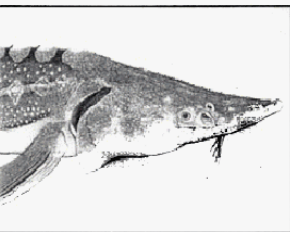




Beluga Sturgeon

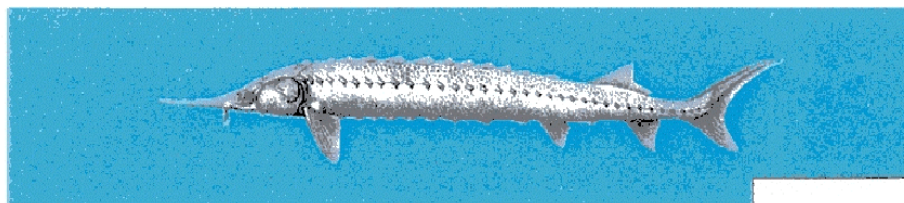
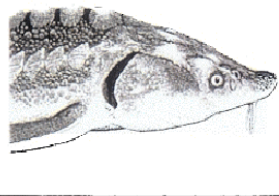
Caviar:
Common Name: Beluga Sturgeon
Latin Name: *Huso huso*
Life Expectancy: 150 years
Egg Bearing Age: 15 to 20 years of age
Size/Weight: Up to 19 feet and 2,000 pounds
Status: Protected under CITES

Sturgeon are "living fossils" that evolved on Earth more than 250,000 million years ago.



Russian Sturgeon

Caviar: Osetra
Common Name: Russian Sturgeon
Latin Name: *Acipenser gueldenstaedti*
Life Expectancy: 38 years
Egg Bearing Age: 12 years of age
Size/Weight: Up to 8 feet long and 250 pounds
Status: Protected under CITES



Stellate Sturgeon

Caviar: Sevruga
Common Name: Stellate Sturgeon
Latin Name: *Acipenser stellatus*
Life Expectancy: 30 years at present time
Egg Bearing Age: 8 years of age
Size/Weight: Up to 5 feet long and 55 pounds
Status: Protected under CITES

The high demand for caviar and the profits involved have resulted in a thriving black market trade.

Photo: Photo Disc



CITES

Convention on International Trade in
Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

- "[I]nternational cooperation is essential for the protection of certain species of wild fauna and flora against over-exploitation through international trade."
- "[W]ild fauna and flora ... are an irreplaceable part of the natural systems of the earth which must be protected."
- April 1, 1998: All sturgeon species not previously listed now Appendix II.

Endangered Species Act

- **PURPOSE:** To protect fish, wildlife, and plants listed as endangered or threatened and identify critical habitat.
- Makes it unlawful for any person to engage in trade or to possess any wildlife traded contrary to CITES.

Lacey Act

- Unlawful for any person to import, export, transport, sell, receive, acquire, or purchase in foreign commerce any fish or wildlife taken, possessed, transported, or sold in violation of foreign law, United States law (federal or state), or treaty of the United States.
- Unlawful for any person to make or submit any false record, account or label for, or any false identification of, any fish or wildlife which has been or is intended to be, imported, exported, transported, sold, purchased, or received from any foreign country or transported in interstate or foreign commerce.

Caviar Prosecutions

- **U.S. v. Hossein Lolavar, et al.**
- **U.S. v. Connoisseur Brands, Ltd.,
Alfred Yazback**
- **U.S. v. Victor Tsimbal**
- **U.S. v. Mariusz Chomicz**
- **U.S. v. Optimus, Inc.**
- **Courier cases**







The Real Thing



Forged Paper Label



Forged Tin Top

False Invoice Scheme



شركة كين فود للتجارة
TRADING L.L.C.

