

Standard Assessment – Loire Fishermen (OP/COREPEM)

**Assessment against SEG Standard:** Component 1: Core requirements  
Component 2: Glass eel fishing

**Completed by**  
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5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 11th January 2021

**Final Version**

Reviewed and Approved by Certification Body:  
David Bunt, Sustainable Eel Group, 25 January 2021

**1) Introduction**

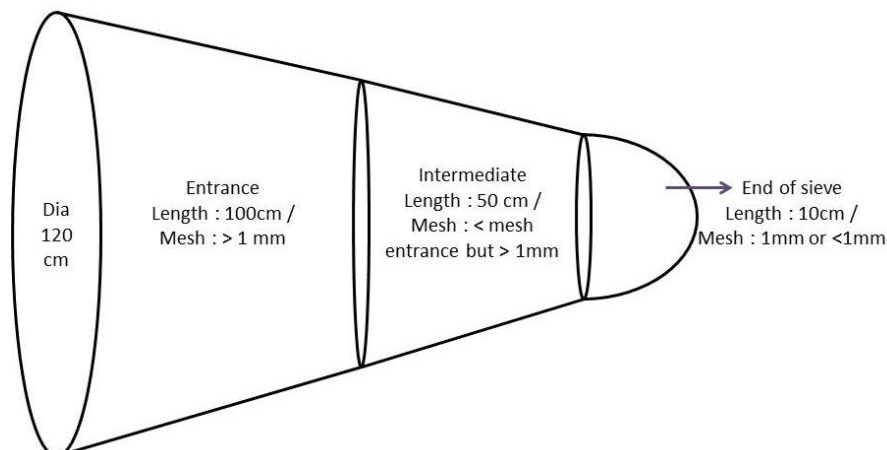
This document represents the report produced following the January 2021 audit carried out under the SEG (Sustainable Eel Group) standard (version 6.0a, December 2019) with a group of fishermen operating on the Loire River, from Saint Nazaire to Nantes. Fishermen concerned by this certification deliver their glass eels to various neighbouring trading sites, but most of them store the glass eels in a home tank for at least 48 hours before selling them to the fish wholesalers. These tanks are declared and legal but complicate the monitoring of fishing mortality.

This audit was organised by the Organisation of Producers (OP) Estuaries and the Regional Committee for Sea Fisheries and Marine Livestock of the Loire countries (COREPEM). The fishermen's group will therefore be called "Fishermen Loire OP/COREPEM". This assessment was carried out only in relation to components 1 and 2 of the standard.

The present certification concerns 14 new fishermen as well as 23 fishermen who are already SEG. Among these, 9 fishermen had to carry out a control audit this year (SEG0068) and 14 fishermen had to carry out a control audit in 2022 (SEG0082). Thus, the objective of this audit is to gather the 37 fishermen under a single certificate (SEG0068).

**37 fishermen** are concerned by the audit, **7 boardings** were made.

On the Loire River, all fishermen use the same models of fishing gear. Namely, sieves with a circular opening of 120 cm in diameter and a length around 160cm (which can however vary). The mesh size is degressive with often 3 different meshes. The terminal part of the sieve is called "bottom sieve" and on this short section the mesh is very fine, to avoid injuring the elvers that are found there. The following diagram shows the type of sieve used:



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The following professional fishers are concerned by this process of SEG certification:

NAME	FIRST NAME	Previous SEG number	NAME	FIRST NAME	Previous SEG number
BARAUD	Martial	SEG0068	JOSNIN	Franck	SEG0082
BAUMAL	Alexis	SEG0068	MENU	David	SEG0082
BOURVEAU	Yann	SEG0068	QUEMENER	Christopher	SEG0082
BAUMAL	Franck	SEG0068	ROCHER	Didier	SEG0082
BAUMAL	Patrice	SEG0068	BONNET	Franck	New requests
LERAY	Michel	SEG0068	AUDUREAU	Erwan	
PERIN	Tony	SEG0068	BOUCARD	Yann	
TAILLANDIER	Yann	SEG0068	COLLEVILLE	Anthony	
VALLEE	Mickaël	SEG0068	DAUBIN	Sébastien	
BONNET	Gaetan	SEG0082	GAUTIER	Laurent	
BATARD	Fabrice	SEG0082	GUILLOU	Benoit	
BLANCHARD	Louis	SEG0082	FAUCHEUX	Emmanuel	
BLANDIN	Régis et Kévin	SEG0082	LACROIX	Benjamin	
BRIERE	Patrice et Ronan	SEG0082	LORCY	Frédéric	
BURGOT	Marc	SEG0082	PARABERE	Joël	
COLLIOT	Benjamin	SEG0082	RENAUD	Alexis	
COUEDEL	Theo	SEG0082	JANIN	Eddy	
GOURDON	Franck	SEG0082	LE HECHO	David	
IVANIUK	Stéphane	SEG0082			

## 2) The assessment

The evaluators were Fabien Charrier and Nicolas Belhamiti for the engineering office Fish-Pass. The visit took place on the tides of the 5th, 6th and 11th January 2021.

In order to have a good representativity of the fishing areas, the boardings were carried out as follows:

- 3 boardings on the Saint Nazaire sector during the night tide of January 11th with Messrs Lacroix (new request), Brière (SEG0082) and Guillou (new request).
- 2 boardings on the Cordemais sector during the night tide of January 5<sup>th</sup> with Messrs Vallée (SEG0068) and Ivaniuk (SEG0082).
- 1 boarding on the Pellerin sector during the daytime tide of January 6th with Mr Janin (new request)
- 1 boarding on the Nantes sector during the night tide of January 5th with Mr Faucheux (new request)

## 3) Client Contact Details

The Estuaries OP requested this audit. The resource person is therefore the director of the Estuaries OP.

<b>Name/Compagny</b>	OP ESTUAIRES - COLLIAS ALEXANDRA and COREPEM – PENGRECH ALEXIS
<b>Postal address</b>	2, rue Colbert 85100 Les Sables d'Olonne
<b>Email address</b>	<a href="mailto:op.estuaires@gmail.com">op.estuaires@gmail.com</a> / <a href="mailto:alexis.pengrech@corepem.fr">alexis.pengrech@corepem.fr</a>
<b>Phone number</b>	OP : 02 51 96 15 67 – 06 78 05 07 27 COREPEM : 02 51 96 15 67

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## 4) Results of the assessment

The outcome of this assessment is as follows:

Component 1: General Requirements	Auditor's findings	Weighting	Score
1.1 Commitment to Legality	Responsible	1	1
1.2 Contribution to eel conservation projects (bonus)	N/A	N/A	N/A
1.3 The organisation trades in certified responsibly sourced eels	Responsible	1	1
1.4 Traceability:			
1.4.1 Incoming products, separation and segregation	Aspiring	1	0
1.4.2 Outgoing products	Aspiring	1	0
1.4.3 Record keeping and documentation	Aspiring	1	0
1.5.1 Biosecurity & welfare – Biosecurity measures are adopted	Responsible	1	1
Total		6	3
<b>Percentage Responsibility Score:</b>		<b>50%</b>	

**Finding:** The fishery reaches a score of 50% for this component, negatively impacted by some fishermen who do not use electronic reporting. However, the fishery can be considered responsible.

Component 2: Glass eel fishing	Auditor's findings	Weighting	Score
2.1 Eel fishing is in a catchment that is meeting its escapement targets	Aspiring	2	0
2.2 There is good progress with the applicant's responsibilities in the eel management plan for the river or district	Responsible	2	2
2.3 The fishery is well managed	Responsible	1	1
2.4 Mortality during fishing is minimised	Aspiring	2	0
2.5 The fishery has negligible impacts on by-catch species	Responsible	1	1
2.6 The fishery has negligible impacts on rare or other protected species	Responsible	1	1
2.7 The fishery has negligible impacts on habitats	Responsible	1	1
2.8 Transport	Responsible	1	1
2.9 Bonus score: fishermen donate a proportion of their catch for a local positive contribution	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total		11	7
<b>Percentage Responsibility Score:</b>		<b>64%</b>	

**Finding:** The fishery meets part of the criteria of the elver component (64%) and can be considered responsible under the SEG standard.

