Bulgaria’s role in tackling Illegal Caviar trade

Katalin Kecse-Nagy and Jaap Reijngoud
What we know about the BG situation regarding Sturgeon and Caviar (1)

– BG is a range state to several sturgeon species in Danube and Black Sea – one of the last remaining spawning grounds worldwide

– All Sturgeon species are protected under CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora)

– BG has a long history of Sturgeon fishing and caviar trade

– Experts consider illegal fishing as a major threat
What we know about the BG situation regarding Sturgeon and Caviar (2)

- BG has fast growing sector of sturgeon farming
- BG has 6 plants licensed under CITES as exporters, processing or repackaging plants
- Next to legal trade, illegal trade in caviar and sturgeon meat takes place in BG (WWF/TRAFFIC market survey 2012 and seizure data from other EU MS)
- BG boundaries are extensive: approx. 35% NON-EU MS
- Proximity to Caspian Sea (transit role)
BG’s role in tackling illegal caviar trade

1) Stop illegal sturgeon fishing and illegal trade in meat and caviar
2) Regular control of aquaculture facilities
3) Regular control of licensed exporters, processing and repackaging plants
4) Improve control of domestic market, import and (re-) export
1) Stop illegal Sturgeon Fishing and trade

- Improve capacity of fishery inspectors
- Improve control (inspection) on fishery and trade
- Build awareness among all groups involved
- Provide sufficient human and financial resources for anti-poaching
2) Regular control of Aquaculture

Aquaculture operations need closer attention:
- Regular inspections (random and risk based)
- Consistency of the stock held with production
  - the number of specimens vs. caviar produced
  - age of animals in stock vs. production
  - species held vs. caviar in production
- How do they keep records of production
3) Regular Control of Exporters, Processors and Repackaging plants

- check on necessary documents, licences
- check on labels and codes – compliance with CITES
- concern about involvement of aquaculture in laundering wild sturgeons and caviar
- EU seizures show that illegal processing and repackaging may take place also within the EU
4) Improve control of domestic market, import and (re) export

- Building awareness for Customs, Border Police and Inspection Services involved in control/Inspection

- Capacity Building

- Promote Risk profiling
Questions ?????