



What can citizen science bring to eel Conservation?

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"a world where wildlife thrives".



Wildlife
& People



Wildlife
Health



Wildlife Back
from the Brink

ZSL and conservation of the European eel

- **International policy** - Chair of the IUCN Anguillid Eel Specialist Group



Research - The Institute of Zoology

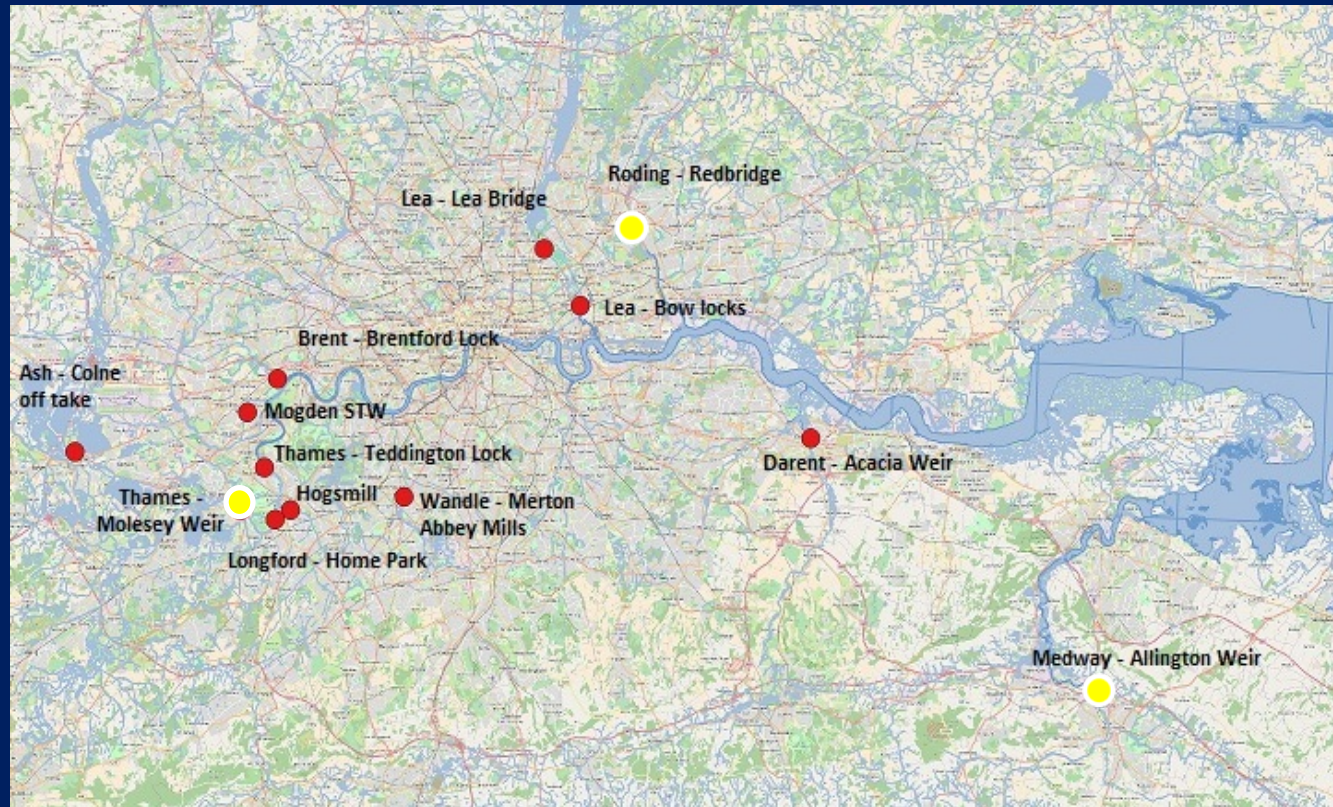
- **Conservation implementation** – such as the Thames Eel Project





