



European Union's actions for recovery of European Eel

**SEG 10 years Anniversary
Events on the European eel**

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Outline of the presentation

- 1. Legal framework for European eel in the EU**
- 2. Additional EU actions for recovery of European eel**
- 3. Evaluation of the Eel Regulation**
- 4. Next steps**



**The Eel Gatherers by
Camille Corot (1860)**

Legal framework for European Eel (I)

1. European Union

- Council Regulation 1100/2007 (Eel Regulation)
 - Measures for the recovery of the stock of European eel
- EU Wildlife Trade Regulations
 - No export and import since 2010 (EU Member States' Scientific Review Group)
 - Intra-EU trade allowed
- TAC and quotas Regulations 2018 & 2019
 - 3 month-closure for eel fishing

Legal framework for European Eel (II)

2. International

- CITES Appendix II (since 2009)
 - Legality and sustainability of trade
- CMS Appendix II (since 2014)
 - International cooperation
- GFCM Recommendation GFCM/42/2018/1
 - Management measures for European eel in the Mediterranean, incl. eel management plans & fishing closure

Eel Regulation (I)

→ *For the recovery of the stock of European eel*

→ *Applies at sea, in transitional and fresh waters*

Requirements for the EU Member States

- Establishing Eel Management Plans (EMPs)
- Achieving 40% escapement of silver eel (compared to pristine)
- Reserving 60% of glass eel catches for restocking
- Reducing 50% effort or catches in EU marine waters compared to 2004-2006 average

Eel Regulation (II)

Content of the Eel Management Plans

- Fishing effort reduction (commercial and recreational)
- Reducing catches in EU marine waters
- Restocking measures
- Restoring river continuity (hydropower turbines and dams)
- Combatting predators
- Measures relating to aquaculture
- Implementing other measures to achieve the objectives

Eel Regulation (III)

Reporting obligations

- % of biomass of silver eel escaping to the sea
- Level of fishing effort and % effort
- Mortality caused by non-fisheries factors and % reduction
- Glass eel catches and % used for consumption, aquaculture, restocking

Evaluation/Revision

- EMPs may be revised in line with new scientific information
- Eel Regulation currently evaluated

Additional EU actions for the recovery of European eel (I)

- *Annual ICES advice on the state of the stock and ad hoc requests to the Commission*
- *Recent actions to reinforce the protection of eels:*
 - **three-month closure of eel fisheries at EU level**
 - **political commitment from COM and MS to improve the implementation of the Eel Regulation ('Declaration on eels', December 2017)**
 - **formal evaluation of the Eel Regulation**
 - **from 2019, eel fisheries in the scope of Specific Control and Inspection Programme (SCIP) under the EU Control Regulation, supporting involvement of the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA)**

Additional EU actions for the recovery of European eel (II)

➤ *Work with international partners:*

- **With the Russian Federation (Joint Baltic Sea Fisheries Committee)**
- **With third countries through Regional Fisheries Management Organisations, e.g. General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM)**

to ensure a comprehensive and coordinated approach to the recovery of the stock among all stakeholders.

Evaluation of the Eel Regulation – Purpose and scope

- ✓ Launched in 2018, currently at final stage
- ✓ To assess the measures for the recovery of European eel stock and their contribution to the achievement of the Regulation's objectives
- ✓ Covers: management, implementation, enforcement issues, use of EU funds for stocking, linkages with other EU rules and international instruments, incl. CITES and CMS
- ✓ To inform whether Eel Regulation needs to be reviewed and/or the implementation needs to be improved

Next steps

The European eels stock remains in critical condition!

What more can be done to help the European eel recover?

- How to improve the EMPs implementation?
- What is the future of the Eel Regulation?
- Scope for increased international cooperation?
- We are now considering the way forward.



**Thank you for
your attention**