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### Summary of assessment and scoring

Component	Not Met	Aspiring	Responsible
1	0	3	3
2	0	4	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Total Responsibility Score: = 10/17</b>			<b>59%</b>

### Summary finding:

The "Loire OP/COREPEM" fishery has achieved a total responsibility score of score of 59%.

### 5) Recommendations:

Fish-Pass makes the following recommendations in relation to the "Loire OP/COREPEM" fishery:

1. With a responsibility criteria score of 59%, the fishery has achieved the level required to be considered **responsible** and meets the criteria for **certification by the SEG standard**.
2. Traceability (1.4) needs to be improved for some fishermen. Although the majority of the 37 fishermen use electronic reporting, this is not the case for all fishermen. By the time of the control audit, the few fishermen concerned must agree to use the electronic declaration in order to obtain the responsibility criterion.
3. Regarding criterion 2.4, several things need to be improved. Average fishing speeds are higher than what the SEG standard requires, but less than what is recommended in the "Good Practice Guide for the elver fishing industry". In addition, no monitoring of mortality in home tanks is carried out. However, the practices observed during boarding seem to be in line with responsible elver fishing, as no mortality was observed on board. We make the following recommendations that should be applied until the control audit:
  - a. Speeds should be reduced as much as possible, especially when the angler is going against the current.
  - b. The majority of the fishermen audited have a home pond that they use to store elvers for at least 48 hours. However, for the majority, no mortality monitoring is carried out on these tanks. We recommend that from the 2020-2021 season onwards, fishermen keep a home mortality logbook that they can provide to the auditor during the control audit. It should be possible to link mortality to a period and a quantity of elvers caught (fishing log). For better readability, it is preferable that elvers' trips during sales are also indicated. An example of this would be :

Date	Quantity added to the tank (g)	Mortality (g)	Quantity leaving the tank (g)
04/01/2021	1890	0	0
05/01/2021	910	10	0
06/01/2021	0	5	0
07/01/2021	500	20	0
08/01/2021	0	0	3260

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The exit weight may not necessarily correspond to the weight fished + mortality. This may be due to weight loss and weighing accuracy.

- c. Each vessel has a fish tank on board. However, the practices for collecting glass eels from them differ. Sometimes a very fine-mesh net (less than 1mm) is present in the tank and allows the fish to be retrieved with almost no handling. If there is no net, the elvers are collected after emptying the tank with a shovel and a plastic brush. This last technique subjects the glass eels to more handling. It would be preferable for all fishermen to place a very fine-meshed net (0.9mm or less) inside the fish tank.
  - d. Fishermen who do not yet have nets compatible with the SEG standard (mesh size of 1mm or less in the end of sieve) may be considered as SEG (and therefore use their SEG number) only when they have provided proof to the OP and/or COREPEM that the nets are properly installed.
4. We recommend testing with indigo carmine during the control audit. The lesions taken into account remain to be defined but this system would allow us to judge whether the practices are in accordance with the SEG standard, despite the excessively high speeds observed.

**6) Next Audit**

Question	Performance of the Client at Audit	Yes	No
1	Has the client been part of any external investigation which may be of concern to SEG AND/OR been suspended from any other certification standard?	Enhanced Surveillance	<b>Go to Q2</b>
2	Has the client received a borderline pass for a Component in its previous audit?	Enhanced Surveillance	<b>Go to Q3</b>
3	Does the client only buy and sell product (does not physically handle it?)	Minimum Surveillance	<b>Go to Q4</b>
4	All other scenarios	Standard Surveillance	

	Certification Audit	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4 Recertification Audit
Minimum Surveillance	On-Site Audit	No Audit	Remote Audit	No Audit	On-Site Audit
Standard Surveillance	On-Site Audit	No Audit	On-Site Audit	No Audit	On-Site Audit
Enhanced Surveillance	On-Site Audit	On-Site Audit	On-Site Audit	On-Site Audit	On-Site Audit

The next Audit should be scheduled for January 2023.