Citizen Science project launched in 2011

Eel Monitoring Sites



- data are catch totals and eel lengths. Standardised as **Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE)**
- index sites with consistent methodology for long term recruitment data = ●
- three years minimum monitoring from other sites
- new sites each year
- 15 is the maximum number of sites run in a single year (22 sites monitored since 2005)

Site Partner

- volunteer coordination (April to September)
- upload data



Environment Agency

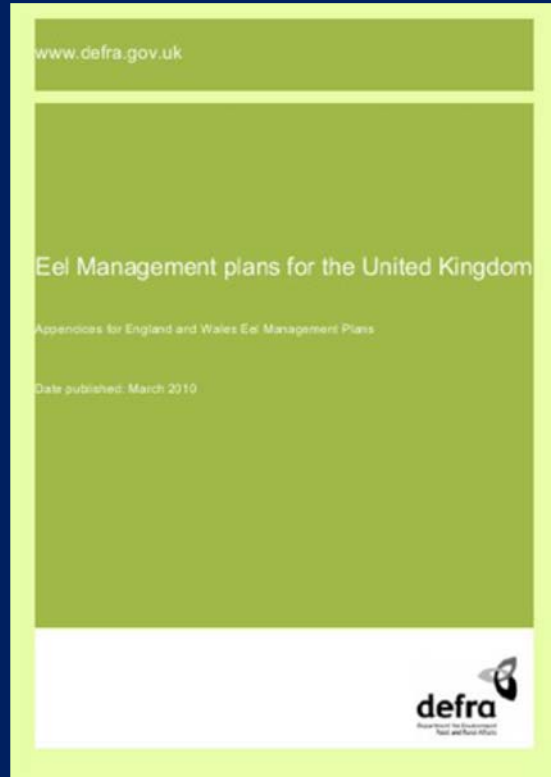
- passes with traps
- license
- strategic advice and support- EMP

ZSL

- monitoring protocols
- training, equipment
- traps/ pass maintenance
- on-line data transfer system
- reports and feedback (eel forum)



