Recommendation No. 222 (2024) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 6 December 2024, on the assessment of the habitat of sturgeons

The Standing Committee of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, acting under the terms of Article 14 of the Convention,

Having regard to the aims of the Convention to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats;

Recalling that Article 1, paragraph 2 of the Convention requires Parties to give particular emphasis to the conservation of endangered and vulnerable species;

Recalling that Article 3 of the Convention requires Parties to take the necessary steps to promote national policies for the conservation of wild fauna and natural habitats, with particular attention to endangered and vulnerable species, especially endemic ones, and endangered habitats;

Recalling that Article 4.1 of the Convention requires Parties to take appropriate and necessary legislative and administrative measures to ensure the conservation of the habitats of the wild flora and fauna species, especially those specified in Appendices I and II, and the conservation of endangered natural habitats;

Recalling its Recommendation No. 59 (1997) on the Drafting and Implementation of Action Plans of Wild Fauna Species;

Recalling its Recommendation No. 41 (1993) on the protection of freshwater fish;

Recalling its Recommendation No. 116 (2005) on the conservation of sturgeons (*Acipenseridae*) in the Danube River Basin;

Recalling its Recommendation No. 127 (2007) of the Standing Committee on the conservation and restoration of the European sturgeon (*Acipenser sturio*);

Recalling the report on the status of implementation of the Action Plan for the Conservation of sturgeons (*Acipenseridae*) in the Danube River Basin, prepared by DSTF [document T-PVS/Inf(2017)22] and presented at its 37th meeting in December 2017;

Recalling its Recommendation No. 199 (2018) on the Pan-European Action Plan for Sturgeons [document T-PVS(2018)6];

Desirous to support Contracting Parties in the implementation of the Pan-European Action Plan for Sturgeons;

Recommends that Contracting Parties:

Make use to the extent possible of the technical guidelines on the assessment of the habitat of sturgeons supporting the implementation of the Pan-European Action Plan for the conservation of sturgeons and all activities in relation to the conservation of sturgeons;

Raise awareness among competent authorities and relevant stakeholders about the guidelines on the assessment of the habitat of sturgeons and encourage them to put them into practice;

Refer to the guidelines on the assessment of the habitat of sturgeons as criteria to develop and fund project proposals related to their conservation;

Recommends that the Secretariat promotes and gives appropriate visibility to the guidelines on the assessment of the habitat of sturgeons.