



# Workshop of Range States of the American Eel Resource Management - Canada

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# Overview

Areas and types of harvest

Domestic legislation

Aquaculture and Experimental

Management Measures

Trading Partners



# Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) has the **lead federal role** in managing Canada's fisheries and safeguarding its waters.

The Department:

- supports strong **economic growth** in our marine and fisheries sectors by supporting exports and advancing safe maritime trade;
- supports **innovation** through research in expanding sectors such as aquaculture and biotechnology; and
- contributes to a clean and healthy environment and **sustainable aquatic ecosystems** through habitat protection, oceans management, and ecosystems research.



# National Legislation

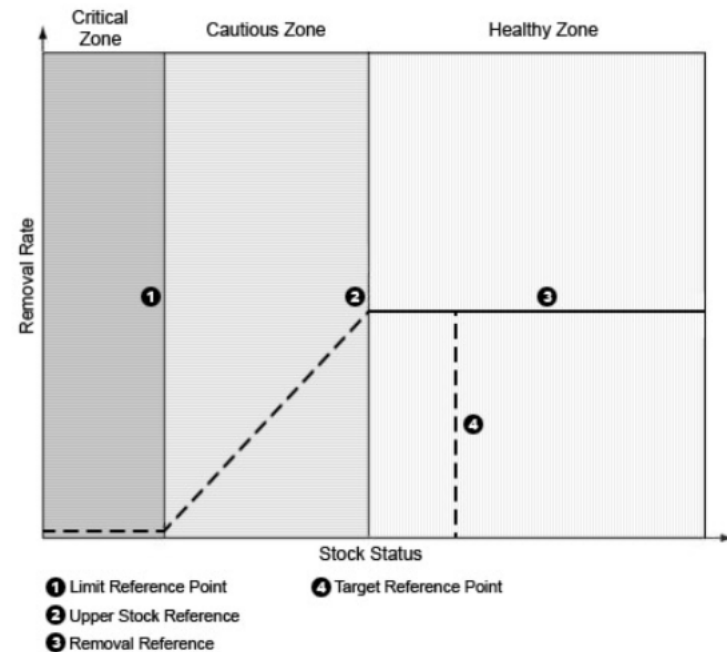
The Department's work is guided by five key pieces of legislation:

- the *Oceans Act*;
- the *Fisheries Act*;
- the *Species at Risk Act*;
- the *Coastal Fisheries Protection Act*; and
- the *Canada Shipping Act, 2001* (Transport Canada-led).



# Precautionary Approach

- Fisheries and Oceans Canada continues to take steps to reduce the impacts of fishing and threats to fish passage (e.g. dams) with the objective of conservation and rebuilding of fish stocks that are the specific and intended targets of a commercial, recreational, or subsistence fishery.
- This decision framework is guided by the legal and policy framework designed to deliver the management of Canada's fisheries and oceans resources, including the *Fisheries Act*, the *Oceans Act*, and the *Species at Risk Act*.





# Administrative Regions

## The American Eel in Canada

Managed federally in:

- Newfoundland & Labrador
- Gulf
- Maritimes

• Managed provincially in:

- Quebec
- Ontario





# Domestic Harvest of American Eel

## Commercial Adult Eel Fishery:

- Occurred historically in five administrative regions of Fisheries and Oceans Canada.
- Yellow and Silver Eels (>35cm).
- Consumed domestically and exported for direct consumption.
- Approx. 306,000 kg adult eels harvested annually (approx. value of \$1,832,500 Cdn/year).



# Domestic Harvest of American Eel

## Commercial Elver Fishery:

- Defined as "an eel that is less than 10cm" (*Maritime Provinces Fishery Regulations*).
- The only commercial elver fishery in Canada occurs in the Maritimes Region.
- Canada abides by the precautionary approach with respect to the development of this fishery to ensure low risk to conservation.
- Elvers are used for grow-out in domestic farms, though the majority of landings are currently exported for grow-out in farms.
- Approx. 4,500 kg elvers harvested annually (approx. value of \$18,146,896 Cdn/year).





# Domestic Harvest of American Eel

## Aquaculture and Experimental Elver Fishery:

- Occurs only in the Newfoundland Region.
- Elvers are used for grow-out in domestic farms.
- Annual quota of 150kg (wet weight).



# Domestic Harvest of American Eel

## Food, Social, and Ceremonial (FSC) Eel Fishery:

- 27 Indigenous communities with communal licences for FSC purposes.
- Managed under the *Aboriginal Communal Fishing Licence Regulations* and *Aboriginal Fisheries Strategy Agreements*.
- Integral and historical part of the lives of many Aboriginal groups in eastern Canada.