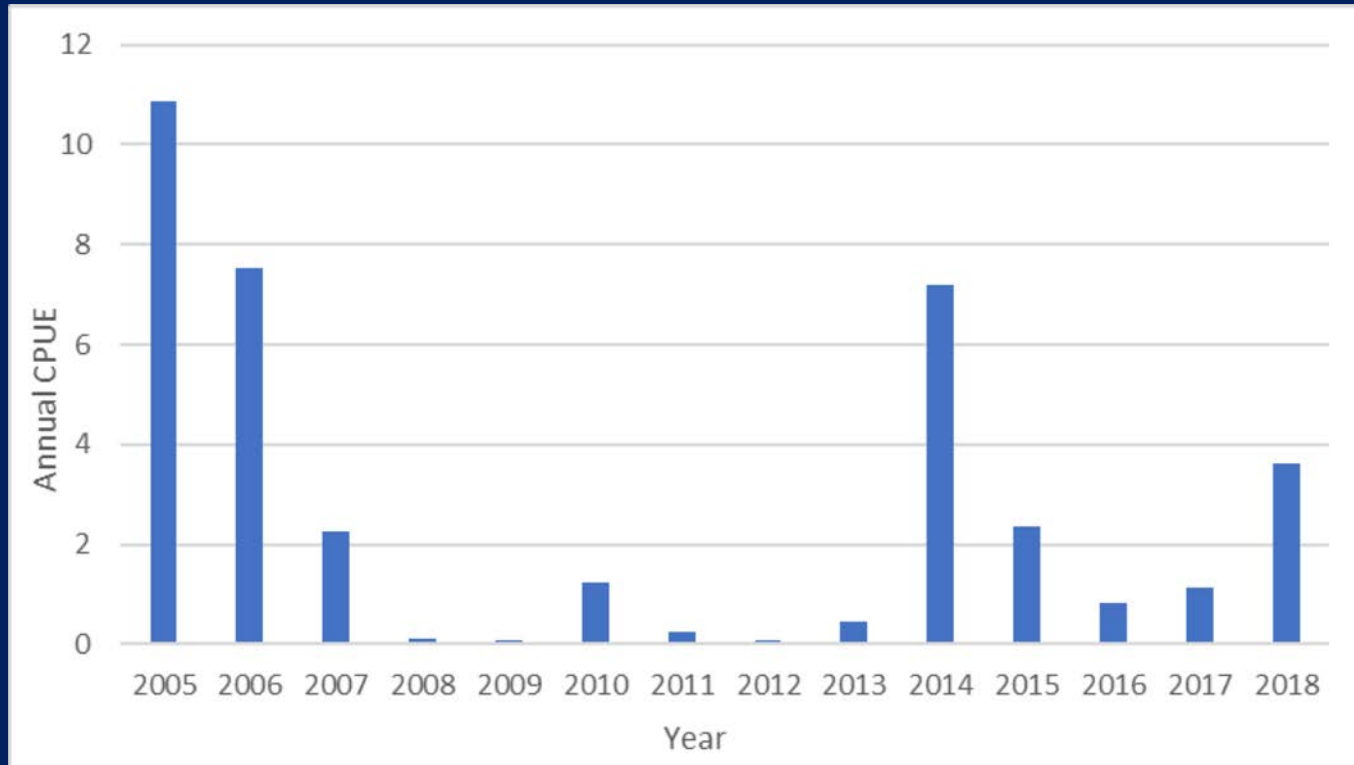
Data informs the Eel Management Plan



1. temporal and spatial distribution of elver/young eel
2. recruitment trends
3. barriers to migration
4. demonstrating impact

