

The EU Eel Regulation: Assessing Progress and Planning for the Future

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European Meeting of the SEG

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OUTLINE

- Topic 1: The Regulation: background and brief history
- Topic 2: Progress Reports and Amendment of the Regulation
- Topic 3: Enhancing the CITES – Eel Regulation interaction


The Eel Regulation


- **18 September 2007:** Adoption of Regulation (EC) No 1100/2007 establishing measures for the recovery of the stock of European eel
- **2009-2011:** Adoption of MS's eel plans by the Commission


Content of the EMPs


- Goal of EMPs: 40% of silver eel biomass must be allowed to escape to the sea (or downstream)
- This is difficult to calculate for most Member States due to lack of data. Models have been used to estimate pristine and actual escapement.
- Long-term objective: at least 2-3 eel generations. MS have given various timescales for reaching the 40% target.


Submissions in accordance with Article 3 of the Water Framework Directive


 National River Basin Districts⁽¹⁾
 (within EU27)


 National River Basin Districts⁽¹⁾
 (outside EU27)


 International River Basin Districts⁽²⁾
 (within EU27)

 International River Basin Districts⁽³⁾
 (outside EU27)

 Coastal Waters⁽⁴⁾

 RBD boundary

 Country border

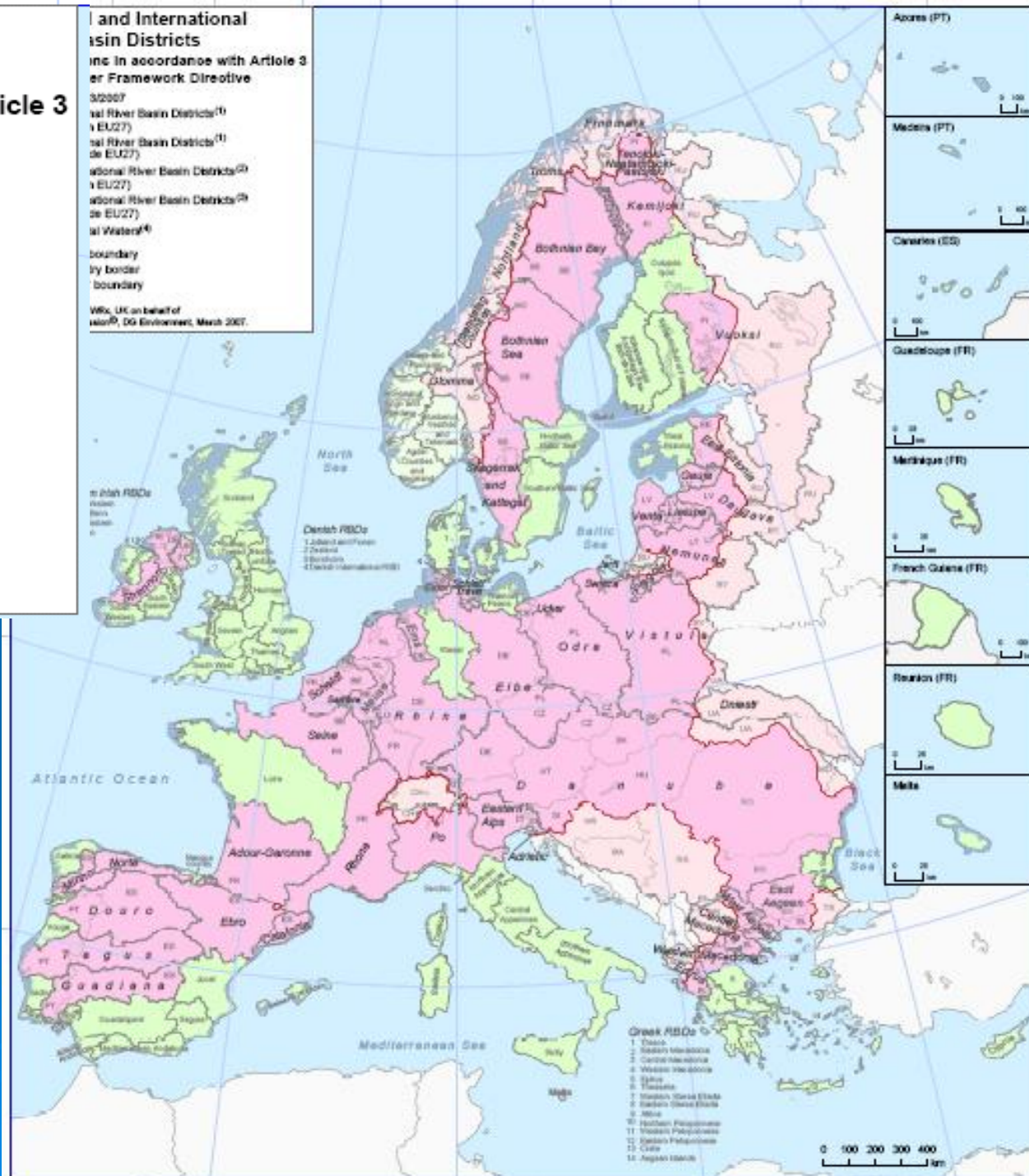
 EU27 boundary

and International
Basin Districts
in accordance with Article 3
of the Framework Directive

