methods in the Decree may increase the prices of wild seafood;
- The Decree may make it difficult for smugglers and IUU fishermen to get wild seafood products (especially premium species) in the future, and on the contrary may benefit the imports through official channels.

Links to original sources (in Chinese)

http://www.moa.gov.cn/govpublic/YYJ/201909/t20190905_6327319.htm
http://www.moa.gov.cn/xw/bmdt/201909/t20190927_6329248.htm
http://nynct.qinghai.gov.cn/Html/2019_09_06/2_176362_2019_09_06_243706.html
http://www.moa.gov.cn/gk/tzgg_1/gg/201810/t20181015_6160721.htm

Appendix 1

Table 1: List of base values of wild aquatic animals

Type	Scientific name	Unit	Base value (RMB)
Chordata Mammalia			
Carnivora			
Mustelidae			
Lutrinae			
Small-clawed otter	*Aonyx cinerea*	Per animal	2000
Other animals under Lutrinae		Per animal	1800
Pinnipedia			
Odobenidae			
Walrus	*Odobenus rosmarus*	Per animal	3000
Otariidae			
	Arctocephalus spp.	Per animal	8000
Phocidae			

Spotted Seal	*Phoca largha*	Per animal	10000
Monk Seal	*Monachus* spp.	Per animal	10000
Elephant Seal	*Mirounga leonina*	Per animal	5000
Other flipper-based animal species		Per animal	2000
Cetacfa			
	Balaenidae spp.	Per animal	150000
	Balaenopteridae spp.	Per animal	120000
Delphinidae			
	Sousa chinensis	Per animal	200000
Other species under Delphinidae		Per animal	50000
	Eschrichtiidae spp.	Per animal	100000
Iniidae			
	Lipotes vexillifer	Per animal	600000
Other species under Iniidae		Per animal	50000
Phocoenidae			
	Neophocaena asiaeorientalis	Per animal	250000
Other species under Phocoenidae		Per animal	50000
	Physeteridae spp.	Per animal	150000
Other species under Cetacfa		Per animal	75000
Sirenia			
Dugongidae			
	Dugong dugon	Per animal	250000
	Trichechidae spp.	Per animal	150000
Reptilia			
Crocodylia			
All species under Crocodylia (except large water lizard)		Per animal	500
Serpentes			
The species under serpentes limited to Little Wart Snake, Water Snake and Sea Snake		Per animal	300
Testudines			
	Carettochelyidae spp.	Per animal	500
	Chelidae spp.	Per animal	500
Cheloniidae			
	Chelonia mydas	Per animal	15000
	Eretmochelys imbricata	Per animal	20000
	Caretta caretta	Per animal	15000
	Lepidochelys olivacea	Per animal	15000
Other species under Cheloniidae		Per animal	10000
Dermochelyidae			
	Dermochelys coriacea	Per animal	20000
	Chelydridae spp.	Per animal	300
	Dermatemydidae spp.	Per animal	500
All species under Dermochelyidae	*Emydidae* spp.	Per animal	500
Geoemydidae			
	Cuora trifasciata	Per animal	10000
	Cuora yunnanensis	Per animal	30000

	Cuora mccordi	Per animal	30000
	Cuora aurocapitata	Per animal	30000
	Cuora pani	Per animal	30000
	Cuora zhoui	Per animal	30000
	Cuora galbinifrons	Per animal	600
	Cuora picturata	Per animal	600
	Cuora bourreti	Per animal	600
All species under Geoemydidae		Per animal	500
Podocnemididae spp.		Per animal	500
Trionychidae			
	Palea steindachneri	Per animal	1000
	Pelochelys spp.	Per animal	150000
	Rafetus swinhoei	Per animal	200000
All species under Trionychidae		Per animal	500
Amphibia			
Caudata			
Cryptobranchidae			
	Andrias davidianus	Per animal	2500
All species under Cryptobranchidae		Per animal	500
Salamandridae			
	Tylototrition asperrimus	Per animal	400
	Tylototrition chinhaiensis	Per animal	400
	Tylototrition kweichowensis	Per animal	400
	Tylototrition taliangensis	Per animal	500
	Tylototrition verrucosus	Per animal	350
All species under Caudata		Per animal	300
Anura			
All species under Anura		Per animal	100
Elasmobranchii			
Lamniformes			
Cetorhinidae			
	Cetorhinus maximus	Per animal	50000
Lamnidae			
	Carcharodon carcharias	Per animal	20000
Myliobatiformes			
	Myliobatidae spp.	Per animal	200
Potamotrygonidae spp.		Per animal	150
Orectolobiformes			
Rhincodontidae			
	Rhincodon typus	Per animal	40000
Other shark species		Per animal	200
Pristiformes			
Pristidae spp.		Per animal	5000
Actinopteri			
Acipenseriformes			
Acipenseridae			
	Acipenser sinensis	Per animal	50000

