An update on the eel trade in and out of Indonesia and potential for sustainable practices

Sustainable Eel Group | London 28 vi 2019

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Reminder: Tropical eel

5 to 10 species commercially traded

Indonesia one of main exporters
Topics to be covered

Brief recap on trade and regulation of eel harvest and trade in Indonesia

International trade of eel from Indonesia to East Asia following 2010 EU trade ban

Eel farming in Indonesia

Developments in domestic eel trade
Data acquisition

UN Comtrade database

Live eel (HS code 030192), fresh / chilled whole eel (HS030266), frozen whole eel (HS 030376). Up to 2018

Government reports, news items (tv, online) articles

Visits to Java and Bali, annually.
Indonesia

First regulation in 1973

Regulates export of glass eel, but ambiguities about size

Unclear legal status, but Fisheries Act 31 (2009) stipulates conditions
Regulation 8 (1999) list all eel species as ‘protected species that cannot be exported’ with the proviso that ‘individuals >5mm can be exported’

Exception: *A. celebensis* (this may be in error)

Regulation 20 (2018) no longer lists eels; unclear what implications are
International trade

Dark blue: steady increase in volume until 2015

Pale blue: peak declared monetary value in 2010
Indonesia

Destinations (according to Indonesia)

China: 64%

Vietnam: 22%

Hong Kong: 9%

Japan: 1% (but most media reports in Indonesia single out Japan…..)
Aquaculture

Facilities in Bogor, Palabuan Ratu in West Java and Banyuwangi in East Java

Investors from Japan and S Korea

Sourced: W Java / S Sumatra and East Java

*A. marmorata* and *A. bicolor*
Aquaculture

Export from one facility (Ikan Sidat Indonesia): 50 – 100 tonnes per month to Japan

Numbers do not match up with export figures
Domestic trade

Healthy food

Processed into health supplements

Targets Indonesian middle class families
Domestic trade

2012: Demand from *Japanese restaurants* in Jakarta ~37 tonnes yr\(^{-1}\)

2017: East Javan trader supplies 50 tonnes yr\(^{-1}\) to Japanese restaurants in four main cities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Capital city</th>
<th>Japanese restaurants</th>
<th>Human population in millions</th>
<th>Restaurants per million people</th>
<th>GDP per capita</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Singapore, Singapore</td>
<td>276</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>90</td>
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<td>Philippines, Manila</td>
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<td>138</td>
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<td>17.1</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Domestic trade

Opinions on whether or not eel is ‘halal’ or ‘haram’ differ

In Indonesia eel now labelled as ‘halal’

Opens up a large markets – also internationally.
Sustainable practices

Open questions:
- sourcing, where, how much and when
- export, conflicting numbers and destinations
- domestic consumption, niche or large emerging market?
- what happens outside Java?