P.O. BOX 3378 AJMAN, U.A.E. Tel: 9716-449865 Fax: 9716-425087 E-Mail: kenfood@emiratesnet.ae
1717-1701AV تليفون 1717-1701AV فاكس 1717-1701AV بريد إلكتروني

INVOICE

Invoice No.	Invoice Date	Shipment Date	Customer ID	AW/BVL No.	No. of Pkgs.
K3011251	Nov 25, 1998	11/29/98	CC	020-75775722	710 TINS

Customer	Shipped to
U.S. CAVIAR & CAVIAR LTD 12307 WASHINGTON AVE ROCKVILLE, MD 20852 USA	SAME

Qty/ Kg	Descriptions	U/Price/ usd	Total
425.660	RUSSIAN SEVRUGA CAVIAR	130.00	55,725.80
538.410	RUSSIAN OSCETRA CAVIAR	160.00	86,125.60
86.535	RUSSIAN BELUGA CAVIAR	250.00	21,533.75
	AIR FREIGHT INCLUDED		
	COUNTRY OF ORIGIN - RUSSIA		
	WE HEREBY CERTIFY THAT ABOVE CAVIAR ARE FROM THE PRODUCER "KASPIYBA" IN RUSSIA.		
	IMPORTED IN U.A.E. PRIOR TO APRIL 1ST 1998.		
	PRE-CONVENTION CAVIAR		

	"PLEASE REMIT FROM THIS INVOICE UPON RECEIPT"		
		Subtotal	163,185.15
		Payment Received	0.00
		TOTAL	163,185.15

Thank you for your order

AIR 1996



Abdourahman Yousry



شركة كين فود للتجارة
TRADING L.L.C.

P.O. BOX 3378 AJMAN, U.A.E. Tel: 9716-449865 Fax: 9716-425087 E-Mail: kenfood@emiratesnet.ae
1717-1701AV تليفون 1717-1701AV فاكس 1717-1701AV بريد إلكتروني

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Customer	Shipped to
U.S. CAVIAR & CAVIAR LTD 12307 WASHINGTON AVE ROCKVILLE, MD 20852 USA	SAME

Qty/ Kg	Descriptions	U/Price/ usd	Total
425.660	RUSSIAN SEVRUGA CAVIAR	206.00	87,875.36
538.410	RUSSIAN OSCETRA CAVIAR	250.00	134,102.50
86.535	RUSSIAN BELUGA CAVIAR	320.00	27,691.20
	AIR FREIGHT INCLUDED		
	COUNTRY OF ORIGIN - RUSSIA		
	WE HEREBY CERTIFY THAT ABOVE CAVIAR ARE FROM THE PRODUCER "KASPIYBA" IN RUSSIA.		
	IMPORTED IN U.A.E. PRIOR TO APRIL 1ST 1998.		
	PRE-CONVENTION CAVIAR		

	DOCUMENTARY CREDIT NO. L166230 Dtd 25/11/98 OF THE FIRST UNION NATIONAL BANK CHARLOTTE NC.		
	ORIGINAL		
	"PLEASE REMIT FROM THIS INVOICE UPON RECEIPT"		
		Subtotal	249,669.00
		Payment Received	0.00
		TOTAL	249,669.00

Thank you for your order

FIN 0847



Abdourahman Yousry



Mock-up for Stamp



Forged Stamp





U.S. v. Lolavar, et al.