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boundary
try border
boundary

WRC, UK on behalf of
unionID, DG Environment, March 2007



Content of the EMP's

- EMP's contain measures such as:
- Restrictions/limitations of fisheries (commercial and recreational): limitations in seasons, gears, minimum landing sizes, national catch quota etc.
- Structural measures: demolition/modification of obstacles, construction of eel passes
- Trap-and-transport schemes to facilitate silver eel migration.
- Restocking

Reporting and follow-up

- MS must report to the COM every 3 years (then every 6). First report due by **1 July 2012**.
- By **31 December 2013** the COM will report to EP and Council on the outcome of the implementation of EMP's, up to that date.
- Based on the outcome of this report, the Commission may propose additional measures to ensure stock recovery.

Reporting and follow-up

- In order to ensure clear, coherent and effective reporting, the Commission has prepared a reporting template.
- ICES and the Member States have commented on this draft.
- ICES has requested that the reporting be done in a coordinated manner and has asked for a more detailed reporting/more information to be included in the reports.
- The Commission has taken this input into account.
- The final version of the reporting template was presented to the MS in January 2012.

Content of the MS's progress reports

- The % of biomass of silver eel escaping to the sea
- The level of fishing effort and reductions thereof
- The mortality caused by non-fisheries factors and the reductions thereof
- The amount of glass eel caught and the % of these used for different purposes (export, consumption, aquaculture, restocking etc.)

	No. of plans	Pages	Language
BE	1	173	FR/NL
BG	0	-	-
CZ	1	42	EN
DE	9	394	DE
DK	1	75	EN
EE	1	26	EN
EL	1	59	EN
ES	13	1460	ES
FI	1	79	FI
FR	11	590	FR
IE	7	255	EN
IT	1	600	IT
LT	1	112	LT
LU	1	107	DE
LV	1	95	EN
NL	1	47	EN
PL	1	88	EN
PT	1	101	PT
SE	1	82	EN
SI	0	-	-
UK	16	730	EN
TOTAL	70 plans from 19 MS	5000+	-

Glass Eel and CITES

- According to the Regulation, 60% of glass eel (<12cm long) are to be used in restocking, for the purpose of increasing escapement of silver eel to the sea. (Started at 35%, reach 60% by 2013).
- Prices paid by Asian buyers are usually much higher than those paid by EU restockers. EFF support is available to MS to aid in glass eel purchases for conservation-oriented restocking.

Glass Eel and CITES

- Eel is listed on CITES Appendix II. This listing came into force on 13 March 2009.
- The Scientific Review Group for CITES debated for about 2 years before taking a decision regarding the implementation of this listing.
- The CITES SRG concluded that no NDF could be issued by any EU MS for the year 2011. Therefore no export or import, into or out of the EU, was permitted during 2011. The same decision was also taken for 2012.

Glass Eel and CITES

- Several non-EU countries have declared their desire to export eel to the EU, e.g. Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, Norway etc.
- RUS would like to import large quantities of glass eel into Kaliningrad for aquaculture and restocking purposes.
- These requests were denied for 2011 and for 2012, due to the trade ban stemming from the decision of the CITES SRG.

The current glass eel trade

- The COM has been receiving information from various sources regarding illegal trade in glass eel.
- Some of the information has been verified and some has not.
- In recent months arrests and seizures of illegal eel shipments have been made in various EU MS.
- According to some reports it appears that the volume of illegal trade has increased significantly over the past 1-2 years.

Meeting between CITES and fisheries authorities

- On 31 May a meeting will be held in Brussels to bring together experts from fisheries and CITES authorities of the Member States.
- The purpose of the meeting is to enhance cooperation between these authorities, which typically fall within the competences of the Fish/Agri Ministries and Environment Ministries, respectively.

Agenda of the meeting (1)

Review of the Eel Regulation

1. State of implementation of the EMP's - difficulties faced by the MS
2. Reduction in anthropogenic mortalities via fisheries and non-fisheries measures
3. Are MS fulfilling the restocking targets in their plans?
4. Under which conditions does restocking contribute to the recovery of the stock?
5. Have MS observed any positive trends in the stock?

Agenda of the meeting (2)

Review of the CITES listing

1. Are the CITES listing/trade ban and the eel regulation mutually beneficial to each other? How can this be improved?
2. What is the impact of the trade ban on the harvest level?
3. Illegal fishing and illegal trade in eels: how have these evolved since the listing? How are Member States coping with these seemingly growing problems?

