

**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** Andrew Kerr
- Minutes of last meeting** Andrew Kerr
- Chairman's Report**
  - 1.Impacts Report Andrew Kerr
  - 2.SEG Standard and ISEAL David Bunt
  - 3.Some Eel Related Events for 2023 Andrew Kerr
  - 4.SEG's Position Amongst Many Societal Parties Willem Dekker
  - 5.WIEA European Swimways project Heather Bond  
Emma Cordier
- Financial Report** Alexander Wever
- Any other business** Andrew Kerr

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 Emma Cordier WI-EA	 Alexander Wever	 Samsung SM-X200	<b>Willem</b> Willem	 Norbert Jeronimus
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<b>Ingvild Harkes</b> Ingvild Harkes	<b>Martynas Grevi...</b> Martynas Greviskis	<b>Aitor</b> Aitor	<b>Fanny VOLAGE...</b> Fanny VOLAGE (CNPMEM)	<b>nbelhamiti (Fis...</b> nbelhamiti (Fish Pass)
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<b>Civelle Durable...</b> Civelle Durable France	<b>Vicky Hale</b> Vicky Hale	<b>Marieke Swinkels</b> Marieke Swinkels	<b>Koen Dil</b> Koen Dil	<b>alex</b> alex
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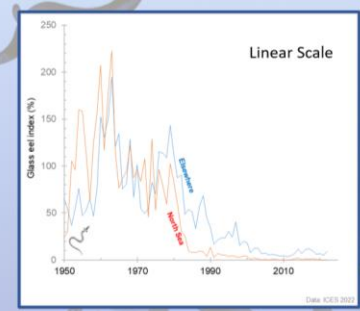
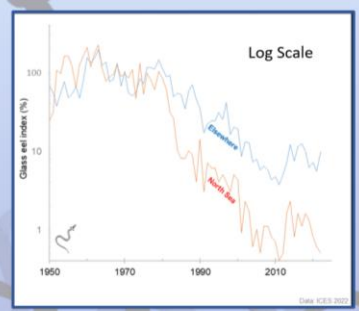
<b>William Swinkels</b> William Swinkels	<b>Gurruchaga Ma...</b> Gurruchaga Marée	<b>J Aguirrebarrena</b> J Aguirrebarrena	<b>Brian Knights</b> Brian Knights
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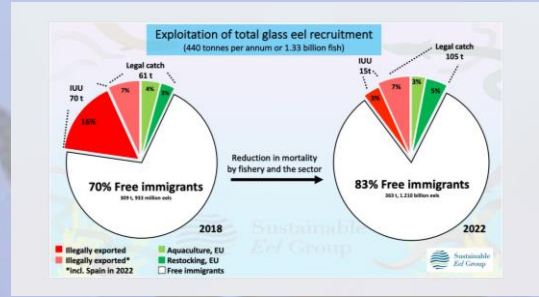
SEG BOARD

# #EelDeal 2030

ICES 2022 Glass Eel Timeseries Recruitment Index



Please note that 'Elsewhere' accounts for over 90% of the recruitment. Around 1.3 billion is an indicated arrival volume from earlier ICES studies



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

# The SEG Platform of INFLUENCE



# SEG Directional Objectives 2020 -25

**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*

## CFP Generally

*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.*





Leading Journey to ISEAL Code Compliance

Huge Stakeholder Consultation process is underway leading to new Standard V7 –during 2023

