

# “THE EFARO EXAM QUESTIONS”

“To discuss the possibilities and limitations of **Eel Management Plans** in eel management and recovery”

“The most important ways forward to achieve better knowledge **for better eel management**”

Eel Regulation 1100/2007

EMP - Eel  
Management  
Plans **2010**

“Better Eel  
Management”  
**2025**

**Recovery**  
**2050**

- **What** has SEG contributed to Eel Recovery
- **Where** are we on the journey?

## ONE RECOMMENDATION



# Sustainability and Responsibility



Eel Reg 1100/2007

*“How the SEG Standard helps delivering the Eel Regulation and combating illegal trade and improving traceability and certification?”*



The SEG Standard

*SEG promoting Eel Recovery through ‘protection and sustainable use’*





125 million SEG Certified eel  
for farming / restocking supply  
chains in 2023 and 2024



The Sector as the Steward

**Reinventing a whole sector**

to retail



# The Division of Responsibilities



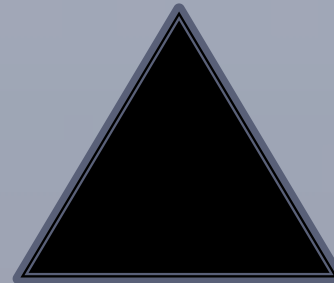
SEG owns and sets the Standard



CODE for Standard  
Setting, Assurance and  
Impacts



The CAB 'Control Union' to assess  
and award certificates



Three Way  
Governance



to farm



to smokery



to retail

Reinventing a whole sector with fully traceable supply chain

# The widely adopted SEG voluntary Standard is making huge Impacts

SEG Certified 110m in 2022 & 2023 season 125m in 2024 for eel farming and restocking

