Sustainability and Responsibility

“How the SEG Standard can help combating illegal trade and improving traceability and certification?”

SEG promoting Eel Recovery through ‘protection and sustainable use’
In 2022 it is about 1500 tons from wild Yellow / Silver and over 5,000 tons from Aquaculture.

Some 3% of Glass Eel Recruitment of over 1.3 billion annually.

The Changing and Declining Pattern of EU Eel Fisheries
110 million SEG Certified eel for farming / restocking supply chains in both 2022 and 2023.

Reinventing the sector.
The ISEAL Code Compliant Model

SEG Standard Owner and Standard Setter.

Voluntary

CAB – Independent Role Certifier and then maintains the Register

CAB – Conformance Assessment Body

Independent qualified Auditors appointed by CAB to verify performance and claims

Full Self Evaluation before Audit
The Reinvention is taking place - the sector takes on the “Stewardship Role”

The SEG voluntary Standard with a fully Traceable Supply Chain is adopted

110 million for 2022 and 2023 eel farming and restocking

First Certificates Spain 2022

88% of French Fishery Certified

France Glass Eel Total Catch

2022  55.6 Tons
2023  49.6 Tons

Quota was down from 65 tons to 58.75

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

3/4 of French 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

18 farms certified 90% in NL, DE, FR and SW
75% of farms in Europe
75% Certified in NL and Germany

17 Retailers / Smokehouses Certified in NL and Germany
Better Eel Husbandry mortality was 40% of 150m quota some 60 million Glass Eels saved

Reduced Trafficking from 300 million to some 50m or about 20% so about 250m saved

TOTAL ANNUAL SAVING over 300 million Glass Eels

Working to SEG Standard / Supply Chain and effective counter trafficking save 100s of millions of glass eels annually
Captive Breeding even if it was the solution is a long way off
Europe is a small player in Global Eel Aquaculture

This situation led to CITES Listing 2007 - 2010
364 Suitcases in one raid 2018

- Up to 100,000 glass eel in each suitcase
- Fishermen gets 10 cents an eel
- Landed in Hong Kong 1Euro
- Grown on 10 Euro

In 2018 300-350 million were trafficked
SEPRONA / EUROPOL
18th April 2018
MADRID

“100 tons / 300 + million Glass Eels a year”

Reported Arrests
“Averaging 100 arrests a year”

- 48 2016 - 17
- 98 2017 - 18
- 154 2018 - 19
- 108 2019 - 20
- 52 2020 - 21

Recent ASIA Press Reports
Suggest 85% Reduction to some 50 million fish a year...


Reported Seizures
“Tens of millions a year”

- 16 million 2016 - 17
- 17 million 2017 - 18
- 15 million 2018 - 19
- 10 million 2019 – 20
- 1.38 million 2020 - 21
Review of the trade pattern

**2021/2022**

- 4.734t Spain
- 0.913t Portugal
- 4.3t SEG fish
- 19.5t France
- TOTAL 29.5t traded in Spain

- Non-SEG Restocking & Consumption <1t

- **31%**
  - 19t SEG Restocking

- **20%**
  - 12.5t SEG Aquaculture

Approx. 15t IUU?

50 million

ICES TOTAL GLASS EEL CATCH 59.48t
2023 Some Images...all non SEG Certified – in 2023 the greatest number of seizures

“27 people arrested during the operation on 10 May. 20 people taken into custody the following days, ten now prosecuted. Justice has put an end to the vast operation.”

SEG congratulates the National and International Enforcement Agencies

Arrested and jailed likely invoking his 18 months suspended sentence 10 May 2023
The SEG Voluntary Standard helps to identify and demonstrate those working responsibly within the supply chain so enabling enforcement agencies to concentrate their resources more effectively.

Much of the Trafficking was from this non SEG certified zone - likely closed. Seizures have likely reached new peak.

88% of French Fishermen are now certified.

88% of French Fishermen are now certified.

France 2022/2023

TOTAL 49.6t
2021/22 Total 55.6t

Non-SEG Restocking, 7.9t
Non-SEG Consumption, 6.8t
SEG Restocking, 20.2t
SEG Consumption, 14.7t

60 million fish
45 million fish

The SEG Voluntary Standard helps to identify and demonstrate those working responsibly within the supply chain so enabling enforcement agencies to concentrate their resources more effectively.
Jovenel Moïse, the president of Haiti, was assassinated by drugs and eel gangs on 7 July 2021 at his residence in Port-au-Prince.

The American Eel 'Rostrata' the new level – 200 million for 2023

Canada shuts baby eel fishery after string of attacks on harvesters

Officials announce 45-day ban on harvesting eelvors in provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick
Migratory freshwater fish have declined by 93% since 1970 in Europe.
Sustainability and Responsibility

“The SEG Standard does help combat illegal trade and does improve traceability and certification?”

SEG promoting Eel Recovery through ‘protection and sustainable use’