**“A Fundamental Shield for the reformed sector”**

BEGINNING OF THE JOURNEY  Register as SEG-Participant



## The ISEAL Code Compliant Model

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

**CAB Conformity Assessment Body**



# The SEG Standard with fully traceable Supply Chain has impact

## Influence building – the SEG Platform

2021

First Certificates Spain 2022

UK Certificates expired in 2022

88% of French Fishery Certified

3/4 of French GE Fishermen certified

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

**110 million for 2022 eel farming and restocking**

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

18 farms certified  
90% in NL, DE, FR and SW

75% of farms in Europe

75% certified in NL & DE

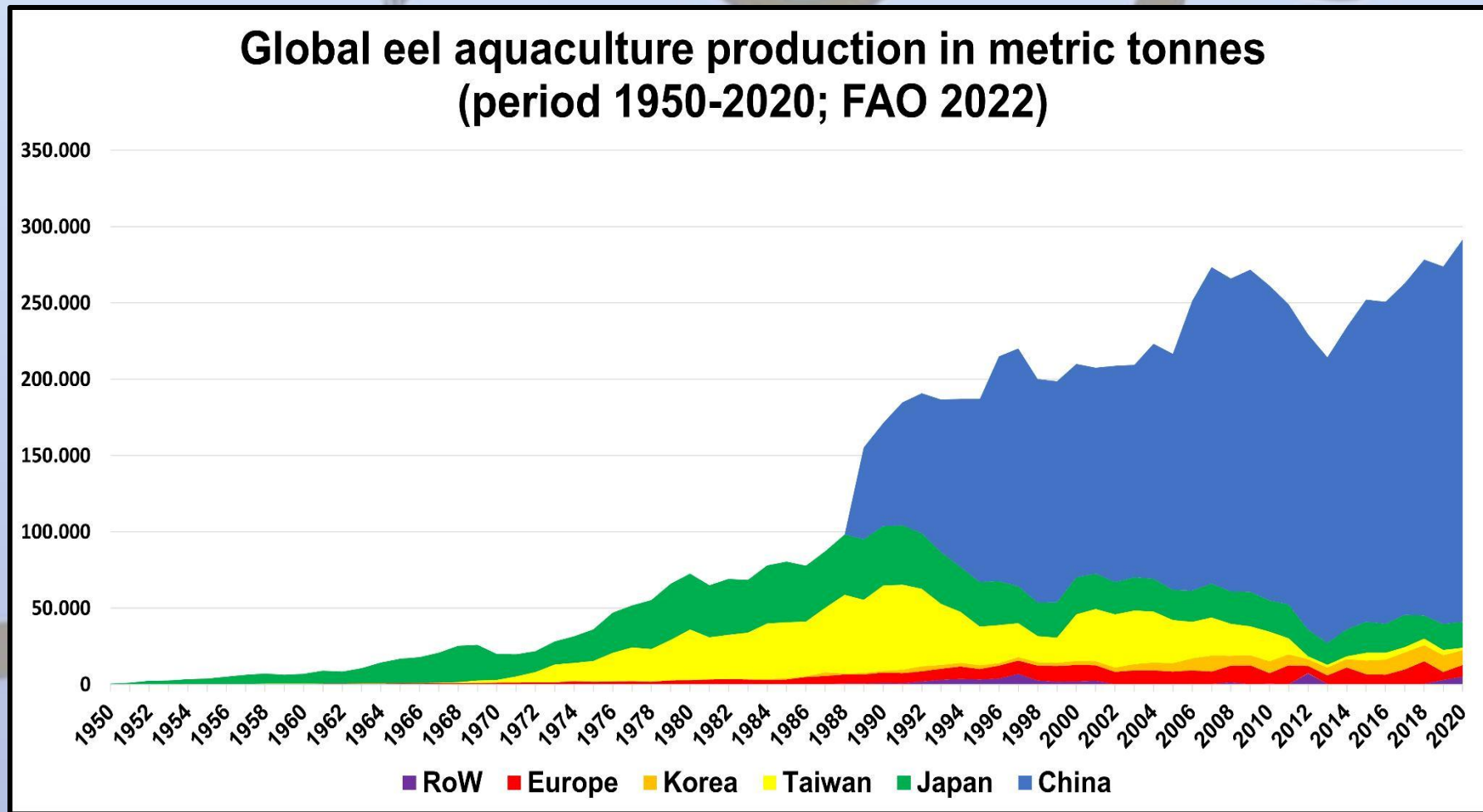
17 Retailers / Smokehouses Certified in NL and Germany

Sustainable Eel Group

France Glass Eel Total Catch	
2022	55.6 Tons
2023	49.6 Tons
Quota was down from 65 tons to 58.75	

The Reinvention is taking place - the sector takes on the **“Stewardship Role”**

## This situation led to CITES Listing 2007



**“Europe is a small player in Global Eel Aquaculture”**



about 534,000  
square meters

**Eel farm Guangzhuang county, Fujian province**





# Trafficking Updates 2022

## SEPRONA / EUROPOL

18<sup>th</sup> April 2018

MADRID

100 tons / 300 + million Glass Eels a year



Trafficking expected to grow in 2022

## Reported Seizures

16 million	2016 - 17
17 million	2017 - 18
15 million	2018 - 19
10 million	2019 - 20
1.38 million	2020 - 21



Eel trafficking influenced by the COVID-19 pandemic

## Reported Arrests

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



85% Reduction since 2016\*

## 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

<https://www.europol.europa.eu/media-press/newsroom/news/eels-shipped-air-found-in-operation-lake-v>



# Working to SEG Standard / Supply Chain and effective counter trafficking save 100s of millions of glass eels annually



“improved eel husbandry”