3/4 of  
French  
GE Fishermen  
certified

France 400 Fishermen

UK zero

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



## 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



17 Retailers / Smokehouses Certified  
in NL and Germany

75%  
certified  
in NL &  
DE



France Glass Eel  
Total Catch

2022 55.6 Tons

2023 49.6 Tons

2024 52 Tons

Influence building –  
the SEG Platform

88% of French  
Fishermen

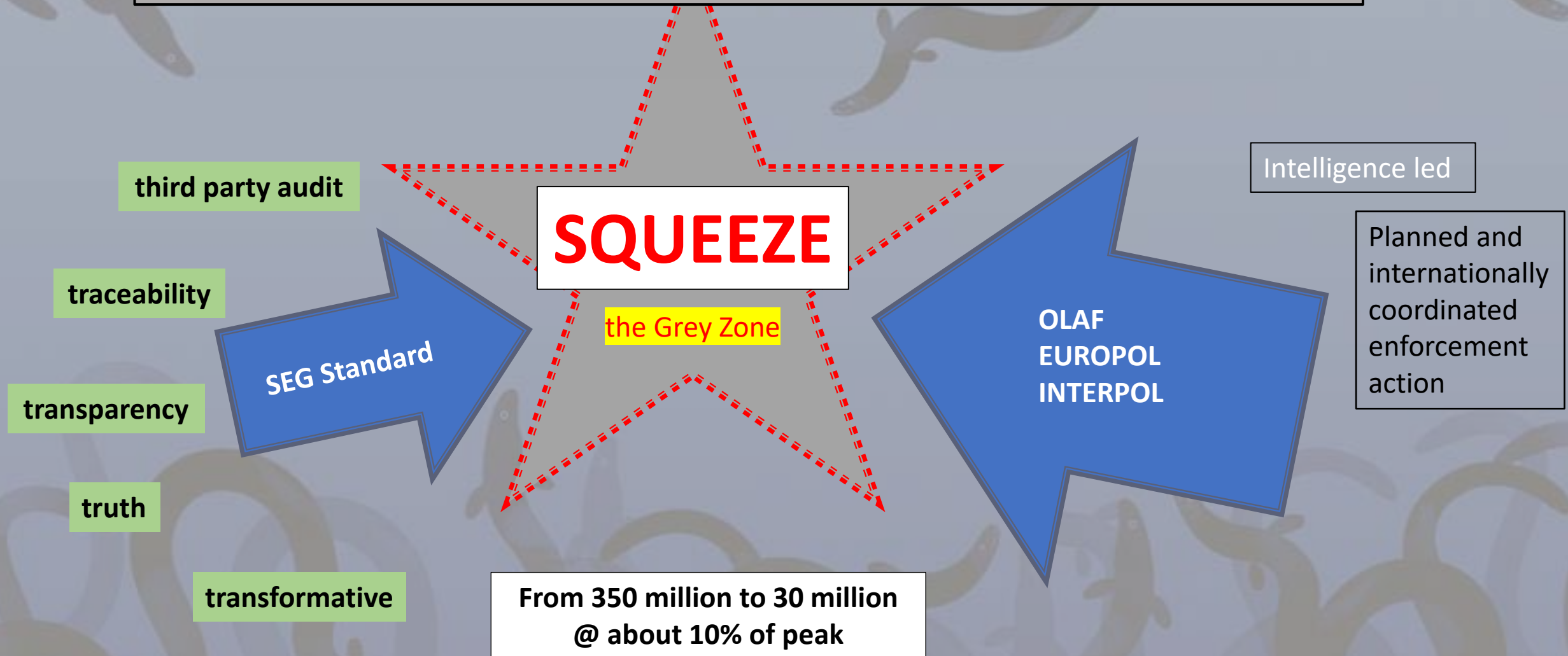
First  
Certificates  
Spain 2023

80% SEG  
Certified  
catches in  
2024

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



# Counter Trafficking



## Glass eel trafficking: up to five years in prison for eight defendants involved in an international network

🕒 1 min read

[Home](#) • [Environment](#) • [Fishing](#)



📷 Eel fry are highly sought after in Asia, where their prices attract traffickers. © Photo credit: Illustration / Baroux Philippe / Sud Ouest

Longest sentences so far April 2025





**Fishing mortality down from 42% (Briand data 2007) to less than 8% (FishPass Study) 2020 for the Vilaine, Brittany for the 50 + SEG Certified fishermen**

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



Better Eel Husbandry mortality was 40% of 150m quota **some 60 million** Glass Eels saved



Reduced Trafficking from 300 million to some 30m or about 10% so about **250m + saved**

TOTAL ANNUAL SAVING of  
**300 +**  
million Glass Eels



**“ Strategy without tactics is the slowest route to victory; but tactics without strategy is the noise before defeat ”**

**SEG as the  
Leadership  
Alliance**

**Responsible and  
Sustainable Eel Sector**

**SCIENCE led  
recovery  
Programs**



**Healthy Aquatic  
Ecosystems**

**P**

**P**

**P**

**Healthy  
wild eel  
populations  
supporting  
sustainable  
use for the  
benefit of  
All**



# Eel a POLITICAL issue



*“For eel recovery - Think long term - half centuries”*

Grand Strategy

Strategy

Tactics

“Building Credibility”

Code Compliance

Embrace ISEAL

Build Standard

Create SEG

SEG JOURNEY – asymmetric facilitation  
networking and communicating

2010                      2015                      2020                      2025                      2030

Promote Eel Regulation, Sustainability & Responsibility





2022



EP Event 2019



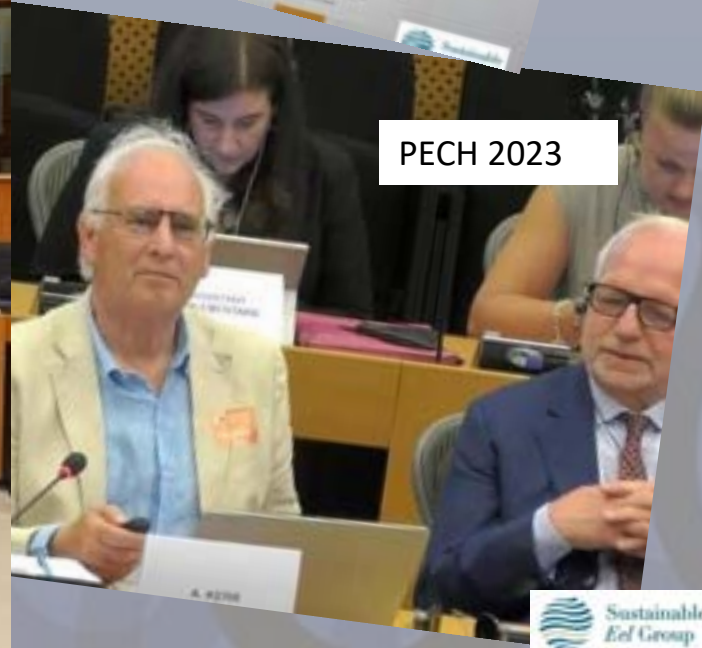
## **‘Eel Regulation is slowly working’**