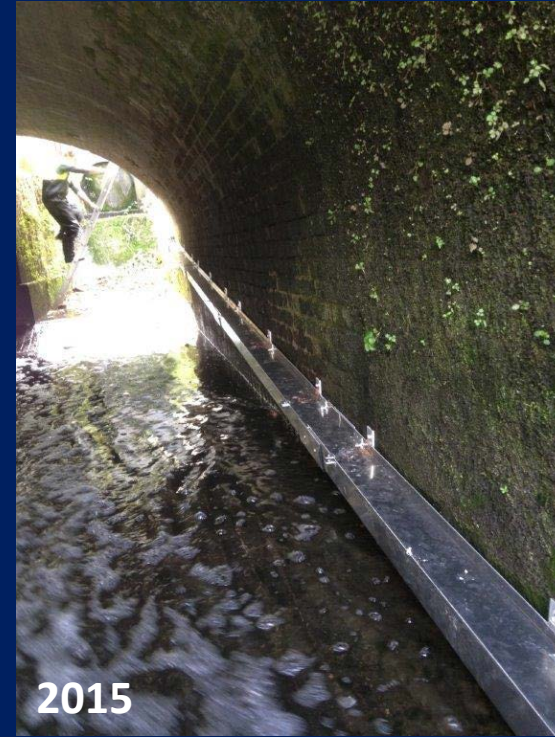


Recruitment trends: River Roding



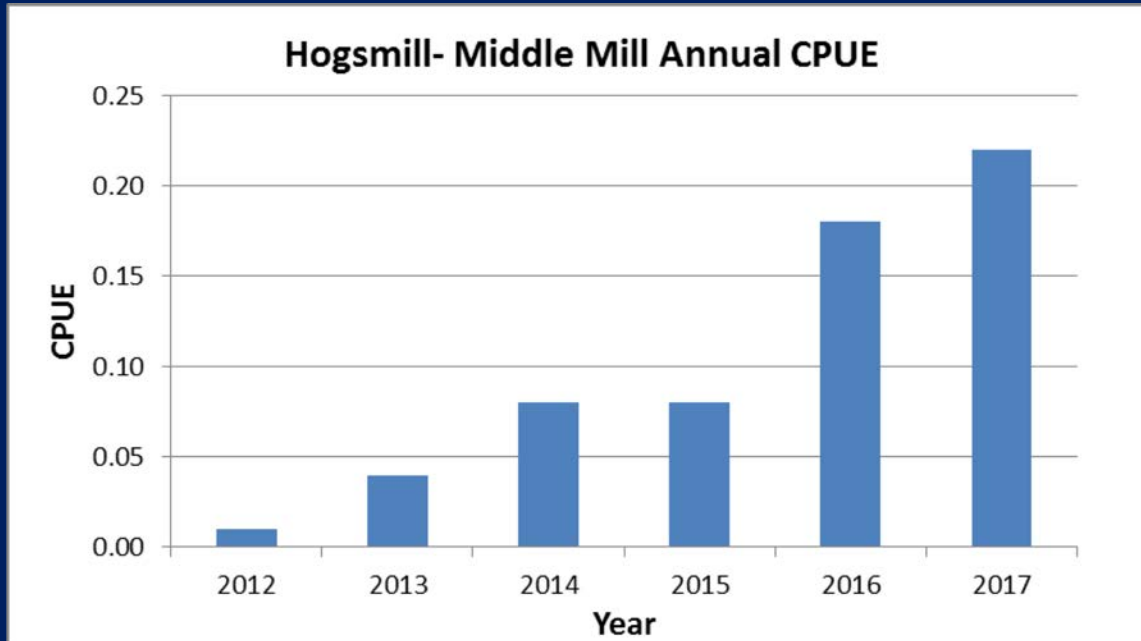
Data from this site feeds into the Working Group on Eels (WGEEL) and is used along with other data sets to report on the status of the European eel stocks

