

Short summary note from 2017 Annual Meeting

(Please note the links to the powerpoint presentations posted [here](#))

Some 60 delegates from numerous countries were present including Japan, New Zealand, South Pacific, Morocco, Tunisia, Spain, France, Belgium, Germany, Netherlands, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Ireland and the USA. New international content and contribution was greatly helped by intentionally holding the meeting following on from the IFM's London Global Science Symposium at ZSL.

The Chairman's opening remarks were aimed at setting the scene for the conference and the familiar call for ever greater collaboration to solve this crisis. One key theme was taken from Hugh Fearnley – Whittingstall's address to open the Eel Science Symposium, where he spoke of the potential of this key species to demonstrate effective collaboration for conservation.



Science into Management & Beyond



HFW on EEL

- If we get this right it will go way beyond a single species
- A barometer of our determination to save the natural world
- What is at stake – possible to show and demonstrate collaboration workingto prove it to the world

Great progress on eel – is the time right to buy?



Cy Griffin briefed the meeting on the progress and consultation surrounding his review for SEG on the effectiveness of Europe wide restocking programme and the cumbersome administration that surrounds it. SEG intends to make recommendations and share these with the European Commission in September.

David Bunt led the major theme of the day: the six con-current facilitator led workshops that were designed to maximise feedback from the delegates on the proposed update to

the SEG standard (version 6). This is just one element of the extensive consultation process that will lead to ISEAL membership for SEG and 3rd party endorsement of the SEG Standard.

Antony Lyons showed the animation 'Protect the Eels' to widespread applause and delight. The animation was developed by Lucy Izzard and developed in Bristol and Bath. Watch the video [here](#).

After the fish pie lunch Florian Stein revealed the outcome of his study on the 2017 eel traffic and summarized different sources that indicate annual illegal exports between 30-50% of the declared catches since the trade ban came into force. His presentation was followed by speakers from North Africa and institutions that deal with eel trafficking around the globe.