Hossein Lolavar - 41 months

Faye Briggs - 24 months

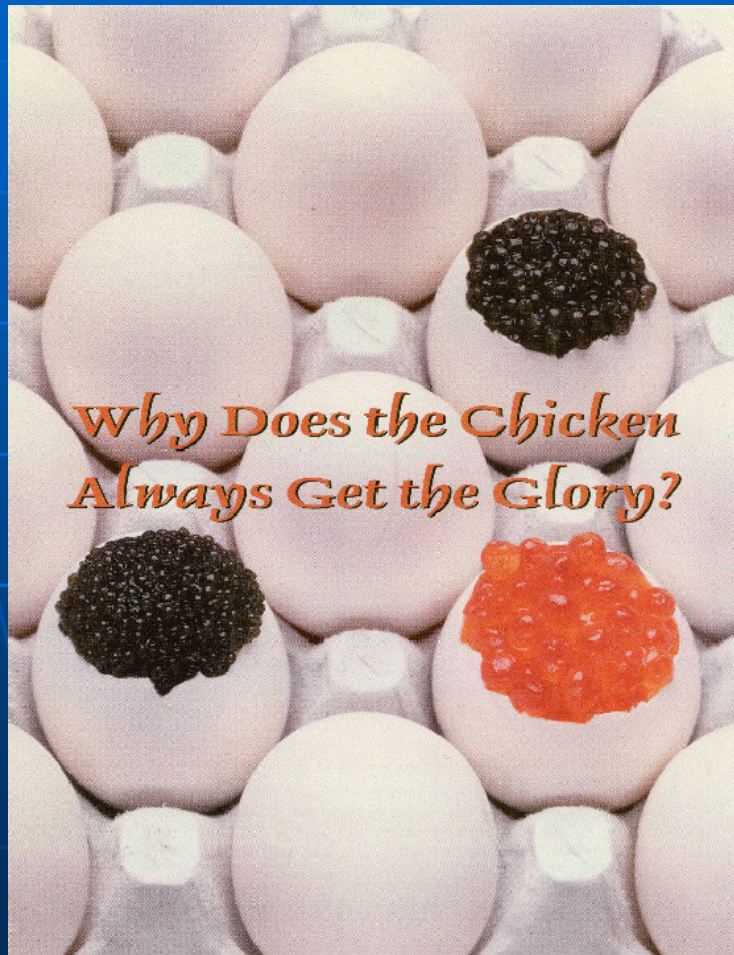
Ken Noroozi - 15 months

Michael Gould - Home Confinement

U.S. Caviar & Caviar - \$10.4 million + restitution

- Conspiracy: Smuggling & False Statements
- 18,720 lbs imported in 1998 w/forged labels/double invoices
- Purchase/sale of 30,500 lbs in 1998 -10,000 lbs of Domestic Paddlefish and Shovelnose Sturgeon
- False Statements
- Lacey Act False Labeling
- Mail Fraud (Paddlefish Substitution/Black Market Sales)
- Endangered Species Act – CITES

U.S. v. Alfred Yazback & Connoisseur Brands, Ltd.



