



WELCOME

SEG: Trafficking session

ARKive
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General overview of:

- CITES Convention.
- Recent trade history: Ripple effects of biodiversity loss.
- Real data enhance trade.
- European Action against trafficking: operations led by Spain Enforcement Police.



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CITES main goal:

- *Its aim is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival.*



Therefore, trade is under control. What does it mean?

- *Non detrimental findings are the keystone of trade.*

1990's

2000's

2010's

Today.

1990's
Japanese eel
collapses.

1990's Huge
increase on
imports of
European eel in
Japan.

1990's Exports of glass-
eel soars to supply
farming=> overfishing
and poaching plus a
surge in eel prices.

2001 catch figure for
European eel is the
lowest on records.

1984-2000: landings of eel
dropped to:
- 43,5% European eels,
- 64% Japanese eels,
8,3% American eels.

Council Regulation (EC)
No. 1100/2007
recovery measures.

13 March 2009 *Anguilla anguilla*
listed Appendix II CITES, Annex
B Reg. 338/97.

3rd of December 2010 EU
BAN ON *Anguilla anguilla*
EXPORTS/IMPORTS (SRG)

2014 IUCN considers
European eel specie as
**CRITICALLY
ENDANGERED.**


2012/13 1st Operation
against illegal trade on
glass-eels: Suculents

2013/14 2nd Operation
against illegal trade on
glass-eels. Luscious

2015/16 3rd Operation
against illegal trade on
glass-eels: Black-glass

2016/17 4th Operation
against illegal trade
on glass-eels: Abaia



- 
- Higher amounts seized,
 - More countries involved,
 - More complexity...

THE CHAIN OF COMMERCE:



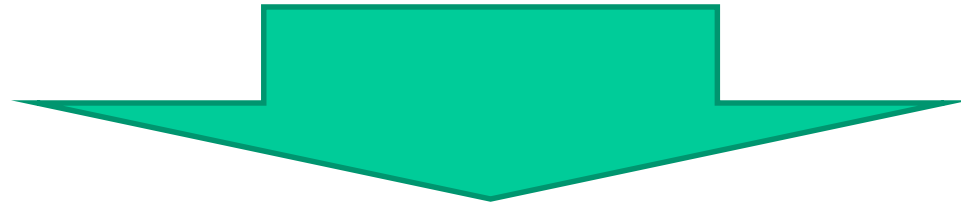
Poaching,
Under-reporting,
Unlawful methods
of capture,



Necessary ecchelon,
Irregularities,
Fake documents,
Fraud,



Miss-declarations at Customs,
Money laundering,
Tax evasion,
Etc.



NO REAL DATA AVAILABLE, NO WAY TO KNOW THE STATUS OF THE SPECIE TO
CARRY OUT THE NEEDED **NON-DETRIMENTAL FINDINGS**.
NO INTERNATIONAL TRADE ALLOWED.

BACKGROUND

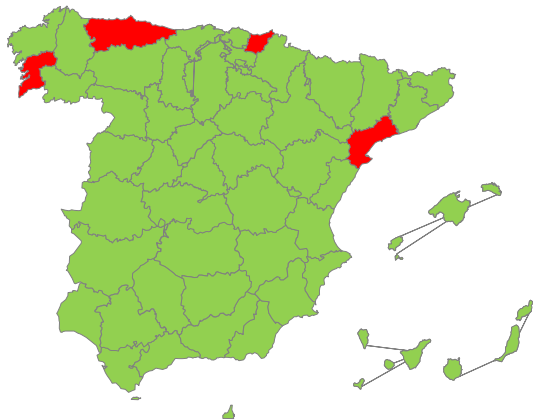
- ✓ Spain
- ✓ France
- ✓ Portugal
- ✓ United Kingdom
- ✓ Greece
- ✓ Italy
- ✓ Holland
- ✓ Sweden



Operation «SUCULENTA» 2011-2012

WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING SMUGGLING OF EUROPEAN GLASS EELS

Arrested	14
Range	Spain Romania, Bulgaria and Portugal
Modus Operandi	Smuggling via aircargo
Species	European Glass Eel
Seizure	1.5 tons of eels
Estimated value	1.650.000 €



Operation «SUCULENCIAS» 2012-2014

WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING SMUGGLING OF EUROPEAN GLASS EELS

Arrested	12
Places involved	Spain: Portugal
Modus Operandi	Smuggling to Asia by air cargo
Species	European Glass Eel
Collaborations	Portugal ASAE
Seizure	750 kg of eels
Estimated value	1.125.000 €



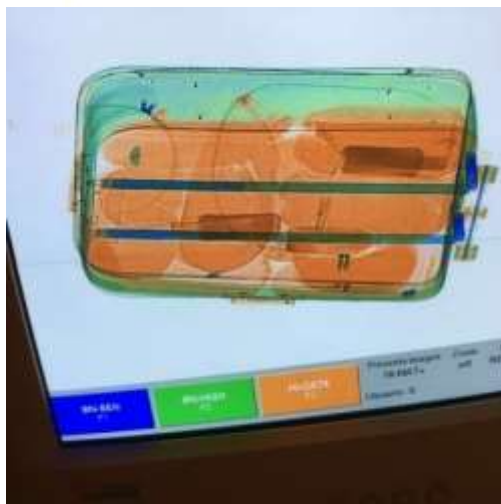
Operation «BLACK GLASS» 2015-2016

WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING SMUGGLING OF EUROPEAN GLASS EELS

