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Repeuplement Anguille France



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Contribution of French Professional Fishermen to European Eel Restocking:

Good Practice Guide for the Glass Eel Fishing

Sustainable Eel Group Meeting. San Servolo, Venice, 29 May 2012

Guide developed in the framework of the French Eel Management Plan > define glass eel fishing practices within a growing market aiming at reaching at least 60% of the production for restocking by 2013.

Also concerns, in its basic recommendations, fishing for intra-EU consumption markets in the current situation.

Determines environmental and fishing context > efforts to support the workforce or reintroduce the species made on basis of glass eels caught in French waters.

Professional fishermen commit themselves by signing a deontological code.

Conditions for setting-up good fishing practices defined in the framework of the European programme INDICANG > 4 Member States (Portugal, Spain, France and UK) and 13 catchment areas from the Minho to the Tamel rivers.

Conditions drawn up on the basis of traditional knowledge and techniques described and used by stakeholders directly involved in the exploitation, management and study of the species and its aquatic habitats.

1 - Determine the catchment area's specific environmental and fishing context in order to assess the level of fishing effort exerted on the flow of glass eels:

- estuarine environment
- gear used
- power of vessels
($<$ or $>$ to 100 hp)
- ratio between filtered
and flowing volume



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2 – Determine the quality of glass eels caught for restocking (reduction of the mortality risks before transportation): speed of the vessel, duration of the trawl, configuration of the net

3 – Minimise the impact on other species

4 – Optimise storage and fattening of glass eels in the holding tank



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5 – Guarantee optimal transport conditions

> packaging in transport boxes and truck holding tank equipped with oxygenation system



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6 – Regulate the use of products for restocking in Europe > eel restocking programme must be based on fishing & aquacultural skills (fish farm stocking)

- choice of sites & stages of capture in the natural environment
- sanitary inspections
- choice of the stage and area of release (guarantees of low contamination, good recipient capacities of habitats, absence of sources of excessive direct human-induced mortality, etc)

7 – Monitor the effectiveness of the system and establish management rules:

- short term restoration objectives for the ecological waterways (including setting-up of fishways)
- work based on inventory and analysis of the quality of settings and ecological continuity
- monitoring of restocking actions (glass eel marking by immersion before release)



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- implementation of a system to ensure the traceability of professional fishing products (already fully operational in France in 2011) and regulation of the environmental sector

To know more about INDICANG :

http://www.ifremer.fr/indicang/version_anglaise/introduction.htm (free download of documents)

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