

CITES AND THE SEA

CASE STUDY: EUROPEAN EEL, *ANGUILLA ANGUILLA*

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Background | European eels

- **50%** of 16 freshwater eel species are **globally traded** (plus marine species)
 - **Only European eel** is listed in CITES Appendix II
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Photo: *Anguilla anguilla* © Büttner



Background | European eels

- Trade across Europe's outer borders is **prohibited** (2010)
 - Non-EU countries: **national restriction** and trade bans
 - Morphological **distinction**
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Photo: *Anguilla anguilla* © Büttner



Main issues | European eels

- **Trafficking:** 300 M fish pa
 - **Inconsistencies** in trade data
 - Listing & EU ban: **effect on other species**
-

Photo: *Operation Elver 2018* © Guardia Civil



Main issues | European eels

- Usage of **wrong codes**:
massive impact on trade
data, e.g.:
1 kg FIG = 3,000 fish
1 kg LIV = 3 fish
-

Photo: *Anguilla anguilla* © Büttner



Main issues | European eels

- **Confusion:** codes & units (life stages, commodity types, specimen vs kg) under **current CITES codes system**
-

Photo: *Anguilla anguilla* © Büttner



Solutions? | European eels

- E-AC30-Com-05-R
- E-CoP18-063 (**adopted!**)
- Improvement by minor changes in specimen codes!

Photo: CoP18 Com I. Rec. 3; 19 August 2019: 09h05 - 12h00

https://cites.org/sites/default/files/esp/cop/18/Com_I/SR/E-CoP18-Com-I-Rec-03.pdf

Species specific matters (cont.)

63. Eels (*Anguilla* spp.)

The Chair of the Animals Committee introduced document CoP18 Doc. 63, noting that Decisions 17.186 to 17.189 of CoP17 had been fully implemented with support from the European Union.

Canada, Egypt, Japan, Morocco, New Zealand and the Republic of Korea supported the **proposed draft decisions** presented in Annex 4 of document **CoP18 Doc. 63**. Both Canada and New Zealand expressed concern with over-commitment of CITES resources on non-CITES-listed eel species.

The United States of America supported the proposed draft decisions in Annex 4, subject to the following amendments:

18.AA d): "develop measures or implement more effectively existing measures to improve the traceability of eels in trade (**both live and dead**);"

18.BB d): "improve traceability of *Anguilla* spp. in trade (**both live and dead**); and"

The European Union supported the deletion of Decisions 17.186 to 17.189, and the proposed draft decisions subject to the following amendments:

18.AA a): "submit any non-detriment finding studies on European eel they have undertaken to the Secretariat for inclusion on the CITES website; explore the different approaches that might be taken for making non-detriment findings for European eels traded as fingerlings (FIG) compared with those traded as other live eels (LIV); collaborate and share information with other Parties regarding such studies and their outcome, especially where the Parties share catchments or water bodies; seek review and advice from the Animals Committee or other suitable body on any non-detriment findings for European eel where appropriate;"

18.CC b): "collate available information on the biology of *Anguilla anguilla* in collaboration with experts, including the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Anguillid Specialist Group, with a view to determining whether the species glass eel (fingerling) lifestage can be considered to have a "low probability of surviving to adulthood", and report its findings to the Animals Committee;"

New Zealand supported the amendments proposed by the European Union and the United States, and welcomed the focus on traceability. Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia asked the Secretariat to publish export quotas by 1 January of each year, and Algeria asked the Animals Committee to provide expert advice and support to inventory its national eel population. Egypt identified the need for greater clarity on the large-scale sustainability of stocks, and the Republic of Korea offered to update the next meeting of the Animals Committee on national and regional eel conservation efforts.

