

An approach on eel protection in the South West of France



10 years SEG - London 27th of June 2019

Plan

- Presentation of MIGRADOURE
- History of the glass eel fishing in the South West of France
- Fisheries monitoring and evolution of the law
- March 2009 -Classification eel in Appendix 2 of the Washington Convention-CITES
- Poaching and fraud
- The migradour approach



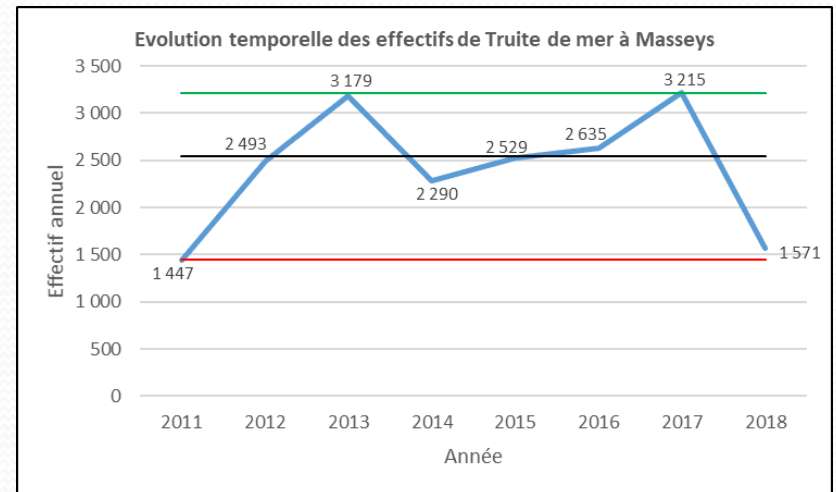
- Association working for the development of migratory fish species and the rehabilitation of aquatic environments
 - Exists since 1995
 - A team of 10 people
 - Represent 34 000 anglers and 71 pro fisherman
- Carries out the follow-ups and actions of ground ordered by the environment services of the French state (COGEPOMI)
- We work with the wildlife services of French state
- www.migradour.com

A map of France and its surrounding regions. A red circle is drawn around a small area in the southwest of France, near the border with Spain. A red line extends from this circle towards the bottom right corner of the map. The map shows major cities like Paris, Luxembourg, Frankfurt am Main, and Milan. It also labels neighboring countries like Belgium, Switzerland, and Monaco. The map is sourced from GeoBasis-DE/BKG (©2009), Google, and Inst. Geogr. Nacional.