# Management Measures

- Quotas:
  - 9,960kg (wet weight) Elver Quota (~22,000lbs)
  - Bag limit for recreational Adult Eel
- Gear Limits (type/amount, spacing)
- Limited Entry Commercial Fishery
- Minimum Size Limits
- Mandatory catch reporting



# Management measures to address conservation concerns

**Ontario and Quebec:** Fisheries closures and licence buybacks have significantly reduced fishing mortality.

**Gulf Region:** Increases in minimum size, season shortened, closure of commercial spear fishery on PEI, increased enforcement of gear restrictions.

**Maritimes Region:** Minimum size increased, reduction of quotas in elver fishery, stricter catch reporting requirements, eel/green crab licence exchange program, buy out of eel licences by elver fishers. Reference points to guide management decisions are in development.

**Nfld & Lab Region:** Gear reduction program, reduction in number of licences, size limit increased, stricter catch reporting requirements.



# Trade Partners – Canadian Imports

## Key Countries exporting to Canada

- Haiti
- Dominican Republic
- United States
- Cuba

## Other countries exporting to Canada

- Belize and Jamaica



# Trade Partners – Canadian Exports

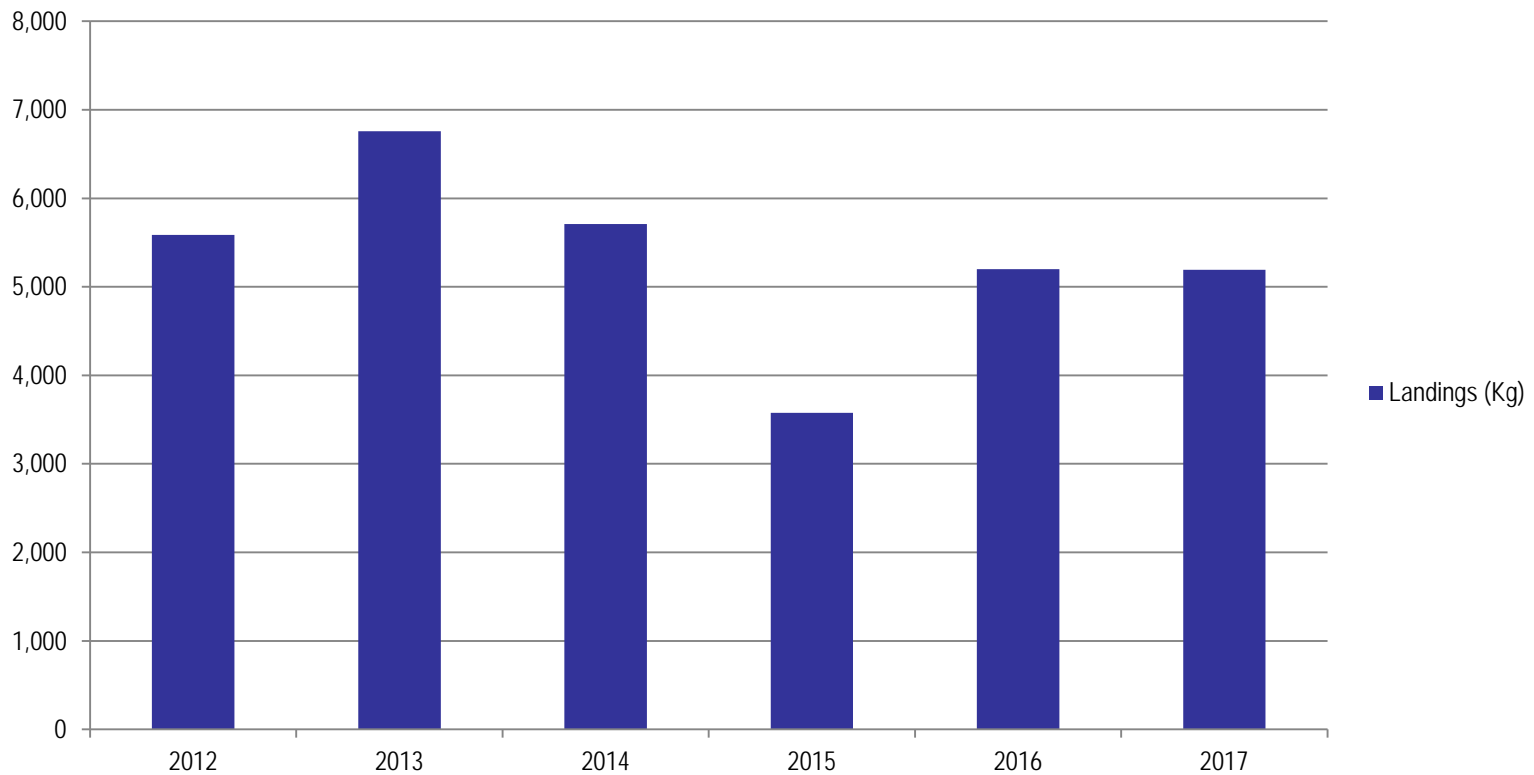
The key country that Canada exports to is Hong Kong.

