

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

Completed by
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7th, 8th and 16th of December 2020

Final Version

Reviewed and Approved by Certification Body:
David Bunt, Sustainable Eel Group, 6 January 2021

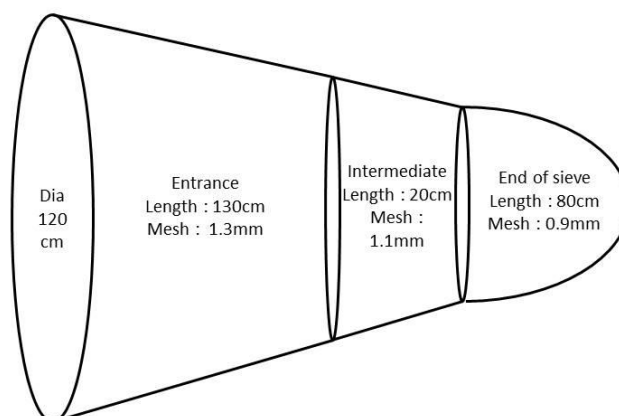
1) Introduction

This document represents the report produced following the audit of 7 – 16 December 2020 carried out within the framework of the SEG (Sustainable Eel Group) standard (version 6.0a, December 2019) with a group of fishermen from these sectors: Port du Collet, Saint Gilles Croix de Vie and Beauvoir sur Mer. The fishermen concerned by this certification have a home tank where the glass eels are placed, generally at least 48 hours before being sold to the fish wholesalers. These tanks are declared and legal but make it difficult to monitor fishing mortality. The majority of the fishermen in this audit sell their fish to Gurruchaga Marée, which requested the audit. The fishermen's group will therefore be called "Pêcheurs Vie et Baie de Bourgneuf", without this committing the certified fishermen to sell their glass eels only to the company Gurruchaga Marée. This assessment was carried out only in relation to components 1 and 2 of the standard.

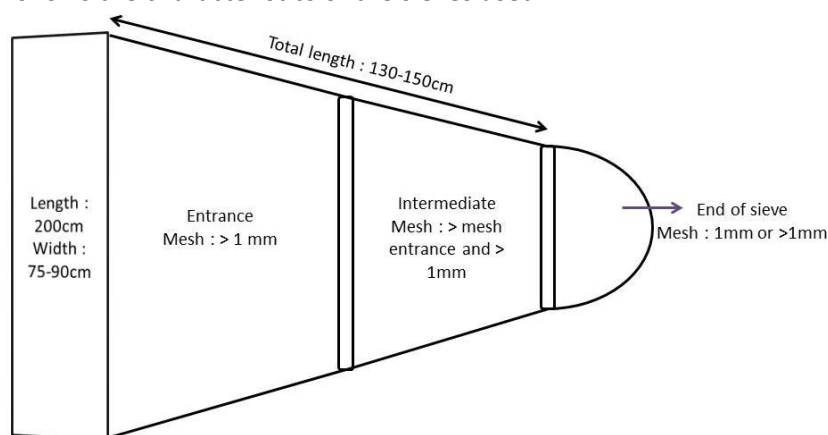
The certification concerns fishing on different sectors of the Bay de Bourgneuf, namely, the Port du Collet at Les Moutiers-en-Retz (44760), several étiers at the Barre-de-Monts (85550), the ferry port at Bouin (85230) as well as fishing on La Vie at Saint-Gilles-Croix-De-Vie (85800).

17 fishermen are concerned by the audit and therefore **5 boarding have been made.**

Two types of gear are used in these different sectors. In the Port du Collet and Beauvoir-sur-Mer sectors, fishermen use the same models of fishing gear. Then the length and mesh size can vary, with a small pocket at the end called a "bottom sieve". During the audit, two fishermen from Beauvoir-sur-Mer did not have the appropriate gear with SEG certification (mesh size >1mm). But an order was placed and, normally, all fishermen must be equipped with new nets, in accordance with the SEG requirements by January 15th 2021. The following diagram shows the characteristics of the sieves that will be used by the majority of fishermen from 15th January onwards:



On La Vie, all fishermen use similar gear. The opening is rectangular and 200cm long, the width of the frame is 100cm maximum. The finest mesh is at the bottom sieve and the highest mesh is at the intermediate section. The following diagram shows the characteristics of the sieves used:



The following fishermen are concerned for this assessment:

NAME	FIRST NAME	AREA
BOURY	PIERRE	COLLET
CHARRIER	RICHARD	COLLET
VIAUD	HENRICK	COLLET
MONNEREAU	JEROME	SAINT GILLES CROIX DE VIE
MECHIN	FRANCK	SAINT GILLES CROIX DE VIE
DARDIS	HERVE	BEAUVOIR SUR MER
BERNARD	STÉPHANE	BEAUVOIR SUR MER
GENDRON	ALEXIS	BEAUVOIR SUR MER
PEAUD	JEROME	BEAUVOIR SUR MER
BAIZEAU	JEAN CLAUDE	BEAUVOIR SUR MER
DARDIS	DOMINIQUE	BEAUVOIR SUR MER
CONORD	STÉPHANE	BEAUVOIR SUR MER
ANGIBAUD	MICKAEL	BEAUVOIR SUR MER
POTIER	RICHARD	BEAUVOIR SUR MER
POTIER	SANDY	BEAUVOIR SUR MER
REDOR	THOMAS	BEAUVOIR SUR MER
BRIAND	TONY	BEAUVOIR SUR MER

2) The assessment

The evaluator was Nicolas Belhamiti for Fish-Pass. In order to have a good representativeness of the different fishing sites, boarding was carried out as follows:

- On the 7th of December with Eric Fouquet on la Vie
- On the 8th of December with Henrick Viaud at the Port du Collet
- On the 16th of December with Messrs Bernard, Dardis and Péaud in Beauvoir sur Mer (la Barre de Mont and the port of Le Bec).

3) Client Contact Details

Although it is a group of fishermen who are the subject of this audit, the contact person for this file was part of the Gurruchaga Marée group. This person is responsible for the collection of glass eels from the sectors concerned.

Name/Compagny	Gurruchaga Marée / VAQUELIN Frédéric
Postal address	88 route de la corniche, 64700 Hendaye
email address	f.vaquelin@gmail.com
Phone number	06 12 90 47 19

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	N/A	N/A	N/A
1.4 Traceability:			
1.4.1 Incoming products, separation and segregation	Responsible	1	1
1.4.2 Outgoing products	Responsible	1	1
1.4.3 Record keeping and documentation	Responsible	1	1
1.5.1 Biosecurity & welfare – Biosecurity measures are adopted	Responsible	1	1
Total		5	5
Percentage Responsibility Score:		100%	

Finding: The fishery meets the generic requirements and can be considered **responsible** for this component.

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	Aspiring	1	0
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	6
Percentage Responsibility Score:		55%	

Finding: The fishery has met a % responsibility score of 55% for glass eel fishing and can be considered **responsible** under the SEG standard.

Summary of assessment and scoring

Component	Not Met	Aspiring	Responsible
1	0	0	5
2	0	5	6
Total	0	5	11
Total Responsibility Score: =			69%

Summary finding:

The "Vie et Baie de Bourgneuf " fishery has achieved an overall **Responsibility Score of 69%**.

5) Recommendations:

Fish-Pass makes the following recommendations with regard to the "Saint-Gilles-Croix-De-Vie" fishery:

1. With a score on the responsibility criteria of 69%, the fishery has reached the level required to be considered **responsible** and meets the criteria for **certification by the SEG standard**. However, we recommend to issue the certificate on condition until after having checked that the sieves with a mesh size less than or equal to 1mm on the terminal section have been correctly installed.
2. The fishery should consider how to make a positive contribution to eel conservation projects (criteria 1.2 and 2.9) and implement them by the next evaluation.
3. A possible biosecurity issue (criterion 1.5) is present in the Beauvoir-sur-Mer sector. For the fishermen concerned, great care must be taken to clean the sieves after each fishing trip and to let them dry properly when they change fishing sector.
4. Concerning 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 France Good Practice Guide. In addition, there is no monitoring of mortality in home fish tank. However, the practices observed during boarding seem to be in line with responsible elver fishing. The following recommendations are suggested and can be applied between now and the control audit:
 - a. Speeds should be reduced as much as possible, **especially when the fisherman goes against the current**.
 - b. All fishermen audited have a home tank which they use to store elvers for a minimum of 48 hours. However, 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 fish 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

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

- c. Each boat 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.
- 5. Concerning criterion 2.5 (impact of fishing on by-catch), some fishermen leave by-catch on the reject sieve for too long. Fishermen should take care to release the by-catch as quickly as possible.
- 6. We recommend testing with indigo carmine during the control audit. The lesions taken into account have yet to be defined but this system would make it possible to judge whether practices are in line with the SEG standard, despite speeds in excess of 1.5 knots recorded.