Barriers to migration: River Crane



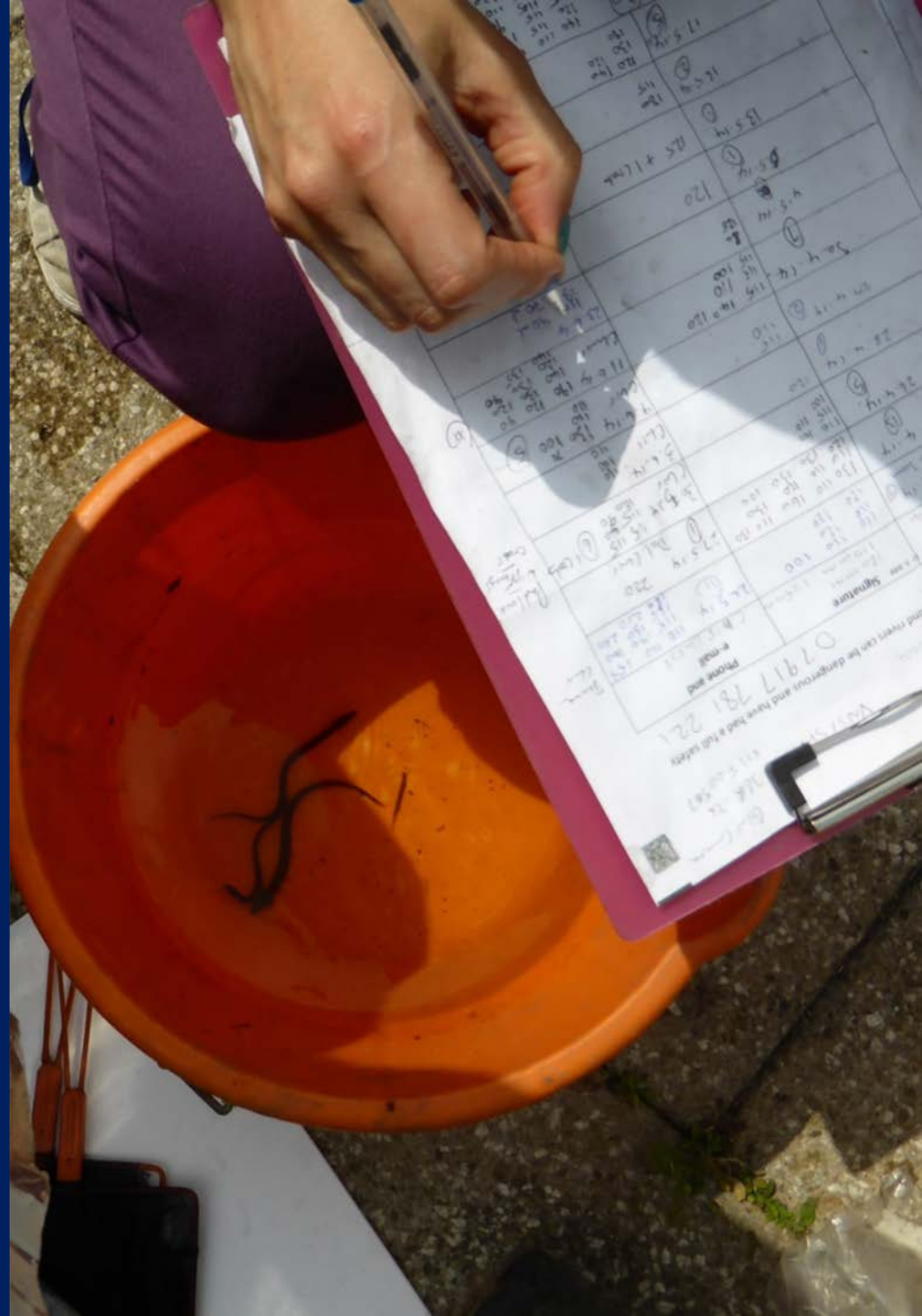
Site	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Crane-Crane Park Island	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-
Crane-Mogden STW	-	-	-	-	5.96	6.35	3.87	0.93