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## 7) The Assessment

The tables below detail the reasons for the ratings given above for each component.

Component 1 – Generic requirements (Weighting : 1 for each criterion)	
Criterion 1.1: Commitment to legality	
<b>Responsible indicators</b>	For at least the past two years: the organisation has not been found guilty for any offences relating to eel fishing or trading.
<b>Aspiring indicators</b>	For at least the past 12 months: the organisation has not been found guilty for any offences relating to eel fishing or trading.
<b>Discussion</b>	The seven fishermen audited have had no eel fishing violations over the past 24 months. The criterion has therefore been met.
<b>Score</b>	Responsible

Criterion 1.2: Contribution to Eel Conservation Projects. (Optional bonus score) (The intention is for this to be mandatory from summer 2020)	
<b>Responsible indicators</b>	The organisation donates at least 2% of its profits or at least 20% of its corporate responsibility programme to projects that make a positive contribution to eel conservation or population enhancement, such as Eel Stewardship Funds, River Restoration projects, conservation and education projects.
<b>Aspiring indicators</b>	The organisation donates 1 – 1.99% of its profits or 10 - 20% of its corporate responsibility programme to projects that make a positive contribution to eel conservation or population enhancement, such as Eel Stewardship Funds, River Restoration projects, conservation and education projects.
<b>Discussion</b>	N/A
<b>Score</b>	N/A

Criterion 1.3: The organisation trades in certified responsibly sourced eel	
<b>Responsible indicators</b>	The organisation trades in at least 50% (by number) of certified responsibly sourced eel and has the documentation to demonstrate that.
<b>Aspiring indicators</b>	The organisation trades in 10 – 49.9% (by number) of certified responsibly sourced eel and has the documentation to demonstrate that.
<b>Discussion</b>	Of the 37 fishermen concerned, 23 already hold a SEG certificate. This means that 62% of the fishermen market SEG fish. This criterion is therefore met.
<b>Score</b>	Responsible

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Criterion 1.4: Traceability	
1.4.1: Traceability - Incoming product, separation and segregation	
<b>Responsible indicators</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certified and uncertified eel products can be clearly and easily traced back to their source.</li> <li>• Where a fishery or buyer, an electronic tele-declaration system is used.</li> <li>• It operates a clear system which ensures that the product remains separated at all stages from arrival to dispatch from non-certified eel products.</li> <li>• The organisation ensures that any products wishing to make a claim as certified do not contain any non-certified eel-based ingredients.</li> <li>• If resolved through mass- or number- balance calculations, the margin of error does not exceed 2%.</li> </ul>
<b>Aspiring indicators</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certified and uncertified eel products can be traced back to their source.</li> <li>• If segregation is not possible, there are clear and auditable records of the numbers of certified and uncertified eels entering the organisation at each facility.</li> <li>• It can demonstrate through auditable records that the number of certified eels exiting the organisation in a year did not exceed the number that entered.</li> <li>• If resolved through mass- or number- balance calculations, the margin of error does not exceed 5% or if a farm, the 2800 pieces per 1 kg of glass eels is applied.</li> </ul>
<b>Discussion</b>	<p>Of the seven fishermen audited, 6 use the "Télécapêche" remote declaration system. The last fisherman sends his declarations by e-mail whereas normally this is done by SMS. "Télécapêche" allows computerised banking and direct access to COREPEM, which represents all the fishermen of the UGA Loire - Côtiers Vendéens - Sèvre Niortaise (LCVS) and the OP. This makes it possible to monitor the fishermen's quota finely and to avoid exceeding the authorised quotas.</p> <p>On the other hand, some fishermen on the list do not use electronic reporting. Instead they call the OP or COREPEM directly every 10 days or so.</p> <p>Fishermen also fill in fishing forms (or fishing log) which are systematically sent to France Agrimer. Each fishing day is the subject of a paper declaration with 3 copies: 1 for the administrative authorities, 1 for the fisherman and the last one is kept by the fisherman.</p> <p>Although the fishermen audited meet the responsibility indicator, the entire fleet concerned must use electronic declaration. Thus, only the aspiring criterion is reached.</p>
<b>Score</b>	Aspiring