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



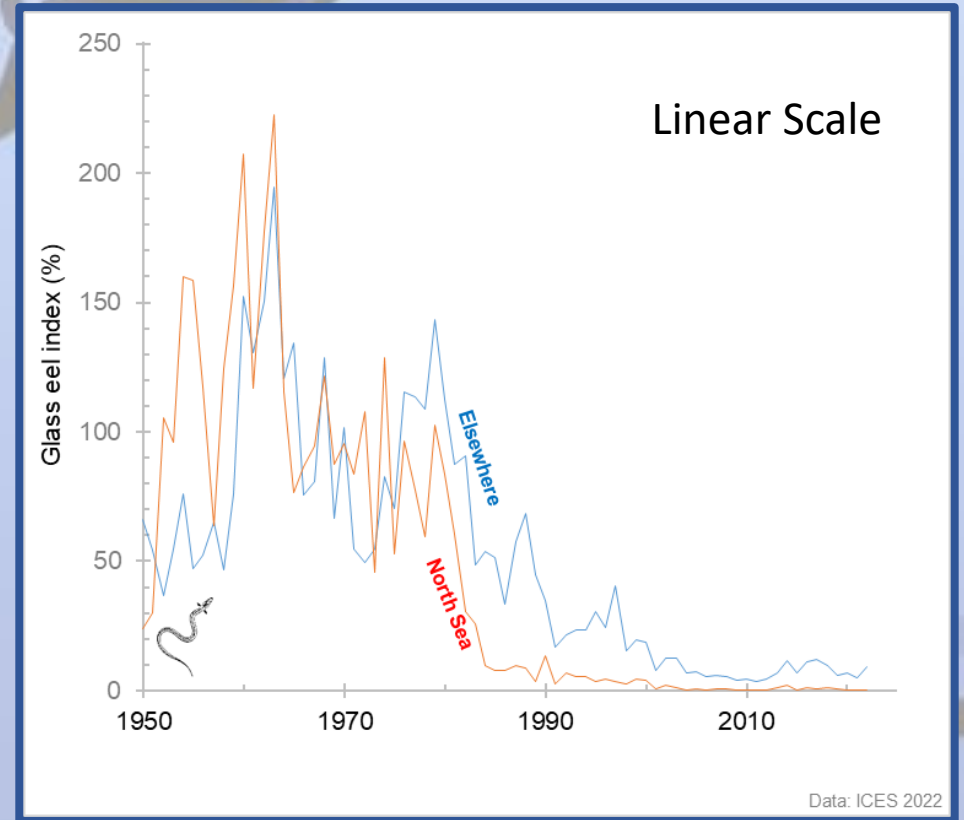
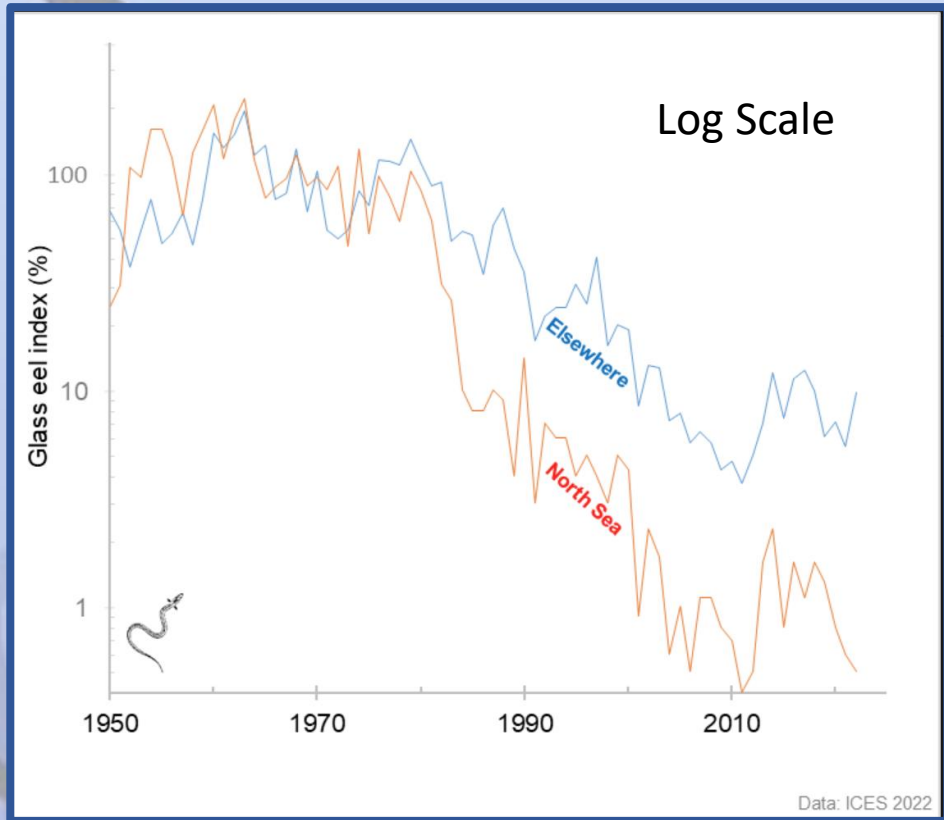
“Less eels trafficked”

TOTAL ANNUAL  
SAVING over

**300 +**  
million Glass Eels

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

# ICES 2022 Glass Eel Timeseries Recruitment Index



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# Eel a POLITICAL issue



#EelDeal 2030



- Grand Strategy
- Strategy
- Major Tactics
- Minor Tactics

INFLUENCE+ IMPACT

Defend and Enable the Eel Regulation

Code Compliance

Embrace ISEAL

Build Standard

SEG JOURNEY – asymmetric facilitation and networking

Create SEG

2010 2020 2025 2030

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