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	Go to Q2
2	Has the client received a borderline pass for a Component in its previous audit?	Enhanced Surveillance	Go to Q3
3	Does the client only buy and sell product (does not physically handle it?)	Minimum Surveillance	Go to Q4
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 mid-term audit should therefore take place by December 2022.

7) The Assessment

The tables below give the standard and a rationale for the scores given above.

Component 1 – Generic requirements (Weighting : 1 for each criterion)	
Criterion 1.1: Commitment to legality	
Responsible indicators	For at least the past two years: the organisation has not been found guilty for any offences relating to eel fishing or trading.
Aspiring indicators	For at least the past 12 months: the organisation has not been found guilty for any offences relating to eel fishing or trading.

Discussion	The five fishermen audited have no recent prosecutions or legal proceedings pending, and all fishermen are signing an agreement to abide by the terms of the fishery and the SEG standard. The criterion is therefore met.
Score	Responsible

Criterion 1.2: Contribution to Eel Conservation Projects. (Optional bonus score) (The intention is for this to be mandatory from summer 2020)

Responsible indicators	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.
Aspiring indicators	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.
Discussion	N/A
Score	N/A

Criterion 1.3: The organisation trades in certified responsibly sourced eel

Responsible indicators	The organisation trades in at least 50% (by number) of certified responsibly sourced eel and has the documentation to demonstrate that.
Aspiring indicators	The organisation trades in 10 – 49.9% (by number) of certified responsibly sourced eel and has the documentation to demonstrate that.
Discussion	The audit concerns only fishermen, who are therefore not concerned by this criterion.
Score	N/A

Criterion 1.4: Traceability

1.4.1: Traceability - Incoming product, separation and segregation

Responsible indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certified and uncertified eel products can be clearly and easily traced back to their source. • Where a fishery or buyer, an electronic tele-declaration system is used. • It operates a clear system which ensures that the product remains separated at all stages from arrival to dispatch from non-certified eel products. • The organisation ensures that any products wishing to make a claim as certified do not contain any non-certified eel-based ingredients. • If resolved through mass- or number- balance calculations, the margin of error does not exceed 2%.
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Aspiring indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certified and uncertified eel products can be traced back to their source. • 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. • 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. • 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.
Discussion	<p>All fishermen audited use the electronic filing system "Télécapêche". This system allows computerised banking and direct access to COREPEM, which represents all the fishermen of the UGA Loire - Côtiers Vendéens - Sèvre Niortaise (LCVS). This makes it possible to monitor the fishermen's quota finely and to avoid exceeding the authorised quotas.</p> <p>The fishermen also fill in fishing forms (or fishing log) which are systematically sent to France Agrimer. Each fishing day is declared on paper with 3 copies: 1 for the administrative authorities, 1 for the wholesaler and the last one is kept by the fisherman.</p> <p>This criterion has therefore been met.</p>
Score	Responsible

1.4.2: Traceability - Outgoing product

Responsible indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where a fishery or buyer, an electronic tele-declaration system is used • Documentation is well maintained with a maximum of 2% error in the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • 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"> - Includes an appropriate batch code - Includes a record of the quantity (no. & weight) of product and to whom it was sold
Aspiring indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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): • 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. • 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"> - Includes an appropriate batch code. - Includes a record of the quantity (no. & weight) of product and to whom it was sold.
Discussion	<p>As in the previous point, this audit concerns only fishermen and they use an electronic filing system and fishing form.</p> <p>The criterion is therefore met.</p>

Score	Responsible
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1.4.3: Traceability - Record keeping and documentation

Responsible indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. If a fisherman or buyer, a tele-declaration system is used to report catches and trade. The organisation operates a system that also allows for the completion of a batch reconciliation of eel product by weight over a given period. The organisation maintains records for a minimum of three (3) years.
Aspiring indicators	<p>The above requirements are met except that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Records have been maintained for less than three (3) years If a fisherman or trader, a tele-declaration system is planned to be used to report catches and trade in the next season
Discussion	<p>The fishermen all use an electronic filing system and fishing forms. These data are kept by the administrative authorities for more than 3 years. The criterion is therefore met.</p>
Score	Responsible

