

Japan's Comments on the US proposal for ICRI Motion on International Trade in Coral Reef Species and Related Products

Japan would cordially ask the proponent to withdraw the proposal for following reasons.

- ✚ ICRI is a voluntary partnership among governments, international organizations, and non-government organizations with the objective of strengthening cooperation among members in order to achieve sustainable use and conservation of coral reefs for future generations. Taking this into account, Japan does not believe it appropriate to have a debate at ICRI on controversial political matter such as CITES Appendices listing, on which diverged opinions exist among members.
- ✚ Japan considers that we can achieve sustainable use of the proposed species through appropriate fisheries management without restricting international trade.
- ✚ Since the proponent, together with other Contracting Parties, has made the proposals at CITES COP15 for listing those species in CITES appendices, the issue should be discussed at CITES COP15. ICRI has to refrain from pre-discussing and prejudging the issues without being provided with enough scientific information.