

Factsheet

Sustainable Eel Group Achieves ISEAL Code Compliant Status

The Sustainable Eel Group is ISEAL Code Compliant

The Sustainable Eel Group (SEG) is proud to have officially achieved ISEAL Code Compliant status. As an ISEAL Code Compliant member, we are committed to adhering to the ISEAL Code, a globally recognised framework that defines practices for effective and credible sustainability systems.



About the Sustainable Eel Group (SEG)

SEG is the leading international organisation working to accelerate the recovery of the European eel.

Our mission:

“Healthy wild eel populations supporting sustainable use for the benefit of all.”

- Legal status: Not-for-profit NGO, registered as an ASBL in Brussels
- Approach: Balances environmental, social, and economic interests
- Goal: To conserve and recover the eel while maintaining traditional fishing, trade, and cultural practices



What is the SEG Standard?

The SEG Standard is a voluntary sustainability standard that assesses whether eel fishing, trading, farming, processing and restocking operations are done responsibly.

- Purpose: Certification and traceability of eel sourced in a responsible and legal way.
- Benefits of SEG certified eel:
 - Enhances eel stocks by restocking in areas of low abundance
 - Provides high-quality food with minimal waste
 - Raises awareness and funds for eel conservation

The standard is based on the concepts of best practice and responsibility to minimise the negative impacts of fishing and trading on the eel stock, maximising protective measures and securing income for eel stewardship and conservation projects.

The standard is based on:

- Scientific advice from ICES (WGEEL)
- The EU Eel Regulation (2007)
- IUCN guidance

Assurance, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning

The SEG Standard is supported by a comprehensive and independent Assurance system. Certification against the SEG Standard is conducted by an independent third-party Conformity Assessment Body (CAB) according to clear SEG specifications.

SEG also operates a monitoring, evaluation, and learning system to track the effectiveness of its standard and strategies and to identify where improvements can be made.



About ISEAL and the Code of Good Practice

ISEAL is a global membership organisation which defines credible practice for sustainability systems. Their aim is to accelerate positive change by improving the impacts of ambitious sustainability systems and their partners.

Core to their work are ISEAL's Credibility Principles and the ISEAL Code. Together these define the characteristics of credible sustainability systems. These tools are a global reference for developing new sustainability systems and for improving the practices of existing systems.

In 2024 ISEAL and the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) released a [collaborative brochure](#) that outlines the

necessary elements a Sustainability Conformity Assessment Scheme (CAS) should meet to be credible and trustworthy.

There are two levels of ISEAL membership:

- **ISEAL Community Members** work to continually improve their system by taking part in ISEAL's learning, collaboration, and innovation activities. [SEG has been a Community Member since September 2019.](#)
- **ISEAL Code Compliant Members** have had their system independently evaluated against ISEAL's Codes of Good Practice - a globally-recognised framework for effective, credible sustainability systems. [SEG is proud to become ISEAL Code Compliant in May 2025.](#)



What this means for SEG certified operators

For fishers, traders, eel farmers, and processors, this recognition means:

- SEG certification system has been independently evaluated by a respected global body
- The sustainability system they've supported and invested in for over 15 years has been independently evaluated against the ISEAL Code.

For more information about the SEG Standard or certified products, visit: www.sustainableeelgroup.org

