Sustainable Eel Group, ASBL

Annual General Meeting

18 April 2023

12.00 – 13.00 CET (11.00 – 12.00 UK)

By Zoom:  https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85144446828

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**Agenda**

- **Introductions, apologies and meeting etiquette**
  
- **Minutes of last meeting**
  
- **Chairman’s Report**
  - 1. Impacts Report
  - 2. SEG Standard and ISEAL
  - 3. Some Eel Related Events for 2023
  - 4. SEG’s Position Amongst Many Societal Parties
  - 5. WIEA European Swimways project

- **Financial Report**

- **Any other business**

  Andrew Kerr  
  
  David Bunt  
  
  Willem Dekker  
  
  Heather Bond  
  
  Emma Cordier  
  
  Alexander Weber  
  
  Andrew Kerr
#EelDeal 2030

Governments and NGO’s are struggling to adapt to meet the challenges of eel recovery

The SEG Platform of INFLUENCE
AIM  SEG as the leading, the most authoritative and the most influential voice on Eel (AA) whilst not becoming a bureaucracy – ‘the small and agile strategy’.

1. Leadership and Advocacy:
   1.1. To encourage the better implementation of the Eel Regulation both within and beyond EU
   1.2. To promote and facilitate the counter trafficking agenda
   1.3. To support other NGO’s on river and wetland restoration
   1.4. To add a SEG perspective to ICES, CMS and CITES

2. SEG Standard:
   2.1. To achieve ISEAL Code Compliance soonest (Community Member Aug 2019)
   2.2. To contract and delegate Standard Assessment and Admin via the CAB model: 2021 - 2022
   2.3. To make certification conditional on 100% use of SEG caught glass eel: 2022 – 2023
   2.4. To gradually expand the supply chain to embrace yellow and silver fisheries

3. Sustainability Impact:
   3.1. To report annually on progress made increasing eel protection via sustainability

4. A Multi Decade Approach:
   4.1. To promote a longer term perspective on eel its history, cultures and trends
The Commission calls on Member States to:

By the end of June 2024, improve the protection of the European eel by adopting or updating existing Eel Management Plans under the Eel Regulation (38), in the light of new knowledge and on the basis of the report referred to in Article 9 of the Eel Regulation, in order to strengthen conservation and management measures. These eel management plans should address:

i) the impact of fisheries (both commercial and recreational and at all stages of the species’ life-cycle) and,

ii) non-fisheries-related impacts by implementing the related legislation, such as the Water Framework Directive (39), the Habitats Directive (40) and the MSFD.

The plans should include efforts to restore eel habitats, improve the connectivity of rivers and address barriers to migration, and should improve transboundary cooperation.
To support Member States with the implementation of the action plan and ensure coherence and effectiveness, the Commission will create a new joint special group for Member States, with stakeholders as observers. The aim will be to facilitate knowledge sharing and discussions between fisheries and environmental communities, as well as to give the Member States a platform for transparency and dialogue on the implementation of their roadmaps. The Commission will also continue to encourage other EU institutions and national authorities to increase transparency and cooperation between fisheries and environmental parties and experts.
Huge Stakeholder Consultation process is underway leading to new Standard V7 – during 2023

“A Fundamental Shield for the reformed sector”
SEG Standard Owner and Setter. ISEAL Code Compliant CAB - Independent Role and Certifier

Independent qualified Auditors to verify performance and claims

Full Self Evaluation before Audit

The ISEAL Code Compliant Model

CAB Conformity Assessment Body

Achievement

Official SEG-Certified company

Renewal

After 12 months

Commitment & Policy

Usage of the SEG Reporting tool

Performance benchmarking & tracking
- Traceability
- Compliance with legislation
- Mortality %
- Transport
- Segregation
- Water quality
- Food
- Growth Grading
- Welfare of eel
- Impact
- Etc.

Self-evaluation against the SEG criteria

CAB Audit

On-site certification with an independent, credible and experienced auditor to verify performance and claims.