1.4.2: Traceability - Outgoing product	
<b>Responsible indicators</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where a fishery or buyer, an electronic tele-declaration system is used</li> <li>• Documentation is well maintained with a maximum of 2% error in the following:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The organisation correctly uses batch-coding for labelling certified product, which can be on the packaging for the product, or included in the documentation (e.g. invoice) with the assignment</li> <li>• All product to be sold as certified by an organisation is accompanied by an invoice which meets the following criteria:                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Includes an appropriate batch code</li> <li>- Includes a record of the quantity (no. &amp; weight) of product and to whom it was sold</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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<b>Aspiring indicators</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Documentation is well maintained. If resolved through mass- or number- balance calculations, the margin of error does not exceed 5% in the following (or if a farm, the 2800 pieces per 1 kg of glass eels is applied):</li> <li>The organisation correctly uses batch-coding for labelling certified product, which can be on the packaging for the product, or included in the documentation (e.g. invoice) with the assignment.</li> <li>All products to be sold as certified by an organisation are accompanied by an invoice which meets the following criteria:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Includes an appropriate batch code.</li> <li>- Includes a record of the quantity (no. &amp; weight) of product and to whom it was sold.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Discussion	<p>As for the previous point, this audit concerns only fishermen and some of them do not use electronic declaration.</p> <p>The criterion is therefore not met.</p>
<b>Score</b>	Aspiring

**1.4.3: Traceability - Record keeping and documentation**

<b>Responsible indicators</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The organisation operates a system that allows the tracking and tracing of all eel from purchase to sale and including any steps in between. In the case of live eels this should include the ability to track each batch delivered to a buyer to be connected back to a water, a time period (maximum duration one month) and specific fisherman/vessel.</li> <li>If a fisherman or buyer, a tele-declaration system is used to report catches and trade.</li> <li>The organisation operates a system that also allows for the completion of a batch reconciliation of eel product by weight over a given period.</li> <li>The organisation maintains records for a minimum of three (3) years.</li> </ul>
<b>Aspiring indicators</b>	<p>The above requirements are met except that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Records have been maintained for less than three (3) years</li> <li>If a fisherman or trader, a tele-declaration system is planned to be used to report catches and trade in the next season</li> </ul>
Discussion	<p>As for criterion 1.4.1, this audit only concerns fishermen and some of them do not use electronic declaration.</p> <p>The criterion is therefore not met.</p>
<b>Score</b>	Aspiring

**Criterion 1.5: Biosecurity & welfare – Eel and eel products are provided with minimal risk of diseases, parasites and alien species**
**1.5.1 Eel Fishing: Biosecurity measures are adopted**

<b>Responsible indicators</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The fishery conducts good biosecurity measures such as the disinfection and drying of nets and equipment between each fishing in different waters. <b>OR</b></li> <li>The fishermen only operate in the same river or estuary, with no risk of transferring diseases or alien species between catchments.</li> </ul>
Discussion	<p>All the fishermen operate only on the Loire.</p> <p>The criterion is therefore met.</p>
<b>Score</b>	Responsible



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Summary scores for Component 1	
Not met	0
Not applicable	1
Aspiring	3
Responsible	3
Total possible	6
<b>% Responsibility (Responsible / Total possible)</b>	<b>50%</b>