- Events in European Parliament
- Supporting EU Trafficking Action Plan
- Working Closely with EU-COM
- OCEAN Documentary
- Building support with PECH
- The Poseidon Report



2022 Event at EP

PECH 2023





# Working with EU-COM, European Parliament and the Council of Ministers

Parlement européen  
2019-2024



Commission de la pêche

2023/2030(INI)

20.6.2023

## PROJET DE RAPPORT

sur la mise en œuvre du règlement (CE) n° 1100/2007 du Conseil instituant des mesures de reconstitution du stock d'anguilles européennes (2023/2030(INI))

Commission de la pêche

Rapporteur: Bert-Jan Ruissen

**487 in favour  
19 against  
89 abstentions**

PE1280712FR.docx

PE749.918v01-00

FR

Une seule voix, la diversité

FR



## The PECH Committee Report to European Parliament 2023



- **What** has SEG contributed to Eel Recovery
- **Where** are we and where next for Eel?

**ONE RECOMMENDATION**



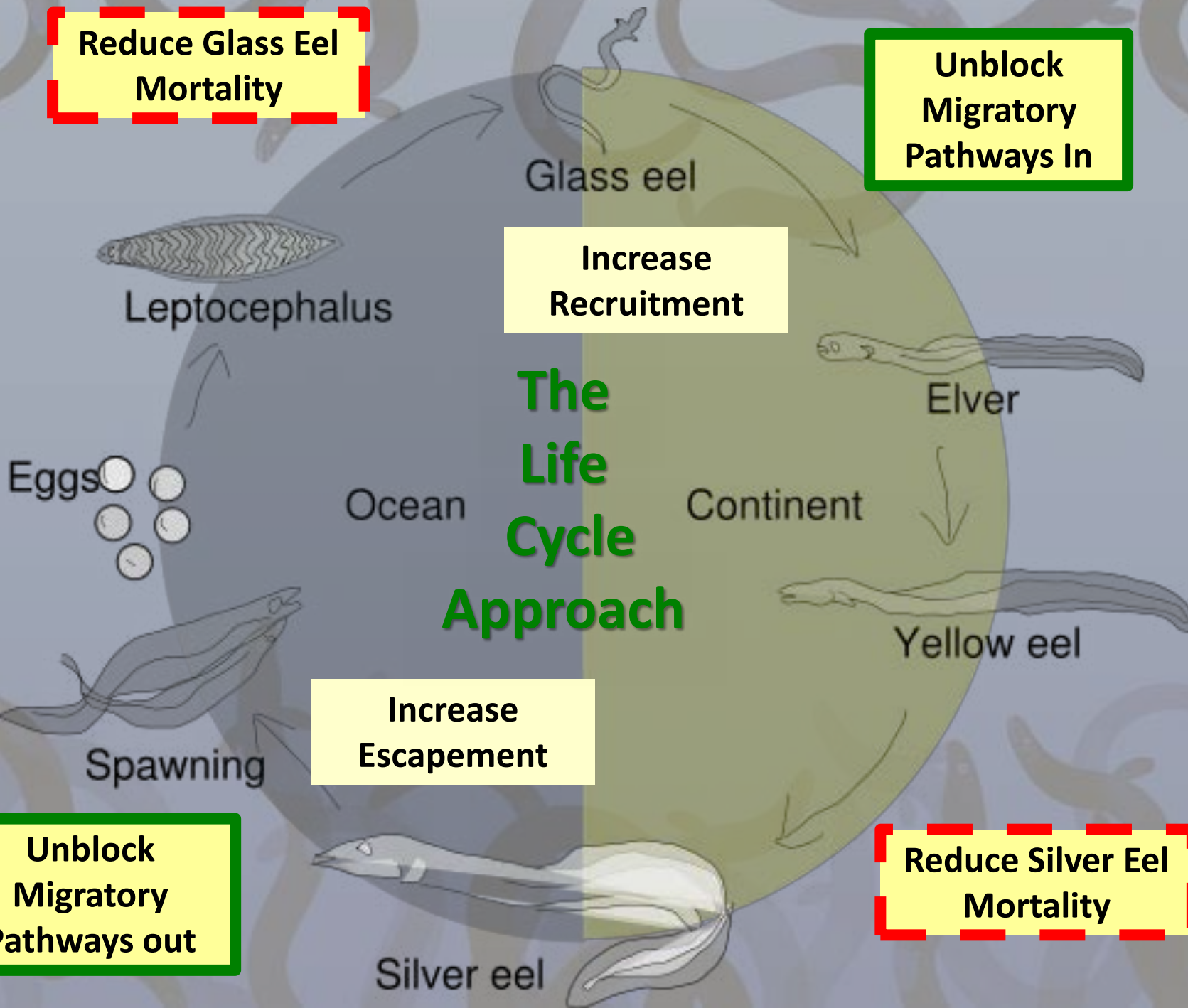
**Reduce Glass Eel  
Mortality**


**Unblock  
Migratory  
Pathways In**

**Increase  
Recruitment**

## **The Life Cycle Approach**

***Eel  
Management  
Plans by  
Country***



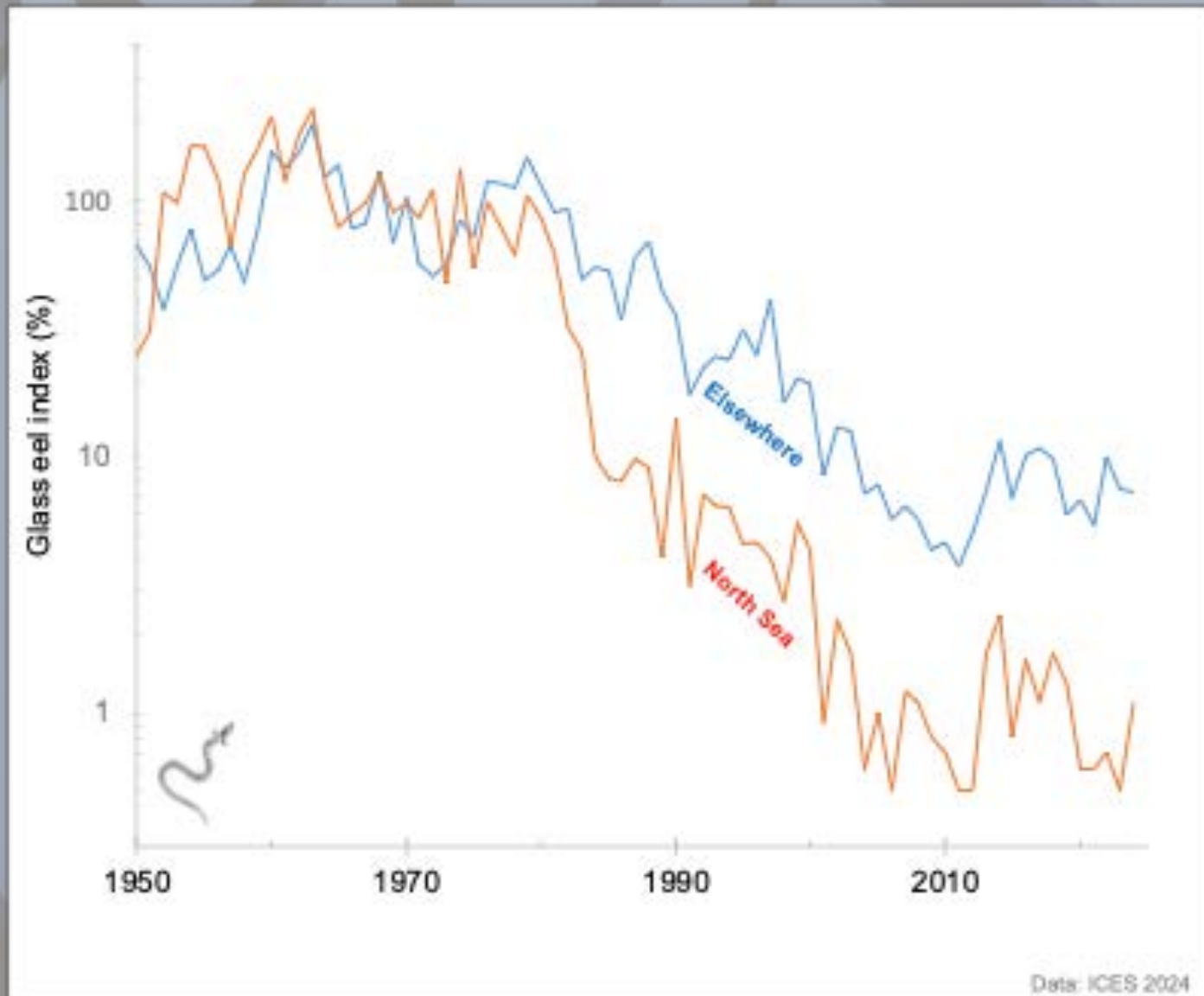


60/40% ratio  
65 million pa



# 2024

## Log Scale



Today, [ICES](#) published latest data on the status of the European eel stock, confirming that recruitment of glass eel remains low but stable (replotted here on a more-informative log-scale). For a comprehensive discussion of current eel protection policies, see [SEG Recommendations 2024](#).