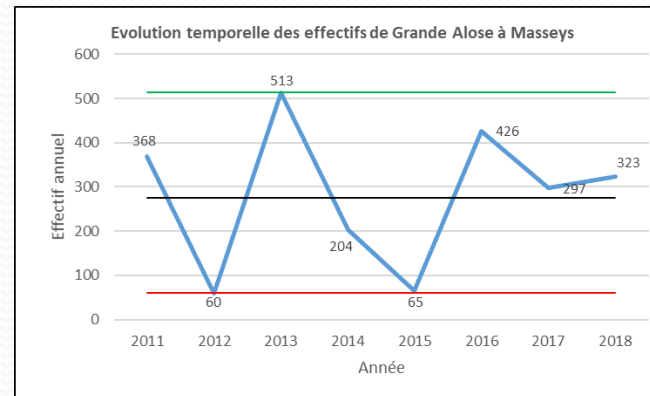
Monitoring species

Sea trout

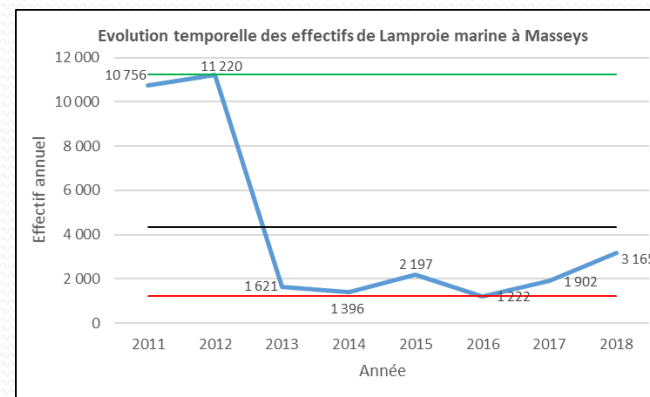


Monitoring species

Shad

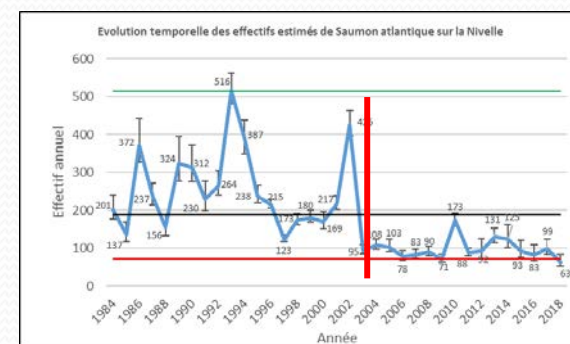
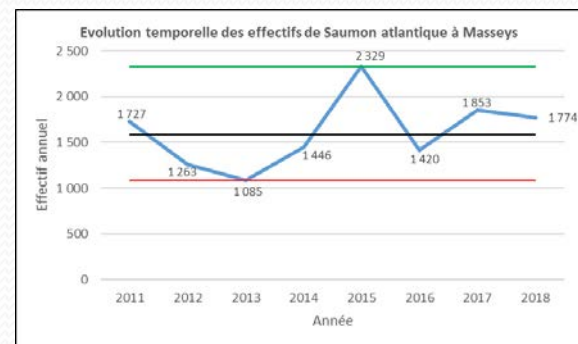