Other countries that Canada exports to at a much lesser extent include:

- Belgium
- South Korea
- Portugal
- United States
- Denmark
- China

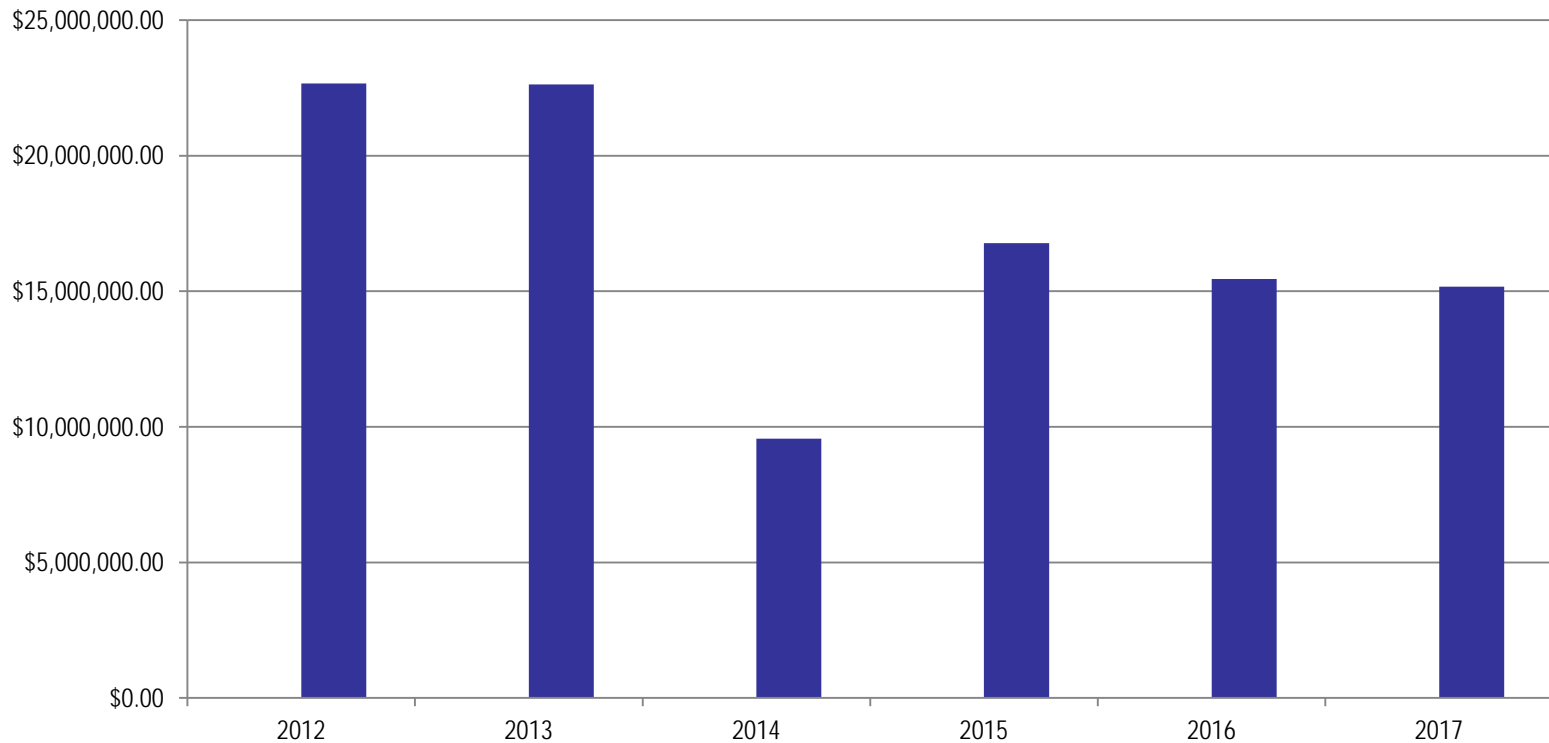


# Domestic Harvest – Elvers 2012-2017





# Domestic Harvest – Elvers 2012 - 2017



Landings in Canadian dollars





# Question & Answer Session