

Trophy Import-Export Consultation: Draft Board response

Question 1: What is your name?

Board response will be submitted by the Chairman: Professor Rory Putman

Question 2: What is your email address?

h.q@bds.org.uk

Question 3: What is your organisation? If you're replying as an individual, please type 'individual'.

British Deer Society

Question 4: Would you like your response to be confidential?

No

Question 5: Is there anything you would consider to be a hunting trophy that falls outside of the definition found in CITES and the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations?

a) Yes. b) No ; c.) If yes, please add more information

No

Question 6: Is there anything that falls within the definition used in CITES and the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations that you consider should not be treated as a hunting trophy? a. Yes b. No c. If yes, please add more information

No

Question 7: Do you envisage any challenges or difficulties which might arise from using the definition in CITES and EU Wildlife Trade Regulations, for example, when it comes to enforcement? a) Yes, b) No c) If yes, please add more information

Yes in that there may be a requirement to ensure that, post BREXIT with the “loss” of EU Directives and resulting probable confusion, the prevention of illegal export / import is not weakened

Options proposed in the consultation:

The proposed options are limited to the movement of hunting trophies to and from the UK.

Option one: A ban on hunting trophies from certain species entering or leaving the UK.

Option two: Stricter requirements for clear benefits to conservation and local communities to be demonstrated before hunting trophies from certain species are permitted to enter or leave the UK.

Option three: A ban on all hunting trophies entering or leaving the UK.

Option four: Do nothing - continue to apply current controls based on internationally agreed rules.

Question 8: We set out a number of options above. We would like to understand your preferred option and the reasons for that preference. Please state your first and second preferred options: a. Option one: A ban on hunting trophies from certain species entering or leaving the UK. b. Option two: Stricter requirements for clear benefits to conservation and local communities to be demonstrated before hunting trophies from certain species are permitted to enter or leave the UK. c. Option three: A ban on all hunting trophies entering or leaving the UK. d. Option four: Do nothing - continue to apply current controls based on internationally agreed rules. e. None: Please suggest any alternatives. Please add any comments on your preferred options, including any reasons for your preference.

Preferred option 4. No change

Second choice : Option 1 :A ban on hunting trophies from certain species entering or leaving the UK.

Comments: It seems to us that much of this consultation is focused on the effects of trophy hunting (and consequential import/export of trophies) on conservation, with actually rather little attention paid to other possible issues associated with the import and export of trophies or other animal parts.

We would suggest that in practice whatever one's stance on the relationship between sustainable exploitation and conservation, import and export of trophies in relation to sport hunting is adequately covered by existing CITES legislation.

However, there are other significant issues relevant to (control of) at least import of hunting trophies to UK, relating primarily to risk of importation of transmissible diseases of severe potential economic consequence such as Chronic Wasting Disease or African Swine Fever. We are surprised that no mention of these is included in this consultation. It is to accommodate the possibility of suitable biosecurity controls in relation to certain species, if this is deemed appropriate in the future, that we would advocate Option 1 as a second choice [A ban on hunting trophies from certain species entering or leaving the UK.]

If the consultation is genuinely to be restricted only to consideration of conservation issues we believe that control of trophies is adequately covered by existing CITES legislation and thus would advocate Option 4 : No change.

Question 9: Options one and two introduce further restrictions for certain species. Which species do you think these further restrictions should apply to? a. Species listed on Annex A or B of the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations b. Species listed on IUCN Red List c. Other. Please add any comments (If b.) Please specify which IUCN Red List categories you think these further restrictions should apply to (e.g. critically endangered,

endangered, vulnerable)? (If c.) Please tell us which species you think should be affected by further restrictions on the import and export of hunting trophies, either by identifying a framework to use, or submitting your own list, accompanied by an explanation for your answer.

c) Other. As in answer to question 8 we believe consideration should be given in this review to biosecurity issues and if further restrictions are to be imposed, consideration should be given to restricting import of species of high risk from certain specific areas.