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

Responsible indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The fishery conducts good biosecurity measures such as the disinfection and drying of nets and equipment between each fishing in different waters. OR The fishermen only operate in the same river or estuary, with no risk of transferring diseases or alien species between catchments.
Discussion	<p>At La Vie and the Port du Collet, fishermen never change fishing sector. On the other hand, fishermen from Beauvoir-Sur-Mer can change fishing areas during the season (a few kilometres away as the crow flies). These fishing areas are not necessarily connected to each other. But considering that :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The sieves systematically pass through salt water during the tide. - The sieves are cleaned with a powerful water jet at the end of the tide. - The sieves are left out of the water between tides. <p>This makes it very unlikely that a disease or exotic species will be transported from one area to another.</p> <p>We consider the criterion to be met but make recommendations to pay careful attention to biosecurity (part 5, page 4).</p>
Score	Responsible

Summary scores for Component 1

Code: SEG 0086

Not applicable	2
Not met	0
Aspiring	0
Responsible	5
Total possible	5
% Responsibility (Responsible / Total possible)	100%

Component 2 - Glass eel fishing	
Criterion 2.1: Eel fishing is in a catchment that is meeting its escapement targets	
Weighting: 2	
Sustainable Indicator (worth 2 x Responsible Indicator Score)	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.
Responsible indicators	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.
Aspiring indicators	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.
Discussion	<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 B0 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 catchment area 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. The 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>
Score	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	
Responsible indicators	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.
Aspiring indicators	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.
Discussion	<p>Professional fisheries stakeholders have implemented the majority of actions related to the EMP.</p> <p>So, 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>
Score	Responsible

Criterion 2.3: The fishery is well managed

Weighting: 1	
Responsible indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fishers are licensed and provide catch and effort data via a tele-declaration system. • Data on catch and effort are collected and analysed regularly by the fishery authority (at least annually at the end of the season). • 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. • Enforcement is in place throughout the fishing area and there is no evidence of systematic non-compliance.
Aspiring indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fishers are licensed and provide catch and effort data. • Data on catch and effort are collected and analysed regularly by the fishery authority (at least annually at the end of the season). • 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. • There is no evidence of systematic non-compliance.
Discussion	All fishermen have a licence and carry out the electronic filing in addition to the declaration by the fishing form or the fishing logbook.

	<p>Fishing figures are monitored throughout the season by COREPEM and the PO in order to know the exact consumption of the quota to avoid a preventive closure. These data are obtained thanks to "Télécapêche" which has been compulsory for 5 years. This data is a very efficient management tool.</p> <p>The official data come from the fishing sheets (or fishing log) 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 circulates 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 wholesalers, etc.) per UGA. There is a set of reliable data for more than 5 years.</p> <p>This criterion has therefore been met.</p>
Score	Responsible

Criterion 2.4: Mortality during fishing is minimised

Weighting: 2

Responsible indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fishing is by hand-held nets and has effective nearby holding facilities OR • Fishing from vessels meets the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) fishing is at slow speed (no more than 1 knot relative to water); ii) haul duration is on average no longer than 20 minutes, with the maximum duration not more than 30 minutes; iii) mesh size of cod end no greater than 1mm; iv) rest of the net designed such that glass eels do not become trapped or abraded; v) vivier tank on board and in use; vi) fishermen maintain accurate daily records of mortality. OR • 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. OR • Fishing methods (in France) meet the criteria in Category 1 of the France Good Practice Guide. OR • The Carmin Indigo or similar test indicates that mortality averages less than 4%.
Aspiring indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fishing from vessels meets the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) fishing is at slow speed (no more than 1.5 knots relative to water); ii) maximum haul duration no longer than 30 minutes; iii) mesh size of cod end no greater than 1mm; iv) rest of the net designed such that glass eels do not become trapped or abraded; v) vivier tank on board and in use; vi) fishermen maintain accurate daily records of mortality. OR • 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. OR • Fishing methods (in France) meet the criteria in Category 2 of the France Good Practice Guide. OR • The Carmin Indigo or similar test indicates that mortality averages between 4% and 8%.
Discussion	<p>Practices observed are different between La Vie and the different sectors of the Bay de Bourgneuf. Thus, at la Vie, the sieves used are rectangular in shape, with a length of 200cm and a width ranging from 75cm to 90cm. The net measures between 130cm and 150cm long with 3 different sections. The intermediate section is where</p>