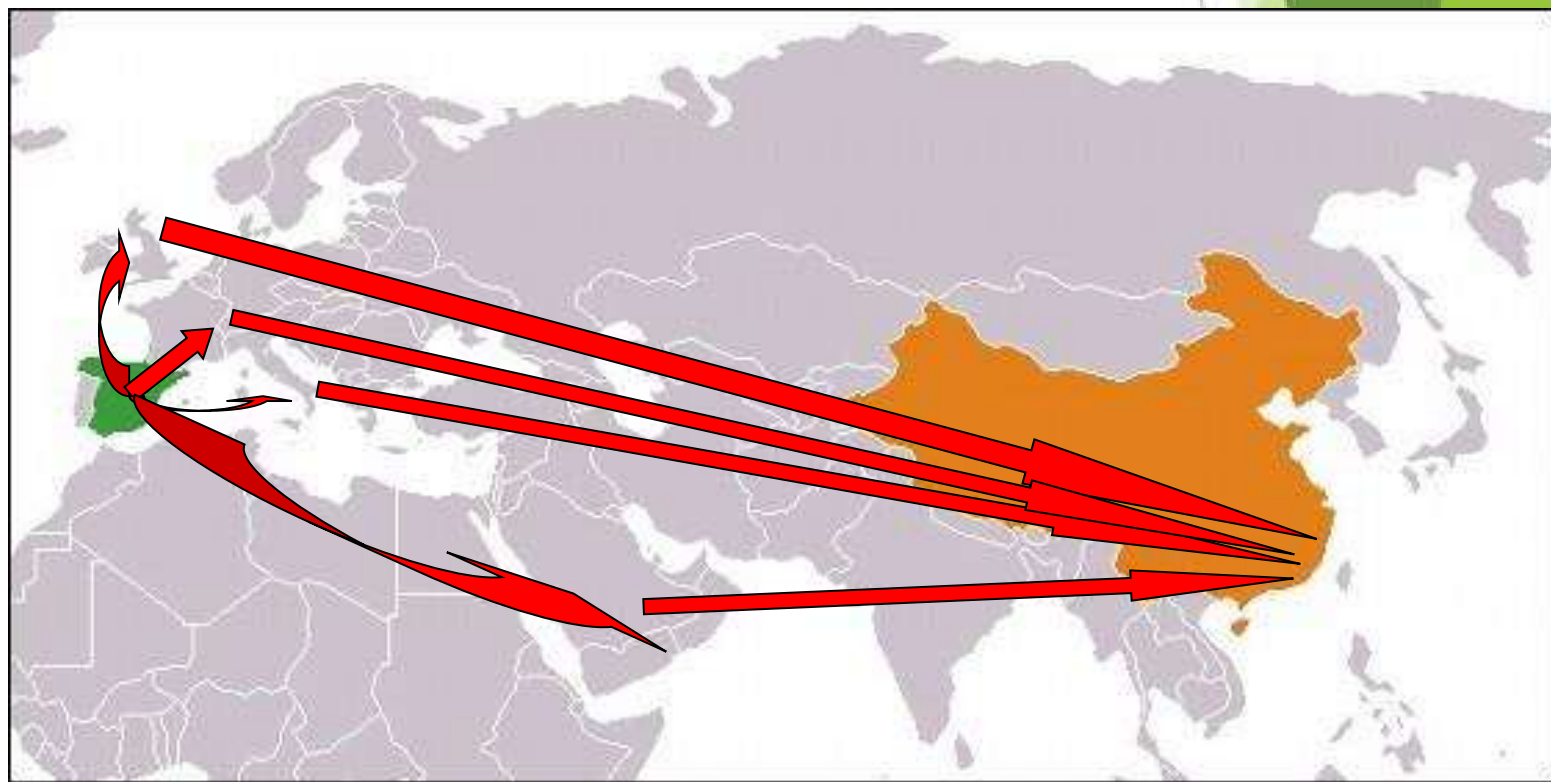
Arrested	20 (Chinese origin)
Range	Madrid, Destination CHINA
Modus Operandi	“Mules” by plane
Species	European Glass Eel
Seizure	2.5 tons of eels
Estimated value	4.000.000 €



Operation «BLACK GLASS» 2015-2016



Operation «BLACK GLASS» 2015-2016



OPERATION «LAKE II - ABAIA» 2017

WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING SMUGGLING OF EUROPEAN GLASS EELS

Arrested	23
Places involved	Spain France, Portugal, Italy, Greece and China
Modus Operandi	Smuggling to Asia via air cargo
Species	European Glass Eel
Collaborations	Europol and Eurojust
Seizure	1.200 Kg
Estimated value:	2 million €



OPERATION «LAKE II - ABAIA» 2017



+ 17.000 KM GLASS EELS TOUR FROM CARIBBEAN WATERS TO HONG KONG IN A TRAVEL OF 2 YEARS.

HUGE PROFIT IN FIVE YEARS (2012 – 2017) 37,500 TONS OF GLASS EELS ILLEGALLY EXPORTED.



THANK YOU

DANK

GRACIAS

TACK

ευχαριστίες

MERCI

OBRIGADO

GRAZIE