Demonstrating impact: Hogsmill

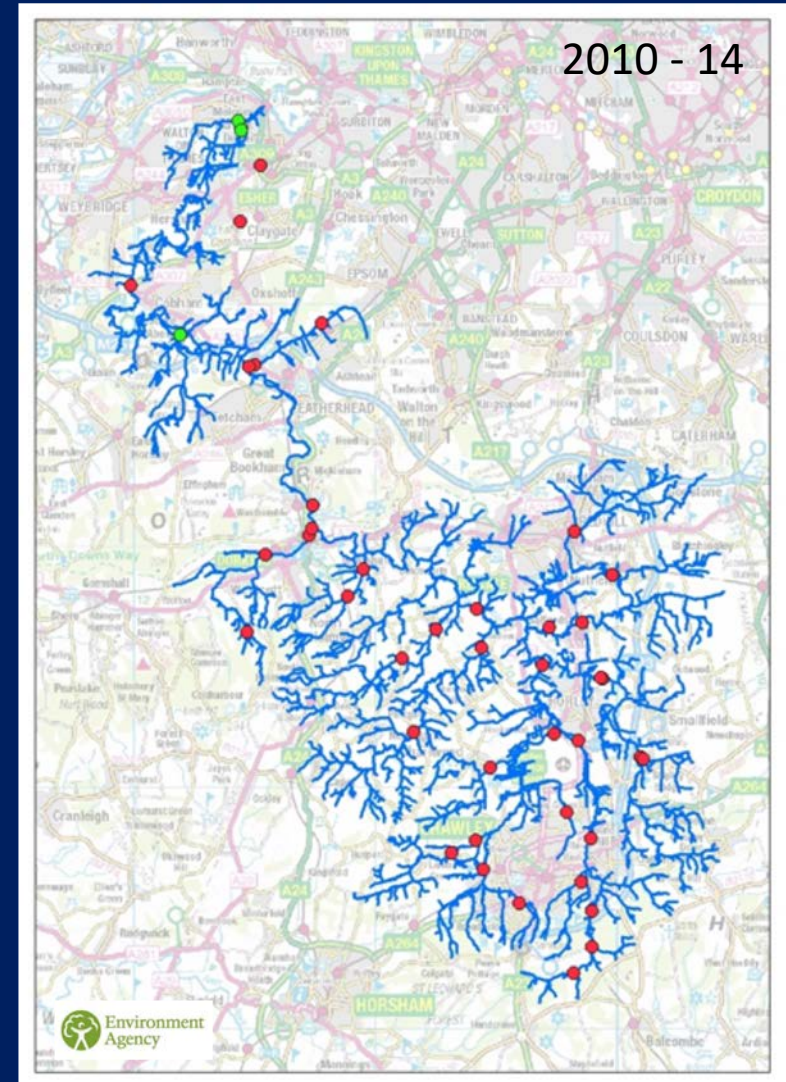
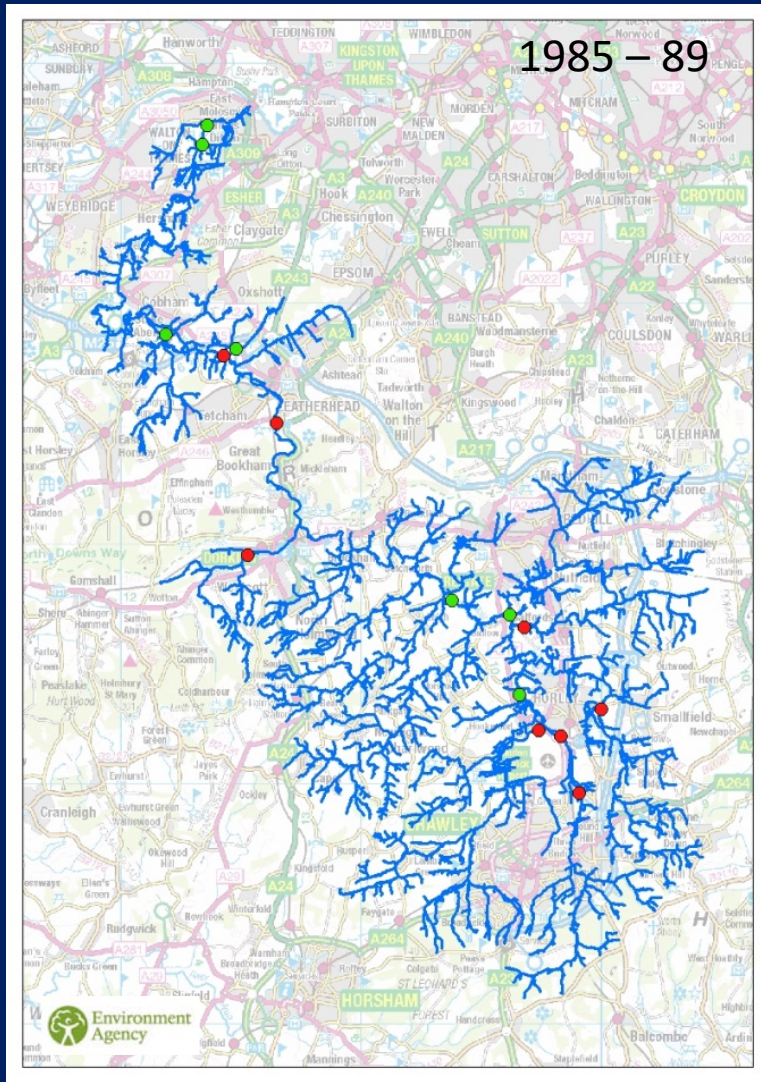


