Why are eels trafficked?

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#SEG10Y
Global aquaculture production, freshwater eels

120 t glass eels from Europe

(FAO, 1950-2016)

China
245,000 t

RoW: Europe, North African countries, DomRep
Malaysia
Korea
Taiwan, PoC
Japan
China

0-100
100-200
200-300


Rest
Korea
Taiwan
Japan

300
Nature of the Chinese eel industry

Photo credit: Chang W. Lee/The New York Times 2009; Location: Xulong factory in Taishan, China
Nature of the Chinese eel industry

- 797 eel aquaculture processors
  (CITES, 2017)

- 900 – 1000 eel farms
  (China Eel Industrial Association, 2018)

- Single processors producing > 10,000 t!
  (UNIDO, 2013)
Eel products exported from CN in t (2017)

Japan 19,900 t (01)
USA 4,700 t (02)
Russia 2,900 t (03)
Taiwan 2,400 t (04)
Hong Kong 1,000 t (05)
Belarus 682 t (06)
Korea 615 t (07)
Canada 486 t (08)
Ukraine 444 t (09)
Netherlands 334 t (10)
Germany 212 t (15)
United Kingdom 71 t (17)
Belgium 27 t (21)
France 24 t (24)
Poland 23 t (25)
Portugal 20 t (26)
Denmark 16 t (29)

Source: Chinese customs, compiled by Shiraishi and Crook in CITES AC30-18-01-A2
Potential GE demand for CN eel aquaculture

Conversion parameters:
- 285 g = 1 Kabayaki fillet
- 3,000 GE/kg (A. anguilla)
- Species-specific parameters of other Anguilla species not considered

Reported glass eel input (t) ➔ Potential glass eel demand (t)

CITES (2017)
Values along the illegal supply chain

Primary offtake: 300 € per 1 kg
Illegal network: 1,000 € per 1 kg
Arrival Asia: 6,000 € per 1 kg
Kabayaki fillets: 25,800 € for 727 kg

Simplified estimates based on enforcement information contains 15 % mortality.
KEY messages

• Trafficking industry supplies global market
• Demand is much higher than reported supply
• High profits fuel black market

• Implementation and enforcement by:
  • consistent CITES codes for eel trade
  • modern technologies (e.g. DNA, Chemical Fingerprinting)

➢ Efficient, comprehensive control system
Thank You!