Lamprey



Monitoring species

Atlantic salmon



Monitoring species

Eel



Tracking electric fishing



Tracking eels on an index site - Upstream



Tracking eels on an index site - Downstream

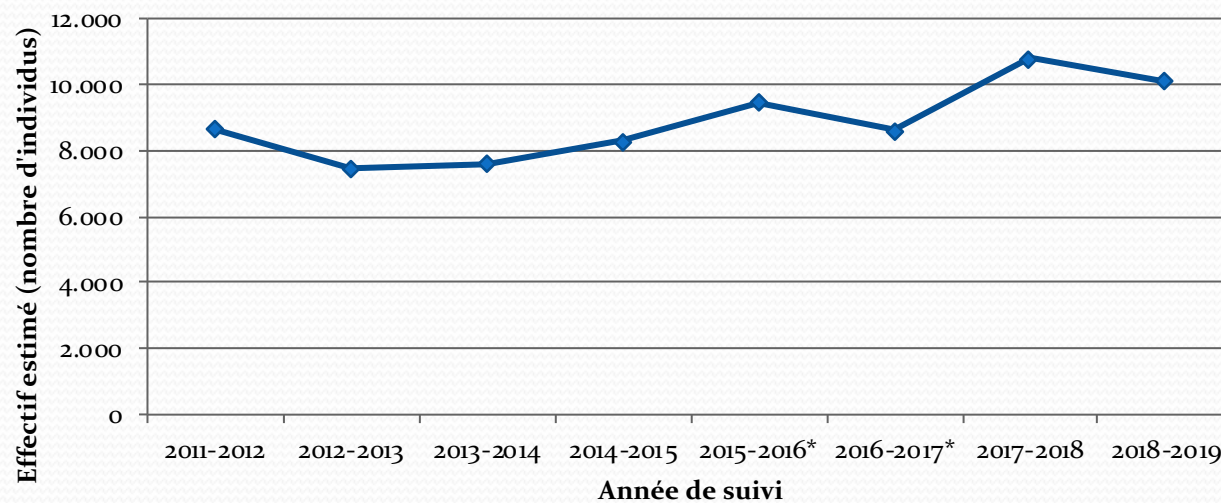


Tracking eels on an index site - Downstream



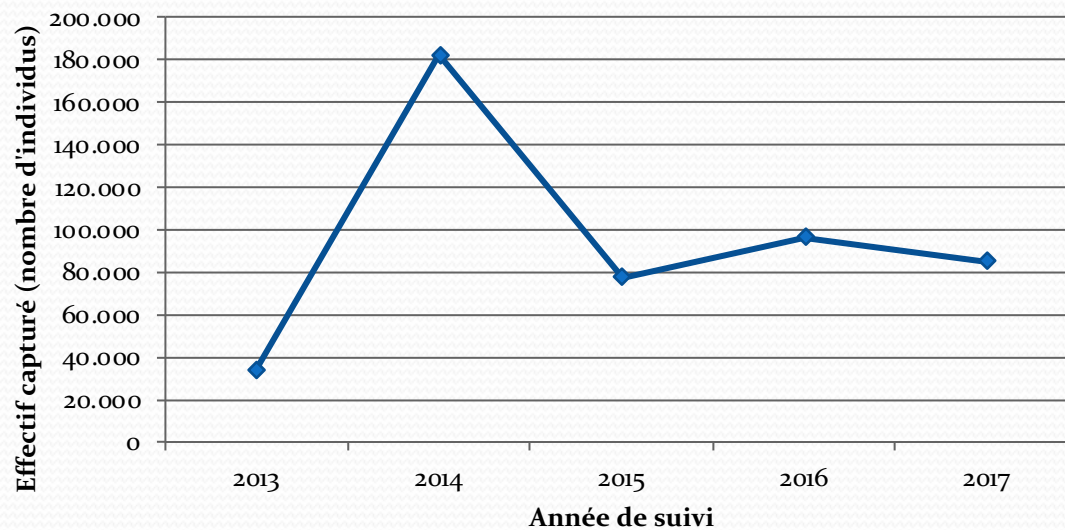
Tracking eels on an index site

Interannual evolution of the estimated downstream population (numbers)



Tracking eels on an index site

Interannual evolution of catches in upstream (numbers)



Adour's historical glass eel fisheries

- Traditional fisheries since 1060!!



Adour's historical glass eel fisheries

- Evolution of the material



March 2009 -Classification eel in Appendix 2 of the Washington Convention-CITES

- Plan eel France 2010
 - Setting quotas consumption / restocking
 - Declaration of eel captures mandatory
 - Stopping export to China
- ➡ Start of mass poaching

Poaching and fraud

- Price for repeopling 250€/Kg VS 800 to 2000€ or more/Kg for China !!!!
- Several interceptions undeclared eels
- Eel trafficking to zones not subject to EU rules

Fisheries control

- AFB/ONCFS = 8 agents ➡ Incidental or on-the-spot checks, scheduled checks
- Angling federation = 2 agents ➡ Casual or information checks, scheduled checks

Remember !!

16 912 km² for 10 agents
(1700 km²/agent !!!)

Fisheries control

- The law exists
- The wildlife services Known poaching areas
- The problem is really a lack of verbalisers
- Sensitize fishermen and all stakeholders in the eel industry

The migradour approach

- Work with a passionate and implicate lawyer
- Systematically continue all poaching cases of migratory fish
- Sensitize the courts (since 2012)
- Explain to professional fishing that this approach protects their activity
- without fish no fishermen

Results of approach

- Evolution of seizures
- More and more controls
- 70 Kg 2015
- 163 Kg 2016
- 230 Kg 2017
- 300 Kg 2018
- 31 janvier 2019 ➔ 897 Kg !!!
- The pedagogical and lobbying work is a success

Results that motivate but is it enough ?



Seizure and release of 897 Kg of glass eels January 2019



Coming together is the beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success.

Henry Ford

Thank you for your attention