Benefits of Citizen Science

- Cost effective way of producing **lots of data** across large geographical areas
- Enables people to become more informed, active and skilled and by doing so opens **new funding opportunities**
- **Engages stakeholders** in eel conservation and builds capacity

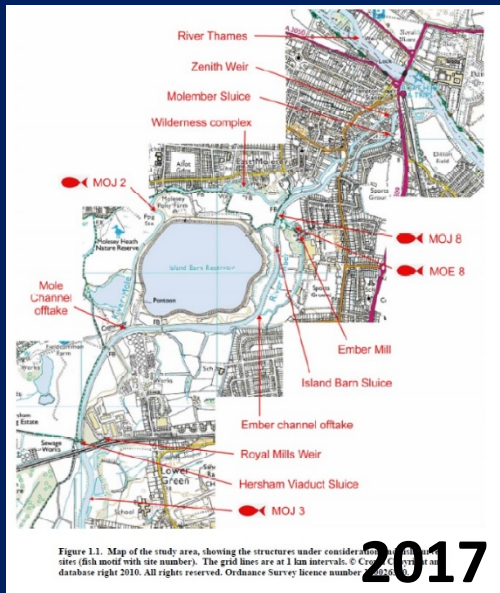


Reconnecting migratory Pathways : River Mole

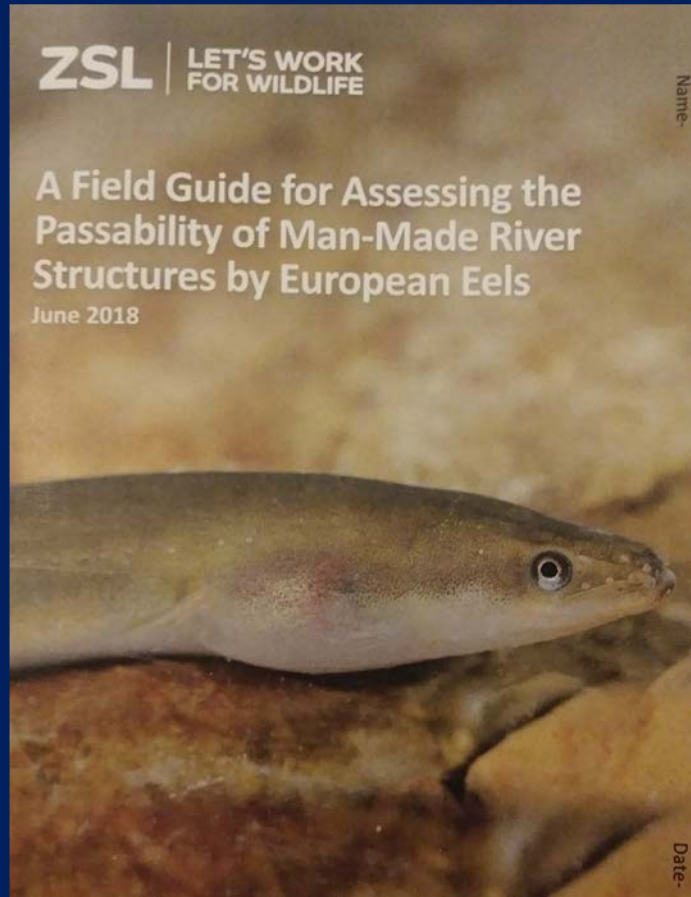


EA electric fishing data showing eel presence (green) and absence (red).