	<p>the mesh is the largest and is larger than 1mm. The bottom sieve has a mesh size of 1mm or less. In the sectors of the Bay de Bourgneuf, the opening is 120cm in diameter and the length is variable with 3 decreasing meshes. During the audit, some fishermen did not have sieves compatible with the SEG requirements. However, these will be quickly equipped with sieves with a terminal mesh of 1mm or less.</p> <p>No glass eels were observed trapped in any part other than the bottom sieve.</p> <p>All vessels have a water tank on board. For some, there is recirculation of water or bubbling in the tank during the tide. On the tank there is a reject sieve that allows elvers to pass through and discard by-catch.</p> <p>The duration of each haul was generally around 5 to 8 minutes during the audit. Never more than 10 minutes.</p> <p>The average speeds observed are higher than what is required in the standard, in the order of 2.2 to 2.5 knots. However, these speeds are lower than what is recommended in the France Good Practice Guide.</p> <p>After the tide, fishermen take the elvers to their homes and place them in a fish tank for at least 48 hours in fresh water. Professionals estimate that mortality during this stage is low, but no real monitoring of mortality is carried out.</p> <p>Thus, many criteria are met, but the fishermen do not keep mortality records and the speeds are too high in relation to the SEG requirements. However, the speeds observed remain low with low engine speeds. Professionals can hardly go slower. Moreover, the duration of the hauls is very short, often around 5 minutes and always less than 10 minutes. It was not possible to observe mortality during fishing, as the quantities fished were very low at the beginning of the season. Finally, some fishermen do not yet have the appropriate gear, but this will be quickly rectified.</p> <p>We recommend assigning an aspiring score with several recommendations (part 5, page 4 of the document) to be applied by the time of the control audit.</p>
Score	Aspiring

Criterion 2.5: The fishery has negligible impacts on by-catch species	
Weighting: 1	
Responsible indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The fishery has a negligible impact on by-catch. • By-catch is returned to the water alive as gently and rapidly as possible.
Aspiring indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The fishery has low-level impacts on by-catch. • By-catch is returned to the water alive as gently and rapidly as possible.
Discussion	<p>The by-catches encountered are as follows: Roach, Spotted goby, Thinlip grey mullet, Sea Bass, Stickleback. These species are caught in low numbers and quickly return to the water for the majority of fishermen.</p> <p>However, some fishermen leave the fish on the reject sieve for about ten minutes, which is far too long.</p> <p>It therefore appears that the practices of some fishermen can have a low impact on by-catches.</p>
Score	Aspiring

Criterion 2.6: The fishery has negligible impacts on rare or other protected species	
Weighting: 1	
Responsible indicators	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.
Aspiring indicators	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.
Discussion	We did not observe the presence of vulnerable or protected species on board. The criterion has therefore been met.
Score	Responsible

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

Criterion 2.8: Transport	
Weighting: 1	
Responsible indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The operator holds the relevant transport authorisations. • There is a Transport Plan in place to minimise travel time – this meets the Transport requirements for vertebrates. • Packing is done in a way that minimises handling, time and stress. • Eels are kept cool and wet with an adequate supply of oxygen.
Discussion	<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 mode of transport, i.e. a plastic or polystyrene crate. The glass eels are taken out of the fish tank (with the help of a pocket or with a brush and bucket) and placed in this crate immediately. Then they transport this crate from the boat to the truck where the catch is weighed, usually without container transfer (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, more rarely, the wholesaler's fish tank.</p> <p>This transport time is generally short and during transport the eels are kept moist and fresh (air temperature in winter).</p>

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	<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. So the criterion is met.</p> <p>The criterion is therefore met.</p>
Score	Responsible

Criterion 2.9: Bonus Score: Fishermen donate a proportion of their catch for a local positive contribution	
Weighting: 1	
Responsible indicators	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).
Discussion	N/A
Score	N/A

Summary scores for Component 2	
Not applicable	1
Not met	0
Aspiring	5
Responsible	6
Total possible	11
% Responsibility (Responsible / Total possible)	55%