



TV

UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

U.N. IN ACTION

Week of 19 June 2006

Programme: 1014

Length: 2'10"

CAVIAR – AN ENDANGERED DELICACY

VIDEO

SUMMIT LUNCHEON

CASPIAN SEA IMAGES

FISHER WRESTLING

STURGEON FROM THE SEA

AUDIO

NARRATION

When UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan invites Heads of State over for lunch, one item is not on the menu: Caviar. (7")

Sturgeon eggs, the black gold of the sea, have become an endangered delicacy. (5")

The Caspian Sea, home to 90 % of the world's sturgeon population, suffers from environmental damage and over-fishing. A hundred years ago 35,000 tons of fish were caught – last year's catch was only 1,000 tons. For 2006 the UN's Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species, CITES, had to put a stop on beluga caviar export from the region until all countries involved have come up with sustainable fishing plans. David Morgan is chief of the scientific support unit of CITES in Geneva. (32")

MORGAN ON-CAMERA

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MORGAN:

“We have been working with producing countries around the Caspian basin to try to limit the quantity of their fishing...legal and illegal that takes place.” (8”)

CAVIAR SHOP IN BAKU

CUSTOMS OFFICER

CHECKS BUS

NARRATION

The legal caviar market is a 100 million dollar a year business – smuggling is an even bigger market with huge profit margins, attracting a growing caviar mafia. CITES, a part of the UN’s Environment Programme, gives advice to customs and border control officers on targeting the smuggling and illegal trade of caviar and also created a uniform labelling system with official registration code. (24”)

MORGAN ON-CAMERA

MORGAN:

“It is not a quick job to recover the stock, once they are depleted. When we stabilize the situation and rebuild the stock slowly, that will be of benefit to the local population as well as of benefit to the fish themselves.” (15”)

STURGEON IN THE MUD

NARRATION:

In the meantime, this sturgeon is hiding in the mud and waiting for better days. (4.5”)

UN LOGO

This report has been prepared by the United Nations. (3”)