Reconnecting migratory Pathways: surveys and stakeholder engagement

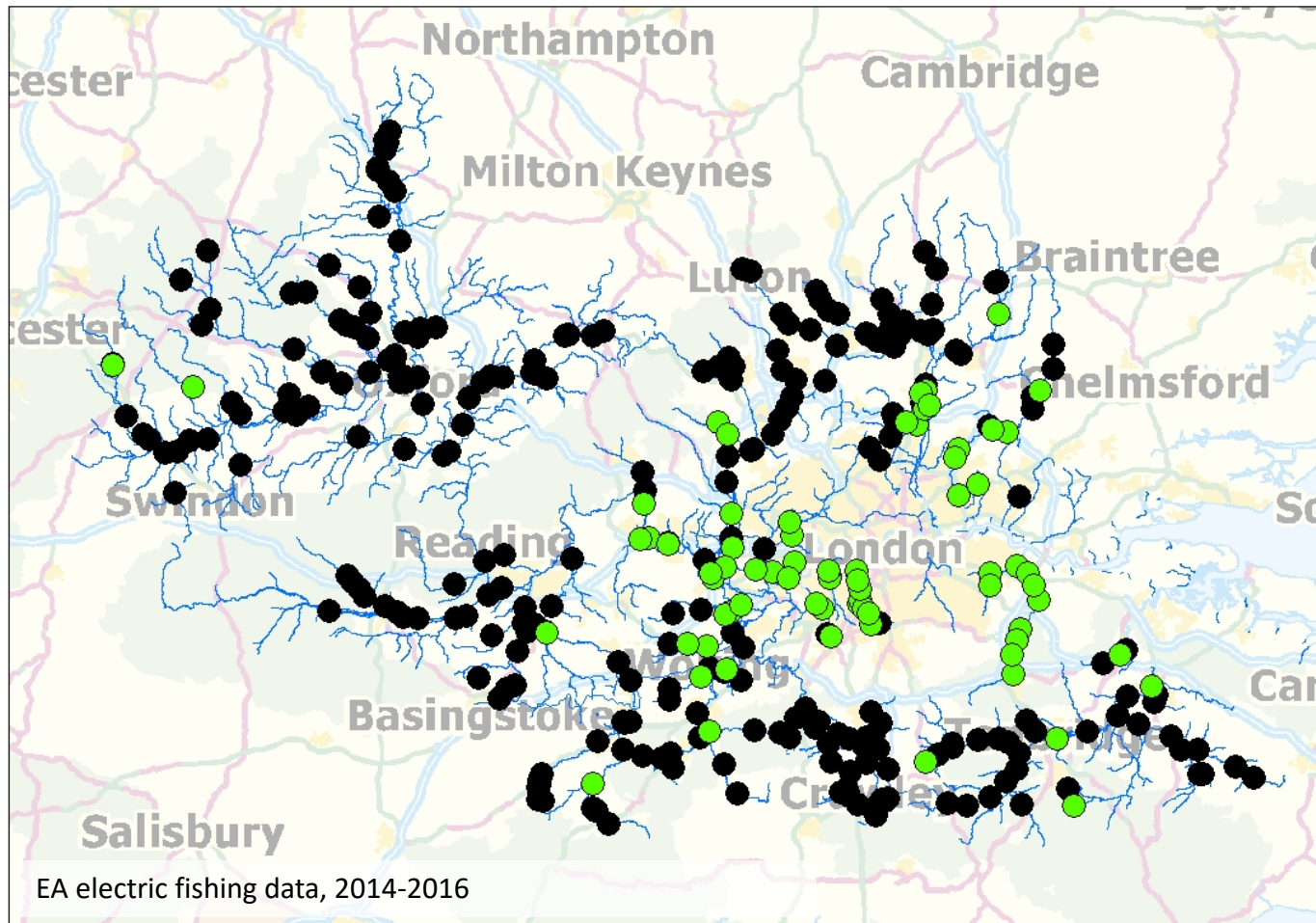


Reconnecting migratory Pathways: surveys and stakeholder engagement



available from [zsl.org/eels](https://www.zsl.org/eels)

Eel populations in the Thames



Over 2400 structures (possible barriers) in the Thames River Basin alone



0.01% (969) of the population
of London trained in 9 years



Over 20 partner organisations



Made possible with thanks to our funders, citizen scientists and partnership organisations.



Thank you for Listening

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