@ICES\_ASC @EU\_Mare @EU\_Env @EelGroup



**SEG & Standard has made big fisheries impacts. It is now time to focus on ALL causes of Eel Mortality**



# The Unlocking the Severn Project



# #EelDeal2030

Hosted by MEP Annie Schreijer-Pierik

Wednesday 13.07.2022 – **10:30-12:00**  
SPINELLI BUILDING – ROOM **5E3**

- **FULL implementation of the Eel Regulation**





**Consensus Governance**

**The Eel Regulation**



**SEG ASBL**

**Directors**

Full voting Members

**CSDDD and GCD**



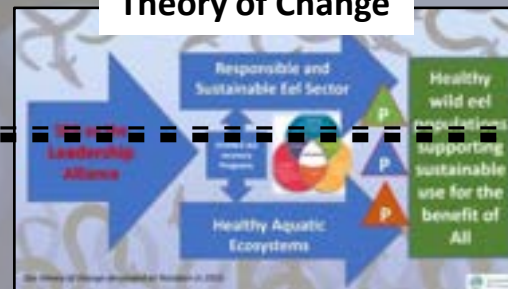
**ADHERENT Members**

Non-voting Members and Advisers

SEG Certificate Holders within an  
**Voluntary Standards System**



**Theory of Change**



**Collaborative Operation**

**Collective Outcome**



# A 50 Year Time frame of Continuous Improvement

Regulation is fit for Purpose  
and the concept of distributive  
control appropriate

- Ambition
- Eel Reg

- Eel Mgt Plans
- Multi level

Under focused on the  
non fishery mortalities

Feedback loop is weak  
and is not triggering  
improvement on the critical  
areas for increased protection.  
No link to Green Deal

- Feed Back

- Effective Action

Significant  
investment started

40% Protection on route to 60%

Protection remains below the minimum level needed for long  
term Recovery



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**ONE RECOMMENDATION**

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**MANAGEMENT**

**LEADERSHIP**

**SCIENCE**

Evaluate

Act

- Feed Back

- Effective Action

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and is not triggering  
improvement on the critical  
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**Eel needs its own Advisory Council... the EEAC**