		10000 ova	20000
	Acipenser dabryanus	Per animal	50000
		10000 ova	20000
Polyodontidae			
	Psephurus gladius	Per animal	500000
	Psephurus gladius	10000 ova	200000
All full-grown species under Acipenseriformes		Per animal	5000
All species (ova) under Acipenseriformes		10000 ova	2000
Anguilliformes			
Anguillidae			
	Anguilla marmorata	Per animal	500
Otherer species under Anguillidae		Per animal	50
Cypriniformes			
Catostomidae			
	Myxocyprinus asiaticus	Per animal	200
Other species under Catostomidae		Per animal	150
Cyprinidae			
	Tanichthys albonubes	Per animal	50
	Cyprinus pellegrini	Per animal	100
	Sinocyclocheilus grahami	Per animal	100
	Aspiorhynchus laticeps	Per animal	500
	Schizothorax taliensis	Per animal	100
Other species under Cyprinidae		Per animal	100
Osteoglossiformes			
Arapaimidae			
	Arapaima gigas	Per animal	500
Osteoglossidae			
	Scleropages formosus	Per animal	500
Perciformes			
Labridae			
	Cheilinus undulatus	Per animal	5000
Cottidae			
	Trachidermus fasciatus	Per animal	100
Sciaenidae			
	Bahaba flavolabiata	Per animal	16000
	Totoaba macdonaldi	Per animal	16000
Syngnathiformes			
Syngnathidae			
	Hippocampus kelloggi.	Per animal	200
	Hippocampus spp.	Per animal	30
Salmoniformes			
Salmonidae			
	Hucho bleekeri	Per animal	2000
	Branchymystax lenok tsinlingensis	Per animal	1000
Dipneusti			
Ceratodontiformes			
Ceratodontidae			

Australian lungfish	*Neoceratodus forsteri*	Per animal	100
Coelacanthi			
Coelacanthiformes			
Latimeriidae			
	Latimeria spp.	Per animal	100000
Appendicularia			
Amphioxiformes			
Branchiostomatidae			
	Branchiostoma belcheri	Per animal	10
Hemichordata			
Enteropneusta			
Balanoglossidae			
	Glossobalanus Polybranchioporus	Per animal	100
Harrimaniidae			
	Saccoglossus hwangtauensis	Per animal	100
Echinodermata			
Sea Cucumber	Holothuroidea spp.	Per animal	10
Annelida			
Hirudinoidea			
Arhynchobdellida			
	Hirudinidae spp.	Per animal	10
Mollusca			
Gastropoda			
Mesogastropoda			
Cypraeidae			
	Cypraea tigris	Per animal	50
Cassididae			
	Cassis cornuta	Per animal	100
Lamllibranchia			
Anisomyria			
Pteriidae			
	Pinctada maxima	Per animal	100
Eulamellibranchia			
Tridacnidae			
	Tridacna cookiana	Per animal	5000
		Kilogram	60
Other species under Tridacnidae		Per animal	200
Unionidae			
	Lamprotula mansuyi	Per animal	100
Cephalopoda			
Nautilida			
	Nautilidae spp.	Per animal	3000
Cnidaria			
Anthozoa			
Gorgonaceae			
	Coralliidae spp.	Kilogram	50000
All species under Gorgonaceae		Kilogram	500