Certification

- Compliance with regulations
- Strengthen control processes
- Demonstrate business transparency
- Ensure business continuity

Sustainable Eel Approach

Communication Plan

Engage external stakeholders

Improve Company Name & Image

Governance

Sustainability

Communication

Full Self Evaluation before Audit

CAB Conformity Assessment Body

BEGINNING OF THE JOURNEY

Register as SEG-Participant
The Reinvention is taking place - the sector takes on the “Stewardship Role”

The SEG Standard with fully traceable Supply Chain has impact

110 million for 2022 eel farming and restocking

Growing Impact of SEG Standard in building a fully traceable supply chain

France 400 Fishermen
UK all 300 part time

21 million Glass Eel 2018
32 million Glass Eel in 2019
33 million Glass Eel in 2020
64 million Glass Eel in 2021

88% of French Fishery Certified

Influence building – the SEG Platform

2021

First Certificates
Spain 2022

UK Certificates expired in 2022

France Glass Eel Total Catch
2022 55.6 Tons
2023 49.6 Tons

Quota was down from 65 tons to 58.75
This situation led to CITES Listing 2007

Global eel aquaculture production in metric tonnes
(period 1950-2020; FAO 2022)

“Europe is a small player in Global Eel Aquaculture”
A State owned Chinese petrochemicals company has opened the world's largest indoor eel farm using recirculating aquaculture systems (RAS), that will produce up to 15,000 metric tons of fish annually...29 August 2022
SEPRONA / EUROPOL
18th April 2018
MADRID

100 tons / 300 + million Glass Eels a year

Reported Seizures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Seizures</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>16 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>17 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>15 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>10 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>1.38 million</td>
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Trafficking expected to grow in 2022

Reported Arrests

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>48</td>
<td>2016 - 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>98</td>
<td>2017 - 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>154</td>
<td>2018 - 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>108</td>
<td>2019 - 20</td>
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<tr>
<td>52</td>
<td>2020 - 21</td>
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Eel trafficking influenced by the COVID-19 pandemic

Operation Lake V
Update 19 Nov 2021

58 000+ inspections across Europe
Seizures including: 387 kg of glass eels and 25 kg of adult eels valued at about EUR 1.241 million

85% Reduction since 2016*

40% of 60 ton or 200m quota
70 to 80 million Glass Eels saved

“improved eel husbandry”

TOTAL ANNUAL SAVING over
300 +
million Glass Eels

100 tons pa 300 to 350 million Trafficked
Reduced to 15-25% is about 250m saved

“Less eels trafficked”

Working to SEG Standard / Supply Chain and effective counter trafficking save 100s of millions of glass eels annually
Please note that ‘Elsewhere’ accounts for over 90% of the recruitment. Around 1.3 billion is an indicated arrival volume from earlier ICES studies.
Eel a POLITICAL issue

Grand Strategy

Strategy

Major Tactics

Minor Tactics

Create SEG

Build Standard

Embrace ISEAL

Code Compliance

Defend and Enable the Eel Regulation

#EelDeal 2030

SEG JOURNEY – asymmetric facilitation and networking

2010  2020  2025  2030
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONTH</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>SEG Programme</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb</td>
<td></td>
<td>Consult on SEG V6</td>
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<td>March</td>
<td></td>
<td>Seek Comments on Assurance System</td>
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<td>April</td>
<td>SEG AGM</td>
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<td>May</td>
<td>PECH Committee Reviews Eel File ‘holistic approach’</td>
<td>Publish 1st Draft SEG Std V7 for consultation</td>
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<td>June</td>
<td></td>
<td>Publish Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning System Draft 1</td>
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<td>July</td>
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<td>Publish Risk Management Draft 1 for consultation Publish Document Management System Draft 1 for consultation</td>
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<td>Aug</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept</td>
<td>WGEEL meets 1-16 and 25-2 Oct</td>
<td>Publish Std 7 draft 2 consultation</td>
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<td>Oct</td>
<td>ACOM Annual Report CMS Reports</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov</td>
<td>PECH Report</td>
<td>Code Compliance submission to ISEAL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec</td>
<td>Annual Council of Minsters</td>
<td>Publish SEG Standard V7</td>
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