



The illicit trade in European eel

Sustainable Eel Group Annual Conference

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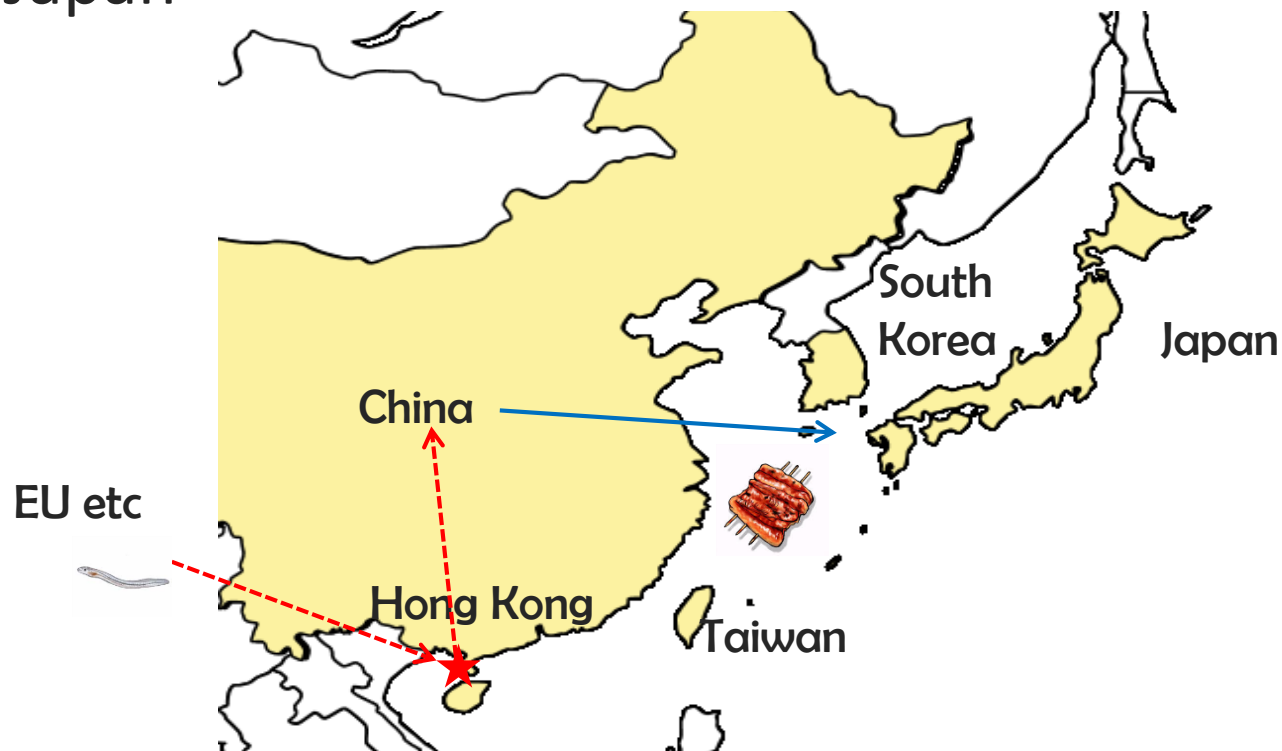
Hiromi Shiraishi

The illicit global trade in European eel

- ◆ How international communities are reacting to the issue
- ◆ Risks from ongoing illicit trade to the industry

A. anguilla in East Asian

- * *A. anguilla* is farmed in mainland China for 2-3 years for growing out
- * Tabled sized eels are consumed domestically or re-exported to other countries, most of which used to go to Japan



China's trade in *A. Anguilla*

Elver input into Chinese eel farms

	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Elver input (t)	16	20	8	11	11	7	20	18
With CITES permits (t)								3.7

Source: Nihon Yoshoku Shimbun

Re-exports from China - live adult eel and meat (processed eel)

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Live eel (t)					580	1,497	1,469	N/A
Meat (t)	12,284	9,304	7,521	4,861	5,767	6,732	3,752	N/A

Source: CITES trade database (Exporter reported quantity)

The international community also sees Illicit *A. anguilla* trade is a serious issue

- * CITES CoP17 decided to conduct a study on CITES listing of *A. anguilla* including illegal trade
- * UNODC sees illicit *A. anguilla* trade as one of serious wildlife crime like ivory and rhino horn trade



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Japan's reaction to *A. anguilla* illegal trade issue

Repeatedly requested Chinese government to ensure proper implementation of CITES when re-exporting *A. anguilla* to Japan



Japanese government



Japanese major supermarkets stopped sourcing and selling *A. anguilla* because of criticism from NGOs and media

Was requesting China would not resume re-exports of *A. anguilla* (allegedly sourced from North Africa)



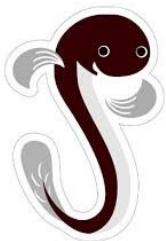
Japan Eel Importers Association



- * *A. anguilla* had been the second most favoured species after Japanese eel in Japan.
- * The market share is about to be taken by American eel.

Combating illicit global trade in eels

- * No gains from allowing illicit *A. anguilla* glass eel trade to East Asia
- * Do you want to resume legal trade in the future and European eel to take back the market share in Japan?
- * Then, at least...
 - ① Illicit trade need to be eliminated and trade becomes transparent
 - ② Stock status need to be improved



Thank you for your attention

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the wildlife trade monitoring network

