Fish Migration…
*from Sea to Source*

SEG Venice 28-30 May 2012

Over 60 people from 15 countries
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Silo thinking is preventing the realisation of a common vision!

- Application of the ecosystem approach
- At the catchment (most appropriate) scale to conserve and improve UK rivers.
- Effectively engage with all stakeholders to achieve this and empowering community ownership
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Ecosystem approach

RT applies The Ecosystem Approach which provides a guide to linking human/social, ecological and economic drivers and is a delivery tool of the Convention on Biological Diversity.
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Appropriate scale - Catchment approach

BEFORE

AFTER
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Stakeholder engagement & community ownership
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SEG - ecosystem approach
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SEG - Appropriate scale
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Stakeholder engagement & community ownership
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£1M (50%) - sustainable eel fishery project (yr1 of 3)

1. Stock assessment.

2. Maximising the available habitat area for the freshwater life cycle of the eel.

3. Increase awareness & education
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The project partners

- **The Rivers Trust** (lead partner, NGO covering England, Wales & Northern Ireland & Scotland via sister organisation)
- **Environment Agency** for England & Wales (government agency responsible for management of freshwater fisheries)
- **CEFAS** (UK government advisor & research organisation for fisheries)
- **Institute of Fisheries Management** (UK organisation representing fishery professionals)
- UK Glass Eels
- Severn & Wye Smokery

All operating in partnership under the banner of the Sustainable Eel Group.
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Stock Assessment

• Glass eel stock assessment via trawl (year one). Budget £150,000.
• Led by the Environment Agency for England & Wales
• Year two – yellow eel stock assessment
• Year three – silver eel escapement

Purpose to inform future UK eel management plans
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Maximising habitat
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Raising awareness & education

www.sustainableeelgroup.com
Challenges for us (the eel community)

- Develop truly co-ordinated EU programmes - the most appropriate scale

- Even closer collaboration between SEG partners (old and new – particularly conservation organisations)

- European eel is managed at the European scale
  - Change of regulation - Play tunes with conservation measures to maximise spawner escapement
  - Are lagoons the vital key?

HOLY GRAIL – accelerated recovery and truly sustainable populations!
Thank you!