# SEG's Evolution

Laying the Foundations and building Relationships 2009 - 2014

Engaging at the Political Level 2014 - 2019

Refocusing on the Eel Regulation 2020 ➡

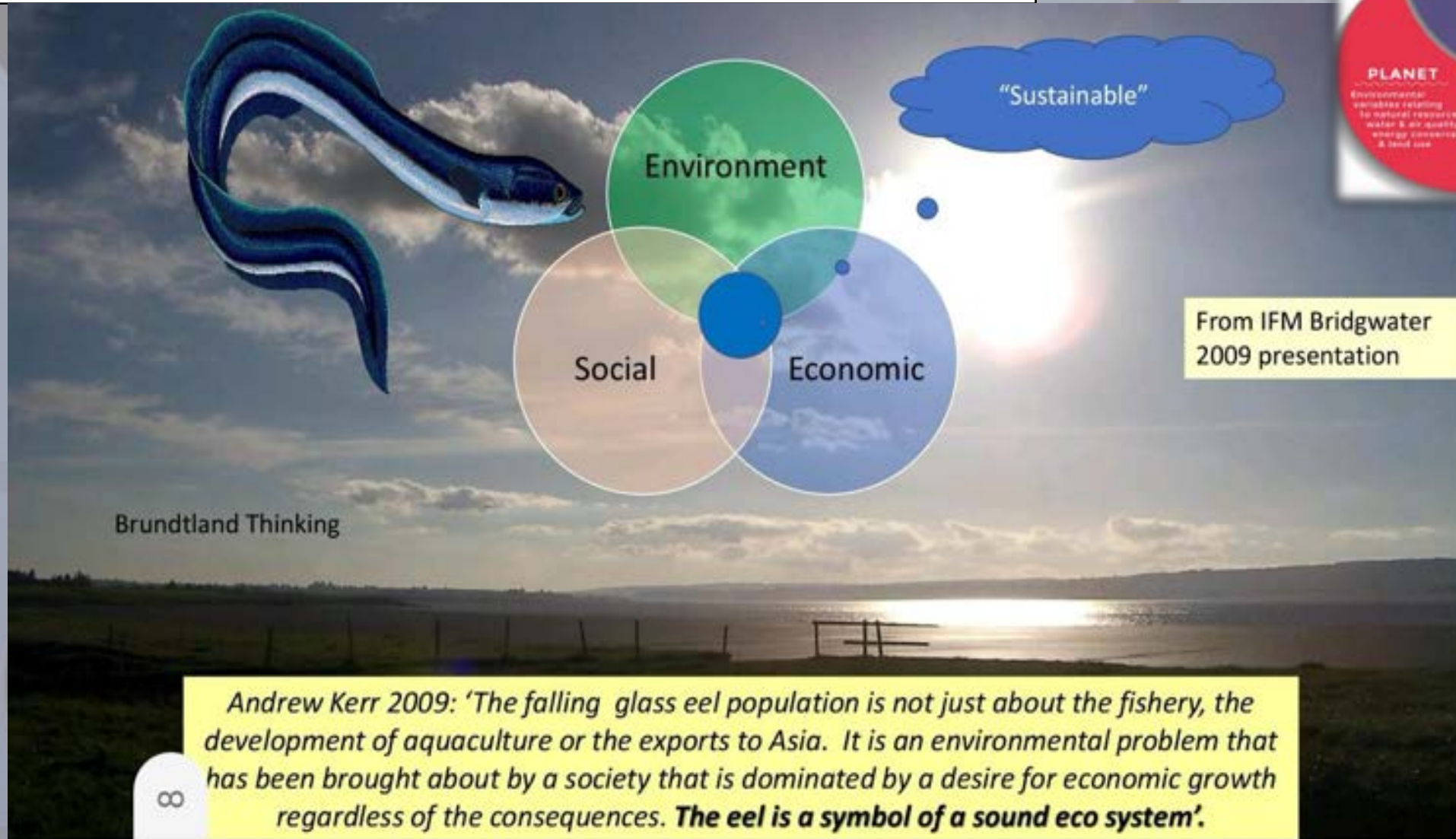


The background of the slide features a repeating pattern of stylized eels. The eels are depicted in a light blue-grey color, swimming in various directions. They have a simple, cartoonish design with visible eyes, fins, and a segmented body. The pattern is dense and covers the entire background.

SPARE



# The Foundation Call of 2009....





# Does Eel Fishing have a future? the European Battleground



**"Stop Eating Eel"**



**Trafficking is out of control –  
"Close the fishery"**

*Irresponsible   Responsible   Sustainable   Recovery*



**"Reinvention"**



**SEG**



ISEAL Membership  
Credibility / Proof



**"Sustainability"**



# The Eel Regulation retains Primacy

**"EEL FATIGUE"**



SEG EelDeal 2030 / EU GreenDeal 2030

ICES Advice

fade

XG Agenda

## SEG ACTION to INFLUENCE

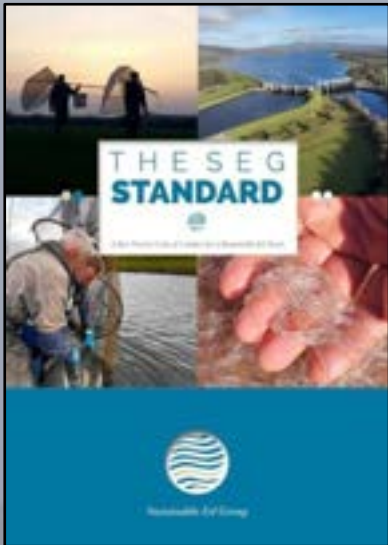
EU-COM - New Parliament – Dec Council

## New OPPORTUNITIES

MS Revised EMPs / MAP Coord Meetings / EMFAAF £££

*"The Convening and facilitation role for SEG as the Leadership Alliance bringing the PPP parties together to work on and improve their MS EMPs"*

**TARGET KEY EMP's**  
SEG Convenes PPP meetings



Counter Trafficking