Component 2 - Glass eel fishing	
Criterion 2.1: Eel fishing is in a catchment that is meeting its escapement targets	
Weighting: 2	
<b>Sustainable Indicator</b>	There are good data which show to the satisfaction of the fisheries authority that the EU silver eel 40% escapement target (40% B0) is being achieved for the river or in the eel management district.
<b>Responsible indicators</b>	There are good data which show to the satisfaction of the fisheries authority that at least 70% of the Bbest target for silver eel escapement is being met in the river or eel management district.
<b>Aspiring indicators</b>	Eel fishing is in a place accepted by the fishery authority as providing a positive contribution to the eel stock or, the river or RBD is meeting 40% - <70% of the Bbest target.
<b>Discussion</b>	<p>The information available on this subject (Report of the Eel Management Plan in France, 2018) shows that, for the moment, the objective of 40% of the BO or 70% of the BBEST is not achieved, both in the relevant Management Unit (LCVS) and in the other French Management Units. Moreover, we do not have precise information by watershed to make a more detailed assessment of this criterion.</p> <p>However, all the actions planned in France's Eel Management Plan (EMP) have been implemented and the rebuilding of the eel stock requires long-term action. The effects of the measures taken in recent years are not observable for the moment. Actions taken by the fisheries sector are detailed in the following criterion.</p> <p>Considering all this, the criterion is not met but significant efforts have been made since the establishment of the EMP, in particular by professional fishermen.</p>
<b>Score</b>	Aspiring

Criterion 2.2: There is good progress with the applicant's responsibilities in the Eel Management Plan for the river or District	
Weighting: 2	
<b>Responsible indicators</b>	There is credible progress with at least 75% of the actions relating to the fishery for the implementation of the Eel Management Plan for the river or eel management district.
<b>Aspiring indicators</b>	There is credible progress with at least 50% of the actions relating to the fishery for the implementation of the Eel Management Plan for the river or eel management district.

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<b>Discussion</b>	<p>Professional fisheries stakeholders have implemented the majority of actions related to the EMP.</p> <p>For example, the exploitation rate of glass eel stock has decreased significantly since the reference period. This rate has been relatively stable in recent years and fluctuates around the management target.</p> <p>The allocation of glass eel fishing licences has decreased by 57% between 2006 and 2018.</p> <p>The ratio of the fishing quota 40% consumption and 60% restocking is unchanged since 2013. However, the target of 60% glass eels for restocking in Europe has never been reached, but the profession is getting closer to this target over the years. Reaching this objective is dependent on the European market, which is not the responsibility of professional fishermen.</p> <p>The overall catch quota has decreased for the 2020-2021 season by a total of 57.5 tonnes, a reduction of 11.5% compared to the previous season.</p> <p>Finally, France allocates between 5 and 10% of annual catches to French restocking operations, 5.8% in 2018.</p> <p>In view of all these elements, it can be considered that this criterion has been met.</p>
<b>Score</b>	Responsible

**Criterion 2.3: The fishery is well managed**
**Weighting: 1**

<b>Responsible indicators</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fishers are licensed and provide catch and effort data via a tele-declaration system.</li> <li>Data on catch and effort are collected and analysed regularly by the fishery authority (at least annually at the end of the season).</li> <li>There is a data set for at least the last 5 years that is considered by the fishery authority to be accurate, useful for statistical purposes and provide a comprehensive picture of the glass eel fishery under assessment.</li> <li>Enforcement is in place throughout the fishing area and there is no evidence of systematic non-compliance.</li> </ul>
<b>Aspiring indicators</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fishers are licensed and provide catch and effort data.</li> <li>Data on catch and effort are collected and analysed regularly by the fishery authority (at least annually at the end of the season).</li> <li>There is a data set for at least the last 3 years that is considered by the fishery authority to be accurate and provide enough information on the glass eel fishery under assessment for management and to track annual trends in glass eel arrival.</li> <li>There is no evidence of systematic non-compliance.</li> </ul>
<b>Discussion</b>	<p>All fishermen have a licence and most of them carry out the electronic declaration in addition to the declaration by the fishing form.</p> <p>Fishing figures are monitored throughout the season by the COREPEM and the OP to know the exact consumption of the quota and thus avoid a preventive closure. These data are obtained thanks to "Télécapêche" which has been compulsory for 5 years. These data are a very efficient management tool.</p> <p>The official data come from the fishing forms (or fishing logbook) sent by fishermen to the administrative authorities. Thus, the Directorate of Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture (DPMA in french) collects and compiles these data. During the elver fishing season, the DPMA distributes a table every week to report on the consumption of quotas in the various UGAs. In May-June, when the season is over, the DPMA distributes a statistical compendium (quota consumption, market price, number of fishers, etc.) per UGA. There is a set of reliable data for more than 5 years.</p> <p>This criterion has therefore been met.</p>
<b>Score</b>	Responsible

