

Preparing the Sustainable Eel Agenda

At the Bridgewater Conference on Eels the idea of forming a body to promote the 'Sustainable Eel' was raised. David Bunt and I have continued with these thoughts and have made progress. The Fishmongers' Company have offered to host our first meeting at their Hall in London on the 9th November. (1100 to 1500 lunch provided).

We have deliberately tried to assemble those with both a keen interest and who also have another relevant professional roles in science, commerce, and or the environment - so far the following have indicated a willingness to participate.

Chetal Moghraby (DEFRA), Heidi or Miran (Environment Agency), David Bunt (IFM, hosted the Bridgewater Conference), Brian Knights (Fishery Scientist), Chris Letchwich (Fishmongers Company), Robert Rosell (AFBI, N Ire and the Eel Working Group), Peter Wood (UK Glass Eels Ltd), Paul Knight (Salmon and Trout), Keith Wilson (City of London Port Authority) and Andrew Kerr.

Whilst the preference is to keep the group to about 10 please let me know if there are any obvious skills or knowledge gaps and if this agenda is appropriate.

Possible Agenda Topics

1. Setting up the Body (1100 to 1230)

- **Purpose – what is the aim of the organisation and what are its immediate objectives? Who is it seeking to influence and work with?** *I suggest following a discussion these are worked up by a sub group into a document for agreement at the next meeting. These are likely to include supporting the implementation of the eel recovery plans and the winning of funds from European Fisheries Funds (EFF).*
- **Organisational Model – what is the ideal vehicle for this body and what should it be called?** Should this be a charity, a trade group, a society etc? *At the conference I suggested SEAN (Sustainable Eel Advisory Network) all ideas welcome.*
- **How is the eel body to be managed, resourced and or funded?**

2. Information exchange – updates since the Bridgewater Conference (1300 to 1500)

- **Updates on the Eel Recovery Plans from the EA.** *Have these been approved?*
- **Update to the progress on Bye Laws and the public response from EA (Heidi/Miran).**
- **Update on the Eel Working Group and CITES from Robert Rosell.**
- **Update on the coming fishing season from Peter Wood**
- **What is happening in Europe and what other European bodies are emerging to promote the eel, like the Future for Eel?**

- **The EFF and the offer of Steve Bailey to come to our next meeting with the head of their grants unit to explain how it works and how the Eel might benefit.**

3. Summary of Action to be taken

Agreement and Summary of who is to take what actions coming out of the first meeting and set the date for the second