

Mexico / México

Totoaba, concealed marine-wildlife shipments and the markets beyond the border.

The trafficking route continues through houses, businesses and declarations.

The drying house

The Song Shen Zhen prosecution documented totoaba bladders in a vehicle and a Calexico residence used for drying. The U.S. sentencing record identifies imprisonment and restitution ordered to Mexico. [S55](#), [S56](#)

A furniture-company front

Kaven Company and Kam Wing Chan pleaded guilty in a marine-wildlife smuggling case. Later sentencing records update the original indictment; the collection does not treat an order for restitution as proof of collection. [S06](#), [S35](#)

Ecological harm needs a precise causal claim

NOAA identifies entanglement in gillnets, including nets set for totoaba, as a threat to vaquita. A particular seized shipment cannot be blamed for an individual vaquita death without additional evidence. [S57](#)

What to investigate next

1. Trace each admitted shipment through declarations, border crossings and documented buyers.
2. Obtain restitution collection and asset-disposition records for the completed prosecutions.
3. Separate U.S. false-origin labeling of imported seafood from proof that the original catch was illegal.

China-market demand and a proven smuggling route do not establish Chinese government direction. The connected U.S. labeling case identifies misconduct by

the U.S. processor.

Connected files

- [The drying house behind a totoaba border seizure](#)
- [Marine wildlife behind a furniture-company front](#)
- [Imported crab repacked as American: the Casey's Seafood case](#)

Original sources

1. **S55 · U.S. Department of Justice**
[Fishy Business: smuggler of swim bladders sentenced in federal court](#)
Song Shen Zhen: sentence, restitution, border discovery and drying house
2. **S56 · U.S. Department of Justice**
[Massive trade in endangered species uncovered: totoaba cases](#)
Zhen search and Chinese-market context
3. **S06 · U.S. Department of Justice**
[Environmental Crimes Section Monthly Bulletin, August 2015: Kaven Company and Kam Wing Chan](#)
Printed p. 11; PDF page 7; pleas dated 2015-07-21
4. **S35 · U.S. Department of Justice**
[Environmental Crimes Section Monthly Bulletin: Kaven sentencing](#)
Printed p. 15; sentencing 5 October 2015
5. **S57 · NOAA Fisheries**
[Vaquita: species and threats](#)
Totoaba gillnet bycatch and Gulf of California habitat

Public-source synthesis; not live vessel monitoring.

oceanaccountability.com/countries/mexico/

support@oceanaccountability.com