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Criterion 2.4: Mortality during fishing is minimised	
<b>Weighting: 2</b>	
<b>Responsible indicators</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fishing is by hand-held nets and has effective nearby holding facilities <b>OR</b></li> <li>• Fishing from vessels meets the following criteria:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) fishing is at slow speed (no more than 1 knot relative to water);</li> <li>ii) haul duration is on average no longer than 20 minutes, with the maximum duration not more than 30 minutes;</li> <li>iii) mesh size of cod end no greater than 1mm;</li> <li>iv) rest of the net designed such that glass eels do not become trapped or abraded;</li> <li>v) vivier tank on board and in use;</li> <li>vi) fishermen maintain accurate daily records of mortality. <b>OR</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Fishermen can demonstrate that the mortality rate of the catch over the duration of holding in the storage facility is less than 4% for each batch captured. <b>OR</b></li> <li>• Fishing methods (in France) meet the criteria in Category 1 of the France Good Practice Guide. <b>OR</b></li> <li>• The Carmin Indigo or similar test indicates that mortality averages less than 4%.</li> </ul>
<b>Aspiring indicators</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fishing from vessels meets the following criteria:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) fishing is at slow speed (no more than 1.5 knots relative to water);</li> <li>ii) maximum haul duration no longer than 30 minutes;</li> <li>iii) mesh size of cod end no greater than 1mm;</li> <li>iv) rest of the net designed such that glass eels do not become trapped or abraded;</li> <li>v) vivier tank on board and in use;</li> <li>vi) fishermen maintain accurate daily records of mortality. <b>OR</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Fishermen can demonstrate that the mortality rate of the catch over the duration of holding in the storage facility is between 4% and 8% for each batch captured. <b>OR</b></li> <li>• Fishing methods (in France) meet the criteria in Category 2 of the France Good Practice Guide. <b>OR</b></li> <li>• The Carmin Indigo or similar test indicates that mortality averages between 4% and 8%.</li> </ul>
<b>Discussion</b>	<p>On the Loire River, practices and equipment are close by. Thus, the following characteristics have been noted :</p> <p>The sieves used are identical between sites. These are machines with an inlet diameter of 120cm. The total length of the net is variable but often around 160cm and is composed of 3 different sections :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The entrance is about 100cm long with the largest mesh (&gt;1mm).</li> <li>- The intermediate part which is about 50cm long with a finer mesh but larger than 1mm.</li> <li>- The bottom sieve, which is 10cm long with a mesh size of 1mm or less.</li> </ul> <p>It should be noted that out of the 7 vessels, only 5 were equipped with nets with the right mesh size (&lt;1mm at the bottom sieve). The other two fishermen have ordered the right nets and are awaiting delivery.</p> <p>No glass eels were observed trapped in any part other than the sieve bottom, which has a very fine mesh.</p> <p>All ships have a water tank on board. Sometimes there is a recirculation of water or bubbling in the fish tank during the tide. On the tank there is a reject sieve that allows elvers to pass through and quickly discard by-catch that is still alive. Some also have a small water basin with 2 sieves to separate elvers from by-catch and debris.</p> <p>Only one fisherman keeps a daily record of mortality, either during fishing or for the fish tank that is present at the home. However, no mortality was observed during fishing.</p> <p>The stroke time does not exceed 20 minutes</p>

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	<p>Average speeds are higher than required in the standard, in the order of 2 to 3 knots. However, these speeds are lower than what is recommended in the French Good Practice Guide.</p> <p>Thus, many criteria are met, but the fishermen do not keep mortality records and the speeds are slightly too high compared to the SEG requirements, while remaining within the recommendations of the French Good Practices Guide.</p> <p>We recommend assigning an aspiring criterion with several recommendations (part 5, page 4 of the document) to be applied between now and the control audit.</p>
<b>Score</b>	Aspiring