Trophies from all critically endangered, endangered, vulnerable wildlife must be signed off by lawful authority in source country to offer provenance of conservation practices. This should remain the case under CITES but must be highlighted to ensure that such regulations are maintained following Brexit.

Question 10: Do you think there should be different restrictions on hunting trophies imported and exported to and from countries within the EU, compared with countries outside of the EU?

No

Question 11: Do you have additional information or evidence on: a. Potential impacts of increased restrictions as set out in options one to three? b. Potential barriers to implementation for options one to three?

a) There are potential impacts on restricting trophy hunting and export of trophies of certain deer species in the UK whose presence is tolerated by the landowners/farmers because of the Trophy value these deer hold. One of these species is Chinese Water Deer. Within its native range in China and Korea, the Chinese Water Deer is considered to be Vulnerable and Decreasing (IUCN Red List). In consequence, populations now free-ranging in the UK are now of considerable conservation value in a global context. To the extent that its status is assured by opportunities for sustainable harvest, any future withdrawal of the Trophy value, could have significant for the wider conservation of this species.

Further we are aware that any changes to the regulations may have significant effect on the economics of many deer management programmes in this country which let some of that management cull to foreign hunters and that, further, restriction of that trade might have significant implications for welfare of deer, if management culls in the future were less selective or had reduced economic value.

b) Inevitably there are formidable barriers in implementing options one to three in educating Border officials as to identification of permitted and non-permitted species

Question 12: In options one, two and three, do you think there should be different restrictions on hunting trophies obtained from; wild animals, captive bred animals, or animals involved in canned hunting? a. Yes b. No c. Add any comments (If a.) i. hunting trophies from captive bred animals (including canned) should have additional controls ii. hunting trophies from wild animals should have additional controls iii. Other

In general the British Deer Society does not support canned hunting of any species. However, this is a grey area in that enclosed populations (such as deer maintained in deer parks) still require management. The British Deer Society thus recognises the need for the selective culling of some wild, and enclosed, populations of deer and other wildlife species for welfare, environmental, human safety or other reasons, and is primarily concerned by its humane, lawful, safe and efficient conduct. Under such circumstances the keeping of by-products can be appropriate and we respect the right of the individual to exercise their personal preferences in these cases.

However, on grounds of welfare and humane treatment of animals, the British Deer Society does not support the transportation of deer for shooting.

Question 13: For options one, two and three, do you think there should be any exemptions considered? Please state your reasons why. a. Yes b. No c. Please add any comments

No comment

Enforcement:

At ports, Border Force is currently responsible for enforcing prohibitions and restrictions on certain goods being imported into or exported from the UK. To do this effectively, it has been granted enforcement powers, including the power to seize, and to detain goods.

We propose Border Force would use its existing powers to enforce at the UK border any new prohibitions placed on the import or export of hunting trophies introduced following this consultation. Away from the UK border, we would ensure that the police would have the necessary powers to enforce any new prohibitions. Where other authorised persons (such as APHA compliance officers) are required to enforce any new prohibitions, we would ensure that they would have the necessary powers to do so.

Where the option taken forward involves new prohibitions being put in place, we propose a mixed regime of civil and criminal sanctions for breaches of those prohibitions. We propose that any new criminal sanctions would be consistent with existing offences under the Control of Trade in Endangered Species Regulations 2018 (COTES). For instance, those found guilty of a criminal offence under COTES are liable to a fine and/or a maximum prison sentence of up to five years.

Similarly, we propose that any new civil sanctions would also be consistent with those found in COTES and would include: compliance notices, monetary penalties,

enforcement undertakings and non-compliance penalties. The type and level of civil penalty applied would be dependent on the type and severity of the offence. An existing regulatory body would be responsible for imposing civil sanctions.

Question 14: Do you agree with our proposed enforcement regime? a. Yes b. No c. Please add any comments

Yes - but this force must be realistically resourced and sustainable over time.