The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) reported that *in-situ* eel conservation and conservation of habitats would be further addressed at its forthcoming COP13. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), speaking also on behalf of the Zoological Society of London and TRAFFIC, supported the amendments in Annex 3 resulting from the 30th meeting of the Animals Committee, while warning of the need to address the impact on other eel species of the 2009 listing in Appendix II of the European Eel. The Global Guardian Trust, speaking also on behalf of the Japanese Eel Farmers Society and the IWMC World Conservation Trust, reported on regional collaboration between *Anguilla japonica* range States.

The Committee agreed to support the deletion of Decisions 17.186 to 17.189. The draft decisions proposed in Annex 4 to document CoP18 Doc. 63 without the square brackets, subject to the amendments proposed by the European Union and the United States of America, were accepted.

Specimen codes | European eels

Specimen code	Description	Products/Commodity	Unit
FIG	Fingerling	Live fish (< 12cm)	kg
LIV	Live	Live fish (> 12cm)	kg
BOD	Body	Dead fish (entire fish only)	kg
MEA	Meat	Dead fish (fresh and processed fillet for human consumption)	kg

Source codes | European eels

Specimen code	Description	Products/Commodity	
R	Ranching	Specimen raised in aquaculture	

Discussion should be referred to the Standing Committee's **intersessional working group** on captive-bred and ranched specimens

Customs codes | European eels

- Better harmonisation of customs codes is urgently needed
- Standing Committee & World Customs Organisation

Table 1
Customs codes and descriptions of *Anguilla* spp. commodities for Hong Kong, mainland China, Japan, South Korea and Taiwan (valid in March 2015).