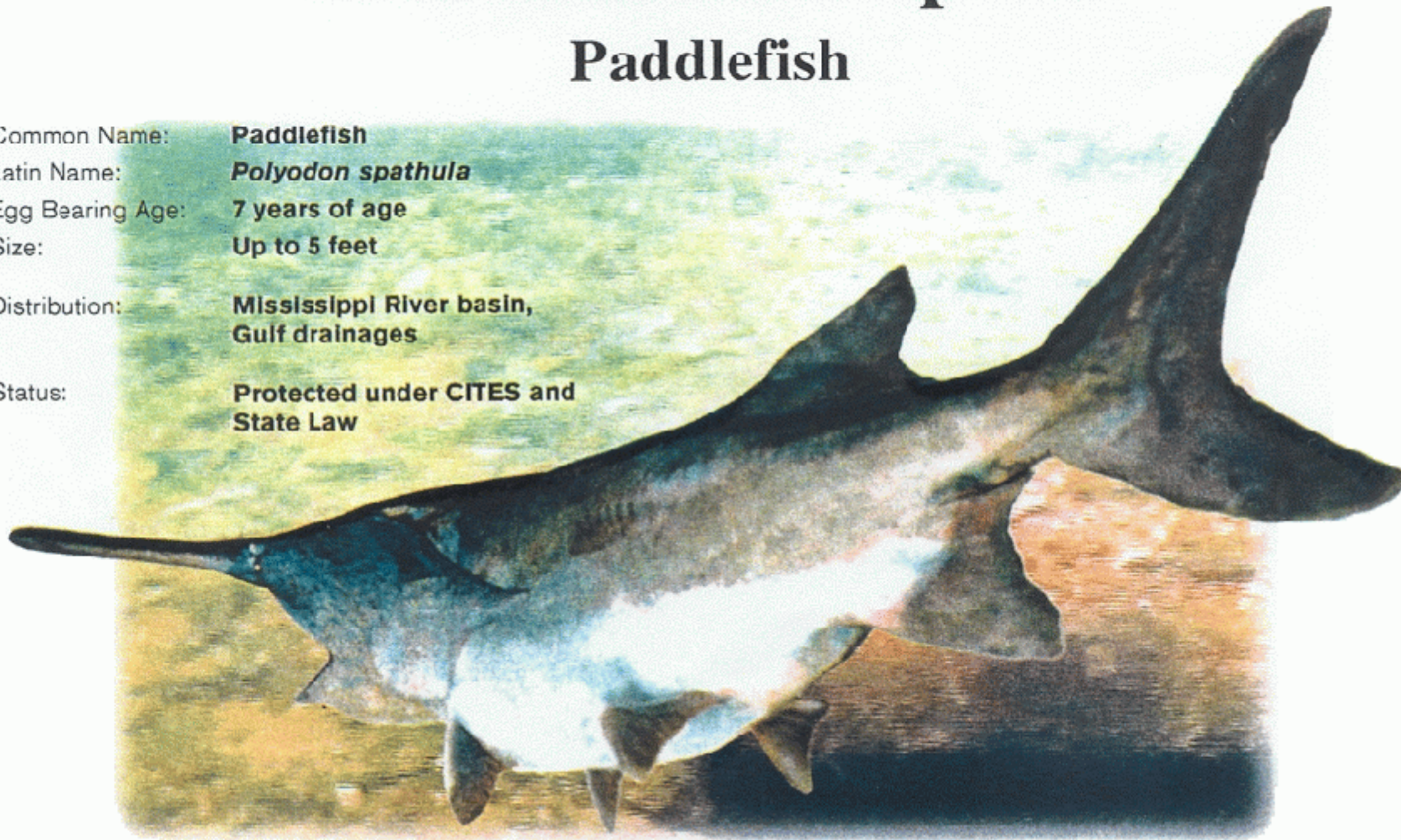
U.S. v. Yazback

- Selling Counterfeit Caviar
- Discovered by undercover operations
- Purchasing Smuggled Suitcase Caviar
- Selling Black Market Caviar to Retailers
- Double Invoices and Hidden Beluga
- Purchase/Sale Paddlefish in Violation of State law
- False Statements to FWS

North American Species

Paddlefish

Common Name: **Paddlefish**
Latin Name: ***Polyodon spathula***
Egg Bearing Age: **7 years of age**
Size: **Up to 5 feet**
Distribution: **Mississippi River basin,
Gulf drainages**
Status: **Protected under CITES and
State Law**



U.S. v. Victor Tsimbal



U.S. v. Tsimbal

- President/Owner of Beluga Caviar - Miami
- Ran Courier Ring via Poland
- Proceeds Deposited in Foreign Banks Using Names of Couriers
- Purchased Caviar in Tins Labeled as "Lumpfish"
- "Legal" Imports From Poland/Munnix Selling Counterfeit Caviar

Suitcase Caviar



Compare prices...|| [Home](#) ||

Caviar prices for 1.1 lb (0.5 kg)

Update	Supplier	Beluga '000'	Beluga	Golden Osetra	Osetra	Sevruga
6/12/00	Beluga Caviar, Inc.	630	540	510	410	350
6/12/00	Fancy Foods Gourmet Club	n/a	739	n/a	499	451
6/12/00	Caviar and Gourmet Food Direct From Importer	n/a	667	n/a	579	526
6/12/00	Paramount Caviar	1320	1072	918	748	605
6/12/00	Seattle Caviar Company	n/a	1190	n/a	680	595
6/12/00	Caviar-Express	885	n/a	n/a	660	550
6/12/00	Caviar Malossol	885	n/a	n/a	660	550
6/12/00	Caviar Direct	1320	1072	918	748	654
6/12/00	Aristoff Caviar	n/a	1071	n/a	714	625
6/12/00	Sovietski Collection	n/a	1196	n/a	700	596
6/12/00	Tsar Nicoulai Caviar	n/a	1199	n/a	846	811
6/12/00	Caviateria	1639	1208	1329	667	686
6/12/00	Petrossian Caviar	1475	1200	1100	848	647

False Labeling



The Lowly Lumpfish



U.S. v. Chomicz

- President of Polish caviar company.
- Smuggled caviar to Miami via couriers.
- Approximately 1,500 kilos sold under name of BMT Trading, a fictitious company.
- False invoices claim product was imported lawfully.
- Sentenced to 33 months.

U.S. v. Optimus, Inc. a/k/a Marky's Caviar

- Purchased approximately 5.9 tons of smuggled caviar from 5 different smuggling rings.
- False invoices used.
- Caviar smuggled by courier.
- Caviar smuggled by mail.



“We don't want to speak much about our caviar, please try it and fall in love with it!”

- www.markyscaviar.com

U.S. v. Optimus, Inc. a/k/a Marky's Caviar