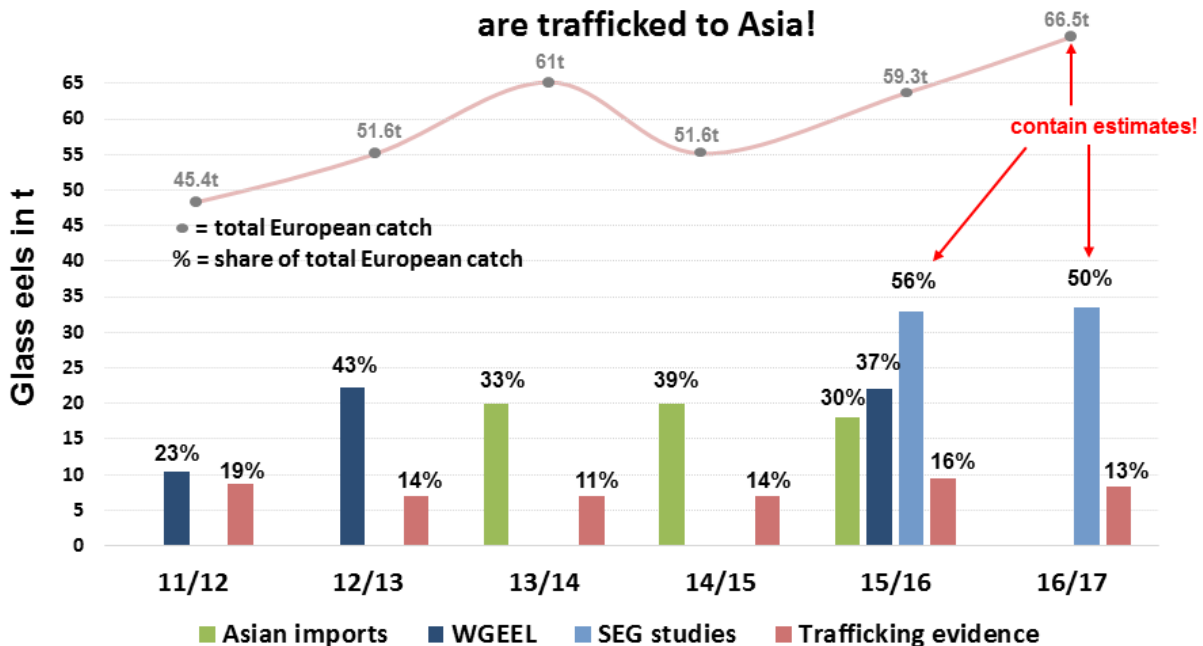


Combating illegal trade in European eels



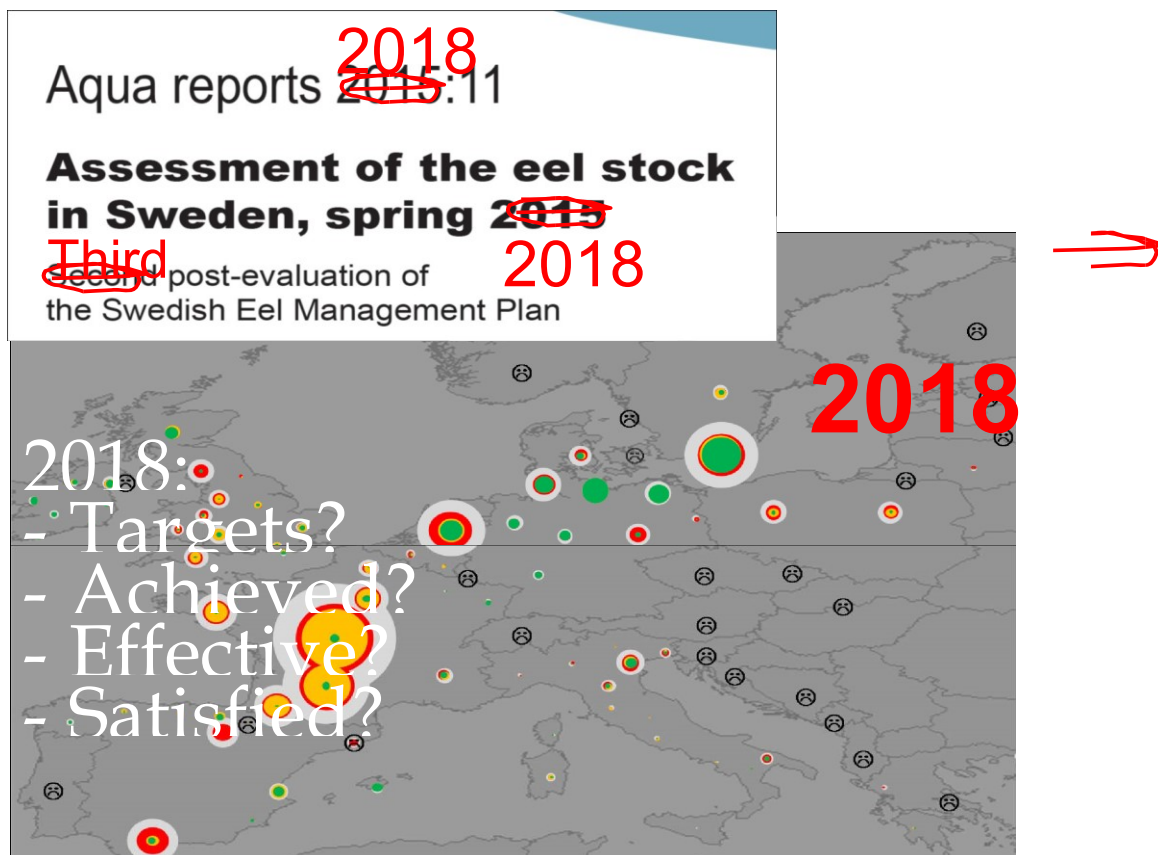
Sustainable Eel Group

**Trade data and market studies suggest:
30-50% of annually reported European glass eel catches
are trafficked to Asia!**



Sources: ICES WGEEL reports (2012, 2013, 2016); Unagi Net, Nihon Yoshoku Shimibun, SEG, SEPRONA

Willem Dekker reviewed the progress to date and called upon SEG to raise the game and demand more action from both individual EU member states and the EU itself:



Chairman closed the day with a thank you to all participants and adding further priorities to the SEG programme

2016 SEG Conference concluded

- Meaningful short term measures
- Full Traceability / adopt Telecapêche

2017 SEG Conference added

- Provide Eel Leadership as part of critical re-evaluation of international objectives, policies and achievement which is urgently needed
- Extend ESF to more eel consuming countries