<b>Criterion 2.5: The fishery has negligible impacts on by-catch species</b>	
<b>Weighting: 1</b>	
<b>Responsible indicators</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The fishery has a negligible impact on by-catch.</li> <li>By-catch is returned to the water alive as gently and rapidly as possible.</li> </ul>
<b>Aspiring indicators</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The fishery has low-level impacts on by-catch.</li> <li>By-catch is returned to the water alive as gently and rapidly as possible.</li> </ul>
<b>Discussion</b>	<p>The most common by-catches encountered are as follows: Sand goby, Spotted goby, Grey mullet, Bleak, Stickleback, Sandeel, the Atlantic silverside, Sea bass, Roach, Eel, White shrimp, Brown shrimp. These species were returned to the water quickly and without any major impacts observed.</p> <p>The criterion has therefore been met.</p>
<b>Score</b>	Responsible

<b>Criterion 2.6: The fishery has negligible impacts on rare or other protected species</b>	
<b>Weighting: 1</b>	
<b>Responsible indicators</b>	The fishery has no direct interactions resulting in mortality or injuries with other species that are considered vulnerable, threatened, endangered or are protected under national or international law.
<b>Aspiring indicators</b>	Interactions, resulting in mortality or injury, with other species that are considered vulnerable, threatened, endangered, or are protected under national or international law, are rare and have no overall measurable impact on the population.
<b>Discussion</b>	We did not observe the presence of vulnerable or protected species on board. The criterion has therefore been met.
<b>Score</b>	Responsible

<b>Criterion 2.7: The fishery has negligible impacts on habitats</b>	
<b>Weighting: 1</b>	
<b>Responsible indicators</b>	The fishing gear does not cause any damage to the benthos.
<b>Aspiring indicators</b>	Damage to the benthos by gear is limited or minimal.

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<b>Discussion</b>	Eel fishing consists of filtering the water, without touching the benthos. If it happens that the sieve touches the benthos it will be accidental and will lead to an unwanted loss of time and fishing efficiency. This criterion is therefore met.
<b>Score</b>	Responsible

<b>Criterion 2.8: Transport</b>	
<b>Weighting: 1</b>	
<b>Responsible indicators</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The operator holds the relevant transport authorisations.</li> <li>• There is a Transport Plan in place to minimise travel time – this meets the Transport requirements for vertebrates.</li> <li>• Packing is done in a way that minimises handling, time and stress.</li> <li>• Eels are kept cool and wet with an adequate supply of oxygen.</li> </ul>
<b>Discussion</b>	<p>The fishing form filled in at the end of the tide serves as an authorisation for transport in France.</p> <p>All fishermen use the same means of transport, i.e. a plastic or polystyrene crate. The elvers are taken out of the fish tank and placed in this crate immediately. Then they transport this crate from the boat to the truck where the catch is weighed, usually without transferring the container (the tare is known). The eels are left out in the open air for the duration of the transport from the port to the fisherman's or fish wholesaler's tank.</p> <p>This transport time is generally short and during transport the eels are kept moist and fresh (air temperature in winter).</p> <p>With the exception of sites where the fisherman picks up eels on landing, which is rare on the UGA LCVS, all fishermen operate in this way. This is the least amount of handling of elvers and this fish seems not to suffer from this way of operating.</p> <p>The criterion is therefore met.</p>
<b>Score</b>	Responsible

<b>Criterion 2.9: Bonus Score: Fishermen donate a proportion of their catch for a local positive contribution</b>	
<b>Weighting: 1</b>	
<b>Responsible indicators</b>	Fishermen have donated an average of at least 5% of their catch in the past 2 years to local stocking programmes, e.g. translocating over barriers to aid upstream migration and recruitment in the catchment, or have credible plans in place to do so next season (note that this is separate from any planned restocking to meet the 60% target).
<b>Discussion</b>	N/A
<b>Score</b>	N/A

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Summary scores for Component 2	
Not met	0
Not applicable	1
Aspiring	4
Responsible	7
Total possible	11
<b>% Responsibility (Responsible / Total possible)</b>	<b>64%</b>