	Customs Code	Commodity
Hong Kong	0301.92.10	Live eel fry " <i>Anguilla</i> spp."
	0301.92.90	Live eels, other than fry (<i>Anguilla</i> spp.)
	0302.74.00	Eels (<i>Anguilla</i> spp.), excluding filets, livers and roes, fresh or chilled
	0303.26.00	Eel (<i>Anguilla</i> spp.), excluding filets, livers and roes, frozen
	1604.17.00	Eels, whole or in pieces, but not minced, prepared or preserved
	0301.92.10.10	Live eel fry of marbled eel (<i>Anguilla marmorata</i>)
	0301.92.10.20	Live eel fry of European eel (<i>Anguilla anguilla</i>)
	0301.92.10.90	Live eel fry, other <i>Anguilla</i> spp.
	0301.92.90.10	Live eels, other than fry (<i>Anguilla marmorata</i>)
	0301.92.90.20	Live eels, other than fry (<i>Anguilla anguilla</i>)
	0301.92.90.90	Live eels, other than fry (other <i>Anguilla</i> spp.)
	0302.74.00.10	Marbled eel (<i>Anguilla marmorata</i>), excl. livers and roes, fresh/chilled
	0302.74.00.20	European eel (<i>Anguilla anguilla</i>), excl. livers and roes, fresh/chilled
	0302.74.00.90	Other <i>Anguilla</i> spp., excl. livers and roes, fresh/chilled
Mainland China	0303.26.00.10	Marbled eel (<i>Anguilla marmorata</i>), excl. livers and roes, frozen
	0303.26.00.20	European eel (<i>Anguilla anguilla</i>), excl. livers and roes, frozen
	0303.26.00.90	Other <i>Anguilla</i> spp., excl. livers and roes, frozen
	0304.39.00.10	Marbled eel (<i>Anguilla marmorata</i>) filets, fresh/chilled*
	0304.39.00.20	European eel (<i>Anguilla anguilla</i>) filets, fresh/chilled*
	0304.51.00.10	Marbled eel (<i>Anguilla ma-</i>
	0304.51.00.20	European eel (<i>Anguilla ar-</i>
	0304.69.00.10	Marbled eel (<i>Anguilla ma-</i>
	0304.69.00.20	European eel (<i>Anguilla ar-</i>
	0304.93.00.10	Frozen meat of Marbled e
	0304.93.00.20	Frozen meat of European
	0305.44.00.10	Smoked <i>Anguilla marmor-</i>
	0305.44.00.20	Smoked <i>Anguilla anguilla</i>
	0305.64.00.10	<i>Anguilla marmorata</i> , drier
0305.64.00.20	<i>Anguilla anguilla</i> , dried/sc	
1604.17.00.10	<i>Anguilla marmorata</i> , who preserved	
1604.17.00.20	<i>Anguilla anguilla</i> , whole/ir	
1604.17.00.90	Other eels, whole/in piece	
	Customs Code	Commodity
Japan	0301.92.10.0	Live eel fry " <i>Anguilla</i> spp." (only used for imports)
	0301.92.20.0	Live eels, other than fry (<i>Anguilla</i> spp.) (only used for imports)
	0301.92.00.0	Live eel (<i>Anguilla</i> spp.) (only used for exports)
	0302.74.00.0	Eels (<i>Anguilla</i> spp.), excluding filets, fresh or chilled
	0303.26.00.0	Eel (<i>Anguilla</i> spp.), excluding filets, frozen
	1604.17.00.0	Eels, prepared or preserved fish
South Korea	0301.92.10.00	Glass eel (≤0.3g per unit, for aquaculture)
	0301.92.20.00	Young eel (>0.3g and ≤50 g per unit, for aquaculture)
	0301.92.90.90	Live eels, other than fry (<i>Anguilla</i> spp.)
	0302.74.00.00	Eels (<i>Anguilla</i> spp.), excluding filets, livers and roes, fresh or chilled
	0303.26.00.00	Eel (<i>Anguilla</i> spp.), excluding filets, livers and roes, frozen
	1604.17.10.00	Eels, prepared or preserved fish - in airtight containers
	1604.17.90.00	Eels, prepared or preserved fish - other
	0301.92.10.10-1	Eels, <i>Anguilla japonica</i> , live
	0301.92.10.20-9	Eels, <i>Anguilla marmorata</i> , live
	0301.92.10.90-4	Other eels (<i>Anguilla</i> spp.), live
Taiwan	0301.92.20.10-9	Glass eel (>5000 pcs per kg)
	0301.92.20.20-7	Eel fry (>500 and <5000 pcs per kg)
	0301.92.20.30-5	Young eel (elver) (>10 and <500 pcs per kg)
	0302.74.00.00-6	Eels, fresh or chilled
	0302.89.94.10-4	Offals of eel, fresh or chilled
	0303.26.00.00-4	Eels, frozen
	0303.89.94.10-3	Offals of eel, frozen
	0304.39.00.10-6	Eel filets, fresh or chilled
	0304.69.00.10-9	Eel filets, frozen
	0304.93.10.10-7	Frozen eel, minced (surimi)
	1604.17.00.11-6	Eels, whole/in pieces, not minced, prepared/preserved, frozen
	1604.17.00.12.5	Roasted eels, whole/in pieces, not minced, prepared/preserved, frozen
	1604.17.00.20-5	Eels, whole or in pieces, but not minced, prepared or preserved, canned
	1604.17.00.90-0	Other eels, whole or in pieces, but not minced, prepared or preserved
1604.20.90.21-0	Other offal of eel prepared or preserved, frozen	
1604.20.90.29-2	Other offal of eel prepared or preserved	

*Other *Anguilla* spp. are grouped together in codes containing many fish species (not described here).

Source: Editorial Department of the Customs Import and Export Tariff of mainland China (2015); Hong Kong Census and Statistics Department; Ministry of Finance, Trade Statistics of Japan; Korea International Trade Association; Taiwan Bureau of Foreign Trade. Note: Mainland China uses 10-digit codes for Tariff purposes, but only 8-digit data (non-species-specific) are available for analysis.

China: 27 HS

Taiwan: 19 HS

EU: 8 HS

South Korea: 7 HS

Japan: 6 HS

Hong Kong: 5 HS

Key Recommendations |

- Mechanism to facilitate **traceability**
- Strengthen **collaboration**
- **Standardisation** of ratios for conversion

Photo: A Suitcase Full of Eels @eelsuitcase



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Thank you!