

The Sustainable Eel Group

Notes of the meeting 9th July 2010, 11am-3pm, Fishmongers Hall, London.

Present:	Andrew Kerr	(AK)	Independent (Management Consultant)	(Chair)
	Brian Knights	(BK)	Independent (Fisheries Scientist)	
	Heidi Stone	(HS)	Environment Agency	
	Miran Aprahamian	(MA)	Environment Agency	
	Matthew Gollock	(MG)	Eel Conservation Group / Zoological Society London	
	Tom Fort	(TF)	Author	
	Vin Fleming	(VF)	Joint Nature Conservation Committee	
	Julian Jones	(JJ)	Radnor Wildlife Trust	
	Ian Johnson	(IJ)	Environment Agency	
	Alan Walker	(AW)	Cefas	
	Jo Gascoigne	(JG)	Independent Fisheries Scientist	
	Paul Clark	(PC)	Natural History Museum	
	Chris Leftwich	(CL)	Fishmongers Company	
	Vicky Offord	(VO)	UK Glass Eels	

Apologies:	David Bunt	(DB)	Institute of Fisheries Management
	Paul Knight	(PK)	Salmon and Trout Association
	Peter Wood	(PW)	UK Glass Eels
	Keith Wilson	(KW)	London Port Authority
	Robert Rosell	(RR)	Agri-Food & Biosciences Institute, Northern Ireland
	Maldwin Drummond	(MD)	Fishmongers Company
	Mark Salt	(MS)	National Anguilla Club
	Christopher Moriarty	(CM)	Retired Fisheries Manager, Republic of Ireland
	Peter Neusinger	(PN)	Glass Eel Buyer
	Derek Evans	(DE)	Agri-Food & Biosciences Institute, Northern Ireland
	Alistair Maltby	(AM)	Association of Rivers Trusts
	William Swinkles	(WS)	Nivjis, Dutch Eel Farmer
	Alison Debney	(AD)	Zoological Society London

Minutes

Action

<p>1. Welcome, introductions & apologies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Andrew Kerr welcomed the group, including several new members- he stated that real progress was being made on both the habitat improvement theme and the development of a sustainable standard for aquaculture Apologies received are listed above. 	
<p>2. Minutes of last meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minutes from last meeting accepted by BK and seconded by MG. 	
<p>3. Matters Arising from last minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> VF went through CITES action including stating that they have recreated the Eel Working group with two UK reps, himself and AW. The first meeting was set for Aug AW stated that there is a data base of eel catches being compiled for EU countries 	
<p>4. Reports from Sub Groups</p> <p>4.1 Governance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The meeting welcomed and reviewed the draft paper and comments and improvements were sort. The idea is that the management of SEG would be delegated through an elected board of 12. Members would vote for the Directors at an AGM An additional Voting Conservation Post was recommended to join the Board within the 12 Directors 	VF

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed that there needs to be a formal review of the governance every three years. • Agreed that the Representative from a Govt Department or Agency would enjoy a non-voting status. VF to work on the wording for observer status • All members would be welcome to join the four quarterly meetings • It was agreed there would continue to be four SEG meetings a year • The document will be worked on and brought to the next meeting for signing off and that elections including nominations would take place at the proposed AGM (December / Jan) 	<p>AK</p> <p>VO</p> <p>PK</p>
<p>4.2 Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial statements are now online • EA money for SEG is now to be spent directly on the Habitat Improvement Strategy; so far a total of £12.4k has been invoiced. • New signatories to be set up on bank account, DB, PW, VO. AK can sign up to £100. • SEG needs to work out what each group wants in regard to funding and see if the EFF is appropriate to fund and the EA may be able to use its funding to match. 	<p>VO</p> <p>TF/AK</p>
<p>4.3 Position Statements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 3rd draft wording of the 'is it sustainable to eat eel' statement was gone through and further refinements made • Baby Eels is to be changed to Juvenile eels. • Words on website to be hyperlinked to definitions • A basic webpage for the glass eel life cycle to be made. • TF is thinking about what to write in an article about the Eels in the food chain AK to get it in the press. • The EA is looking into calcium levels in Eels in southern chalk areas which means you can assess how long they spending fresh and salt water - Members to look out for results 	<p>BK / MG</p> <p>MA/AK</p> <p>ALL</p>
<p>4.4 EMP Delivery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IJ and MA will lead the EA's SEG presence in the future. IJ expressed the importance of the eels recovery to EA plans and stated his commitment to support SEG's objectives. • -The joint project between the EA and Rivers trust was warmly supported. The outline proposal was endorsed with a request for more information on the how it it was going to be worked up. The outcome of a plan of action will enable the best use of resources. It was noted that SEG could need 10% <u>matched</u> funding for land fill tax. • Meeting with Dr Polly to be set up with AK, MA and HS. BK, <u>MG</u> and AW to be kept aware. 	<p>AM</p> <p>AK</p>
<p>4.5 Communication Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This theme remains a weakness and SEG needs to develop an approach. Any ideas please contact AK 	
<p>5. Update from the Hamburg meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MG outlined the meeting in Hamburg and stated it was very promising. The commercial representatives of all six countries were committed to conserving the eel • MG briefly summarised the reported actions in each country and- AK will follow up the Dutch PR programme- by forwarding the full presentation from Alex Koelwin. • Keeping SEG informed of activities across Europe was seen as important 	<p>AK</p>

<p>6. Sustainable Eel Standard</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AK to send out JG's report to SEG members when received early next week. • JG explained her experiences to date on related work most notably with the MSC std • JG posed questions to the Group – these findings will be in the report. The view emerged that the SEG standard should initially concentrate on glass eel fishery. Aquaculture may need to be taken separately later. • SEG needs to engage with conservation groups and others during a 60 day consultation period for the standard. A list of these people must be put together and an approach to LINK may facilitate the process of consultation. 	<p>AK</p> <p>JJ/AK</p>
<p>7. Update from meeting with ICUN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following the advice from VF on how to approach IUCN PW and BK had met the Chief Executive as independent persons and not in the name of SEG. They raised issues on the need for multiple opinions on the science and explored the issues of transparency and governance in the development of a red listing. The meeting was very positive and constructive and they are waiting for a response. SEG asked to be kept briefed. 	<p>PW / BK</p>
<p>8. Thames Eels & Mitten Crabs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PC gave a presentation on the invasion of the Chinese Mitten Crab. He was after support for a project to design a nil by catch net especially one that would enable eels to escape. Total cost of project £35,500. Offers of help were made. • The volume of eel caught in the Fyke style net surprised the meeting and MA was to assess the effort and comment 	<p>MA</p>
<p>9 Any Other Business?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HS explained that the National Eel consultation period starts Friday and finishes 20th or possibly 24th August. All Eel fishermen will get letters and it should be confirmed in the Autumn and start in January. <p>10. Next Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 28th September 11am - 3pm. 	