

Present: Alex Koelewijn, Miran Aphrahmian, Roger Castle, Matthew Gollock, Vicky Crook, Barry Bendall, Richard Fordham, Peter Wood, Vicky Offord (acting Secretary), Andrew Kerr (Chairman)

Apologies: Julian Jones, Vin Fleming, David Bunt, Alan Walker, Andy Don, Brian Knights, Andrew Wallace

1. Apologies, Introductions and opening address

Andrew welcomed the board and introduced Vicky Crook from TRAFFIC, who was invited to join the discussions on illegal trade of the Eels and Alex Koelewijn from Dupan Foundation as their SEG Board Member

2. Notes of the last meeting

Minutes of the last meeting were proposed by Matt Gollock and were accepted

3. Progress Reports

Venice Review

- Richard Fordham thanked people for attending and organising the conference. 60 Delegates from 15 countries attended. SEG has gained knowledge and contacts. The presentations are now posted on the web site
- It was suggested that SEG network would need to continue to grow and the idea of champions for each country was proposed - people who could act as a focus. Italy was planning a local conference in Tuscany for the end of September at the Orbatello Lagoon.
- SEG is now in need of dedicated person(s) to run the growing organisation and support the delivery of the EFF plan

AK

Brussels Meeting

- Alex Koelewijn relayed an overview of the meeting / debate in the Brussels office of the Skane Region of Sweden on the future of the eel. The debate took place in the context of the review of the eel regulation and the move by some people to list the eel at CITES Annex A. Barry Bendall spoke for SEG and Didier Moreau for WWF France.
- It was clear that there is a significant lobby to stop all eel fishing and that without the Sustainable Eel Standard the progressive elements of the industry would struggle to make a defence
- The meeting went on to discuss the eel regulation and Miran Aphrahmian passed around a diagram of biomass escapement. These will be used increasingly from September
- Swedish EMP review report is published and the UK's will be ready at the end

MA

of June on the DEFRA website. SEG will meet once it is published. Date to be decided on and terms/crib sheet also written.

EFF Implementation

- Signed acceptance has been received.
- UKGE offered to provide financial bridging facility so that speedy implementation could take place. This call off loan would be free of charge.
- The detailed planning meeting for the EFF grant implementation will be on 26th July

Review of restocking (Mike Pawson's paper)

The Independent report would be published and Matt Gollock offered to format

MG

- o Placed on SEG Website
- o Linked to Living north Sea website
- o Executive summary needs to be made to target audience not in the same business.
- o A few hard copies to be posted to key people

BB

BB, MG,

AK

Scottish coal draining in Loch Fitty Scotland

The project has been brought to SEG attention by Corine of the Dutch Eel Company who would like to see a sustainable solution developed

- SEG has been notified of a project in Scotland.
- SEG needs to liaise with FORTH River Trust.
- Scottish National Heritage also needs to be consulted.
- Barry and Matt to liaise with Andrew Wallace and Jason Godfrey.

MA, MG,

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AK

4. Eel Standard

- 12 Organisations have been assessed and are working to the Standard from Sweden, Denmark, Germany, Holland, France, Spain and UK. A Greek farm had also asked to be assessed
- Advanced plans have been made to assess 19 Smokeries and 17 farms in Holland, funded by DUPAN. These assessments had already started.

The Standard and Illegal Trade

The issue of the standard and legal trading was discussed at some length. It was becoming a hot issue given the assessment for the 'chain of custody' that had now commenced by MEP. There was no final conclusion to the meeting however the universal view expressed was that the logo and standard could only apply to companies that traded legally and in the spirit of the sustainable standard.

- Within the EFF grant a revision and updating of the standard was already budgeted and that this contract would be placed following the EFF planning meeting at the end of July.
- During the 2012 season there were many reports of Illegal Trade including the

- arrest in Spain of 14 people
- Eels are still being illegally exported to Asia from EU countries
- Trade to bypass the EU was also being practised
- SEG needs to consider where confiscated living elvers could be stored and released quickly back into 'ideal' habitat

**ALL
MG**

5. Business Plan

A new BP needs to be immediately developed and brought to the next SEG meeting for approval, a few pointers were suggested

- The emphasis to be more on Europe
- EFF UK approach needs to be implemented and expanded to other countries
- Revise the Standard in the light of the pilots
- Encourage greater take up of the standard
- SEG network and communications
- Create a Budget
- Implement the Membership plan
- Website development

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MG
PW**

6. SEG internal business

- David Bunt has a new appointment within the EA and has asked to step down as secretary but will stay on the SEG board which is accepted by the other SEG members. AK thanked him for all the hard work he has done.
- The new secretary is to come out of the business plan coming forward.
- The board decided that Andrew Kerr is appointed as the SEG Forum Co-ordinator

7. Next meeting Wednesday 19th September 2012 at ZSL.

- MG to book room
- Meeting Wednesday 16th January 2013

MG

8. Any Other Business

- Richard Fordham referred the meeting to a new study from Sweden
- Alex Koelewijn informed the board about two eel migration projects over Dams and a new school programme for 8-10 year olds focused on the eel like cycle.
- AK thanked Vicky Crook for attending and especially for her contribution
- Close.