

Committee on Resources

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STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE WAYNE T. GILCHREST THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON FISHERIES CONSERVATION, WILDLIFE AND OCEANS

OVERSIGHT HEARING ON THE THIRTEENTH REGULAR MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA: SEPTEMBER 23, 2004.

Good afternoon. I am pleased to convene today's hearing which will focus on the thirteenth regular meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, commonly referred to as CITES.

CITES is unique as the only international organization whose primary focus is the protection of plant and animal species from unregulated international trade. CITES parties meet every two years. This year's meeting is scheduled to be held on October 2-14, 2004 in Bangkok, Thailand.

I welcome our two witnesses, the Honorable Judge Craig Manson, Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks at the Department of the Interior, who will be the head of the U.S. delegation. In addition, Dr. Rebecca Lent the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Fisheries is here to discuss issues under the purview of the Department of Commerce that will be raised at the CITES meeting.

I look forward to this important discussion and I recognize the ranking Democrat, the Honorable Frank Pallone of New Jersey, for any opening comments he may have in this matter.

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