

The [Sustainable Eel Group](#) (SEG) has responded to the French Food and Agriculture Ministry's [consultation](#) on setting the France Glass eel quota for the 2021/22 fishing season. This is our reply:

The Sustainable Eel Group welcomes the French Food and Agriculture Ministry's consultation to set the glass eel catch quota for the forthcoming fishing season, allowing stakeholders to make their views known.

It is noted that the Minister proposes to increase the total quota from 57.5 tonnes last year to 65 tonnes. This is due to ministry's assessment of an improvement in the number of glass eels arriving to the French coast.

The quota is composed of 26t for consumption and 39t for restocking. The 39t for restocking is to meet the Eel Regulation target of 60% which SEG welcomes.

SEG analyses the EU glass eel catches and sales every year, so is well informed on market supply and demand. We comment as follows on the proposal:

### **We make the following observations on the Minister's proposal:**

1. We would like to see measures to help ensure that the 39t for restocking is used for that purpose, for the conservation and recovery of this vulnerable species, which is protected by the EU Eel Regulation (2007) which requires that 60% of catches are used for restocking, and Cites (2010), which prohibits trade of the eel outside of the EU.

### **So, we therefore make the following proposals:**

1. We ask the Minister to apply, and to encourage and support local Comités de Pêches and conservation organisations and other national governments and conservation organisations to apply, to the [European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund](#) (EMFAF) and other funding bodies, for funds to support restocking programmes to increase the restocking market for glass eels. Such a measure would greatly support the implementation of the Eel Regulation for the recovery of the European eel.
2. We ask the Minister to set up a fund to support local fishers who wish to donate their catch to local restocking projects (e.g. moving the glass eels over migration barriers) to make up any shortfall in the restocking market. Again, this would greatly support the implementation of the Eel Regulation for the recovery of the European eel.
3. We ask the Minister to require that traders of glass eels for restocking be obliged to adopt the Traces system for sales in Europe. This would make it possible to track the destination of the glass eels, and reduce the amount that are lost to illegal trafficking.